



- Colorado River Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River Resources for the month of February 2014.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Mexico Hosts Minute 319 Implementation Meeting

On February 13 and 14, Mexico hosted a meeting arranged by the International Boundary and Water Commission to further implementation of Minute 319 to the United States/Mexico International Water Treaty. The meeting included a discussion of the water conservation pilot project in Mexico that will be funded directly by Southern Nevada Water Authority, Central Arizona Project, and Metropolitan, and indirectly by Imperial Irrigation District. The current proposal is to fund a portion of the lining of the Canal Revolucion, which is located in an area of sandy soils in the southwest section of the Mexicali agricultural area. The canal length to be lined is 10 miles, with an estimated construction cost of \$25 million, and is expected to conserve 30,000 acre-feet per year. The United States' funders would contribute \$10 million and receive a total of 95,000 acre-feet of water. Mexico would fund the remainder of the project and receive the balance of water conserved. The project design would take about 6 months, with construction scheduled to begin this fall. Under the contributed funds agreement, Metropolitan would pay for its share of the cost in three increments and receive the water as Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) storage credits in Lake Mead by the end of 2017.

Lower Basin Continues Development of Drought Response Plan

In response to a request from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior Anne Castle, the Colorado River Basin states have been working to develop a drought response plan to avoid critical elevations in Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Those critical elevations relate to the ability to generate power in Lake Powell, and the Southern Nevada Water Authority's Intake levels in Lake Mead. Neither of those impacts is anticipated to occur in the next year or two, but if drought conditions continue, the critical elevations could be reached in the next five years. In February, the Lower Basin states met to explore options that could be implemented in the near term to aid reservoir levels. Those actions include: operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant, encouraging contractors to not order water that is not subsequently delivered, which ends up lost from the system; incentivizing contractors to create ICS storage credits in Lake Mead during shortages, and funding agricultural conservation activities. Once the plan is further developed, it will be discussed with Assistant Secretary Castle at a Colorado River Basin States meeting in March 2014.

Snowpack Conditions Improve

During February, snowfall was above normal in the Upper Colorado River Basin, continuing the string of wet month this water year. At the end of February, the snowpack above Lake Powell measured 110 percent of average for the date. The runoff into Lake Powell was forecast to be 108 percent of average. With the continued snowfall, it is increasingly likely that extra water will be released from Lake Powell into Lake Mead in the next water year, which starts on October 1 2014. If that scenario holds, Lake Powell would release 9 million acre-feet in 2015, and would help offset the reduced releases from Lake Powell during the current water year (7.48 million acre-feet).

Board Report (Colorado River Management Report)

Pat Mulroy Presented with Metropolitan Board Resolution

On February 13, a reception was held in honor of long-time Southern Nevada Water Authority General Manager Pat Mulroy. During the event, Metropolitan's General Manager presented Ms. Mulroy with a framed resolution adopted by Metropolitan's Board recognizing her outstanding contributions to both Southern Nevada specifically and the Colorado River Basin as a whole.