



● 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 July 2018.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Drought Contingency Planning

The Principals of the seven Colorado River Basin States (Basin States) met near Park City, Utah, on July 30, 31 to discuss progress of development of the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) and the Upper Basin DCP. At the meetings, principals and staff received updates from the Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Reclamation staff, and reports from the small group of representatives from the Basin States who have been drafting the set of implementing agreements that would be necessary for implementation of drought contingency plans.

The small drafting group had been tasked with developing a set of six documents that would serve as the draft interstate implementing agreements. Since June 19, 2018, the group has met six times and made significant progress in developing working drafts of most of the necessary interstate agreements. During the July 30, 31 Basin States meetings, the principals provided input and direction regarding outstanding policy considerations, which the small group will take back for the next rounds of drafting meetings throughout August 2018.

Representatives of the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Central Arizona Project provided an update on Arizona's Steering Committee (Steering Committee) Process. The Steering Committee is intended to address water user concerns within Arizona regarding the proposed DCP impact on Arizona and, if the Steering Committee process is successful, would result in consensus support of the DCPs and an intrastate implementing agreement within Arizona. The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet twice a month through December and has not indicated yet if and when it will take a position supporting the proposed Lower Basin DCP.

In addition to the interstate agreements needed to implement a Lower Basin DCP and an Upper Basin DCP, Metropolitan is working with other contractors to develop an approach for implementation of the Lower Basin DCP within California. If all these negotiations are successful, the Lower Basin DCP related interstate agreements and intrastate agreements could be brought to Metropolitan's Board for consideration later this year.

Palo Verde Irrigation District Program Following Call Made

On July 29, Metropolitan sent participating landowners in the Palo Verde Valley a notice that the following call from August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020 will remain at 40 percent of the contractual maximum. This is the same following level that the farmers implemented on August 1, 2018. Prior to this month, from August 1, 2017 through July 31, 2018, the following call had been at 90 percent. Staff lowered the following call starting in August 2018 and will continue through July 31, 2020 because of the improved storage in Metropolitan's service area.