



- 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 2017.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Mexican Water Treaty Minute 32X

In 2012, the United States and the Republic of Mexico signed Minute 319 which included:

- Establishment of reservoir triggers for sharing both shortage and surplus;
- Establishment of a program of Intentionally Created Mexican Allocation (ICMA) whereby Mexico could temporarily reduce its order of Colorado River water, allowing that water to be delivered to Mexico in the future;
- Infrastructure and water conservation funding; and
- A one-time pulse flow in the Colorado River Delta.

Minute 319 is set to expire December 31, 2017. In anticipation of that expiration, the U.S. and Mexico have been negotiating a successor minute (Minute 32X). The U.S. negotiations have included the State Department, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), representatives of the basin states, and Colorado River contractors like Metropolitan. The U.S. was working towards completion of Minute 32X before the end of the last presidential administration, but negotiations did not proceed quickly enough to reach that goal. Recently, the parties have been working to restart negotiations with the aim to complete a Minute 32X before the expiration of Minute 319.

Water Use on Arizona State Land Department's Land on Yuma Island

The bed of the Colorado River shifted between the California and Arizona borders in a way that left some land owned by the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) in California. Most of that land has been used for irrigated agriculture. In 1982, when ASLD became the recognized owner of these lands within California, it raised an issue of how use of the Colorado River water on this land would be accounted for, and under what right, if any, farmers could divert Colorado River water for use on these lands. ASLD requested a contract with the Secretary of the Interior for a portion of California's Seven-Party Water Agreement of August 1931, Priority 2 water. To date, this issue has not been resolved.

Metropolitan and Reclamation have previously agreed to an extension of time for the U.S. to take final action regarding whether consumptive use of Colorado River water on the Yuma Island should be charged to Priority 2 or otherwise, consistent with terms of the 2005 *Arizona v. California* Settlement Agreement.

Metropolitan staff met with representatives of ASLD in Phoenix on April 25 to discuss potential approaches to this issue.

Colorado River Board of California Tour of California Facilities

The Colorado River Board of California hosted representatives from the seven Colorado River basin states on a tour of California's water facilities from March 28-31.

The tour included an overnight at Gene Camp, where Chairman Record and Metropolitan staff made presentations to the group about Metropolitan's Colorado River program.

Board Report (Colorado River Management Report)

Water Resources Research Center Conference

On March 28, 2017, Metropolitan staff attended the Water Resources Research Center conference on Irrigated Agriculture in Arizona: A Fresh Perspective in Tucson, Arizona. The conference panels covered a range of current agricultural water issues, and included presentations from water managers, farmers, and policy makers. One panel featured speakers discussing their participation in two of Metropolitan's programs, the Palo Verde water transfer program and the Bard Following Pilot Project.