



SHIMP FOR PRESIDENT 2028

PROPOSED EXECUTIVE ORDER

LAKE MEAD AND HOOVER DAM WATER AND ENERGY SECURITY INITIATIVE

Presidential Day-One Policy Draft

Fogel G. Shimp - Independent Candidate for President - 2028

ACCOUNTABILITY | INTEGRITY | RULE OF LAW

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. National Objective.

The United States shall pursue a durable, basin-wide strategy to protect Lake Mead, Hoover Dam hydropower, Colorado River water deliveries, and the communities, Tribes, agriculture, industry, and ecosystems that depend upon the Colorado River. The objective is not merely to refill a reservoir temporarily, but to restore a sustainable balance between available water and long-term demand while developing additional supplies where technically, economically, environmentally, and legally feasible.

Sec. 2. Immediate Conditions.

The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, shall treat historically low storage in Lake Mead and Lake Powell as a priority water-and-energy resilience issue. Current federal data show Lake Mead near elevation 1,038 feet in September 2026, following record-low combined storage conditions in Lake Mead and Lake Powell. Hoover Dam remains operational, but declining reservoir elevations reduce hydropower capability and increase water-supply risk.

Sec. 3. Ninety-Day Lake Mead Stabilization Plan.

Within 90 days, the Secretary of the Interior shall deliver to the President a Lake Mead Stabilization Plan identifying the quantities of water required to arrest further long-term storage decline under dry, median, and wet hydrologic scenarios. The plan shall quantify conservation, reuse, augmentation, operational, infrastructure, and voluntary compensated demand-reduction measures and shall identify the statutory authority and funding required for each measure.

Sec. 4. Interstate Water-Augmentation Engineering Study.

The Secretary of the Interior and the Chief of Engineers shall immediately conduct a reconnaissance-level engineering and economic study of large-scale water augmentation for the Colorado River system. The study shall examine, without prejudging selection, pipelines, canals, pumping systems, tunnels, storage exchanges, and other conveyance concepts capable of importing water from legally and hydrologically sustainable sources. Potential source basins shall not be selected merely because a river is geographically nearby; the study shall account for existing water rights, interstate compacts, tribal rights, environmental requirements, drought risk in the source basin, elevation lift, energy demand, construction cost, and interstate or congressional approvals.

Sec. 5. No Unlawful Diversion of Other Rivers.

No federal agency shall divert water from another interstate river solely under this order. Any proposed transfer shall demonstrate that the source basin can sustain the withdrawal, shall protect existing lawful users and ecosystems, and shall comply with applicable interstate compacts, treaties, federal statutes, environmental review requirements, and congressional authorization where required.

Sec. 6. Pacific Desalination and Exchange Alternative.

The augmentation study shall evaluate large-scale seawater desalination and water-exchange projects serving Lower Colorado River users, including projects that could supply coastal or near-coastal demand with new water in exchange for leaving an

equivalent quantity of Colorado River water in the system. The study shall compare direct conveyance to inland users with exchange-based approaches and shall evaluate energy use, brine management, environmental effects, capital cost, operating cost, and delivery reliability.

Sec. 7. Wastewater Recycling and Local Supply.

Reclamation, in coordination with EPA and participating States and local water agencies, shall identify accelerated projects for advanced water recycling, aquifer recharge, stormwater capture, leak reduction, agricultural efficiency, and municipal conservation that can measurably reduce withdrawals from Lake Mead and the Colorado River. Federal support shall prioritize projects that produce verifiable, durable water savings or new usable supply.

Sec. 8. Hoover Dam Hydropower Reliability.

The Secretary of the Interior shall continue and, where justified, accelerate upgrades that improve Hoover Dam's ability to generate electricity efficiently at lower reservoir elevations, including wide-head turbine technology and related electrical and mechanical modernization. The Department shall provide the President with a schedule of critical upgrades and the reservoir elevations at which generation capacity becomes materially constrained.

Sec. 9. Colorado River Operating Rules.

The Secretary of the Interior shall implement post-2026 Colorado River operating guidelines consistent with law while using the best available hydrology to protect critical reservoir elevations. Federal negotiations with Basin States, Basin Tribes, Mexico, water contractors, and other stakeholders shall seek measurable reductions in structural overuse and rules capable of adapting to prolonged drought and reduced runoff.

Sec. 10. Emergency Infrastructure Permitting Team.

A Lake Mead Water Infrastructure Permitting Team is established, chaired by the Department of the Interior and including the Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, Department of Energy, Department of Transportation, and other relevant agencies. The team shall coordinate reviews and eliminate duplicative federal processing to the maximum extent permitted by law. Nothing in this section waives substantive environmental, tribal-consultation, water-rights, or other statutory requirements.

Sec. 11. Feasibility Gate for a Major Import Project.

Within 18 months, the Secretary of the Interior and Chief of Engineers shall recommend whether at least one major augmentation project should advance to detailed feasibility and environmental review. Any recommendation shall state the proposed source, annual acre-feet delivered, route, pumping lift, power requirement, estimated construction and operating costs, construction schedule, source-basin effects, legal authorities required, and expected effect on Lake Mead elevations under multiple hydrologic scenarios.

Sec. 12. Financial Accountability.

OMB shall develop a ten-year capital plan for authorized Lake Mead resilience projects. No multibillion-dollar conveyance project shall proceed to construction without an independent cost estimate, benefit-cost and reliability analysis, identified funding source, and all legally required authorizations and appropriations. The plan shall separately identify near-term conservation and recycling projects that can produce water benefits before any major interstate import project could be completed.

Sec. 13. Public Water Dashboard.

Reclamation shall maintain a public dashboard showing Lake Mead elevation and storage, inflows and releases, conservation volumes, augmentation-project milestones, Hoover Dam hydropower conditions, and progress toward the stabilization objective. Data shall be updated at practical intervals and presented in terms understandable to the public.

Sec. 14. Presidential Reporting.

The Secretary of the Interior shall provide the President an initial report within 90 days, an augmentation options report within 12 months, and the major-project recommendation required by section 11 within 18 months. Reports shall identify disagreements among agencies or Basin interests rather than concealing unresolved technical or legal issues.

Sec. 15. General Provisions.

This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations. Nothing herein shall alter vested water rights, interstate compact obligations, treaty obligations, tribal rights, or congressional powers over appropriations and interstate water projects. Nothing in this order creates any right or benefit enforceable at law or in equity against the United States, its agencies, officers, employees, or any other person.

Fogel G. Shimp

Independent Candidate for President - 2028

DRAFT - FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Planning note: This draft deliberately does not order a specific river diversion before engineering and legal review. Large interbasin transfers can require enormous pumping energy and can transfer scarcity or environmental harm to another basin. The order instead forces a rapid comparison of import pipelines, desalination/exchanges, recycling, conservation, reservoir operations, and hydropower upgrades.