



- 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 April 2016.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Meeting with Colorado River Indian Tribes

On April 4, Metropolitan staff met with representatives from the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) to discuss potential water management options. The CRIT have over 50,000 acre-feet of water rights within California that they are not currently using, and the CRIT representatives indicated that the tribes are developing plans to put some of this water to agricultural use along the Colorado River. The CRIT plan to host a tour of the lands within California that have water rights associated with them.

QSA Parties Review 2015 Water Transfers

On April 6, staff from Imperial Irrigation District (Imperial), Coachella Valley Water District (Coachella), San Diego County Water Authority (County Water Authority), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and Metropolitan met to review conservation data from 2015 water conservation activities. As a result of the meeting, the parties were satisfied that Imperial met all of its 2015 water transfer commitments to Coachella, the County Water Authority, and Metropolitan. Additionally, Imperial conserved additional water that is being stored with Metropolitan under the terms of the 2015 amendment to the California Intentionally Created Surplus Agreement. The exact volumes of water stored are still under review, but will be finalized by May 15, 2016 when Reclamation issues its 2015 Water Use Accounting Report.

Reclamation Receives System Conservation Pilot Project Proposals and Prepares Grant

During April, Reclamation received a number of system conservation pilot project proposals in response to its March 2016 request for proposals from entities holding entitlements to use of Colorado River water in Arizona, California, and Nevada. The proposals will be evaluated in May 2016, and if all proposals were selected, would conserve over 73,000 acre-feet. Also, Reclamation is preparing a grant to the Upper Colorado River Commission to contribute funds for Upper Colorado River Basin system conservation pilot projects approved by the municipal funding agencies, including Metropolitan. Agreements with a number of Upper Basin entities for conserving water in 2016 continue to be negotiated.

Bard Water District Farmers Begin Fallowing

Following execution of fallowing agreements with a number of farmers in Bard Water District, on April 1 the gates providing water to lands enrolled in the seasonal fallowing program were locked, and will remain that way until August 1, 2016. Metropolitan staff inspected the fields in April to ensure compliance with the fallowing agreements, and confirmed that all agreed upon fields were actually fallowed. The first payment to farmers will be made on May 15, 2016.