

Engineering and Operations Committee

Item #6b

Subject: Colorado River Source Water Protection Update

Purpose: To review the current status on key water quality protection efforts associated with the Colorado River.

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Summary

This presentation will provide an update on key source water protection activities associated with the Colorado River. These efforts include (1) Lower Colorado River Water Quality Partnership; (2) Uranium exploration in the Grand Canyon area; (3) Uranium mill tailings removal near Moab, UT; (4) Las Vegas area wastewater discharges; and (5) Topock chromium 6 update.



Colorado River Source Water Protection Update

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July 11, 2011

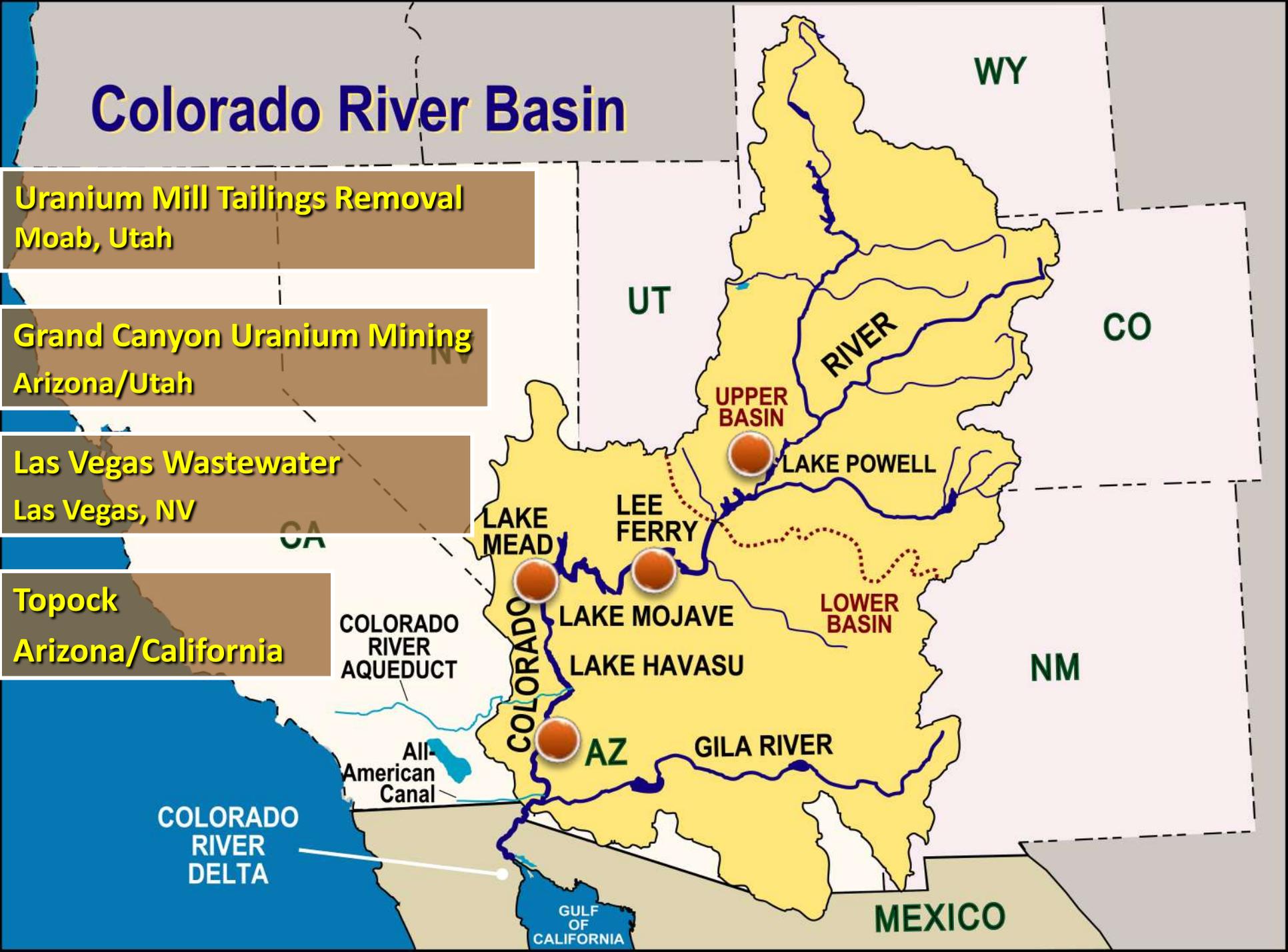
Colorado River Basin

Uranium Mill Tailings Removal
Moab, Utah

Grand Canyon Uranium Mining
Arizona/Utah

Las Vegas Wastewater
Las Vegas, NV

Topock
Arizona/California



Lower Colorado River Water Quality Partnership

- MOU between Metropolitan, Southern Nevada Water Authority, and Central Arizona Project to coordinate water quality issues
- Collaborate on issues of mutual interest
- Share water quality data and information
- Develop Action Plans on key water quality initiatives
- Jointly advocate for source water protection



Uranium Mill Tailings Removal

Current Status

- Over 4 million tons removed
 - ARRA funded over 60% of total shipments
 - ARRA funds expended by July 2011
- Tailings removal to resume at lower rate
- Completion anticipated by 2025 at previous baseline funding
 - Additional funds needed to meet 2019 completion goal
- Metropolitan will work with Partnership agencies to advocate for increased funding
- Recent flood had minimal impact

Mill Tailings Site



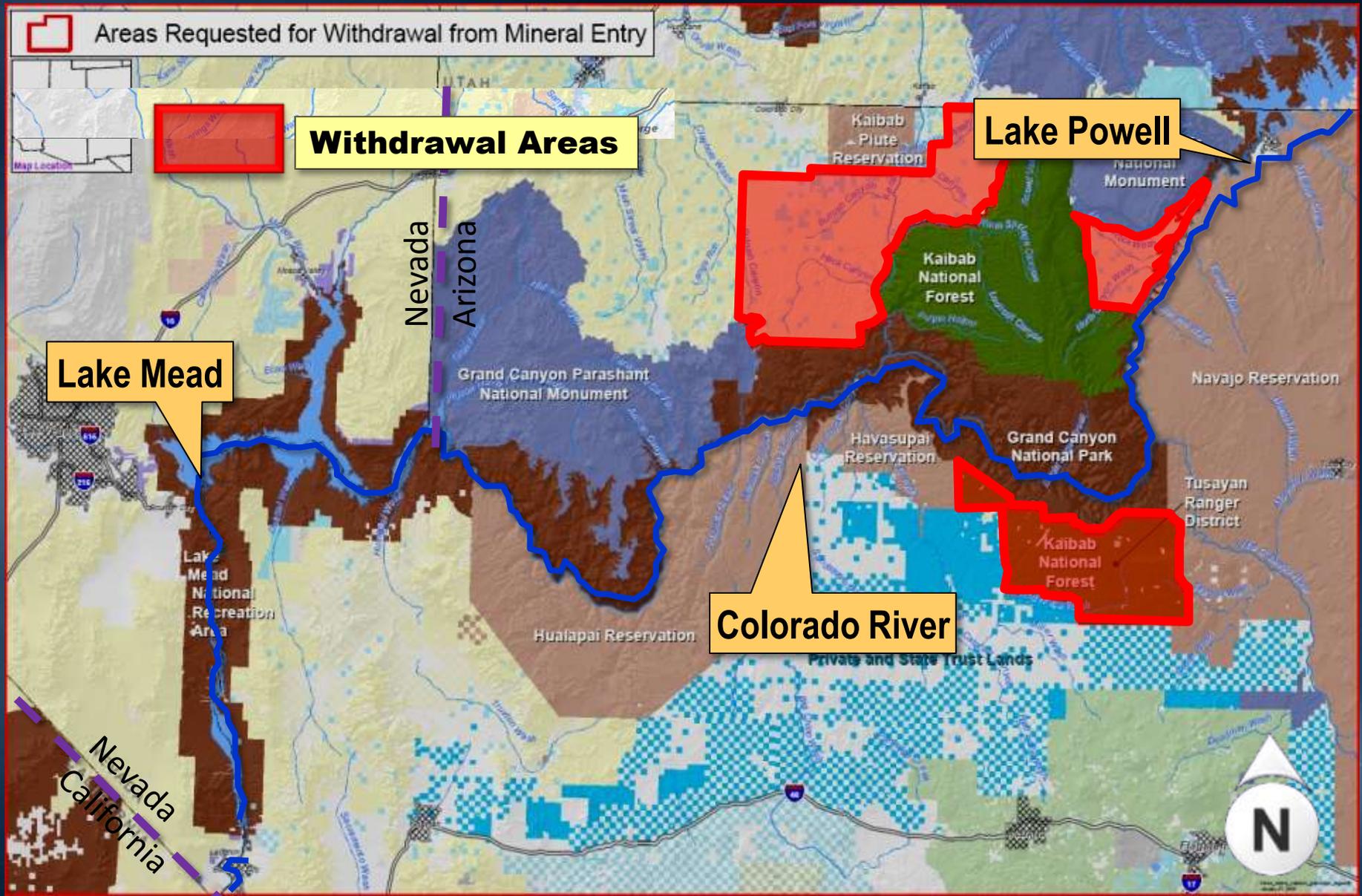
Photo courtesy of U.S. Dept of Energy (taken May 11, 2011)

Mill Tailings Site: After Flooding



Photo courtesy of U.S. Dept of Energy (taken June 15, 2011)

Interim Withdrawal



Grand Canyon Uranium Exploration

Current Status

- June 2011 – Interior Secretary extended moratorium for 6 months and identified full 20-year withdrawal as preferred alternative
 - Thousands of comment letters received by BLM on draft EIS
 - Water quality concerns of downstream users recognized
 - Final EIS anticipated in Fall 2011
- Partnership will continue monitoring federal actions and review Final EIS
- Legislation required for withdrawal beyond 20 years

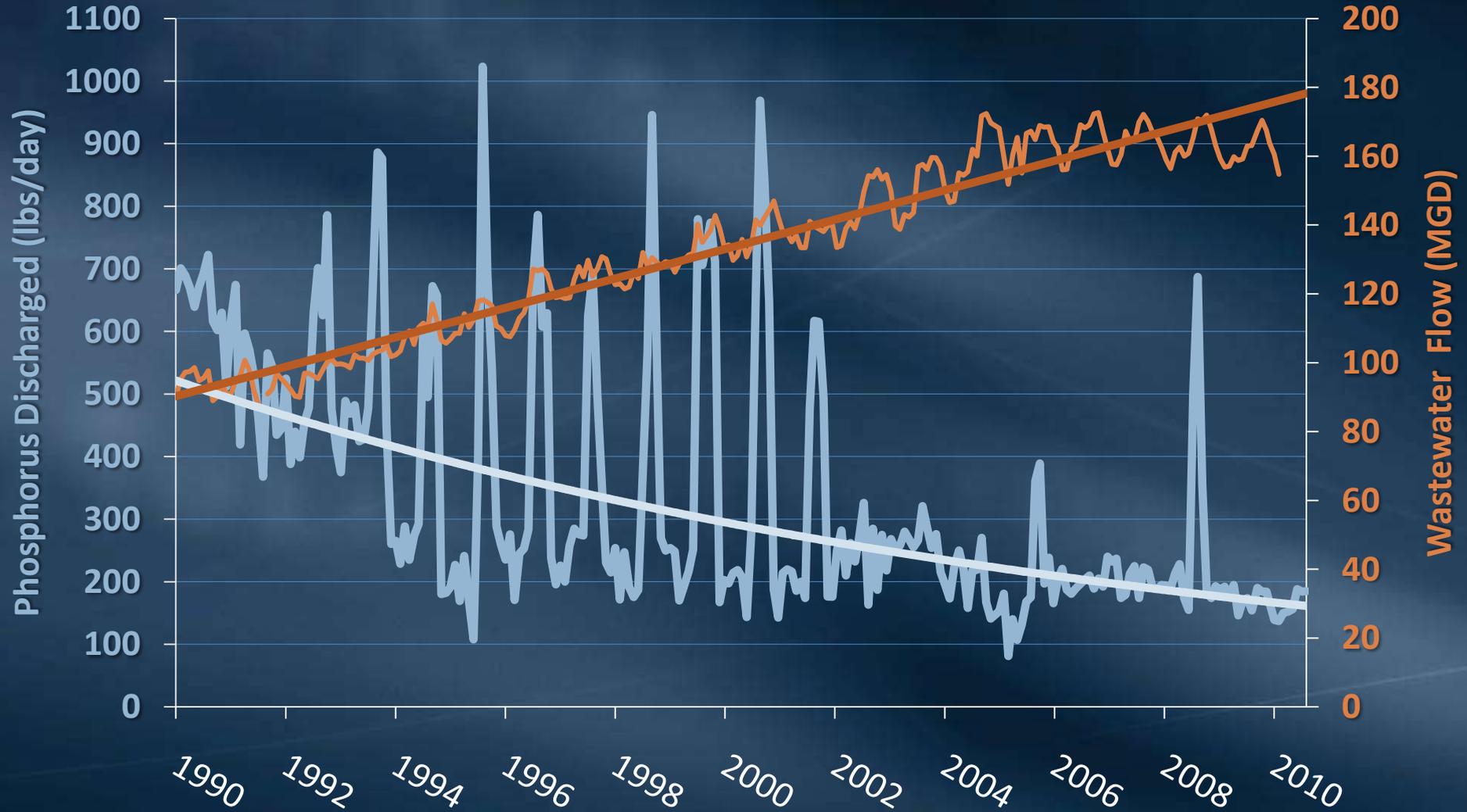


Las Vegas Area Wastewater Discharges



Improved Phosphorus Control at WWTPs

Declining Loading to Las Vegas Wash



Las Vegas Wastewater Discharges

Current Status

- July 2011- Metropolitan submitted letter on NPDES permit renewals for wastewater dischargers
 - Emphasize need to continue year-round phosphorus control at current levels
 - Support NDEP's development of nutrient criteria that fully protects downstream uses

Topock Chromium 6 Update

- Ground water remedy approved – Jan. 2011
 - In-situ treatment with freshwater flushing
- Schedule
 - Final design – Oct. 2012
 - Construction begins – Jan. 2013
 - System startup – Nov. 2013
- Fort Mojave lawsuit
 - CEQA challenge on EIR
 - No court orders
 - Negotiating with PGE



