



## ● 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 February 2013

### Purpose

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Informational

### Detailed Report

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#### **Dry Conditions Continue in the Colorado River Basin**

As of the end of February, snowpack in the Colorado River Basin measures 73 percent of average for this time of year – virtually the same level as last year at this time. Because of dry soil moisture caused by continued drought conditions, the runoff forecast into Lake Powell is just 53 percent of average. If that forecast holds, 2013 would be the fifth driest year on record for the Colorado Basin. As a result of the dry conditions, Lake Mead is forecast to drop 18 feet between March 1, 2013, and the end of September 2013, reaching a level of 1,104 feet. Shortages in Lake Mead would be declared when it reaches 1,075 feet.

#### **Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan**

On February 8, representatives of the Colorado River Basin States (Basin States) met with representatives of the Department of the Interior (Interior) to continue technical discussions relating to the Resource Targeted Condition-Dependent Alternative submitted by the Basin States in connection with the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan, (LTEMP), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is being co-led by Reclamation and the National Park Service. The goal of the LTEMP is to develop tools to guide Glen Canyon Dam operations for the next few decades. Discussions will continue with Interior as they develop the draft Environmental Assessment. Interior anticipates it will hold a science workshop this summer and plans to have a draft EIS prepared by the end of 2013.

#### **Basin States Discuss Implementation of Minute 319**

The Basin States met in late February to discuss methods to implement the provisions of Minute 319 (Minute) to the United States-Mexico Water Treaty, which was approved by both countries last November. The Minute lays out specific tasks that both countries agreed to complete over the next five years. The International Boundary and Water Commission, which oversees implementation of the Minute, will establish a number of technical work groups, which will consist of stakeholders from both countries, to develop plans to implement provisions in the minute. Metropolitan will participate in some of these workgroups. The most immediate task laid out in the Minute is to develop a plan by the end of 2013 to provide environmental flows to the Colorado River Delta as early as 2014. An environmental flow workgroup has been established to develop that plan. Additional workgroups that will be developed include evaluating a turnout from the All-American Canal to Mexico, and evaluating additional water conservation projects in Mexico that could be funded by both countries.

#### **Basin States Discuss Next Steps for Basin Study**

In February, the Basin States developed a plan to refine the options listed in the Colorado Basin Supply and Demand Study (Basin Study), which was released in December of 2012. The Basin States agreed that public input is critical in moving forward, and will host a series of workshops to explain the Basin Study and the plan for refining alternatives. A number of technical workgroups will be established to evaluate specific actions, including urban conservation, agricultural transfers, and augmentation options. These workgroups will provide their findings and recommendations to the Basin States and Reclamation, perhaps by the end of this year, for consideration in developing the specific steps needed to pursue the most effective actions.