



● **Colorado River Management Report**

Summary

This report provides a summary of the activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River Resources for the month of February 2012.

Detailed Report

February Snowfall Eases Dry Conditions in Colorado Basin

Snowfall during the month of February was above average in the Colorado River Basin, increasing the snowpack levels to 80 percent of normal for this time of year. February was the first month this winter that had above normal snowfall. While last month's precipitation levels were not enough to fully recover from the previous dry months, the welcomed snowfall eased the extreme dry conditions that had been facing the Colorado Basin one month ago. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is currently updating its monthly water supply analysis to determine if the February snowfall will result in additional releases being made from Lake Powell to Lake Mead this year.

Discussions Continue on Development of United States-Mexico Water Agreement

During February, several meetings took place among representatives of the Colorado River Basin States and Reclamation regarding the potential implementation of a draft minute to the United States-Mexico Water Treaty. Under the proposal being discussed, if the United States and Mexico reach agreement to approve the minute, Metropolitan, Southern Nevada Water Authority, and Central Arizona Project would fund a pilot water conservation project in Mexico, with the majority of the conserved water being stored in Lake Mead through the funders' Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) accounts. A portion of the conserved water would be reserved for environmental purposes in Mexico. Additionally, Reclamation would fund additional conservation projects, with all of that water reserved for environmental benefits.

It is unknown at the time of this report if agreement will be reached with Mexico to implement a new minute. If conceptual agreement is reached, several implementing agreements would be brought to Metropolitan's Board for consideration. Those agreements would include a funding agreement, forbearance agreement, and ICS delivery agreement. The timeframe to consider and potentially approve the agreements would be April or May 2012.