



- Colorado River Management Report

## Summary

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This Report provides a summary of activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River resources for the month of September 2016.

## Purpose

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Informational

## Detailed Report

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### **Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) Trustee Incumbents Re-elected**

Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) held its annual Board of Trustee election on September 20. Metropolitan's Chairman traveled to Blythe to vote on behalf of Metropolitan. Bart Fisher, PVID's current Board Chairman, and Charles Van Dyke, one of PVID's Board trustees, were re-elected for another three-year term. Landowners in PVID are allowed to vote in the PVID election with each acre of land owned equal to one vote. As the largest landowner in the Palo Verde Valley, Metropolitan holds a significant share of the total votes in the election. Board of Trustee elections are held each year on the third Tuesday of September.

### **Metropolitan Submits its 2017 Colorado River Water Request**

On September 15, Metropolitan submitted its annual Colorado River Water request to the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Metropolitan's 2017 water request included its basic apportionment and an estimate of water supplies made available by Metropolitan's Imperial Irrigation District (IID) Conservation Program, the PVID fallowing program, the IID-San Diego County Water Authority transfer and exchange program, and water conserved by the All-American and Coachella Canals. The total initial estimate of water available to Metropolitan in 2017 is 960,000 acre-feet. This figure does not represent any agricultural adjustments, which could be positive or negative, nor storing or taking delivery of any Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) supplies to or from Lake Mead. If additional Colorado River supplies are needed in 2017, Metropolitan could take delivery of ICS or develop additional water management programs with its partners along the Colorado River.

### **Proposed Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Refined**

Representatives from the Lower Colorado Basin states and Reclamation continue to meet to refine the proposed Lower Colorado Basin Drought Contingency Plan (Plan). The purpose of the Plan is to implement water conservation measures to reduce the risk of Lake Mead reaching critically low levels within the next ten years. As part of the incentive for California to participate, the proposed Plan includes increased flexibility to meet water supply needs. Under current provisions, representatives from Arizona assert that California cannot receive more than its basic apportionment of 4.4 million acre-feet of water during a declared shortage on the Colorado River, which would limit among other things the delivery of ICS water stored in Lake Mead. The parties are shaping a proposal that would allow agencies, including Metropolitan, to access any ICS water it has stored in Lake Mead, implement interstate exchanges (e.g., Metropolitan's exchange with Southern Nevada Water Authority), and participate in funding conservation programs in Mexico in all year-types on the Colorado River, including shortages. The agencies' goals are to finalize the necessary agreements needed to implement the proposed Plan by November 2016 so that each agency can seek board input and approval to execute the agreements at some point, possibly before the end of the year. Metropolitan staff will provide additional information on the latest discussions at the October 2016 Water Planning and Stewardship Committee Meeting.