



## ● 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 November 2017.

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### Purpose

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Informational

### Detailed Report

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#### State Water Resources Control Board Modifies WRO 2002-0013

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) voted in favor of the Salton Sea Management Program and the Stipulated Order for Future Action by the State Water Board on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. At its meeting, the State Water Board received additional input regarding the Salton Sea Management Program and the Draft Stipulated Order and asked Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and the other stipulating parties to make some additional edits before the vote. Metropolitan submitted written comments and the General Manager provided oral comments at the meeting to convey Metropolitan's support for the draft stipulated order, while reserving all rights and prior positions. The State Water Board voted unanimously in favor of the Stipulated Order.

#### Background:

October 28, 2002 - the State Water Board issued Order WRO 2002-0013, approving the long term transfer of water from IID to the San Diego County Water Authority, Coachella Valley Water District, and Metropolitan.

November 18, 2014 - IID filed a Petition for Change seeking a modification of Order WRO 2002-0013.

May, 2015 - Governor Brown established the Salton Sea Task Force.

March 15, 2017 - IID submitted a Motion for Evidentiary Hearing to the State Water Board regarding potential modification of WRO 2002-0013. The State Water Board's Notice provided that "[a]s a result of the motion, a Draft Stipulated Order has been developed for consideration by the State Water Board."

#### Summary of Stipulated Order Revising WRO 2002-0013 (Order):

The Order notes that delivery of mitigation water to the Salton Sea will end on December 21, 2017 and that the mitigation measures identified in IID's Environmental Impact Report on the Water Conservation and Transfer Project, which includes a four-step air quality plan, will continue to be implemented.

New provisions added to WRO 2002-0013:

- Find that restoration of a smaller Salton Sea is feasible.
- Provide that the State of California will lead and coordinate management efforts and implementation of projects for human health and the environment.
- Note that successful management of the Salton Sea will require participation by a range of state, local and federal governmental entities, as well as non-governmental organizations.
- Find that cooperation of non-governmental land owners will be needed to secure rights of way for conveyance structures.
- Establish restoration milestones to address human health and environmental concerns which set annual targets for habitat and dust-suppression projects on a specified number of acres of exposed playa from 2019 – 2029.
- State that no less than 50 percent of those acres will provide habitat benefits for fish and wildlife.
- Provide that the California Natural Resources Agency will develop subsequent 10-year restoration management plans, with stakeholder coordination, beginning no later than midway through the current plan.

Date of Report: 12/12/2017

## Board Report (Colorado River Management Report)

- Require the Board to hold an annual public meeting, no later than March 31, to receive oral and written comments on the status of the Salton Sea Restoration.
- Reserve the Board's jurisdiction to make further amendments to WRO 2002-0013 "to ensure Salton Sea Restoration throughout the term of the QSA through its continuing jurisdiction under this Order."

### **MWD Approves IID's Requests to Store Conserved Water**

In response to IID's October 27, 2017 request for Metropolitan to store conserved water in 2017, on November 28 Metropolitan approved storing up to 69,000 acre-feet of conserved water on behalf of IID, provided Metropolitan can modify its operations to manage or store all of its Colorado River supplies this year. IID would store water with Metropolitan in the final year of a three-year agreement in which Metropolitan agreed to store increased amounts of conserved water generated by IID. The water is subject to a 5 to 10 percent storage loss that would be provided to Metropolitan, and would be returned at IID's request in a future year. The exact amount of water IID would store with Metropolitan will not be known until May of 2019 when the conservation numbers have been reviewed and agreed to by Metropolitan staff.