



- 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 July 2017.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Palo Verde Irrigation District Fallowing Program Call Issued

Under the terms of the Palo Verde Irrigation District Fallowing Program, Palo Verde farmers refrain from irrigating between 7 and 28 percent of their lands in any year at the request of Metropolitan, making water that would have been used for farming on these lands available to urban Southern California. Land taken out of production is maintained in accordance with approved soil and water management plans, and rotated back into production every one to five years. The program allows Metropolitan to obtain additional water, while providing stable income to the farming community. Annual payments to farmers vary in response to actual acreage fallowed.

In July each year, Metropolitan issues a fallowing call for the contract year, beginning August 1 of the following year. The current fallowing call of 100 percent will end July 31 and a 90 percent fallowing call, which was made in July of 2016, will begin for the contract year beginning August 1. On July 31, in response to improved storage conditions, Metropolitan issued a 40 percent fallowing call for the period beginning August 1, 2018.

Intentionally Created Surplus Plans for 2017 – 2018

Metropolitan originally submitted its 2017 Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) plan to create 200,000 acre-feet of Extraordinary Conservation ICS for storage in Lake Mead in June of 2016. Metropolitan's ICS plan was approved by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) on November 30, 2016. In the intervening time, hydrologic conditions in California have gone from the driest period of historical record to the wettest single year on record. The extraordinary and unprecedented wet conditions of this water year have provided Metropolitan with the unanticipated opportunity to utilize ongoing conservation efforts to create and store additional ICS this year to the benefit of Lake Mead and the Colorado River Basin during an ongoing period of historic drought in the Basin. Metropolitan sent a letter to Reclamation this month providing notice of Metropolitan's proposal to amend its request and store up to 398,000 acre-feet of ICS during 2017. The actual amount of water stored will depend on the water usage of the higher priority agricultural water users on the Colorado River. In addition to revising its 2017 request, Metropolitan sent a letter describing its plan to create up to 398,000 acre-feet of ICS during 2018.

Minute 319 Successor Minute Update

In July, representatives of the United States and Mexico met in El Paso, Texas to finalize the language of the draft successor minute to Minute 319, pursuant to the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) protocols. The representative of the U.S. domestic entities, including Metropolitan, has also been working to complete negotiation of the necessary domestic implementation

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agreements that will be executed at the same time as the new minute. Before the minute can be signed, it will first be reviewed and considered by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. This hearing has been scheduled for early August. If approved by all parties to the agreements, the U.S. and Mexico representatives of the IBWC anticipate signing the minute during the last two weeks of September. Metropolitan's Board is scheduled to consider approval of the implementation agreement during its September meeting.