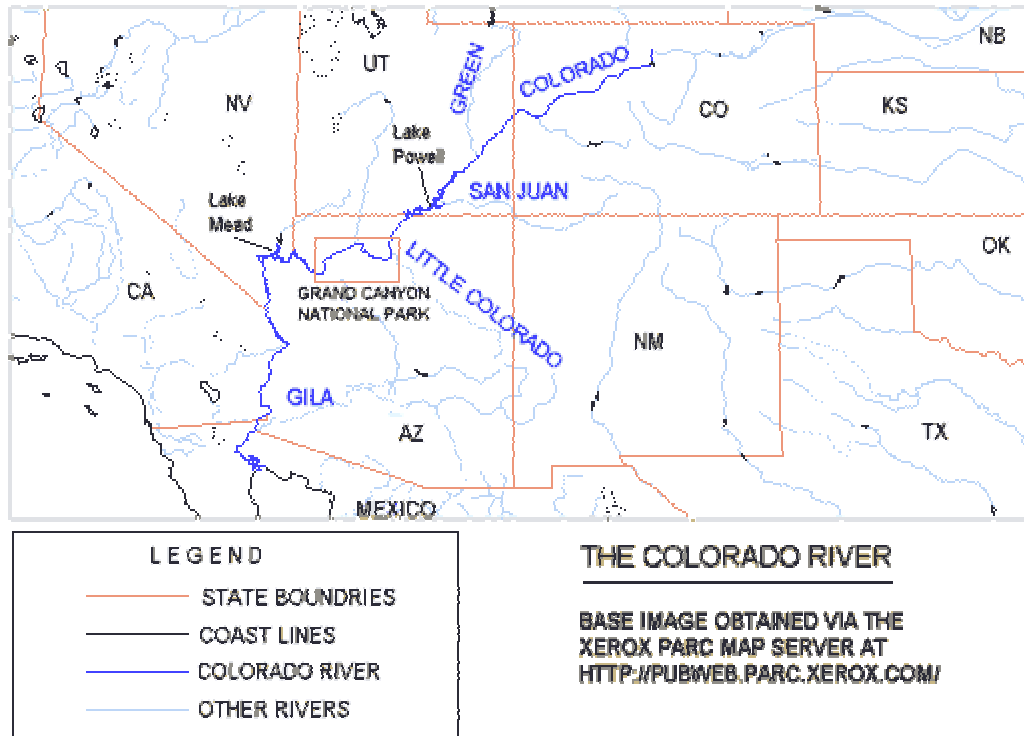


**THE WARS OF THE WEST: *regional, national, and international wrangling over the water from the Colorado River***



Since she took office, Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior and legally designated *Water Master* has been attempting to settle the demands of various parties with regard to water allocation from the Colorado River. The attached letter to Norton from the Executive Director of the Living Rivers Foundation is an example of the complex situation.

Read the letter, and then identify the central problem(s) that Secretary Norton must address. Who are the major stakeholders in the battle for the water from the Colorado? Why is this situation so critical now? List what you already know about the situation and what you still need to know (i.e. *learning issues*).

1. Central problem(s) facing Secretary Norton.
2. Major stakeholders with interests in the Colorado River.
3. Why is the situation so critical now?
4. List what you already know about the Colorado River and the problems with its use.

## Learning Issues

Learning Issue	Researcher's name	Resources

Where will you be able to find information?

## Stage 2: The Wars of the West

Now that you have heard from each stakeholder group, take 10 minutes to discuss the following questions:

- How should priorities be set on the use of the Colorado's water, given the needs of the cities, agriculture, the environment, recreation, business, and Mexico?

If you were Secretary Norton, would you "turn off the water valve" to the Imperial Valley?