

2022 Current Fiscal Year Report: Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of the Interior	2022
3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council	122

4. Is this New Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	08/29/2022	08/29/2024	

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No	43 U.S.C. 1594	

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
43 U.S.C. 1594	06/24/1974	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 2 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 2

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING	10/27/2021	10/28/2021
COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING	07/07/2022	07/07/2022

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$3,447.80	\$5,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$13,634.00	\$15,000.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$604.00	\$604.00
18d. Total	\$17,685.80	\$30,604.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.04	0.06

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

At its fall meeting, the Council discussed the accomplishments of Federal agencies and made recommendations on future activities to control salinity. The Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the Environmental Protection Agency each presented a progress

report and a schedule of activities on salinity control in the Colorado River Basin. In its Spring meeting the Council discussed: (1) taking appropriate actions regarding the Basin States Program; (2) responses to the Advisory Council Report; and (3) other items within the jurisdiction of the Council. The Council made program recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Annual Report specifically recommends funding levels for the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Council also independently determined what Federal actions are needed to be consistent with the Plan of Implementation contained in the review of the Water Quality Standards in compliance with the Clean Water Act. Each agency made significant efforts, within budgetary constraints, to fund projects as recommended and to resolve conflicts and take other recommended actions. The Council also reviewed the cost sharing allocations between the Basin States and recommended any needed adjustments. These recommendations are captured in the annual report.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The membership is balanced in that the Council is made up of no more than three members from each of the seven Colorado River Basin States appointed by the respective Governors. Members are normally representatives from the State water resources planning agency and the agency charged with water quality control in each State. These offices are those charged with maintaining salinity standards and administering pollution control activities within the State.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Council meets approximately twice a year, and at such other times as designated by the Designated Federal Officer. The spring meeting allows the Council to respond to the responses received from the Federal agencies regarding the recommendations made by the Council in its Annual Report. The Federal agencies provide a mid-year report to the Council on their salinity control activities. The fall meeting is held after the end of the fiscal year and the Council receives reports from the Federal agencies on their salinity control accomplishments during the year. The Council makes recommendations to the Federal agencies on how to improve salinity control activities in the new year. The recommendations are memorialized in the Council's Annual Report.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Council serves as a mechanism by which the representatives of the States can discuss the salinity problem among themselves and with the Federal agencies. These discussions are valuable in arriving at a common view of the problem and creating a coordinated effort toward solving that problem. Consideration was not given to fulfilling the Council's responsibilities through another existing committee nor by the Bureau of Reclamation because legislative language precluded such considerations. It would be difficult for the Federal agencies to gain this input from the separate views of each State. The Council, through its semiannual meetings, provides a unique opportunity for private citizens to discuss their concern, criticisms, and questions regarding the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control

Program.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

Up to three members from each of the seven Basin States (Arizona, Colorado, California, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming) are appointed to the Council by the Governors of each State. Members serve at the discretion of the Governors of the state that appointed them. At the end of each calendar year the Council prepares an Annual Report for that year and provides it to the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, usually by February or March. The 2021 Annual Report is complete and provided in this 2022 annual comprehensive review. The 2022 Annual Report will be prepared at the end of calendar year 2022 and included in the 2023 annual comprehensive review. The recommendations from 2022 are not final until the 2022 Annual Report is completed.

Designated Federal Officer

Aung Hla Program Manager

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Burns, Andrew	10/07/2019	10/07/2025	Manager, Water Resources Division Arizona	Representative Member
Chandler, Clint	10/12/2016	10/12/2025	Department of Water Resources	Representative Member
Cowley, Jeff	03/11/2022	10/24/2025	State	Representative Member
Dent, Patrick	04/15/2020	04/15/2025	Director of Water Policy	Representative Member
Espenscheid, Chad	12/11/2015	12/26/2025	Rancher	Representative Member

Esquivel, Joaquin	10/15/2021	10/23/2026	State	Representative Member
Hamman, Mike	01/26/2022	10/23/2026	State	Representative Member
Hasencamp, William	04/29/2014	04/29/2025	Manager, Colorado River Resources, MWD of Southern CA	Representative Member
Hasenyager, Candice	11/19/2021	10/24/2025	State	Representative Member
Jordan, Erin	01/04/2021	10/24/2025	State	Representative Member
Mackey, John	07/29/2022	10/24/2025	State	Representative Member
Mitchell, Rebecca	08/31/2017	08/29/2025	Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board	Representative Member
Neuwerth, Jessica	10/15/2021	10/23/2026	State	Representative Member
Price, Sara	10/07/2019	10/07/2025	Senior Assistant Director	Representative Member
Robbins, Dave	03/11/2008	03/28/2025	Lawyer	Representative Member
Rowan, Nicole	10/12/2020	10/12/2025	Clean Water Program Manager	Representative Member
Schmidt-Peterson, Rolf	09/05/2019	09/05/2025	Director, NM Interstate Stream Commission	Representative Member
Snow, Gawain	03/30/2012	03/28/2025	Farmer	Representative Member
Waterstreet, David	02/19/2014	02/19/2025	Wyoming DEQ-WQD	Representative Member
Cullom, Chuck [Technical Advisory Group]	10/30/2019	10/30/2025	Central Arizona Project	Representative Member
Ferrantelli, Charlie [Technical Advisory Group]	10/25/2017	10/25/2025	State Engineer's Office	Representative Member
Funk, Alexander [Technical Advisory Group]	10/25/2017	10/25/2025	Colorado Water Conservation Board	Representative Member
Harms, Paul [Technical Advisory Group]	10/27/2009	10/25/2025	Interstate Stream Commission	Representative Member
Juricich, Rich [Technical Advisory Group]	11/12/2019	10/25/2025	Colorado River Board of California	Representative Member

McGettigan, Scott [Technical Advisory Group]	10/30/2009	10/25/2025	Utah Division of Water Resources	Representative Member
Turkett, Warren [Technical Advisory Group]	09/30/2013	10/25/2025	Colorado River Commission of Nevada	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 26

Narrative Description

The Council makes program recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency through its Annual Report. The Annual Report specifically recommends funding levels for the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Council also independently determines what Federal actions are needed to be consistent with the Plan of Implementation contained in the review of the Water Quality Standards in compliance with the Clean Water Act. The Council also reviews the cost sharing allocations between the Basin States and recommends any needed adjustments. These recommendations are captured in the Annual Report.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The Council with its members from a variety of disciplines provides valuable guidance to

the Federal agencies in meeting the goals of the salinity control program as established by the Salinity Control Act

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

774

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Council made the following 34 recommendations during FY 2022 that were submitted to the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, and the Administrator of EPA for consideration. 1. Reclamation: The Council requests that Secretarial and Reclamation leadership do everything within their power to seek adequate and consistent funding levels. The Council recommends that Reclamation seek ways to maintain funding in FY 2023 and beyond. Reclamation is requested to give a detailed report on its efforts to secure additional funding at the next Advisory Council meeting. 2. Reclamation: The Council requests Reclamation support to fund the Colorado River Water Quality Improvement Program so that it does not draw dollars away from implementation efforts under the Title II program. 3. Reclamation: The Council requests that Reclamation work with the Forum and its Work Group in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the recent Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process and create a list of items to be addressed prior to the next NOFO. 4. Reclamation: The Council requests that operations of the Paradox Valley Unit, continue to be top priority for Reclamation. The Council urges Reclamation to hasten the Seismic Risk Analysis effort and work with the Forum in fully exploring any possibilities for salinity control at the Paradox Valley Unit.. 5. Reclamation.

The Council strongly recommends to fill the vacant engineering position with a capable individual who will work solely on the Program.

6. Reclamation: The Council requests that Reclamation work with the Forum's Work Group to update the Salinity Economic Impact Model and identify the next steps for improving our understanding and ability to quantify impacts of salinity levels.
7. Reclamation: The Council urges Reclamation to continue collecting and assembling the Federal Accomplishments Report from the partners each year in advance of the fall meeting as it helps Council to review and evaluate the Program.
8. USBR: The Council urges Reclamation to continue to convene and staff the Science Team.
9. BLM: The Council appreciates BLM's efforts to implement salinity control practices and maintain the program despite the transition to the Aquatic Habitat Management Program. The Council recommends that BLM continue to expend at least \$2.0 million for implementation of specific salinity control activities on public lands within the Basin.
10. BLM: The Council urges BLM to continue its efforts in reporting expenditure of funds and project implementation to the Council and the Forum and to provide them with an opportunity to see proposed activities before they are implemented.
11. BLM: The Council requests BLM to work closely with the Science Team, Agriculture Research Service, the USGS, and the Work Group on the development of the basin-wide APEX model.
12. BLM: The Council requests that BLM coordinate with the Forum's Work Group to identify where studies have been reported (i.e., journals, etc.) and report the status of the overall BLM and Agriculture Research Service efforts.
13. BLM: The Council requests that BLM provide needed financial participation to assist USGS in conducting the Upper Colorado Basin study, that seeks to identify salinity trends in the watershed.
14. BLM: The Council requests that BLM continue to engage with Reclamation, NRCS and the USFWS in seeking out and establishing areas for wildlife.
15. USGS: The Council asks that USGS continue to participate in Program efforts and meetings and work with Reclamation, NRCS, BLM and the Forum's Work Group to ensure that the data collection, interpretation, and analysis efforts are accurate, effective and contribute to the overall goal of Program implementation.
16. USGS: The Council requests USGS to stay engaged with Reclamation to complete and publish the results of the studies on the Paradox Valley Unit as they seek to optimize brine collection and disposal activities.
17. USGS: The Council recognizes USGS's selection of the Upper Colorado River Basin as the second Next Generation Water Observing System basin. The Council urges USGS to be sensitive to the goals and objectives of the salinity control efforts.
18. USGS: The Council asks that USGS continue the second phase of the study of the long-term salinity trends in the Upper Basin and to work closely with the states and BLM.
19. USGS: The Council requests USGS move forward in a timely manner with the recent pump tests, data analysis and report writing on the investigations of Pah Tempe Springs that discharges brine into the Virgin River.
20. USGS: The Council requests USGS continue to provide guidance and support to the Forum's Work Group as it considers priorities for

hydrosalinity studies, identifies new salinity control areas, and to review data gaps for potential new salinity project areas. 21. USGS: The Council urges USGS to continue identifying program science needs, initiate study efforts in scoping out potential studies, and in conducting these studies. The Council recognizes and appreciates USGS' proactive efforts to bring them to the Forum Work Group's attention. 22. USGS: The Council supports USGS in their efforts to maintaining the 20-gage network. 23. USFWS: The Council recommends USFWS continue its role in finding, reviewing, supporting viable wildlife replacement projects, and proactively assist other agencies in moving the Program forward. 24. USFWS: The Council requests USFWS continue to review the wildlife replacement efforts in the Federal Accomplishments Report. The Council asks USFWS to present information on how wildlife values are determined and tabulated to the Work Group. 25. USFWS: The Council asks that USFWS continue in seeking and reviewing potentially larger, more permanent mitigation opportunities, including ones on federally administered lands. The Council urges USFWS's that it be proactive and a leader in seeking out wildlife replacement opportunities which will provide wildlife enhancement, that will fit Program opportunities and mandates. 26. NRCS: The Council requests the three NRCS State Conservationists to continue to develop a realistic 3-Year Funding Plan and that NRCS program managers continue to allocate salinity Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds to the state offices consistent with such plan. The Council also requests that NRCS look for opportunities to fund on-farm salinity control activities in the San Juan River Basin in New Mexico. 27. NRCS: The Council requests NRCS continue to remain an engaged and proactive partner. 28. NRCS: The Council request NRCS that the coordinators are given sufficient time and resources to continue NRCS's participation in the overall Program efforts and that they be given the latitude and assignment to coordinate salinity control efforts throughout the seven states. 29. NRCS: The Council requests that NRCS again review and report on the cost effectiveness of EQIP in providing salinity control. It also requests that NRCS continue to provide cost implementation data to Reclamation as it seeks to model such in the 2023 Review. 30. NRCS: The council asks NRCS that it look for an opportunity to report to the Council on successes in providing EQIP contracts to Water Management Entities. 31. NRCS: The Council noted that NRCS is playing a pivotal role in considering and organizing a potentially large PL566 effort in the San Juan River Basin and it asks that NRCS continue pursuing this opportunity and report frequently to the Forum and Work Group. 32. NRCS: The Council requests NRCS continue to provide technical support on how to unravel the complex nature of salt loading from grazing lands. 33. EPA: The Council asks EPA help to shepherd the state standards through to approval. The Council requests that updates be given each year on the status of its efforts to approve such standards. 34. EPA: The Council requests EPA to continue to provide updates on the number of tribes which have received Treatment as a State . The council appreciates the involvement of EPA in water

quality control efforts by the Tribes in the Colorado River Basin as they set water quality standards. The Advisory Council has been in existence since the mid-1970s, approximately 46 years. The total number of separate and distinct recommendations made to the Federal agencies with direct responsibility for salinity control in the Colorado River: Reclamation, BLM, and NRCS; and to the supporting Federal agencies: FWS, EPA, USGS. Detailed information about the Council's recommendations can be found in the 2021 Annual Report.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

75%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

75% of recommendations have been fully implemented.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

25%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Some recommendations will take a long time before fully implemented. The Council has been recommending higher levels of funding for years. The levels recommended will probably not happen in the present budget climate.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

Each of the Federal agencies sends a letter to the Council in response to the recommendations made by the Council in the Annual Report. The Federal agencies respond that they have completed the recommendation, how they will complete it, or why they cannot comply with the recommendation.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities
Reallocated resources

- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

- Contact DFO
- Online Agency Web Site
- Online Committee Web Site
- Online GSA FACA Web Site
- Publications
- Other

Access Comments

N/A