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# Office of the Governor

December 9, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## **SUBJECT: Statement from Nevada on Colorado River Negotiations**

Dear Secretary Burgum:

Thank you for inviting the Colorado River Basin governors and state negotiators to Washington this week. Although the meeting did not proceed as planned, I appreciate the Department's commitment to advancing these discussions and expanding engagement at a time when the risks of inaction continue to grow.

The challenges we face are significant and addressing them requires urgency and a shared commitment to continued dialogue. Nevada, along with our partners in the Lower Basin, stands ready to participate constructively. While resolving this issue remains a top priority for me, durable solutions only emerge when all voices remain at the table. Sustained engagement in the weeks ahead is essential.

For over two decades, Nevada has shown that responsible water management and economic growth are compatible. We have implemented some of the nation's most effective water conservation policies and programs, and our planning serves as a model for other water-challenged communities. We recognize the difficulty of the decisions ahead and remain ready to act, but no amount of local success can substitute for the actions required across the entire basin.

A seven-state agreement remains the preferred path. Achieving that outcome will require continued federal leadership, clear direction, firm timelines and the expectation that all parties will stay engaged until we reach an equitable and lasting outcome. I would welcome the opportunity for governors and negotiators to reconvene and respectfully request that you and your staff consider rescheduling the meeting for early January.

Nevada stands ready to do its part. We are committed to collaboration, to action and to a future where every community in the Basin can rely on a safe and resilient water supply. I appreciate your leadership and look forward to working together in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Lombardo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Lombardo  
Governor

cc: Southern Nevada Water Authority