



## ● 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 May 2019.

### Purpose

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Informational

### Detailed Report

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#### **Drought Contingency Planning Signing Ceremony at Hoover Dam**

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) hosted a ceremony at Hoover Dam to sign the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) agreements on May 20. Representatives from the Department of Interior, Reclamation and all seven Colorado River Basin States gathered together to sign the package of interstate agreements designed to reduce risk of Lake Powell and Lake Mead declining to critically low reservoir elevations through 2026. The signing of the DCP agreements was also celebrated by the Republic of Mexico, which committed to make contributions to help support Lake Mead elevations in Minute 323, as well as several Tribes that have been actively involved in efforts to support the DCP's goals through creation of Intentionally Created Surplus and system water.

Related to the signing of the DCP, Reclamation approved new ICS exhibits for Metropolitan, which include descriptions of the type of conserved water that qualify for storage in Lake Mead as Intentionally Created Surplus. Included in the new ICS exhibits is water generated from turf removal and other conservation activities, Metropolitan's local resource program, and a seasonal fallowing program with Bard Water District. With the approval of the new ICS exhibits, Metropolitan now has qualified programs to store up to the maximum amount allowed to California under the DCP of 400,000 AF in any year. Given the wet conditions in California this year, Metropolitan plans to maximize storage in Lake Mead and target storing the full 400,000 AF annual limit.

#### **Bureau of Reclamation Issues 2018 Water Accounting Report**

On May 21, Reclamation issued the annual Colorado River Accounting and Water Use Report for Arizona, California and Nevada. The Water Accounting Report includes information on all deliveries and diversions from the mainstream of the Colorado River in the Lower Basin, as well as treaty deliveries to Mexico. Last year all of the Lower Division States (Arizona, Nevada and California) conserved water to create Intentionally Created Surplus that was stored in Lake Mead. Under Normal Conditions, like last year, the Lower Division States are allowed to take delivery of 7.5 million acre-feet annually, but the Lower Division States' total diversions in 2018 were under 7.2 million acre-feet, leaving more than 300,000 acre-feet of water in the reservoir which helped to raise the elevation of Lake Mead. Metropolitan finished the year with 625,000 acre-feet of ICS water stored in Lake Mead, the highest level in its history.