



- 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 April 2014.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Moab Tailing Removal Effort Reaches Five-Years

April marked the five-year anniversary of the start of the Department of Energy's billion dollar effort to move 16 million tons of radioactive dirt away from the Colorado River near Moab, Utah. The material is being transported 30 miles to the north and being buried near Crescent Junction, Utah. A total of 6.7 million tons of tailings have been removed from the Moab area, making the project 42 percent complete. The tailings are transported by railcars to Crescent Junction, which is a more expensive but safer option than transporting the material on the local highway system. At the current pace, the tailings should be completely removed by the year 2020.

Lake Mead Level Dropping Quickly

In the last two months, the level of Lake Mead has dropped by more than 13 feet, resulting in the closure of one marina and threatening closure of three others. The quick decline in storage is a result of the record low release of water upstream from Lake Powell this year combined with downstream demands. At the end of April, Lake Mead was 1,095 feet above sea level, 20 feet above the level that a first ever shortage would be declared on the Colorado River. Updated analyses by the Bureau of Reclamation predict that there is about a one in four chance that a shortage would be declared on the Colorado River in August 2015.

Colorado River Board Honors Chairman Foley

During its April 9 meeting, the Colorado River Board of California (River Board) adopted a resolution honoring the service of John V. Foley. Mr. Foley had been Metropolitan's representative on the River Board for the last 16 years. The River Board recognized the accomplishments under the tenure of Mr. Foley, including the development of the California 4.4 Plan, the negotiations of both the Colorado River interim surplus and shortage guidelines, and the development and implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program.

Pulse Flow Continues through Colorado River Delta

The 105,000 acre-foot pulse flow, designed to re-water the Colorado River as it flows through the Colorado River Delta, continued during the month of April. While the peak flows occurred in late March 2014, water releases from Morelos Dam into the Colorado River will continue into early May 2014. As of late April, the water had travelled about two-thirds of the distance between Morelos Dam and the Pacific Ocean. It is not known if the water will ultimately reach the ocean, or dry up before it gets there, but the principal objectives of the pulse flow seem to have been met. The goal was to flood the banks of the Colorado River and then slowly recede at a time when the native plants release their seeds, falling on the damp soil and allowing for germination. Extensive monitoring of the region is occurring to determine success of the pulse flow in helping to reestablish native vegetation in the region.

Board Report (Colorado River Management Report)

Colorado River Salinity Control Forum Appointment

On April 29, Governor Brown appointed William Hasencamp to the Colorado River Salinity Control Forum and Advisory Council. Mr. Hasencamp had been participating on the Forum as an alternate for several years but has now formally been appointed by the governor to that position.