

## • Colorado River Management Report

### Summary

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This Report provides a summary of the activities related to the Colorado River during November.

### Detailed Report

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#### **Additional Colorado River Supplies Available in 2008**

In December, Reclamation formally determined the amount of water conserved by the All-American Canal project during 2008. A portion of the newly-lined canal was completed during the year, resulting in about 9,000 acre-feet of conserved water being made available to San Diego County Water Authority (83%) and Metropolitan (17%). Additionally, about 1,000 acre-feet of water was made available from the Coachella Canal that was not needed for project mitigation.

Following Board approval in November, Metropolitan is in the process of executing an agreement to reimburse Coachella for operating costs associated with Coachella reducing its take of Colorado River water by 4,000 acre-feet. Additionally, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District notified Metropolitan that it will make a slight increase (2,000 acre-feet) in the amount of water provided to Metropolitan during 2008; increasing from 25,000 to 27,000 acre-feet. All of the water above would increase Metropolitan's approved Colorado River water order by about 16,000 acre-feet during 2008, which will be scheduled and delivered during December.

#### **Water Exchange Agreement Reached between Desert Water Agency and Metropolitan**

Earlier this year, Metropolitan reached an agreement with Desert Water Agency to exchange additional supplies to benefit both agencies. Under the agreement, which will operate within the over-arching exchange agreement with Desert and Coachella Valley Water District, Desert will provide Metropolitan with additional amounts of State Water Project supplies over the next two years to meet Metropolitan's short-term water needs, and in turn, Metropolitan will provide Desert with an equal amount of Colorado River water over a 25-year period at Metropolitan's discretion. During the fall of 2008, Desert has purchased over 8,000 acre-feet on additional State Water Project supplies and delivered them to Metropolitan to help maintain regional storage levels. Metropolitan incurs no cost under the agreement.

#### **Non-Federal Parties Consider Funding Yuma Desalter Plant Environmental Compliance**

The Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Southern Nevada Water Authority, and Metropolitan are proposing to provide funds for the Bureau of Reclamation to complete the needed environmental compliance for the proposed one-year Yuma Desalting Plant pilot operation. It is expected that the one-year pilot program would generate 30,000 acre-feet of water supplies for the funding partners, of which 18,000 acre-feet would be available to Metropolitan. A cost sharing agreement to fund environmental compliance is being developed, which would demonstrate the commitment of the funding agencies to implement the proposed pilot operation during anticipated administration changes within Reclamation in 2009. The total cost of the environmental compliance has been estimated to be \$465,000; Metropolitan's share of the costs under the proposed agreement would be \$110,000. Funding the environmental compliance would not obligate any agency to participate in funding the one-year pilot operation.

Environmental compliance is prerequisite to dates the agencies' Board's would consider approving funding the pilot operation, which is now scheduled for spring of 2009. The proposed start date of the operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant remains August 2009.

#### **Reclamation Hosts Meeting on Yuma Desalting Plant Partnered Research**

The Bureau of Reclamation hosted a meeting to explore the potential for Yuma Desalting Plant partnered research. The research would identify process improvements to the Plant based upon a proposed operational life

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utilizing agricultural drainage water, groundwater, or both sources of water. Representatives of Metropolitan, Southern Nevada Water Authority, and Central Arizona Water Conservation District participated in the meeting, which included presentations on research conducted to date at the Plant's Water Quality Improvement Center, along with Metropolitan, SNWA, and CAWCD's proposed research on alternative treatment processes.

The plant's treatment train currently uses older cellulose acetate membranes. Retrofitting with polyamide membranes, could realize substantial energy savings. The proposed research would evaluate the cost, efficiency, and reliability of alternative pre-treatment processes in concert with the new membrane technology to desalt agricultural drainage and Yuma Mesa water. One of the goals of the research is to determine whether a reduction in the use of chemicals is feasible. Reclamation's Technical Advisory Team will develop a cost estimate for conducting the research for Metropolitan, SNWA, and CAWCD's consideration. The ultimate goal is to develop a report that would guide the development of a long-term operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant.