



● **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 August 2018.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Colorado River Board of California Elects New Chairman

At the Colorado River Board of California's (the board) August meeting, the board elected a new Chairman, Peter Nelson of Coachella Valley Water District. This election followed the resignation of Bart Fisher as Chairman in June. Under the state's Water Code the Chairperson of the board presides at board meetings and serves, ex officio, as the "Colorado River Commissioner," the state's principal representative in Colorado River interstate matters. Pursuant to the updated rules and regulations adopted by the board in June, the board will hold an election for Chairperson in January of next year.

Bureau of Reclamation August 24-Month Study

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation issued the August 24-Month Study, which projects Colorado River reservoir operations for the following two years. Pursuant to the 2007 Guidelines for Coordinated Operations (2007 Guidelines), the August 24-Month Study is used to set the operational tier for the coordinated operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The study projects an 8.23 million acre foot release from Lake Powell in water year 2020 based on the most probable inflow projections in 2019. This amount would be below the release projected in last year's August 24-Month Study in which the most probable inflow projection would have resulted in a 9 million acre foot release. This reduced release from Lake Powell has increased the likelihood to a level above 50% that Lake Mead would fall below the elevation of 1,075 feet at the end of 2019, which would trigger the first ever shortage declaration in the Lower Basin. The first tier of shortage would impact water deliveries to Arizona and Nevada.

Drought Contingency Plan Development

Following the seven Colorado River Basin States (seven Basin States) Principals meeting in Utah last month, the small drafting group tasked with developing six documents necessary for interstate and federal implementation of both the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan and the Upper Basin Drought Contingency met in Denver for two days of discussion and drafting. The small drafting group also hosted a webinar to provide an opportunity to review and comment on the current draft documents for technical and legal representatives of the seven Basin States and water agencies. Metropolitan staff is also working to develop the intrastate agreements that would be necessary in order to implement the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan within California. The Principals are scheduled to meet to review the draft documents and provide direction to the small drafting group in Las Vegas on September 18. If these negotiations are successful, the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan agreement and related intrastate agreements may be brought to Metropolitan's Board for consideration later this year.

Meeting with Quechan Tribal Council

On August 15, Chairman Record and Metropolitan staff met with the Quechan Tribal Council at the Tribe's request to discuss the potential for development of a water conservation program on tribal lands. The Quechan Tribe is part of the Yuma Project Reservation Division and observed the development of the Bard pilot seasonal fallowing program on the neighboring lands. The Tribe asked questions of Metropolitan staff and Chairman Record about the potential to expand the seasonal fallowing program onto tribal land, or to develop a new

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agricultural conservation program. Metropolitan explained that it would be open to a conservation program with the tribe, provided the community is not negatively impacted by the program. The tribal council thanked Metropolitan for participating in the meeting and would meet internally to see what next steps in the development of a potential program are warranted.