



- 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 January 2015.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Initial Discussions Begin for Development of New Agreement with Mexico

On January 28, representatives from agencies within the Colorado River Basin States, including Metropolitan, met with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to begin development of a follow-up agreement with Mexico that would follow Minute 319 to the United States-Mexico International Water Treaty. Minute 319 and the implementing agreements were signed in November 2012 and will remain in place through 2017. The agreements include provisions for Mexico to store water in and recover water from Lake Mead, surplus and shortage sharing, development of environmental projects, and development of a binational water conservation project in Mexico, with the conserved water being made available to funders in the United States initially and then to Mexico. Because of the formal process involved in international negotiations, it is anticipated that the follow-up minute to Minute 319 will take years to develop, which is why the United States representatives are beginning to formulate their position well in advance of the termination of the current agreements. Concurrent with the development of a new international agreement, Metropolitan continues to work with the other agencies and Mexico to fund the lining of a water supply canal in Mexico, which will provide the funding agencies with a total of 95,000 acre-feet of Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) storage credits in Lake Mead by 2017.

Initial Review of System Conservation Proposals Complete

Staff from Metropolitan, Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), Central Arizona Project, Denver Water, and Reclamation completed their initial review of more than a dozen proposals to conserve Colorado River water to benefit all users by adding water to Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The initial review evaluated proposals from the Lower Basin, with a total budget of \$8.25 million. Several proposals did not meet the minimum requirements of the program, and were excluded from further evaluation. The remainder were asked to provide follow-up information, which will be reviewed in February to determine if, and to what extent, the proposals would be funded. Reclamation will oversee project implementation once the proposals are selected and funded. In the Upper Basin, about \$2.75 million will be available to fund conservation projects; the request for proposals in those states will occur later this year, with the goal of implementing the projects by this summer.

Ed Smith Retires from Palo Verde Irrigation District

After serving as General Manager for Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) for the last 15 years, on January 31, Ed Smith retired from his position and moved to Yuma with his wife. Ed completed a distinguished career with PVID, overseeing the development and implementation of the Palo Verde Valley land fallowing and crop rotation program, which has transferred over 1 million acre-feet of water to Metropolitan to date. Ed also played a key role in the development of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, which provides 50 years of environmental compliance for water operations on the Lower Colorado River. Ed was a problem-solver that would seek consensus solutions, instead of conflict, and Metropolitan will miss his leadership on the Colorado River. Ed has been replaced by Ned Hyduke, a native of the Palo Verde Valley, who retired from the Sheriff's department in 2012.