



## ● **Colorado River Management Report**

### **Summary**

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

### **Detailed Report**

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#### **Officials from United States and Mexico sign Minute 319**

On November 20, the Secretary of the Interior, the Commissioners of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and International Boundary and Water Commission, representatives from the Colorado River Basin States (Basin States), and representatives from the Country of Mexico commemorated the signing of Minute 319 to the 1944 United States-Mexico Water Treaty. The historic event received media coverage from around the country. Minute 319 is an important step towards development of a long-term water management agreement between the two countries. The Minute is a five-year agreement that provides for Mexico to share in surplus water when supplies are plentiful, share in shortages during prolonged droughts, and allows Mexico to store conserved water in United States' reservoirs for later use. The Minute also provides for a pilot project whereby agencies in the United States can fund conservation activities in Mexico and receive a portion of the water saved. Finally, the Minute provides for funding to develop environmental flows to benefit the Colorado River Delta in Mexico.

At its November 5 meeting, Metropolitan's Board authorized staff to execute agreements needed to implement Minute 319. Those agreements included partnering with Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and Central Arizona Project to participate in a pilot project to fund conservation activities in Mexico. In exchange for funding \$10 million for new projects in Mexico, the funders will receive 95,000 acre-feet of Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) storage credits in Lake Mead. Metropolitan agreed to provide half of the funding and receive half of the water. The funding will be provided over the five-year period and the water will be credited to the funders' ICS accounts by 2017.

#### **Colorado River Basin Study Final Draft Completed**

The final draft of the Colorado River Basin Supply and Demand Study (Basin Study) was completed in November. The Basin Study will be released for public review just prior to the Colorado River Water Users Association conference in mid-December 2012. Along with the Basin Study, the Basin States will release a document urging Reclamation to work with the Basin States to take the next steps to evaluate and implement, as needed, the findings in the Basin Study. An executive summary document will be available when the Basin Study is released.

#### **Metropolitan Stores a Portion of Nevada's Colorado River Water**

Earlier this year, Metropolitan and SNWA amended their interstate storage agreement so that for every 3 acre-feet of SNWA's water that is provided to Metropolitan over the next five years, SNWA gets storage credit for 2 acre-feet, and Metropolitan retains the remaining 1 acre-foot for its own needs. In November, SNWA requested and Metropolitan agreed to take delivery of 66,000 acre-feet in 2012, of which 44,000 acre-feet will be added to SNWA's storage account balance. This will bring SNWA's total storage balance with Metropolitan to approximately 114,000 acre-feet.