



# Overview of Proposed MOU for Colorado River-related Pilot Drought Response Actions

Water Planning & Stewardship Committee

Item 9-1

December 8, 2014

# Background

- 15-year drought
  - Risk of shortage in 2016 increasing in future
  - Could later affect diversions from Lake Mead
- Drought response concepts
  - Reduce diversions
  - Augment system
  - Create ICS
  - Conserve system water



# Proposed MOU

- Participants
  - MWD
  - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
  - Southern Nevada Water Authority
  - Central Arizona Water Conservation District
  - Colorado River Board of California
  - Colorado River Commission of Nevada
  - Arizona Department of Water Resources
- Term—Through December 31, 2019

# Goal: Increase Storage in Lake Mead

2014-2017

- MWD: 300,000 AF
  - Provide short-term drought relief and reduce likelihood of reaching critical lake elevations
  - New conservation projects to create or defer delivery of Intentionally Created Surplus
  - Need flexibility during low reservoir conditions
- USBR: 50,000 AF
  - Efficiency and operational improvements
  - System water creation

# Goal: Increase Storage in Lake Mead

2014-2017

- SNWA: 45,000 AF
  - Imported groundwater delivery
  - Banked water recovery
  - Tributary water lease or purchase
  - Reduction in off stream storage
- CAWCD: 345,000 AF
  - System water creation
  - ICS creation

# Consultations

- Urgent Direct Delivery Domestic Use Needs
- Drought Response Actions
  - Seek participation by others:
    - In August 2016 to conserve additional water
    - If Lake Mead falls to 1,060 feet
- Long Term Sustainability
  - Evaluate incentivizing creation of ICS
  - Reduce long-term supply/demand imbalance
  - Reduce likelihood of shortage conditions

# MWD Benefits

- Continue interstate collaboration
- Provide for short-term drought relief
- Decrease chance of Lake Mead reaching elevation 1,000 feet in next 5 years
- Increase power generation at Hoover Dam
- Does not obligate expenditure of funds as MOU is nonbinding

