

**Hearing on The Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan**  
**Draft Statement by Rep. Grace F. Napolitano**  
**March 28, 2019**

Mr. Chairman, Thank you for holding this hearing and thank you to the witnesses for being here.

The Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan is an achievement of collaboration, compromise, and foresight. It reflects a realistic appraisal by the water managers in the Colorado River system of the increasing water scarcity and the realization that our water supply is a finite resource. Collectively the basin states developed a practical and workable approach for dealing with the challenges of managing the Colorado River. The fact that seven states and the Department of the Interior can come together and agree on a difficult and meaningful path forward that achieves greater overall sustainability is something to be celebrated.

Southern California and the people of the West will benefit from the improved reliability of water supply the DCP will provide. Forty million people rely on this amazing resource and each one of them will be better off with this plan. We must pass legislation to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to implement what the seven basin states have agreed to. The testimony that we will be hearing today

reflects a bipartisan effort, supported by the seven states, multiple water districts, Native American tribes, and a broad coalition of environmental organizations.

Enactment of the authorizing legislation will initiate state efforts to manage the water in the Colorado River system along with the Republic of Mexico, which has willingly participated in and actively worked with the United States to address the drought conditions. We are blessed that we have a good snowpack in the Upper Colorado River watershed this year. This provides to us the opportunity to take advantage of this extra water **if the DCP legislation is enacted so that implementation can begin immediately.**

We must support collaborative approaches to manage our most precious resource, water. The DCP will provide increased dependability to the water users in Southern California and provide the initiative to address the Salton Sea issues.