



● Colorado River Management Report

Summary

This Report provides a summary of the activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River Resources during June 2011.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Lake Mead Storage, 2002 - 2013.

Detailed Report

New Reclamation Study Projects Possible Surplus in 2013

In mid-June, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) updated its operational study to account for the record-breaking snowfall in the Colorado Basin this year. After reaching a historic low point of 1,082 feet last fall, only 7 feet above first-ever shortage declarations, Lake Mead is now forecast to end 2011 at an elevation of 1,133 feet, 51 feet higher than it was last fall. With average snowfall next winter, Lake Mead would increase an additional 18 feet in 2012, ending the year at elevation 1,151 feet – six feet above the amount needed for surplus to be declared. At this time, it has been estimated that there is greater than a 60 percent chance that surplus water would be available in 2013, which would provide Metropolitan a full Colorado River Aqueduct for the calendar year. A determination as to the availability of surplus in 2013 will be made in August 2012. **Attachment 1** shows the historic and projected elevations of Lake Mead from 2002 to 2013.

In addition to increases in Lake Mead storage, Lake Powell is projected to fill to nearly 80 percent of capacity by the end of July 2011, which would be its highest level since 2001. With Lake Powell at such a high storage level, the likelihood of additional releases into Lake Mead will increase for the next several years, and the probability of any shortage being declared on the Colorado River in the next five years is near zero.

Binational Water Management Discussions Continue

In June, Reclamation hosted a meeting of interested United States' parties to discuss development of a binational water management plan that could be agreed to by the end of this year. The U.S. and Mexico parties have different interests in the negotiations. The U.S. is interested in developing a framework whereby Mexico would agree to voluntary shortages during drought conditions and determining how U.S. agencies could partner with Mexico to develop projects that could provide water supplies to both countries. Mexico, on the other hand, is interested in developing projects, including environmental restoration of wetlands in Mexico, implementing agricultural conservation, and development of a seawater desalination plant in Baja California near Rosarito Beach. The current discussions will attempt to address both countries' interests in order to develop a Minute to the U.S. Mexico Water Treaty by the end of this year. All parties agree that it will be a challenge to meet that aggressive schedule, but that it is a goal worth pursuing.

Jayne Harkins Named Executive Director of Colorado River Commission of Nevada

On June 17, the Colorado River Commission of Nevada (CRCN) announced that Jayne Harkins, Deputy Regional Director for Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region, has accepted the CRCN Executive Director position and will be leaving Reclamation. Through her role at the CRCN, Ms. Harkins will represent Nevada's interests in Colorado River water and power resources. **Imperial Irrigation District (Imperial) to Host Centennial Celebration**

On July 22, Imperial will host an event honoring its 100th anniversary. The event will be open to the public and will include an evening barbeque near Imperial's offices in El Centro. Any director interested in attending may contact Brian Tubbs for more information.

Lake Mead Storage

2002 – 2013, with average snowfall next winter

