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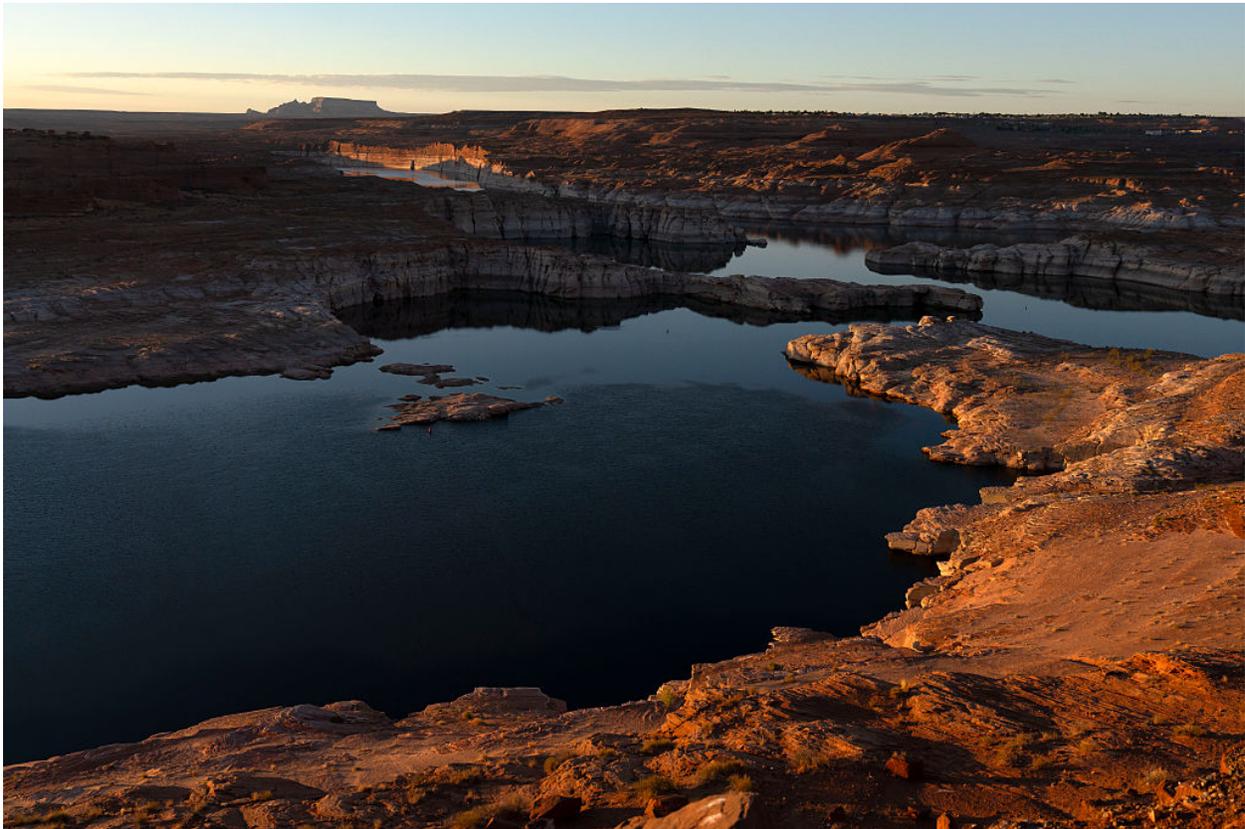
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The sun rises over Lake Powell in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area on July 10, 2025, in Page, Arizona. Lake Powell, a critical Colorado River reservoir, is only at a third of its capacity as drought conditions in the Southwest worsen. (Photo by Rebecca Noble/Getty Images)

## **Colorado River governors express cautious optimism after ‘historic’ DC meeting** **[Caitlin Sievers](#) - January 30, 2026 5:10 pm**

With the deadline to reach a water usage agreement looming, leaders from the seven Colorado River Basin states expressed cautious optimism that their [“historic” meeting](#) in Washington, D.C., will spur the compromise needed to reach a consensus.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum called the meeting at the request of Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs, after the states blew past a Nov. 11 deadline to reach an agreement. The new Feb. 14 deadline was set by the Bureau of Reclamation, which manages water in the West under the Interior Department.

Arizona stands to see the largest cuts if the states can’t reach an agreement, because its Central Arizona Project is one of the newest users of the river water, making it legally one of the first to be cut.

The Colorado River is a vital source of drinking water for 40 million people in the seven basin states, Mexico and 30 Native American tribes, and provides water for farming operations and hydroelectricity.

One of the biggest disagreements between the Lower Basin states — Arizona, Nevada and California — and Upper Basin states — Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming — is over which faction should have to cut back on their water use, and by how much.

“This is one of the toughest challenges facing the West, but the Department remains hopeful that, by working together, the seven basin governors can help deliver a durable path forward,” Burgum, the former governor of North Dakota, said in a statement. “Looking at this as a former governor, the responsibility each of them carries to meet the needs of their constituents cannot be understated, and we are committed to partnering with them to reach consensus.”

The meeting in the nation’s capital lasted more than two hours, Christian Slater, a spokesman for Hobbs, told the Arizona Mirror. The governors of all of the basin states attended the meeting, except for Gov. Gavin Newsom of California, who had a prior family commitment and sent California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot in his place.

“It’s actually a pretty historic meeting, and I don’t use those words lightly,” John Entsminger, Nevada’s Colorado River negotiator, said. “I’ve been working on the river for more than 25 years, and I’ve never seen that many governors and a cabinet secretary in one room talking about the importance of the Colorado River.”

In a [post on X Friday afternoon](#), Hobbs described the meeting as meaningful and productive.

“I was encouraged to hear Upper Basin governors express a willingness to turn water conservation programs into firm commitments of water savings,” Hobbs wrote. “Arizona has

been and will continue to be at the table offering solutions to the long-term protection of the river so long as every state recognizes our shared responsibility.”

Reaching a water usage agreement is vital to the basin states because the Colorado River’s water supply has been in decline for around 25 years due to a persistent drought spurred on by climate change. The decline is expected to continue into the future.

Water levels in the two major reservoirs on the river, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, have also been in decline for the last quarter century.

“One thing is certain: We’ll have less water moving forward, not more,” New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said in a statement. “So, we need to figure this out. There is still a lot of work ahead to get to an agreement, but everyone wants an agreement, and we’ll work together to create a pathway forward.”

Lower Basin states want all seven states to share mandatory water cuts during dry years under the new guidelines. But the Upper Basin, which is not subject to mandatory cuts under the current guidelines, argue that they already use much less water than downstream states and should not face additional cuts during shortages.

State negotiators for both the Upper and Lower Basin have said they would prefer a seven-state agreement over alternative river management options proposed by the federal government.

Tom Buschatzke, director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources, told reporters last week that the Grand Canyon State does not like the options proposed by the federal government as they place almost the entire burden for cuts on Lower Basin states.

The Colorado River Compact dates back to 1922, when the seven states made their initial agreement, allocating 7.5 million acre-feet of water each year to be shared by the Upper Basin states and another 7.5 million to be used among the Lower Basin states.

In 2025, for the fifth year in a row, the federal government imposed water allocation cuts on the Colorado River due to the ongoing drought and Arizona’s cut amounts to a loss of 512,000 acre-feet of water for the year.

“Today’s discussion was productive and reflected the seriousness this moment requires,” Colorado Gov. Jared Polis said in a statement. “Since 2022, Colorado and the Upper Basin states have shown up to the negotiating table ready to have hard conversations. We have offered sacrifices to ensure the long-term viability of the Colorado River and we remain committed to working collaboratively to find solutions that protect water for our state, while supporting the vitality of the Colorado River and everyone who depends on it.”

Complicating matters this year is scant snowpack in the Rocky Mountains. Small snowpack means very little runoff, the source for almost all of Colorado’s water.

The Lower Basin states have undertaken significant conservation efforts for Colorado River water since 2014 and have reduced their consumption from [7.4 million acre-feet in 2015](#) to just [over 6 million in 2024](#).

The Upper Basin states have increased their usage in the past five years, from 3.9 million acre-feet in 2021 to [4.4 million in 2024](#).

Buschatzke, who attended the meeting in D.C. on Friday alongside Hobbs, has remained insistent that it's time for the Upper Basin states to do their part. Hobbs' statement indicated that the states had made some progress toward that.

If the states can't reach an agreement and are forced to take one of the federal government's proposals, it will likely lead to litigation — something that the states agree they would prefer to avoid.

“We all have to keep working together,” Entsminger said. “We have to find a compromise, and we have to find a way that the states stay in control of this process and don't turn it over to the courts.”

Last year, Arizona put a total of \$3 million to its Colorado River legal defense fund, and Gov. Katie Hobbs' proposed budget for this year would put another \$1 million toward that fund.

Entsminger said that he thinks the meeting improved the chances of the states meeting the Feb. 14 deadline.

“Whether we have a final deal on February 14 or not, we're still going to have to keep working,” he said. “That's not to say I don't think we'll meet the deadline, but I do think we keep working until we have a deal, regardless of what day in the future that occurs.”

*Jeniffer Solis of the Nevada Current contributed to this report. [Arizona Mirror](#) is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Arizona Mirror maintains editorial independence.*

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## Native Arts + Heritage Fund

Applications for the Native Arts + Heritage Fund are now open.

This new grant from Creative West celebrates cultural knowledge, creativity, and community connection. Rooted in a responsive, equitable, and trust-based framework, the fund provides support through care, relationships, and authentic storytelling.

Awardees will engage in reflective processes centered on democracy, wellness, and belonging. Through story-based conversations and creative exploration, they'll have the space to honor cultural traditions, strengthen community ties, and amplify their creative voices.

[Apply Now](#)

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More photos of Nevada heritage and tradition are available at the [Nevada Folklife Archives](#).

Our [Events](#) page allows artists and organizations to promote their creative activities across the state. Nevadans can easily find events, including performances, exhibits, festivals, classes and workshops, in one place.

You can easily [submit](#) your art event to be shared with our large network. Our page features activities that will celebrate all the artistic endeavors of creatives.

[Submit an Event](#)

[View Events](#)



On January 7, 2026, the **Northern California Condor Restoration Program (NCCRP) received a mortality signal from condor B8's transmitter.** The NCCRP crew immediately mobilized to the bird's location in hopes of providing life-saving care but upon arrival they discovered B8 had already perished. Found in a remote part of the Bald Hills area on the Redwood National and State Parks property, the remains had been heavily scavenged. Following program protocol, remains were sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory in Ashland for a necropsy to determine the manner of death, which is currently unknown.

“Our team felt quite a bit of affection for B8, who was the last released of this year's cohort. He was low in the condor ‘pecking order,’ but insistent, tagging along and inserting himself wherever the more established birds were congregating. So, we’ve named him 'Ne-kew (Our Little Sibling),” conveyed Wildlife Department Director Tiana Williams-Claussen.

Released on October 14, 2025, B8 was one of 25 free-flying condors managed by the Northern California Condor Restoration Program, a partnership between the Yurok Tribe and Redwood

National and State Parks. Once the bird's remains are returned from the laboratory, B8 will be laid to rest at a private site. The young male condor was born on June 6, 2023, at the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise Idaho. He was two years and seven months old. \*Stock photo

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) invites California tribes to participate in a listening session focused on the Drive Forward Initiative, which is the next phase of policies to support clean transportation. During this listening session, CARB staff will hold a discussion about CARB's Drive Forward initiative, clean transportation incentives, and listen to tribes regarding clean transportation needs, concerns, and questions.

The meeting will be held via Zoom:

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time (PT)

Remote: Zoom Registration

Call-in: A call-in number will be provided upon registration.

[Register](#)

Interested California tribes, tribal representatives, and tribal-serving organizations are invited to attend. Please register above to participate. Once registered, you will receive an email with instructions on how to join the meeting using a digital/computer device or by telephone, on the day of the meeting.

Meeting materials will be available on CARB's [Drive Forward Tribal Listening Session](#) webpage approximately one week prior to the meeting being held.



**Tribal Listening Session**

## Clearing California Skies for Over 50 Years

CARB is the lead agency for California's fight against climate change, and oversees all air pollution control efforts in the state to attain and maintain health-based air quality standards.

[More Information](#)

**President Trump calls on Republicans to "nationalize" future elections** on former Deputy FBI Director Dan Bongino's podcast. "The Republicans should say, 'We want to take over. We should take over the voting in at least — many, 15 places.' The Republicans ought to nationalize the voting," he said.

**Tulsi Gabbard claims she attended last week's FBI raid** on a Georgia election facility because President Trump asked her to be there. In a letter to lawmakers, she said her presence was consistent with U.S. law and her responsibilities, even though her role as director of national intelligence prohibits her from taking part in domestic law enforcement. She added that she "facilitated a brief phone call" so that Trump could thank agents for their efforts.

## Western U.S. cities open wallets in quest for water



“Little more than two months ago, on an unusually rainy November evening, the Queen Creek Town Council staked claim to the city's future. Queen Creek, located in central Arizona southeast of Phoenix, was founded in 1989 but is already home to some 88,000 people. In a unanimous vote, the council approved a \$244 million deal to acquire 12,000 acre-feet of water annually for the next century from the Harquahala groundwater basin, some 90 miles away. (An acre-foot is enough water for about three households per year.) The purchase, which does not include interest payments or the cost of the infrastructure to pump and move the water, represents 100 years of the young city's current water demand and gives the fast-growing area

access to a water source that will not be subject to Colorado River restrictions, a valuable asset in a state where many cities rely on the beleaguered and shrinking river for a portion of their water. ... The water-supply discussions in the Phoenix suburbs are echoed in council chambers across the American West. In a drying climate with growing populations and thirsty economies, a secure water supply is an urgent matter. Conservation is often the cheapest option. But cities, like financial planners, also want to diversify their water portfolios. ... ” [Read the full article from the Circle of Blue.](#)

### **Western senators propose wastewater program renewal**

“U.S. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nevada, has co-introduced bipartisan legislation to extend a federal \$450 million water recycling grant for Western states until 2032. The federal grant, signed by former President Joe Biden in 2021, has already allocated roughly \$308 million on water recycling projects in Colorado River states. Without its renewal, the remaining nearly \$150 million could go unspent. “There is still \$150 million in unused funds, and the authorization for the grant program is set to sunset this year,” the Office of Sen. Cortez Masto wrote, answering The Center Square’s questions by email. “Without the passage of her bipartisan Large-Scale Water Recycling Reauthorization Act, those funds – which have already been appropriated – face an uncertain future.” ... ” [Read more from The Center Square.](#)

### **Lake Tahoe snowpack at 60%, other areas of Nevada dealing with record lows**

“As he does every year, hydrologist Jeff Anderson would make his way to Slide Mountain on Monday to see how deep the snow is and how much water is in it. “What we found today is the snow is 58 inches deep, contains 19.8 inches of water content,” Anderson explained. “And that is 83% of median.” The total snowpack of the Lake Tahoe basin is currently at 60%, but elsewhere across the state, things are more dire. The Northern Great Basin is currently at just 26%, and the Owyhee Basin is at 24%. Both of those numbers represent the lowest snowpacks on record. ... ” [Read more from Channel 8.](#)

### **Why draining Mojave’s aquifer is a really bad idea**

“A private company has spent decades attempting to build a pipeline that would remove groundwater from the fragile California desert to export and sell for profit. Despite having its water mining permit invalidated in 2022 after a federal court lawsuit, Cadiz Inc. is trying again to access the Mojave Desert’s aquifer. NPCA stands firm with local communities and Tribes in once again opposing any permitting for this destructive groundwater mining project, which scientific studies show would deplete the Mojave Desert’s aquifer at the expense of wildlife, people and national parks. Here are frequently asked questions about the project. ... ” [Read more from the National Parks Conservation Association.](#)

### **'Loophole' allows geothermal industry to pump groundwater without permit. [Nevada Current](#)**

"The measure would largely impact geothermal operations in the state, which pump large quantities of groundwater before reinjecting the water back from where it was extracted. Some emerging lithium mining techniques operate in a similar way and are also exempt under current Nevada law."

## Scholarships with March 1-6 (A-J) Deadlines

<a href="#">Trilogy Health Services Foundation External Scholarship</a>	\$2,500	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">Ty Cobb Educational Fund Undergraduate Scholarships</a>	\$3,000	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">USCTI Scholarship Program</a>	\$5,000	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">USDA 1890 National Scholars Program</a>	Full-Tuition	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">Valent USA Tree Fruit Scholarship</a>	Varies	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">Van Doren Sales Vocational Scholarship</a>	Varies	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">Vera R. Campbell Promise Scholarship</a>	\$5,000	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">VFW Scout of the Year Scholarship</a>	\$5,000	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">Virginia Commonwealth Award Program</a>	Full-Tuition	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">WAEF Scholarships</a>	\$3,458	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">Wenatchee Bowling Association Scholarship</a>	Varies	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">Wenatchee Women's Bowling Association Opal Wickland Scholarship</a>	Varies	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">West Virginia Engineering, Science and Technology Scholarship</a>	\$3,000	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">West Virginia PROMISE Scholarships</a>	\$5,500	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">Wings Over America Scholarships</a>	\$5,000	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">Wm. C. "Bill" Sterner Memorial Scholarship</a>	\$5,000	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">Women's Independence Scholarship Program (WISP)</a>	\$2,000	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">Women's Overseas Service League Scholarships</a>	\$1,000	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">Youthline Utah Young Humanitarian Award</a>	\$7,500	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">Zonta Club of Washington, D.C. Undergraduate Scholarship</a>	\$5,000	March 01, 2026
<a href="#">AFCEA Washington, DC Chapter Scholarship</a>	\$2,200	March 02, 2026
<a href="#">APSA Diversity Fellowship Program</a>	\$2,000	March 02, 2026
<a href="#">ASGC Undergraduate Teacher Education Scholarship</a>	\$1,500	March 02, 2026
<a href="#">Cal Grant C Award Program</a>	\$12,036	March 02, 2026
<a href="#">Cal Grant Competitive Awards</a>	Varies	March 02, 2026
<a href="#">Cal Grant High School Entitlement Award</a>	\$1,000	March 02, 2026
<a href="#">CFV Verdugos Scholarships</a>	\$6,000	March 02, 2026
<a href="#">Feeding Tomorrow Scholarships</a>	\$5,000	March 02, 2026
<a href="#">FS-ISAC Scholarship Program</a>	\$10,000	March 02, 2026

<a href="#">National Technical Honor Society Scholarship</a>	\$1,000	March 03, 2026
<a href="#">Species On The Edge 2.0 Social Media Contest</a>	\$2,000	March 03, 2026
<a href="#">Virginia Smith Scholarship</a>	Varies	March 03, 2026
<a href="#">Washington HECB American Indian Endowed Scholarship</a>	\$2,000	March 03, 2026
<a href="#">ASHG DNA Day Essay Contest</a>	\$1,000	March 04, 2026
<a href="#">Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties General Scholarship</a>	Varies	March 04, 2026
<a href="#">San Diego Foundation Scholarships</a>	\$5,000	March 04, 2026
<a href="#">Udall Scholarship</a>	\$7,000	March 04, 2026
<a href="#">YCF Scholarships</a>	\$5,000	March 04, 2026
<a href="#">Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program</a>	\$5,000	March 05, 2026
<a href="#">Melanie Foundation Scholarship</a>	\$10,000	March 05, 2026
<a href="#">PAF's Scholarships for Survivors</a>	\$12,000	March 05, 2026
<a href="#">This Is Me Scholarship</a>	\$500	March 05, 2026

<a href="#">AAUW Angeline Gale Scholarship</a>	\$5,000	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">AAUW Naperville Area STEM Scholarship</a>	\$5,000	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">ACHE Military Educational Benefits</a>	\$12,454	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">AFA Scholarships</a>	\$3,200	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">BBB Life Lessons Essay Contest</a>	\$2,500	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">CLARK Scholars Scholarship</a>	\$4,000	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">DCU for Kids Memorial Scholarship</a>	\$2,500	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">Dream.Org Tech Scholarship Fund</a>	\$3,500	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">Edith Schwab Memorial Scholarship</a>	\$10,000	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">Emma E. Buckley Scholarship</a>	\$10,000	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">GBHEM HANA Scholars</a>	\$5,000	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">Helen and Allen Brown Scholarship</a>	\$1,000	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">Honorable William C Conner Writing Competition</a>	\$3,000	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">ILCA Scholarship Program</a>	\$10,000	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">Jennifer Leigh Soper Cystic Fibrosis Scholarship</a>	\$10,000	March 06, 2026
<a href="#">Journey Toward Ordained Ministry Scholarship</a>	\$5,000	March 06, 2026

## Greenland Defense Front - Not For Sale (Official Music Video)

<https://share.google/9mygwt4j4b5HycAEb>

### Join us for our February program *Letters to Nevada Daughters* *Preserving family memories, history, and traditions*

Saturday, February 14, 2026

9:30am - Noon

770 Smithridge Drive, Suite, 300, Reno, NV 89502

Presented by Patti Bernard and Sue Davis



Don't leave your children and grandchildren in the dark! Learn how to record stories, preserve memories, traditions, and moments that matter most in this hands-on class.

Today's tools make it easy to record and share your stories—whether in print or through online family groups—so future generations can cherish them just as past generations passed theirs down. We guarantee this format to be an easy and fun way to record your family history or recount family stories.

**\$10, general admission. Register below by February 12.**

***Bring a notebook, computer tablet or laptop.  
Light refreshments will be provided.***

Questions? - Contact Patti Bernard - [bernard.patti@yahoo.com](mailto:bernard.patti@yahoo.com) | 775-826-3612, or Sue Davis - [shdavis4364@att.net](mailto:shdavis4364@att.net) | 775-722-2699

**[Register Here](#)**

**Blue Grass Community Foundation** is where people go to give to enhance the quality of life in Central and Appalachia Kentucky. We connect charitable individuals, families, businesses, communities and nonprofit organizations with causes they care about to meet community needs and make a difference. Our mission is to create generous, vibrant and engaged communities throughout Central and Appalachia Kentucky. The number of recipients and the exact dollar amounts will vary.