



● **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 March 2012.

Detailed Report

Colorado River Basin Study

In March, staff from the Bureau of Reclamation and the Colorado River Basin States, including Metropolitan, began sorting through the more than 100 ideas submitted by the public to meet the long-term supply and demand gap on the Colorado River. The ideas were divided into nine subgroups, which included importation from other basins, desalination, and enhanced conservation. The subgroups will be modeled to see how they meet the various metrics being evaluated in the study, including water supply, power generation, and recreation. The alternatives will also be ranked and implementation issues will be considered, including permit requirements, cost, environmental issues, and power requirements. After the alternatives are modeled and evaluated for implementability, the most promising options will be recommended for further study, and perhaps development of pilot projects. The final report is scheduled to be completed in July 2012.

Metropolitan Urges Federal Agencies to Fund Salinity Control Forum Activities

This month, Metropolitan sent letters to several federal agencies urging them to fully fund the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program activities for fiscal year 2012/13. The federal agencies have plans to continue to implement salinity control projects in the Upper Basin to reduce salt levels in the Lower Colorado River. The projects implemented to date have reduced the salinity at Metropolitan's intake by more than 100 parts per million. Most of the salinity projects involve partnering with farmers in the upper basin to reduce flood irrigation, which otherwise adds salt to the Colorado River.

United States Awaiting Response from Mexico to Binational Proposal

In early March, the United States submitted a counter-proposal of a draft minute to Mexico (Minute 319). As of yet, there has been no official response to the U.S. proposal. The Colorado River Basin States have been meeting to negotiate implementation agreements in the event that the two countries can reach agreement on Minute 319. If the minute is adopted, Metropolitan would have to approve about five agreements to participate in programs anticipated under the Minute. An informational board letter has more details on the implementing agreements. Staff will provide updated information at the April Water Planning and Stewardship Committee meeting.