

## COMMISSION

JIM SWEENEY – CHAIRMAN  
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PHIL BASHAW – COMMISSIONER  
RUSSELL L. JONES – COMMISSIONER  
JOHN F. SULLIVAN – COMMISSIONER

## STAFF

JORDY FUENTES – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
HEATHER COLE – EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



## ARIZONA POWER AUTHORITY

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## MINUTES OF THE ARIZONA POWER AUTHORITY (“APA”) COMMISSION (“Commission”) MEETING HELD APRIL 21, 2026

**PRESENT:** James Sweeney, Chairman  
Phil Bashaw, Commissioner  
Russ Jones, Commissioner (*Virtual*)  
John Sullivan, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Doug Brimhall, Accountant 4  
Heather Cole, Executive Secretary to Commission  
Jordy Fuentes, Executive Director  
Roberto Pulver, Legal Counsel  
Sonseeahray Thayer, Financial Administrator (*Virtual*)

**OTHER:** Elena Bryd, ED #2  
Tara Davis, AEPCO  
Tony Davis  
Sheri Farag, SRP  
Deborah Ferraro, City of Mesa  
Logan Gernet, ED #2  
Josh Grier, SRP  
Ed Gerack, IEDA  
Elston Grubaugh, Wellton Mohawk  
Daniel Herderer, Clark Hill  
Taylor Howerter, Roosevelt Irrigation District  
Daniel Jones  
Selwyn Justice, ED #7  
Jeff Low, City of Safford  
Adam McAnally, SRP  
Derek McEachern, ED #4  
Kristine McMinimy, AEPCO  
Jason Moyes, Moyes, Hendricks & Sellers  
Donovan Neese, Roosevelt Irrigation District  
Paul Orme  
John Paulsen, WAPA  
Daniel Pritchard, KR Saline & Associates  
Verdent Sahu  
Ken Saline, KR Saline & Associates  
Meghan Scott, Scott & Rogers  
Kent Simer, K.R. Saline & Associates

Elizabeth Story  
Sheryl Sweeney, Clark Hill  
Kelly Urbine, Current Insights  
Bill Van Allen  
Robert VanhofWegen, Electrical District #8  
Brian Yerges, ED #3  
Dave Young, WAPA  
Jeff Woner, KR Saline & Associates

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chairman James Sweeney. Quorum was established.

**ROLL CALL:** Commissioners Bashaw, Jones, Sullivan & Sweeney were present.

**CHAIRMAN REQUEST FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST BY ANY COMMISSIONER:**

- Each Commissioner declared they had no conflict of interest on any matter as listed on the agenda for today's meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes from the Regular Commission Meeting held on March 17, 2026 was made by Commissioner Sullivan and seconded by Commissioner Bashaw.
- **Vote:** Commissioners Bashaw, Jones, Sullivan & Sweeney approved the motion.
- **Resolved:** Approved as stated above and the written documents are entered into the Commission records.

**WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION PRESENTATION – HOOVER LAY OFF POWER** – John Paulsen, VP of Power Marketing, DSW, Dave Young, Energy Management & Marketing Manager, DSW

**REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS AND APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** Sonseeahray Thayer, Financial Administrator, provided the Expenditures & Financial Reports. Hoover Operations Fund Claims #15890 - #15924 and APA Claims #703 - #705 for the period March 1 – March 31, 2026 were presented.

- **Motion:** To approve Hoover Operations Fund Claims #15890 - #15924 and APA Claims #703 - #705 as presented was made by Commissioner Bashaw and seconded by Commissioner Sullivan.
- **Vote:** Commissioners Bashaw, Jones, Sullivan & Sweeney approved the motion.
- **Resolved:** Approved as stated above and the written documents are entered into the Commission records.

**REPORT ON POWER OPERATION MATTERS:** Douglas Brimhall, Accountant 4, reported on the following:

- Monthly precipitation – When looking at monthly precipitation, there has been much less precipitation this March compared to the same time last year.
- Water Year Precipitation – When comparing Water Year 2026 to Water Year 2025, overall there has been more precipitation.
- Upper Colorado River System – Precipitation to Date in the Upper Colorado River System is currently at 83%, which is lower than the past few years.
- Lake Powell Inflow - Lake Powell Inflow is forecast to be at 40% of normal for the year.
- Total System Contents – (Upper and Lower Basin) Total System Contents so far in OY26 are gradually decreasing.
- Reservoir and System Capacity – Lake Powell is at 24% capacity, Lake Mead is at 32% capacity, and the Total System Capacity is currently at 35%.
- Lake Mead Elevation – By January of 2028, it is anticipated that the elevation at Lake Mead will be at the 1,042 mark.
- Glen Release – The Glen Release for Water Year 2026 is lower than prior years.
- Hoover Release – The Hoover Release for Water Year 2026 is lower than prior years.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

**Colorado River Updates** – Mr. Fuentes shared that there have been operational changes made with regard to the Colorado River. There was a Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) release or a release from Flaming Gorge of 1 million-acre feet (MAF) down into Lake Powell to prop up Lake Powell elevation. He reminded everyone that in section 60 of the contract there is a provision to protect elevation 3,500 at Lake Powell. The DROA release is part of that.

There will also be reductions in releases from Lake Mead from 7.4 MAF, which was what has been happening all year, down to 6 MAF. There will be a shift of releases from four or five months in the beginning of the water year and they will move those releases towards the end of the water year to prop up the elevation at Lake Mead.

With this change, instead of releasing those waters later in the water year, now they are actually not releasing that water and they are going to increase the reductions. Meaning, the water releases in the last five months of this water year are going to be significant.

The Bureau issued a press release in which they essentially outlined the significant impact hydropower is expected to face. But there is a lot of mystery into this because they are not really talking about what this change actually means. How will the reductions and reduced releases at Lake Powell affect lake elevations at Lake Mead? It will either run the elevation down to the 1,035 range, where we now know that there is the physical constraint with running the nine non-white head turbines, or the water users will either collectively or individually work with the bureau and pay for conservation like they have done over the last few years.

It is Mr. Fuentes's understanding is that there is likely to be significant additions to compensated conservation coming between now and the end of the water year in order to potentially save between 400,000 - 500,000-acre feet on top of whatever is already on the books. He reminded the Commission that when we were looking at the rates and worst-case scenarios last month, one scenario included a 400,000-acre feet reduction, and now there may be a 500,000 worst-case scenario.

Mr. Fuentes shared that there was 22,000 megawatt hours of layoff power purchased in April which is approximately \$80,000 in revenue, that helped prop up the rates for a bit of time. If the new normal at Lake Mead becomes 6 MAF in releases, rates will increase significantly. Mr. Fuentes believes that for water year 2026, the APA has put in place enough protections that we may just get by.

Mr. Fuentes continued the discussion regarding wide-head turbines at Hoover. The contractors need to be seeking funds immediately to get these in place. Hoover currently has 4 wide-head turbines and 1 half-sized turbine. These turbines were developed in pairs and the Bureau can use those existing models to build two more sets; The first set at a cost of approximately \$15 million with a completion date of October 2028. There are plans to develop a second set of turbines based on models currently in use, however, these would cost approximately \$23 million with the completion dates for these in 2031. Additionally, turbine A8 is being examined for damage repair with a likely cost of \$4.2 million. There is a possibility that the manufacturer will cover this expense.

Updates on the Pension Retirement Benefit (PRB) funds as well as discussions of non-hydropower expenses (visitor's center, \$6 million Security Contract & environmental issues) that are paid for hydropower customers will be taking place.

**Pinal Solar Project Update** – Staff is working through some difficulties in redactions to an agreement between AEPCO and the developer of expenses that may be passed down to the APA and our off takers. The information is not clear because of the redactions.

**Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)** – Staff sent out a request for proposal and the highest bid received was \$.90/REC. That buyer then backed out. Staff reached out to other brokers with this \$.90 offer to see if any would match it, however, the most that was offered was \$.41/REC. Creative ideas are being discussed as a way to move these RECs and will be discussed more in depth at a future Commission meeting.

**Colorado River Energy Distributors Association (CREDA) Update** – The CREDA meeting was held in Nebraska. Discussion revolved around much of what was discussed in this Commission meeting as well as the unique environmental issues in the CRSP system. In addition, the search for a new Executive Director is underway. Interviews are beginning to take place with a decision to be made by mid-May. It is imperative that the new Executive Director can hit the ground running. There is quite a bit of consensus on issues among the hydropower customers whether they are upper or lower basin customers. There are some issues that both basins can support together that will potentially help hydropower.

**Reimbursement Related to Restitution for the Fraudulent Joint Audit Among the Boulder Canyon Project A&B Contractors** – In 2024 there was a reimbursement made to Class A & B contractors for restitution related to a fraudulent audit that was paid for by customers although the audit was not done. Those A & B Contractors will be receiving another restitution check in the next few weeks.

**Sheryl Sweeney 2026 Michael J Brophy Award – Environmental & Natural Resource Law Section, Arizona State Bar** – Mrs. Sweeney was honored for her many years of service to the public power community on natural resource issues.

**VISITORS' COMMENTS/CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** N/A

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:** Commissioner Sullivan congratulated Sheryl Sweeney for her achievement and believes it is well deserved.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Sweeney adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

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Jim Sweeney, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Heather J. Cole, Executive Secretary to Commission

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