THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Report

Office of the General Manager

- **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 October 2012.

Detailed Report

Drought Conditions Increase Risk of Shortages

In October, the Colorado River Basin States' technical representatives hosted a meeting to recap the 2012 water year and receive updated forecasts of surplus and shortage conditions from the Bureau of Reclamation. The unregulated runoff for water year 2012 to Lake Powell was 45 percent of normal, making it the third driest year on record in the Colorado River Basin. During the water year, storage in Lake Powell dropped by 3.6 million acre-feet, while storage in Lake Mead increased by 148,000 acre-feet, ending the year at 50 percent of capacity. The dry conditions reduced the chances of surplus water being available to Metropolitan to about 1 in 5 by 2016. On the flip side, the probability of a shortage has increased, and it is now more likely that the Basin will experience a shortage (1 in 3 chance) than a surplus in 2017. Metropolitan has not utilized surplus water since 2002, and a shortage has never been declared.

Metropolitan Receives Partners in Conservation Award

On October 18, staff from Metropolitan, along with representatives from federal agencies, the Basin States, other water agencies, Indian Tribes, and non-governmental organizations received the Partners in Conservation Award from Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes. The award was presented for the collaborative efforts in conducting the comprehensive Colorado River Basin Supply and Demand Study (Study). The Study, a model for future watershed planning across the country, is a critical first step in establishing a common factual and technical foundation for resolving future water supply and demand imbalances. The Study will serve as the basis from which important discussions can begin regarding possible actions to resolve these imbalances to help ensure the sustainability of the Colorado River system. The Study report, which is expected to be finalized by the end of November 2012, provides options for the states to consider in meeting their long-term water supply needs. It also characterizes the options based on 17 evaluation criteria including operational flexibility, energy, water quality, environmental, and recreational considerations.

Date of Report: 11/5/2012

Colorado River Board Hosts Bay-Delta Inspection for Basin States

In October, the Colorado River Board hosted a three-day inspection of the Bay-Delta and State Water Project for representatives of the seven Colorado River Basin States. The purpose of the inspection was to inform the other states of California's efforts to maintain a reliable water supply from the Sacramento River, which is key in allowing California to continue to reduce its reliance on surplus Colorado River water. The state representatives came away with a good understanding of the interconnection between the Bay-Delta and Colorado River system, and how Metropolitan manages its supplies from both sources.