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Grijalva Introduces Legislation to Protect Colorado River

Tucson, AZ-- Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva has introduced a bill to provide for the protection of the quality of water in the Lower Colorado River.

The Lower Colorado River Protection Act of 2009 seeks to restore and maintain the ecosystems and water quality of the Colorado River consequently assuring the health of the millions of Americans who drink its water and eat food grown with its water, protecting the River Basin’s precious natural resources, and insuring the region’s economic prosperity.

The bill will provide for the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan for the prevention and elimination of pollution in the Lower Colorado River and the maintenance of a healthy Lower Colorado River ecosystem.

“The habitat along the Colorado River has been altered by dams, human interference, and non-native plant and animal species,” Grijalva said. “The effects of the massive population growth in
the Southwest have threatened the Lower Colorado River. The bill will work to reduce the
destruction to the River and thereby protect it from future damage.”

The Colorado River supplies drinking water for more than 25 million people and irrigates over
80 percent of winter vegetables consumed in the United States. The Colorado River and its
tributaries are home to many rare and unusual species including 36 native fish species (not
including two that have already gone extinct), of which 25 are found nowhere else.

Preserving the water quality of the Lower Colorado River is essential to the health, economy,
security, and ecology of Arizona, Southern California, and Southern Nevada. As the climate
changes and the population of the region grows, the Lower Colorado River will come under
increasing stress. The Lower Colorado River Protection Act will safeguard the region’s add
drinking water supply and protect its precious natural resources.

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