MEMORANDUM

TO: **IEDA Board**
RE: **Water Report**
DATE: **September 10th, 2026**

ROD/Nevada Lawsuit

Despite Arizona's objections, the 10-Year Record of Decision was released on August 21st. It didn't take long for a shoe to drop, with Nevada suing the federal government over the ROD. In a worst case scenario, Nevada would take a 71% cut to its allocation. Similar to concerns from Arizona, Nevada cites a failure to include other solutions and the economic impacts, in this case, to Las Vegas. Nevada's lawsuit seems to not reference the Compact, the major issue for Arizona.

In another lawsuit in the Basin, Colorado conservationists argued in court that Denver's plans to pour Colorado River water into an enlarged reservoir for the city's use amounts to building an $819 million bathtub that might never be filled.

Together, the lawsuits raise legal arguments regarding Wyoming's reliance on irrigation water from the Green and Little Snake rivers, whether ranchers would still have access to traditional diversions and whether a proposed dam and reservoir above the Little Snake River valley is feasible and worthwhile. The West Fork Dam on Battle Creek would impound 10,000 acre-feet and irrigate every year with 6,000 acre-feet from the proposed reservoir.

Good Things to Know

- 70% of US Faced w/ Drought According to the Drought Monitor
- AZ Water Use Dropped by 16% from 1985-2022 Despite Population Doubling
- Lake Powell Hits Record Low, Threatening Key Water & Electricity Supply for Millions