



• 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 2019.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Metropolitan/Palo Verde Irrigation District Fallowing Program Update

Under the Fallowing Program, Palo Verde farmers refrain from irrigating between 7 and 28 percent of the valley lands in any year at the request of Metropolitan, making water that would have been used for farming on these lands available to Metropolitan. Land taken out of production is maintained in accordance with approved soil and water management plans, and rotated every one to five years. The program allows Metropolitan to receive additional water, while providing stable income to the farming community. Annual payments to farmers vary in response to actual acreage fallowed.

In July each year, Metropolitan issues a fallowing call for the contract year, beginning August 1 of the following year. Metropolitan is maintaining the current 40 percent fallowing call which will be in place for two years, from August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2021.

Pilot Study Proposal to the USBR 2019 Colorado River Basin Study Program

In April 2019, Metropolitan, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD), and the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) submitted a joint letter of interest proposing a pilot research study under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR's) Colorado River Basin Study Program. Based on the letter of interest, USBR invited the three agencies to submit a more formal joint proposal, which they did in July. USBR will evaluate the proposal against others to determine whether it will receive matching federal funds. If funded, the project would investigate methods used to quantify agricultural water conservation in the Lower Colorado River Basin (Lower Basin), focusing on case studies of seasonal fallowing, deficit irrigation, and irrigation equipment conversion (e.g., conversion from flood irrigation to sprinklers). The aim of the project is to evaluate existing quantification methods and suggest methodological improvements to better guide investment in Lower Basin agricultural conservation going forward. The project team would consist of Metropolitan, CAWCD, SNWA, USBR Lower Colorado Region, an outside consultant, and a broad stakeholder group.