



● Colorado River Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of the activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River resources during September 2012.

Detailed Report

Basin States to Receive Partners in Conservation Award

In September, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Anne Castle informed the Colorado River Basin states that they would be awarded Interior's Partners in Conservation Award for their work associated with the Colorado River Basin Supply and Demand Study. The award, which is given annually from the Department of Interior, recognizes collaborative efforts to address water supply problems in the United States. In this case, the Colorado River Basin states and respective agencies, certain NGO and Native American tribes, and the Bureau of Reclamation will all be presented with the award for their efforts to complete the 50-year planning study for the Colorado River Basin. Secretary Salazar will present the award at a ceremony on October 18, 2012.

QSA Parties Meet to Discuss Implementation of Water Transfers

During September, staff from San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), Imperial Irrigation District (IID), the Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), and Metropolitan met to discuss ongoing issues related to implementation of the IID/SDCWA Transfer. Metropolitan and SDCWA reached agreement on resolving differences over the 2011/2012 transfers. IID indicated that it is adjusting its fallowing program to increase the payments to farmers and to shift a portion of the fallowing to a calendar year basis to better match the transfer contract obligations. Staff from SDCWA, IID, USBR, and Metropolitan will continue to meet to explore options on how to handle implementation issues going forward. Meetings have been scheduled in October 2012 to explore such options.

Colorado River Salinity Control Forum Evaluating Options to Replace Ailing Well

During September, a technical committee of the Colorado River Salinity Control Forum met to evaluate alternatives to reducing the salt flowing into the Colorado River that could replace the existing well in Paradox Valley, in Colorado. Currently, the well captures 110,000 tons of salt annually that would otherwise flow into the Colorado River, and pumps the brine 2 to 3 miles into an underground aquifer. The groundwater pressure has been rising, however, and it is unsure how much longer the well can operate effectively. If the well were to fail, without an alternative plan, the salinity in the Colorado River could increase by more than 10 percent at Metropolitan's intake. Operations being considered include building a replacement well, or using evaporation ponds to capture the concentrated salt and haul to a local landfill. The Salinity Control Forum will evaluate these options at its next meeting in November 2012.

Terry Fulp Name Regional Director

In September, Terry Fulp was appointed the Regional Director of the Lower Colorado Region of the USBR. Mr. Fulp succeeds Lorri Gray-Lee, who left last December to become Regional Director for the Pacific Northwest Region. Mr. Fulp will address Metropolitan's Water Planning and Stewardship Committee during its November 5, 2012 meeting.