The Future of the Colorado River
Can We Have It All?

October 13, 2018
Utah State University
Moab, Utah
From Plumbing to Restoration
Collaborative Agreements

• 2007 Interim Guidelines
• System Conservation Pilot Program
• Lower Basin MOU on voluntary conservation
• Glen Canyon Long Term Experimental and Management Plan
• and now, Drought Contingency Plan Agreements
But . . .

An Elusive Colorado River Drought Plan Fails To Materialize — For Now
By LUKE RUNYON  •  JAN 10, 2018

Feud erupts between utility, US states over Colorado River

River planning muddied up?
By DENNIS WEBB

THE DAILY SENTINEL
CHALLENGES

• Addressing structural deficit (at all Lake Mead elevations)
• New depletions in the Upper Basin
• Providing for even more dramatic decreases in flows
• Addressing agricultural losses
Some Ideas

• Future NEPA analyses evaluate additional risk to existing users
• New projects can’t unacceptably increase the risk of a Compact deficit, or increase the amount of demand management required to maintain storage levels
• Better utilize the flexibility inherent in having two huge reservoirs