



● **Colorado River Management Report**

Summary

This Report provides a summary of activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River resources during April 2010

Detailed Report

Ceremony Held to Kick-off Yuma Desalting Plant Pilot Run and Drop 2 Storage Reservoir Project

On April 28, the Bureau of Reclamation, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Central Arizona Project, and Metropolitan hosted a ceremony to commemorate the start-up of the Yuma Desalting Plant (Desalting Plant) and the completion of the Drop 2 Reservoir Project. Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, attended the event for the Department of Interior and acknowledged the substantial efforts of the parties to get the Desalting Plant ready for operation, which is scheduled to begin during the first week of May. She also noted the importance of the cooperation among the funding agencies, which without their support these two important projects would not have been completed.

During the ceremony a resolution was signed by each funding agency and the Interior highlighting the interagency cooperation on the development of the pilot run of the Desalting Plant. The cooperation for the project extended to not only the funding agencies, but also to the Republic of Mexico and representatives from non-governmental organizations, who supported the project because of the considerations given to protect the Cienega de Santa Clara throughout the pilot operation. The International Boundary and Water Commission prepared a report that outlines the U.S.-Mexico joint cooperative actions that will guide activities associated with the pilot run throughout its one-year operation. Vice Chairman Angel Santiago signed the resolution on behalf of Metropolitan.

Colorado River Board Executive Director Retires but to Remain until Replacement Found

On April 23, the Six Agency Committee hosted a retirement lunch for Jerry Zimmerman. Mr. Zimmerman who had been the Executive Director of the Colorado River Board of California since 1990. Attendees came from several states, acknowledging the many accomplishments made by Mr. Zimmerman during his tenure at the Colorado River Board, including the development of the Lower Colorado River Multi Species Conservation Program, the Quantification Settlement Agreement, and the 2007 Interim Guidelines for operation of Lakes Powell and Mead. During its last meeting, the Colorado River Board offered to retain Mr. Zimmerman as acting Executive Director while the board searches for his replacement. As a retired annuitant, Mr. Zimmerman may serve as acting Executive Director through the end of 2010, if needed.

Earthquake Causes Significant Damage to Mexico's Water Infrastructure

The April 4 magnitude 7.2 earthquake in Baja California caused substantial damage to much of Mexico's water delivery system in the area, principally to agricultural users. Several thousand acres of wheat may be lost because of the inability to deliver irrigation water. Additionally, because of levee failures, it appears that Mexico will not be able to use all of its 1.5 million acre-feet of water provided to it under the U.S.-Mexico treaty. To assist with water operations, the United States is in discussions with Mexico to develop a proposal in which Mexico could store up to 200,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead this year while the levees are being repaired, and take delivery of the water in 2011. Additionally, Mexico may deliver 10,000 acre-feet of its Treaty water to the Cienega de Santa Clara as part of its commitment to provide water to the wetlands during operation of the Desalting Plant.

The Colorado River Board has set up a tour for interested agencies to inspect the earthquake damage in Mexico. The tour has been scheduled for May 14, 2010.

Board Report (Colorado River Management Report)

Basin Studies Program Host Water Demand Workshop

The two-year Basin Study is meant to determine how to meet the long-term imbalance of supply and demand in the Colorado River Basin. The Steering Committee for the study held a workshop on April 26 to evaluate the future water demands of the Colorado River. Representatives from each state provided an overview of that state's estimated water demands in 2060. For California, the future demands for water include a full Colorado River Aqueduct, increased agricultural demands along the Lower Colorado River, and increased energy development requiring Colorado River supplies. The California demand for Colorado River water in 2060 was estimated to be about 5.1 million acre-feet, or about 700,000 acre-feet more water than is available today. Of note, is the fact that assumptions do not include continuation of the 35-year Palo Verde Fallowing Program, which currently ends in 2040. If a subsequent program were developed, the state's demand for Colorado River would reduce accordingly.