



• 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 January 2019.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Drought Contingency Plan

At last month's Colorado River Water Users' Association Conference, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Commissioner Brenda Burman gave the seven Basin states a deadline of January 31 to approve the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). The Commissioner also provided information about how the Department of Interior would proceed if the states did not meet this deadline. As of mid-December, when the Commissioner gave her speech, entities in six of the seven basin states had provided necessary approvals. Arizona and some Contractors in California had not yet given the DCP approval.

Since that time, significant work has been done in Arizona to finalize their intrastate Steering Committee process, develop any related intrastate agreements and begin the process of receiving state legislative approval. On January 31, the state of Arizona passed legislation approving the DCP agreements. On February 1, Commissioner Burman held a press conference and announced that although significant work has been accomplished, the deadline of January 31 was not met by all of the parties. The Commissioner stated that additional agreements need to be approved within each state before the DCP could be implemented. Commissioner Burman then issued a notice in the Federal Register for input on a process to develop an alternative plan to address the drought conditions on the Colorado River. Input is requested by March 4. If Arizona and California complete their approval process for the DCP by March 4, Commissioner Burman would suspend the alternate process. Staff will provide an update on the status of the DCP at the February Water Planning and Stewardship Committee Meeting.