

2026 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	2026
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	08/29/2024	08/29/2026	

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

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

**Current Next
FY 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	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
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	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Council plans to hold two meetings a year in the spring and fall, and it may call for more if needed. During its fall meeting, the Council reviews the achievements of federal agencies and offers suggestions for next salinity control initiatives. During its spring meeting, the Council considers and decides on suitable steps for the Basin States Program, the Basinwide Program, and other matters under its purview. In

accordance with the Clean Water Act, the Council also independently ascertains what Federal measures are required to be consistent with the Plan of Implementation included in the evaluation of the Water Quality Standards. Within financial restrictions, every agency works hard to fund projects as advised, settle disputes, and implement other suggested activities. 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.

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 recommendations from the Council will not be final until the end of 2025 as this is an annual year report not a fiscal year report.

Designated Federal Officer

Kathleen Callister Manager, Adaptive Management Water Quality Division

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Burns, Andrew	10/07/2019	10/07/2029	Manager, Water Resources Division	Representative Member
Chandler, Clint	10/12/2016	10/12/2029	Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources	Representative Member
Dent, Patrick	04/15/2020	04/15/2029	Director of Water Policy	Representative Member
Esquivel, Joaquin	10/15/2021	10/15/2029	Chair of the Colorado River Board of California	Representative Member
Hasencamp, William	04/29/2014	04/29/2029	Manager, Colorado River Resources, Municipal Water District of Southern California	Representative Member
Hasenyager, Candice	11/19/2021	11/19/2029	State Water Quality Division of	Representative Member
Jordan, Erin	01/04/2021	01/04/2029	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	Representative Member
Larsen, Dan	06/06/2023	06/06/2029	Agricultural Producer	Representative Member

Mackey, John	07/29/2022	07/29/2029	Director of the Utah Division of Water Quality Colorado	Representative Member
Mitchell, Rebecca	08/31/2017	08/31/2029	River Commissioner of Colorado	Representative Member
Morey, Jack	02/08/2024	02/08/2029	Deputy State engineer	Representative Member
Neuwerth, Jessica	10/15/2021	10/15/2029	State	Representative Member
Price, Sara	10/07/2019	10/07/2029	Senior Assistant Director	Representative Member
Redmon, Tim	10/21/2024	10/21/2029	Basin State	Representative Member
Rhoderick, John	04/19/2024	04/19/2029	Director, Water Protection Division	Representative Member
Riseley-White, Hannah	04/19/2024	04/19/2029	Director, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission	Representative Member
Robbins, David	03/11/2008	03/11/2029	Lawyer	Representative Member
Rowan, Nicole	10/12/2020	10/12/2029	Clean Water Program Manager	Representative Member
Waterstreet, David	02/19/2014	02/19/2029	Section Manager at Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality	Representative Member
Cunningham, Colleen [Technical Advisory Group]	08/27/2024	08/27/2029	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission	Representative Member
Ferrantelli, Charlie [Technical Advisory Group]	10/25/2017	10/25/2025	State Engineer's Office	Representative Member
McGettigan, Scott [Technical Advisory Group]	10/30/2009	10/25/2025	Utah Division of Water Resources	Representative Member
Mead, Aaron [Technical Advisory Group]	11/08/2023	11/23/2028	Engineer	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: 24

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	<input type="checkbox"/>

Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

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

858

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Council made the following 44 recommendations in the Annual 2024 report (completed in FY 2025), that were submitted to the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, and the Administrator of EPA for consideration. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) 1. The Council greatly appreciates the efforts of the Upper Colorado Region (UC) office in the continued oversight and coordination of the Program and the priority given to the Program from the top down, including the assemblage and support of a capable and dedicated salinity team. It notes the reorganization of the UC office with its focus on the Colorado River which will help coordinate Reclamation’s activities, including salinity control. The Council also appreciates the increased involvement of the Lower Colorado Region (LC) office, including participation of a salinity coordinator in the Work Group meetings and a high-level representative at the Forum and Advisory Council meetings. 2. The Council recognizes that it is difficult, given Reclamation’s budget cycle, to make funding recommendations that can influence Reclamation’s budget request for the next two fiscal years. The Council is very concerned with recent reductions in funding to the Basinwide Program. The Council recognizes the efforts of Reclamation staff to smoothly and efficiently implement the Basinwide Program despite yo-yoing appropriations. The Council also recognizes and commends Reclamation’s efforts to acquire year-end and other funds to make up for initial appropriation shortfalls. a. The Council again requests that Secretarial and Reclamation leadership do everything within their power to seek adequate and consistent funding levels. Though the Council is very appreciative of Reclamation’s efforts to “find” additional funds not initially appropriated to the Program, it would very much prefer an initial request of \$10.7 million in the President’s Budget each

year. Reclamation is requested to give a detailed report on its efforts to secure additional funding at the next Advisory Council meeting. 3. The Council appreciates Reclamation's patience, insight and assistance which led to the legislation resolution of the funding shortfalls in the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund. It specifically recognizes Reclamation's willingness to be part of the solution through greater participation in the O&M expenses of older units. a. Because the funding fix will lead to reduced dollars in the Program, the Council asks that Reclamation seek to maximize other funding opportunities such that the Program can move forward in meaningful way. 4. The Council specifically expresses appreciation to Reclamation for its efforts to track expenditures under the Basinwide Program and Basin States Program and to keep Council and Forum members informed on funding status. The Council simply requests that Reclamation keep up the good work in this regard. 5. The Council also recognizes Reclamation's efforts in the past several years to work with the Forum's Work Group and identify a method for better forecasting LCRBDF salinity revenues. a. The Council requests that Reclamation continue to implement the agreed-to methodology with updates every six months. b. It also requests that Reclamation consider even further potential fund forecasting improvements through dynamic inclusion of planned conservation projects even as or before they are finalized. 6. Lastly, relative to Program funding, the Council recognizes Reclamation's efforts to continue to budget sufficient funds for required operation and maintenance of constructed units and for plan formulation, including the PVU alternatives studies and EIS effort. The Council has noted that in the past, while the project was not operating, O&M expenditures were on par with those during full operations. The Council has expressed concern over these high expenditures during periods of non-operation. a. Just to be clear, the Council welcomes the opportunity to cost share in and partner with Reclamation in Paradox operations – it just wants to do so when salinity control is being achieved. 7. The Council also recognizes that Reclamation receives an appropriation to its Colorado River Water Quality Improvement Program. While this program is outside of the Title II funding, there is meaningful overlap and benefits between the two efforts, including supporting staff and maintaining stream gaging and monitoring activities. The salinity efforts also benefit from Reclamation's development of the CE-QUAL-W2 modeling capabilities. a. Therefore, the Council requests that Reclamation support the funding of this line item so that it does not draw dollars away from implementation efforts under the Title II program. b. The Council requests that Reclamation continue to support and improve its short-term CE-QUAL-W2 modeling and provide semi-annual reports at the Forum meetings. c. Also the Council affirms its prior requests that Reclamation continue to budget sufficient dollars, independent of the Basinwide Program funding, for O&M activities, planning, operations, and administration of the Program. 8. The Council appreciates Reclamation's efforts with prior FOA s (now NOFOs) and looks forward to the implementation of the projects selected under future NOFOs. The Council specifically recognizes and

appreciates Reclamation's efforts to find a solution to the unprecedented pipe price increases which were experienced during COVID which allowed projects and salinity control implementation to continue forward. a. Once this effort is completed and all projects are moving ahead, the Council would appreciate a short report on the policies and methods employed, the costs, and the accomplishments which were achieved through providing one-time pipe price increase modifications to the Basinwide Program projects. Included should be a report on lessons learned and policies or positions developed for the future. 9. The Council has observed over the years Reclamation's efforts to adapt and be even more effective in administering the FOAs. The 2023 NOFO was no exception. The Council understands that due to the change in Administration, the 2025 NOFO will be delayed from the planned spring 2025 release. It is recognized that Reclamation is actively working with the Work Group on edits and potential refinements to the next NOFO. The Council asks that as soon as it is appropriate, Reclamation work with the Work Group to refine and release the next NOFO. The Council also requests that Reclamation consider the option of treatment of drain water in future NOFOs. 10. The past salt disposal at PVU has been very important to the Colorado River System for improving water quality (by 9-10 mg/L) and reducing economic damages (estimated at \$24 million annually) in the Lower Basin. The Council applauds Reclamation's efforts to continue injection, even if on a more limited basis, while alternatives are considered. The PVU EIS did not identify a viable salt disposal alternative. Nonetheless, given the value and singular importance of this project, the Council is not ready to give up on finding a workable alternative. Until a viable salt disposal alternative is successfully identified, the Council urges Reclamation to continue to apply focused efforts and resources identifying options and resolving any identified issues. 11. The Council notes that Reclamation has brought together a capable staff to effectively administer the Program. The Council notes that important to the overall efforts in the past has been a staff engineering position. The Council appreciates Reclamation filling this position and requests that this engineer be given full latitude and resources to support the current program as well as explore opportunities for improving Program salinity control activities and seeking new opportunities for the future. 12. The Council appreciates Reclamation's significant efforts to update the Salinity Economic Impact Model (SEIM) for quantifying economic damages from salinity in the lower Colorado River System. The Council requests that Reclamation continue to work with the Forum's Work Group to identify the future steps in improving our understanding and ability to quantify impacts of salinity levels. 13. Each fall Reclamation seeks input from the involved federal agencies and prepares a Federal Accomplishments Report (FAR), which report is sent to the Advisory Council before its fall meeting. The efforts of Reclamation to bring together the FAR each year in advance of the fall meetings is very helpful in the Council's review and evaluation of the Program, and the Council expresses appreciation for Reclamation's and other agencies' efforts in this regard and

requests that this report continue to be provided each fall. 14. The Council continues to observe the value of the role played by the Science Team. The Council urges Reclamation to continue to convene and staff the Science Team. 15. As a last matter, the Council very much appreciates Reclamation's leadership and modeling which assists in preparing the triennial reviews every three years. The Forum is commencing the process of developing the 2026 Review and the Council requests that Reclamation again support this effort through modeling and other efforts. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 16. As has been stated in prior reports, the Council recognizes that when Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior "to develop a comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River from lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management," BLM was given a daunting task. Creation of a "program" has not always fit within other BLM programs. The Council reiterates its expression of appreciation from last year and recognizes the efforts which BLM is now showing relative to the Congressional charge by finding a way to make Colorado River salinity control fit within BLM's other mandates and programs. Specifically, the Council recognizes the efforts of BLM's salinity liaison, attached to headquarters with national resources, policy ties and program funding, and BLM's experienced salinity coordinator attached to the NOC with technical resources and the ability to coordinate with state and field offices. The combination is leading to strong support and resources for the program, and BLM's leadership is seen by participation in meetings, responses to inquiries, dedication of staff time and funding, commitment to studies, understanding and reporting, and the willingness to think outside the box in regard to integrating salinity control into other BLM programs and objectives. The Council has also witnessed BLM's recent efforts to train state and field offices, coordinate activities and include them in salinity meetings. All has enhanced understanding and consciousness of salinity control objectives. The Council's request is that BLM continue in this effective vein. 17. The Council appreciates BLM's ability to maintain the program funding and it recommends that BLM seek to expend \$2.5 million for implementation of specific salinity control activities on public lands within the Basin. The Council also recognizes, appreciates, and requests that BLM also continue to use other non-specific salinity dollars for efforts to study and improve the water quality in the Colorado River Basin. In particular, the Council notes BLM's efforts to leverage other dollars with salinity control projects to increase the number of projects which can be funded and their effectiveness. 18. The Council notes BLM's efforts in recent years to use the majority of its salinity funding for the implementation of projects. It also recognizes and appreciates BLM's increased efforts and effectiveness in reporting expenditure of funds and project implementation to the Council and the Forum and providing them with an opportunity to see proposed activities before they are implemented. The Council asks that BLM continue to do so and to work with other federal partners, the Forum, or its Work Group, to develop a method for reporting salinity improvements associated with such

activities. It specifically asks that BLM work with the Forum's Work Group to determine a defensible way to quantify and report both qualitatively and quantitatively the impact of such control efforts. 19. The Council appreciates BLM's efforts to create a better understanding of salt mobilization on public lands, including being involved in a number of studies. The Council notes an increase in dollars being expended on studies in FY2025, and though it generally supports greater efforts towards implementation, it notes the importance of understanding salt mobilization on public lands in order to focus treatment priorities. The Council asks that BLM work with the Science Team and the Forum's Work Group to report the results of these studies as they become available. The Council also applauds BLM's efforts to hold an annual science symposium and believes that these efforts will help coordinate with USGS and field staff in understanding better how salinity control practices can be implemented. 20. The Council recognizes the desire to improve the options for the replacement of wildlife values foregone. It appreciates BLM's efforts to find and participate in the establishment of such replacement, especially on federally administered lands where long-term maintenance and management can occur. The Council requests that BLM continue to be engaged with Reclamation, NRCS and the USFWS in seeking out and establishing such wildlife areas. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 21. The Council wants to again express its appreciation for how responsive USGS is in its science role for the Secretary of the Interior in assisting with moving the Salinity Control Program forward. The Council appreciates the continued coordination and support of the Program provided by USGS with the several individuals involved in assisting with science support. Both the continuity of participation, as well as the ability to bring in specialists when needed, has really provided important strength and understanding to the Program. Participation by USGS on the Science Team, the TAG and Work Group and at Advisory Council and Forum meetings has helped strengthen the overall Program and efforts. Such participation provides input and guidance and helps merge science and implementation. Hence, the Council simply asks that USGS keep up the good work and continue to participate in Program efforts and meetings and work with Reclamation, NRCS, BLM and the Work Group to ensure that the data collection, interpretation, and analysis efforts are accurate, effective and contribute to the overall goal of Program implementation. 22. The Council wishes to thank USGS for the priority it gives to funding the basic stream gaging program on the Colorado River. The Council encourages and supports USGS in their efforts to maintain the 20-gage network. This has been a discussion item in recent meetings. It has been noted that not all of the gages in this network receive USGS' A classification. It had been hoped that with update classifications all gages would receive higher ratings but notes that several gages still need some increased data. The Council, therefore, asks that USGS work with the Forum and the Work Group to identify what needs to occur to make the 20-gage network as robust and serviceable as possible. 23. The Council has previously commented on and

recognized USGS's initiation of the study of the long-term salinity trends in the Upper Basin and appreciates the support thus far. This is a big deal to the overall Program. The Council is anxious to receive a full report on the study findings and understand what such findings mean to the overall Program efforts now and into the future. Therefore, the Council requests that USGS include the Work Group in a detailed review of preliminary study findings, and when appropriate, provide a detailed report to the Forum and Council.

24. The Council very much appreciates the significant efforts of USGS with a number of studies at the PVU. Such studies will be important to the overall understanding of the hydrodynamics of the brine discharge. The Council recognizes and appreciates the recent efforts to complete these studies and asks that USGS stay engaged with Reclamation and the states as they seek to optimize brine collection and disposal activities.

25. The Council has given its support to detailed investigative efforts by USGS of the Pah Tempe Springs. The Council appreciates USGS's efforts and insight in proposing the final study to finish characterizing the fault zone which leads to brine discharge to the Virgin River. The Council appreciates USGS' efforts and now requests that USGS move forward in a timely manner with the data analysis and report writing.

26. The Council recognizes USGS's critical role on the Science Team in identifying Program science needs and their role in scoping out potential studies and performing many of these studies. These efforts are much appreciated. USGS has performed a number of other studies for the Program which have guided thinking and implementation activities. The USGS's role and efforts are recognized by the Council and are much appreciated. Further, the Council recognizes and appreciates USGS' proactive efforts to bring to the Work Group's attention other study efforts of interest within the Basin.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

27. The Council recognizes that many of its recommendations to the USFWS are on a continuing basis and do not change significantly from year to year. It appreciates USFWS's role in finding, reviewing, and supporting viable wildlife replacement projects and the service that USFWS provides in reviewing and tabulating replacement by areas and as requested. The Council recommends that USFWS continue these activities and proactively assist the other agencies in moving the Program forward. The Council also recognizes the important role of the USFWS salinity coordinator.

28. As noted in prior years, the Council again expresses its appreciation for the tables provided by USFWS in the FAR. It also appreciates the efforts of the Service to review the M&E reports. The Council appreciates USFWS's efforts to review and approve off-site replacement efforts and concurs with USFWS that such efforts are better than receiving no replacement. The Council finds the review and tabulations of wildlife values foregone replacement efforts most helpful and requests that the Council continue to be informed each year in the FAR as to the effectiveness and current status of these efforts. The Council recognizes that the wildlife training opportunity has not yet occurred and so it requests that, when organized, the FWS participate in such training presentation to the Work Group on how wildlife values

are determined and tabulated. 29. In the past few years, the Council has requested that USFWS participate with other agencies in seeking and reviewing potentially larger, more permanent mitigation opportunities, including ones on federally administered lands, and it renews its request on this matter. 30. In the past the Council has recognized the USFWS's role in the successful larger wildlife projects. The Council appreciated the Services report that it has been looking for mitigation banking options and opportunities. The Council asks that USFWS continue to not only be a participant in these activities, but that it be proactive and a leader in seeking out wildlife replacement opportunities which will provide lasting wildlife enhancement, and which will fit within the Program opportunities and mandates, including construction of such projects on public lands. It recognizes that this is a long-term effort and appreciates USFWS's annual report on these efforts. 31. As a final matter, the Council is interested in the amount of water often required for replacement activities. It requests that USFWS work with the Forum's Work Group to determine if such water requirements can be quantified. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 32. The Council continues to recognize and express appreciation for the key and essential role that NRCS has played and continues to play in reducing the salt load of the Colorado River and its tributaries and in creating local environmental benefits as well as benefits for downstream agricultural and M&I users. NRCS has been a consistent and very productive partner in the effort. Providing these benefits is the result of a coordinated effort between the Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming state NRCS offices in the Upper Basin and also the cooperation they have provided when working with other federal agencies, the TAG, the Forum, and the Work Group. 33. The Council appreciates the level of funding made available to the salinity control effort through EQIP. Traditionally, on-farm salinity control has been some of the most cost-effective salinity efforts available. While much of the less expensive salinity control has now been accomplished and there has been an increase in on-farm salinity control costs in the last couple of years, cost-effective salinity control opportunities still exist. Continued funding is needed to meet the goals identified now in the 2023 Review for the Department of Agriculture. The Council requests the three State Conservationists, and their staff continue to develop a Three-Year Funding Plan and that NRCS program managers continue to allocate salinity EQIP funds to the state offices consistent with such plan. The Council renews its request that NRCS look for opportunities to fund on-farm salinity control activities in the San Juan River Basin in New Mexico and asks that NRCS report back to the Council on its findings as to salinity control opportunities in this area. 34. During the past several years several factors have made it more difficult for producers to fully participate in on-farm salinity control activities as evidenced by reduced sign-ups and increased contract deferrals and cancellations. The Council recognizes and expresses appreciation to NRCS for innovative efforts to identify impediments to full Program implementation and report back to the Council. It notes NRCS's efforts to adjust

the cost docket to a per foot rather than per acre basis and NRCS Colorado's efforts to estimate project costs early in the application process so as to reduce the number of cancellations and deferrals. It is precisely these kinds of continuing and adaptive efforts of NRCS which have made it such a successful partner in the salinity control efforts. The Council requests that NRCS continue these types of changes as needs arise and report its efforts to the Council. 35. Key to NRCS' prior successes has been an engaged and capable salinity coordinator who has had full ability to work with NRCS offices throughout the Colorado River Basin. The Council recognizes and appreciates NRCS moving forward with the hiring of a new and capable salinity coordinator and looks forward to working with her into the future. The Council requests that NRCS give her the tools, resources, and access needed to coordinate NRCS salinity control activities in all of the Colorado River Basin states. The Council also recognizes the important role of a coordinator in the Washington D.C. office and appreciates NRCS keeping this position filled with a capable and dedicated individual. 36. The Council also continues to recognize that much of NRCS's past success in implementing salinity control comes from efforts beyond simply servicing EQIP contracts. It comes from talented staff working with producers in properly operating and managing on-farm improvements. The Council requests that NRCS continue to evaluate Program limitations and, if needed, make adjustments so as to provide sufficient staffing to meet Program objectives. It also recognizes that with the continual changeover in staff in the field offices that there is constant need for training and requests that NRCS develop some mechanism or program for training new staff who work in salinity areas about the program. 37. The Council believes that it is the dedication, coupled with effective and hard work of NRCS personnel, which has made the NRCS salinity control program such a success. The Council appreciates the attentiveness of NRCS Washington staff in the Program's success. The Council also recognizes and appreciates the dedicated attention that the three State Conservationists have given the Program, and it invites them to continue to frequently participate in Program meetings, discussions and activities and provide input, expertise and guidance as we move the overall Program forward. The Council simply requests that NRCS continue to remain an engaged and proactive partner as it has in the past. 38. The Council notes NRCS' improved reporting of implementation of salinity contracts and requests that NRCS continue to provide such information to the Work Group. It also requests that NRCS continue to provide the annual M&E reports and that it review the information gathered from the project areas with the Work Group. The Council appreciates NRCS's annual report at the fall meeting including a report on implementation by state for the current year as well as the report on cumulative expenditures and accomplishments. It requests that NRCS continue to make such reports. 39. The Council expresses appreciation to NRCS for bringing to the states creative approaches to using other tools such as RCPP, PL566 and WME to meet Program goals and objectives. In particular, the Council requests that

NRCS continue to seek to work with producers and organizations in identifying the opportunity for implementation of WME projects in salinity areas. It also requests that NRCS continue to work collaboratively with other programs in maximizing coordinated salinity improvement efforts. The Council asks that NRCS continue pursuing these types of opportunities and report frequently to the Forum and Work Group. 40. Lastly, the Council appreciates NRCS's efforts to keep the Council apprised of national matters which could affect program implementation. It notes that a new Farm Bill may pass this year and requests that NRCS keep the Council up to date on this and other national matters. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) 41. The Council continues to appreciate EPA's determination that Region 8 will be the coordinating region for the Salinity Control Program. The Council is pleased with the representative from this region and again expresses its appreciation for his participation at meetings, as well as the materials and responses provided, including EPA's annual write-up in the FAR. 42. The Council expresses appreciation to EPA for its past involvement in, and assistance with the Forum's triennial review process to review and update its Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System including providing to the Forum a list of EPA administered NPDES permits. The Forum is again embarking on the 2026 Review process, and it requests EPA's engagement in this effort until completed and then that afterwards, it asks that EPA help shepherd the state standards through to approval and seek ways, if possible, to streamline the process. The Council requests that updates continue to be given each year by EPA on the status of its efforts to approve such standards. 43. The Council also 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 Council requests that EPA continue to provide updates on the number of tribes which have received Treatment as a State (TAS) designation and if they have adopted the Forum's policies into their NPDES rules. Anything else on implementation of water quality standards by the Tribes would be helpful. 44. The Council appreciates EPA's effort to bring subjects of potential import to the states' and Council's attention. The Council has found that Region 8 of the EPA has been most responsive to issues it has been asked to address. The Advisory Council has been in existence since the mid-1970s, approximately 50+ years, making recommendations to 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 2024 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 being fully implemented. The ability of the Federal Government to more timely implement the Council's recommendations would require an increase of the appropriated funds directed at these issues.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Access Comments

N/A