



● 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 2015.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Metropolitan Stores Water for Imperial Irrigation District

Metropolitan will be storing about 18,000 acre-feet of water for the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) that was conserved in 2014. Per the terms of the California Intentionally Created Surplus (CAICS) Agreement, which was executed in 2007, IID has the ability to store conserved water in Lake Mead, known as Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS), and request to store water within Metropolitan's service area, recovering the water at a later date. At the end of 2014, IID conserved about 38,000 acre-feet more than it needed to meet its Quantification Settlement Agreement transfer commitments. IID will be storing half of this water in Lake Mead as ICS and half of this water with Metropolitan. Per the terms of the CAICS agreement, any of IID's water stored by Metropolitan is subject to a 10 percent storage loss, and Metropolitan is not obligated to return the water to IID in years when it has issued its water allocation plan, limiting deliveries to its member agencies.

U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Study Forecasts Significant Lake Mead Decline

On May 15, USBR updated its water operations study, known as the 24-month study, which forecasts the levels of Lake Mead for the next two years. That study predicted that Lake Mead would reach a low-point of 1,073 feet this summer (the lowest level ever), and finish the year just above 1,075 feet, barely avoiding a shortage declaration for 2016. For 2016, the study forecast that Lake Mead would drop below 1,055 feet, resulting in a first-ever shortage declaration in 2017. Since the study was completed, however, precipitation in the Colorado River Basin has been well above average, and it is likely that the Lake Mead forecasts will increase when USBR updates the 24-month study in June 2015.

USBR Releases Phase I Reports for the Colorado River Basin Moving Forward Process

On May 12, USBR released for public review the Phase 1 reports to move forward to address challenges identified in the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study (Basin Study). The Phase 1 report focuses on the outcomes of three workgroups formed during Phase 1 effort: municipal and industrial water conservation and reuse; agricultural water conservation, productivity, and transfers; and environmental and recreational flows. Metropolitan staff participated in all of the workgroups, which used a collaborative problem-solving approach to prepare the report. The Phase 1 Report is intended to identify opportunities and potential actions that convey the perspectives of the workgroups regarding the role of their respective sector in being a part of the solution set needed to address the challenges identified in the Basin Study.