

Seven Basin States Efforts & Options: How Effective Partnerships can Facilitate Effective and Efficient Solutions – Shanti Rosset O'Donovan, Assistant Attorney General

All of the Seven Colorado River Basin States have faced the challenges of the drought that has persisted over most of the last decade. In order to address these challenges, as well as uncertainty about future hydrology the Basin, the Basin States (Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona and California) are finding new ways to work together. The Basin Study, currently being conducted with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, is one of the most important ways that the Basin States are partnering to facilitate effective and efficient solutions to the potential future demand and supply imbalances in the Colorado River Basin.

Through the Basin Study, the Basin States and the Bureau of Reclamation are completing the most comprehensive study of supply and demand in the Colorado River to date. The Basin Study will provide detailed data and information, and new planning tools that states, the federal government, and other entities may use to develop well-informed and appropriate strategies to plan for the future and mitigate the impacts of drought. The Basin Study will also provide information on what possible demand and supply scenarios may look like under future climate change conditions.