



- 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 September 2015.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Metropolitan submits 2016 Colorado River Water Diversion Request

On September 15, Metropolitan submitted its 2016 Colorado River Water Diversion request letter to the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Metropolitan's letter estimated that 961,000 acre-feet of Colorado River supplies would be available to Metropolitan in 2016, but recognized that the projection could go up or down based on a number of factors, including higher priority agricultural demands, storing or taking delivery of Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) supplies in Lake Mead, or implementing interstate water exchanges. Metropolitan's current supplies and storage reserves from the Colorado River are not enough to fill the Colorado River Aqueduct to capacity in 2016; however, if the need arises, Metropolitan could develop and implement new water supply programs to fill the Aqueduct in 2016. Conversely, if next year were wet, Metropolitan could store ICS water in Lake Mead for future use.

Metropolitan Votes and Discusses Land Issues with Palo Verde Irrigation District

Following Metropolitan Board authorization in August 2015, on September 15, Metropolitan Board Chairman Record cast a first-ever Metropolitan vote in the annual Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) Board of Trustees election. The two incumbents running on the ballot were reelected to three-year terms. Following the vote, Metropolitan and PVID representatives to the Property Utilization Committee met in Blythe, CA to discuss management of lands owned by Metropolitan in the Palo Verde Valley. Director Touhey and Chairman Record attended the meeting for Metropolitan, which included a discussion of Metropolitan's long-term plans for the new land it acquired in the Palo Verde Valley earlier this year. The PVID representatives stated that there was much interest by local farmers in leasing portions of the newly purchased land, and suggested it be leased in smaller parcels. Metropolitan's representatives stated that Metropolitan does not have a final plan on how it will manage its land, but that it will keep PVID informed of future plans to lease the land. They also discussed interest in options for reducing water use on Metropolitan-owned land.

Metropolitan Funds Two Additional System Conservation Projects

In September, Metropolitan and its funding partners funded two additional system conservation projects that fall under the System Conservation Agreement program. In addition to funding agricultural conservation projects in Nevada earlier this year, a water recycling project in Bullhead City, Arizona, and a groundwater storage forbearance pilot program with the Tohono O'odham Nation in Central Arizona were funded this month. Metropolitan's share of the funding for the two projects totaled about \$600,000; remaining funding was provided by Southern Nevada Water Authority, Central Arizona Project, Denver Water, and Reclamation. The conserved water will be added to storage in Lake Mead to help alleviate Colorado River drought conditions. Additional projects are being evaluated and Metropolitan's total budget of \$2 million will likely be expended by the end of this year.