



● 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 October 2017.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Modified Intentionally Created Surplus Plan for 2017 Approved

On October 11, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) approved Metropolitan's modified Intentionally Created Surplus plan (ICS) for 2017 to allow Metropolitan to store increased water in Lake Mead this year. The Governors' representatives of the seven Colorado Basin States sent a letter of Concurrence Recommendation to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior to modify Metropolitan's ICS plan, as requested.

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 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. 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 is now permitted to store up to 398,000 acre-feet of ICS in 2017.

Imperial Irrigation District Request Metropolitan to Store Conserved Water

On October 27, Imperial Irrigation District (IID) sent a letter requesting Metropolitan to store up to 89,000 acre-feet of conserved water in 2017. Pursuant to a three-year agreement between IID and Metropolitan, Metropolitan agreed to store up to 100,000 acre-feet per year of conserved water generated by IID, provided Metropolitan has the ability to modify its operations to store the water. Metropolitan staff will provide a response to IID's request after it considers its ability to store the additional water this year.

Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Development

On October 23, the representatives from the Lower Basin States and Reclamation met in Las Vegas to continue their joint effort to develop a Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). The proposed DCP would create additional voluntary tools for the Lower Basin States to reduce the risk of Lake Mead reaching critically low elevations and enhance storage opportunities through the end of the Shortage Guidelines in 2026. The representatives set a goal of reaching final agreement on a DCP by July of 2018.

Salinity Control Forum

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) met in Sacramento, California on October 24 and 25. The Forum is an organization of the seven Colorado River Basin states that guides state and federal agency work to implement the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program). The Forum also works with Congress on Program reauthorization and funding, as well as promoting efforts to reduce salt loading to the Colorado River. The program keeps 1.33 million tons of salt out of the Colorado River annually. Metropolitan currently holds one of the three Governor-appointed positions representing California on the Forum's Board. During the meeting, the Forum approved the 2017 Review of Water Quality Standards for Salinity of the Colorado River System. The review highlighted the need for continued funding for salinity

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control to reduce the economic damages of high salt levels in the Colorado River. Following the Forum meeting, Metropolitan and the Colorado River Authority co-hosted a tour of the Bay-Delta system for Forum members and their technical advisors.