



● 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 April 2013.

Detailed Report

Outlook for Colorado River Shortage Declaration Increases

In April, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) assessed the likelihood of shortage and surplus declarations for the Colorado River over the next five years. Due to dry conditions, the total combined storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead is forecast to drop by 6 million acre-feet this year, bringing the Colorado River Basin closer to a first-ever shortage declaration in the next few years. According to the computer modeling performed by Reclamation, the probabilities of either a shortage or surplus declaration in the next five years is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Probability of Shortage</u>	<u>Probability of Surplus</u>
2014	0%	0%
2015	1%	0%
2016	47%	1%
2017	57%	7%
2018	57%	10%

The figures above were generated based on conditions as of April 1. The month of April was wet for the Colorado Basin, so it is possible that these numbers could improve in future updates. Typically, the analysis above is generated twice a year, but as reservoirs drop, they will be updated more frequently.

Metropolitan is largely protected from the impacts of shortages, as California has a higher priority than Nevada and Arizona in the event of a shortage declaration. The Central Arizona Project and Southern Nevada Water Authority have agreements to share the first 500,000 acre-feet of shortages, if and when they occur. While Metropolitan’s basic water supplies would not be reduced during a shortage, Metropolitan would still be affected by a shortage declaration. During a shortage, inadvertent overruns of Colorado River water are prohibited, and certain restrictions are placed over the use of Intentionally Created Surplus water stored in Lake Mead. These limitations would reduce operational flexibility to all Colorado River water contractors in the Lower Basin.

Metropolitan Directors, Staff Tour Imperial Valley

On April 22, Directors De Jesus and Record, along with Metropolitan staff, met with Directors and staff from Imperial Irrigation District (IID) for a tour of the conservation activities being implemented in the Imperial Valley. The trip included a meeting at IID’s office to discuss IID’s development of a water apportionment plan which is designed to provide flexibility to the farming community while avoiding future overruns of Colorado River water. A field tour followed, which included viewing tailwater recovery systems, which are part of the IID-Metropolitan 1988 conservation agreement; seepage recovery systems, which help meet the IID-San Diego County Water Authority Transfer; and thousands of acres of land being converted from agricultural use to solar energy development. Lastly, the group stopped at the terminus of the All-American Canal, where a proposed intertie with the Tijuana Aqueduct is being evaluated as part of the implementation process of Minute 319 to the United States-Mexico International Water Treaty. There was a good dialogue and an agreement that future meetings would be productive and allow the agencies to work more cooperatively in the future.

Board Report (Colorado River Management Report)

Basin Study Next Steps Kickoff Meeting Scheduled for May 2013

On May 28 and 29, 2013, the Colorado River Basin States (Basin States) and Reclamation will kick off the process of refining the options that were identified in the Colorado River Basin Supply and Demand Study (Study) to address the Basin's projected future water supply and demand gap. A number of technical workgroups will be formed to refine the assumptions in the Study and help the Basin States chart a path forward to implement the most promising alternatives. In this initial effort in May 2013, three workgroups will be formed: one will focus on urban water conservation and reuse; one will focus on agricultural conservation and transfers; and one will focus on the environmental benefits or impacts of various alternatives. Staff from Metropolitan will co-chair the urban conservation and reuse workgroup. Each workgroup will meet as needed over the next year to prepare a report for the Basin States and Reclamation to aid in their decision making process for determining where to focus resources moving forward.