



## ● 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 June 2018.

### Purpose

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Informational

### Detailed Report

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#### Colorado River Basin States Principals Meetings

Following Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman's meetings with representatives of both the Upper and Lower Basins in May 2018, the Principals of the seven Colorado River Basin States met in Santa Fe during the week of June 18-21 to discuss steps needed to finalize drought contingency plans and to provide updates on other basin related matters.

On June 18, the Lower Basin Principals met with the Commissioner and staff from Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region to identify steps needed to reach a final Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan (LBDCP) this year. At this meeting, representatives from the state of Arizona and the Central Arizona Water Conservation District conveyed their willingness to reengage in the LBDCP development discussions with the other states, and to establish a process for developing public involvement and support within Arizona.

At the Basin States Principals meeting on June 19, the representatives of the Upper Basin States, Lower Basin States, and the Bureau of Reclamation all agreed to the goal of reaching final drought contingency plans for both the Upper and Lower Basin by December 12-14, 2018 when the Colorado River Water Users' Association holds its annual conference in Las Vegas. The Principals identified a small group of representatives who are charged with completing the documents necessary to meet this goal. A staff person from Metropolitan was included in this small group and attended meetings of the small group on June 25 and 27. If negotiations are successful, the LBDCP and related agreements would be brought before Metropolitan's Board for consideration in November or December of this year.

#### Colorado River Board of California Rules Changes

At its June 13 meeting, the Colorado River Board of California (CRB) voted 6 – 3 in favor of making changes to the CRB's Rules and Regulations. The changes included a provision establishing the election of the Chairperson of the CRB every four years, beginning January 2019, as well as other minor and technical updates. Pursuant to state statute, the Chairperson of the CRB serves as the Colorado River Commissioner for the state of California.

On June 14, the then-current Chairperson of the CRB, Bart Fischer (representing Palo Verde Irrigation District) announced that he would be stepping down as Chairperson of the CRB effective the following week. The CRB may vote for a new Chairperson at its next meeting on July 11, 2018 in Ontario.

#### State of the Science Report-Hydrology and Climate Information in the Colorado River Basin

Metropolitan, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Denver Water, and the State of Colorado have agreed to fund development of a State of the Science Report which is planned to address:

- the state of knowledge regarding the climatic and hydrologic processes and variables that drive streamflow outcomes in the Colorado River Basin, including an assessment of the magnitude of effect attributed to each climatic and hydrologic variable,

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- scientific advances in hydrologic forecasts, climate and hydrology projections, and climate downscaling techniques and approaches, including an assessment of innovative or novel approaches that would add value,
- scientific advances in observation techniques and observing systems necessary for hydrologic forecasts and climate and hydrology projections in the Colorado River Basin, and
- an evaluation of the level of certainty of the state of knowledge, including the identification of crucial gaps and weaknesses in the state of knowledge.

The development of the report is intended to be a collaborative undertaking among the parties and other Colorado River stakeholders. Metropolitan will contribute \$50,000 to develop the report, which is expected to be completed in one year. Staff will inform the Board when the report is completed.