



## ● 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 June 2019.

### Purpose

---

Informational

### Detailed Report

---

#### **Metropolitan Submits Updated 2019 Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) Plan**

After the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) agreements became effective in May, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) requested that all Colorado River contractors with ICS accounts submit updated ICS Plans to reflect any changes resulting from implementation of the DCP. On June 17, Metropolitan submitted its updated 2019 ICS Plan. This update reflects Metropolitan's new and amended Extraordinary Conservation ICS (ECICS) exhibits, which added Metropolitan's conservation and local resource programs. This expansion in Metropolitan's conservation programs that qualify to create ECICS give Metropolitan greater flexibility in creating California's 400,000 acre-foot maximum annual ICS creation volume, which Metropolitan is targeting leaving in Lake Mead this year.

#### **Salinity Control Forum Meeting**

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> meeting in Denver, Colorado on June 5 and 6, and Metropolitan was elected to serve as Chair of the Forum. The Forum addressed the recent earthquake at the Paradox Valley Unit (PVU). PVU is a well in Colorado's Paradox Valley that Reclamation uses to inject naturally-occurring brine into a deep aquifer system at high pressures. The brine is extracted from shallow groundwater that would otherwise flow to the nearby Dolores River, which is tributary to the Colorado River, effectively reducing the Colorado River salt load by 95,000 tons per year—the largest single salt reduction project in the Basin. On March 4, 2019, a magnitude 4.5 earthquake near PVU prompted Reclamation to shut down the facility. Since that time, a total of 1,760 aftershocks have been measured. The U.S. Geological Survey suspects the high-pressure brine injection is responsible for this significant increase in seismic activity. It is not clear when, or if, injection at PVU will recommence. Reclamation is currently evaluating three brine disposal alternatives as part of an ongoing EIS process. The Forum also discussed the 2020 Triennial Review, a review mandated to occur every three years, which evaluates the water quality standards for salinity in the Colorado River. Metropolitan staff will provide input on Reclamation's modeling of salinity in the Colorado River and will contribute to the development of the Triennial Review report.

#### **Reclamation Begins 2020 Annual Operating Plan Consultation**

On June 4, Reclamation held the first of three annual consultation meetings regarding its Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River Reservoirs (AOP) for 2020. Each year Reclamation prepares an AOP that reports on operations of Colorado River Reservoirs during the past year, and projects operations and releases for the current year based on current and projected reservoir elevations and hydrologic conditions throughout the basin. The 2020 AOP will be the first to implement the recently finalized DCP agreements. Each year's AOP provides Metropolitan with significant operational information regarding projected releases from Lake Powell to Mead and whether the Lower Division States (California, Arizona and Nevada) will face normal, surplus or shortage conditions. Metropolitan uses information in the AOP to plan diversions, ICS creation and/or delivery, as well as interstate banking determinations. Based on current projections, there will be no surpluses or shortages in 2020.