



● 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 February 2018.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Minute 323 Implementation

Minute 323 to the United States and Mexico International Water Treaty, signed in September 2017, included authorization of the formation of several workgroups that include representatives from both the U.S. and Mexico. These workgroups provide input to the International Boundary and Water Commission on specific issue areas. In February, the Projects Workgroup and Salinity Workgroup each met.

On February 27, the Projects Workgroup held its first meeting. The scope of this workgroup's effort is to ensure that a total of 229,100 acre-feet (AF) of water is conserved in the Mexicali Valley. Metropolitan has agreed to fund a share of the conservation programs (\$3.7 million) and will receive a total of about 27,000 AF of water when the funding is provided. The conserved water will be stored in Lake Mead as intentionally created surplus water. Minute 323 also includes an option to conserve an additional 195,000 AF, which Metropolitan will have the opportunity to participate in at a future date. Meeting these conservation targets will involve implementation of numerous on-field projects, and these projects will be overseen by the Projects Workgroup. At this meeting the workgroup also received an update on the progress of the Minute 319 conservation projects.

A presidential election is being held in Mexico in 2018, and in anticipation of the change of administration, the workgroup will not meet again until after the election in September. At the next meeting the workgroup plans to visit Minute 319 projects in Mexicali that have either been completed or are under construction.

The Salinity Workgroup has met three times since the beginning of the year. This workgroup's charge is to begin the effort to develop a desalination project in the Mexican state of northern Sonora that would benefit both countries. Minute 323 authorized development of a desalination facility that would have potential capacity of 50,000-120,000 AF per year. The engineering firm (Black & Veatch) has been involved in drafting a scope of work for a major study to identify a site for the proposed desalination plant. In upcoming meetings, the workgroup will be making decisions regarding the scope of the study and available technologies that will be evaluated. The workgroup will meet two more times to complete the scope of work.

Metropolitan staff participates in both of the workgroups.

2018 Southwest Agriculture Summit

The Southwest Agriculture Summit (Summit) is an agriculture industry show held in Yuma, Arizona. The Summit is organized by the University of Arizona, Arizona Western College, Yuma County Farm Bureau, and Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association to provide information and updates on conditions and management practices. Metropolitan staff made a presentation at the Summit describing our partnerships with the agricultural community.