



- 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 May 2014.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Reclamation Finalizes 2013 Colorado River Water Accounting Report

On May 15, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) finalized its 2013 Colorado River Accounting and Water Use Report, which documents the 2013 water use for each Colorado River water contractor in the Lower Basin. A summary of water available to the Colorado River Aqueduct in 2013 follows.

Water Supply available to Colorado River Aqueduct in 2013

MWD Basic Apportionment	550,000 AF
IID-MWD Conservation Program	98,307 AF
PVID-MWD Following Program	32,750 AF
IID-SDCWA Transfer*	100,000 AF
All-American/Coachella Canal Lining *	80,256 AF
All-American/Coachella Canal Lining Supplemental	16,000 AF
Lower Colorado Water Supply Project	4,208 AF
SNWA-MWD Exchange**	75,000 AF
MWD Reduction for Priority 1, 2, and 3b use	(102,279) AF
Unused Priority 3a water	64,616 AF
<u>Delivery of ICS from Lake Mead***</u>	<u>93,857 AF</u>
CRA Net Diversions	1,012,715 AF

* Exchanged with San Diego County Water Authority

** Metropolitan to return 50,000 acre-feet of this water to SNWA, bringing the total return obligation to 161,892 acre-feet

*** A total of 474,063 acre-feet of ICS credits remaining Lake Mead

Other determinations in the Water Accounting Report include:

Interim Surplus Guidelines Benchmark Met: In 2012, California did not achieve the agricultural reductions needed to meet the 2012 benchmark listed in the Interim Surplus Guidelines, and Metropolitan’s access to special surplus water in years when Lake Mead is above elevation, 1,145 feet was terminated. In 2013, California achieved the reductions needed to meet that benchmark, and access to special surplus has been restored. Due to drought conditions, Lake Mead is not projected to reach 1,145 feet in the near-term, but if and when it reaches that elevation, Metropolitan will be entitled to at least 250,000 acre-feet of special surplus water for that year.

Imperial Irrigation District Accelerates Overrun Payback: In 2011 and 2012, Imperial Irrigation District (IID) used more water than was approved for each year, and incurred a requirement to pay back a total of 210,448 acre-feet of water to Lake Mead per the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy. IID is required to implement extraordinary conservation measures to pay back the entire balance by the end of 2014, with a minimum payback of 62,000 acre-feet in 2013. Last year, IID paid back a total of 93,057, which was significantly over the minimum

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required, and has 117,391 acre-feet remaining to be paid back to Lake Mead in 2014. As of June 1, 2014, IID is on track to fully repay the balance of the overrun amount this year.

Nevada and Arizona leave unused water in Lake Mead: In 2013, neither Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) nor Central Arizona Project (CAP) used its full entitlement of water, and left the water in Lake Mead as system water which was not diverted by another contractor. Earlier in the year, Metropolitan joined SNWA and CAP to urge Reclamation to not reallocate any unused water to another state but instead leave the water in Lake Mead to aid system storage. In 2013, Nevada left 1,137 acre-feet in Lake Mead, while Arizona added 20,674 acre-feet to benefit the system.

Brock Reservoir conserves significant amount of water: In 2008, Metropolitan, SNWA, and CAP funded the construction of the Warren Brock Reservoir (formerly known as “Drop 2 Reservoir”) to capture flows that could not otherwise be stored in the United States. The reservoir was completed in 2011, and in 2013 conserved a total of 125,975 acre-feet. In exchange for funding the reservoir construction, the funders received Intentionally Created Surplus credits in Lake Mead (Metropolitan received 100,000 acre-feet of credits). Even with the reservoir in operation, significant unregulated flows were lost to Mexico in 2013. A total of 71,970 acre-feet of water passed to Mexico in excess of the scheduled treaty requirements, mostly due to agricultural water that was ordered, but then subsequently rejected and left in the Colorado River without a place to store the water.

Pulse Flow to Colorado River Delta Ends

In late May, the two-month period of releasing a pulse flow from Morelos Dam to the Colorado River Delta ended, and the gates releasing the water were closed. In mid-May, the pulse flow reached the Pacific Ocean, connecting the Colorado River to the sea for the first time in more than a decade. While the 105,000 acre-foot pulse flow event has ended, the work of monitoring the response to the river channel continues. One of the key issues that will be watched is how the native plants respond to the damp soils left behind by the receding flows.