



- 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 2017.

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

None

Detailed Report

Minute 323 Update

Significant progress has been made over the past month in securing the necessary review and approvals for the proposed Minute 323 and related domestic implementation agreements. The United States has reported that the State Department's and Senate Foreign Relations Committee reviews have both been successfully completed. The U.S. and Mexico representatives of the International Boundary and Water Commission anticipate signing the minute during the last two weeks of September, contingent upon agreement by all of the U.S. entities to the related domestic implementation agreements.

The following entities have completed their review and secured approval of the relevant domestic implementation agreements: Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Palo Verde Irrigation District, Southern Nevada Water Authority and the State of New Mexico.

Metropolitan, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) have also made progress in agreeing on proposed terms for IID's participation in the Minute 323 pilot project, resolution of IID's delivery of otherwise unused water to the Salton Sea in 2010 and IID's commitment to be bound by the Minute 319 domestic implementation agreements as though IID had signed the original agreements in 2012.

Metropolitan's draft agreement with IID would allow IID the opportunity to participate in the 2017 funding agreement for water conservation projects in Mexico under Minute No. 323 and receive a proportionate share of Binational Intentionally Created Surplus (Binational ICS), however this water would not be available to IID until the outstanding issues related to IID's 2010 delivery of otherwise unused Colorado River water to the Salton Sea have been resolved to USBR's satisfaction. Under the draft agreement, IID would be allowed to use Binational ICS to resolve those issues. Once resolved, IID could use any remaining Binational ICS for non-agricultural demands within IID's service area or to eliminate, reduce, or pay back an inadvertent overrun, but IID would not be allowed to use Binational ICS to meet water transfer obligations. IID would also share in reductions of any surplus water supplies that are made available to Mexico pursuant to Minute No. 323.

System Conservation Pilot Program Update

USBR notified the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) of the System Conservation Pilot Program funding partners' intent to exercise the second year option for an additional year of land fallowing with CRIT. Exercising the option will extend the CRIT land fallowing program from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. CRIT can now move forward to implement the additional year of fallowing of 1,591 acres.

Board Report (Colorado River Management Report)

SNWA and ADWR Send Letters of Support to Metropolitan for the Effort to Find Solutions for the Bay Delta

Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) have sent letters stating their support for Metropolitan's commitment to finding a solution to the problems facing the Bay-Delta. SNWA and ADWR acknowledge their work with Metropolitan to develop a drought contingency plan designed to help avoid serious shortages in Lake Mead and their understanding that Metropolitan lacks the flexibility to make commitments on the Colorado River while facing great uncertainty in Metropolitan's long-term State Water Project supply. SNWA and ADWR note that in this way, Colorado River Basin water users are connected and that we all have a stake in the successful implementation of sound solutions in the California Bay-Delta.