



● **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 September 2019.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Bard Water District Seasonal Fallowing Program – Tentative Agreement

On September 19, Bard Water District voted to approve a draft term sheet outlining a proposal to extend the pilot Metropolitan-Bard seasonal fallowing program. The proposed program would be in place from 2020-2026, concurrent with the interstate agreement that allows Metropolitan to store water generated from the seasonal fallowing program in Lake Mead. The proposal incorporates lessons learned in the two-year pilot program, making the program more efficient and effective. Metropolitan staff is now working on environmental compliance and drafting an agreement for the program. The draft agreement will be brought for Metropolitan's Board consideration later this fall.

Minute 323 Implementation - Hydrology Work Group

In September 2019, Metropolitan attended a U.S.-only meeting of the Binational Hydrology Work Group (Hydrology Work Group) in Boulder City, Nevada. The Hydrology Work Group is one of several joint U.S.-Mexico groups that were tasked with implementing certain aspects of Minute 323. The Hydrology Work Group meets approximately twice a year to discuss how to address matters of hydrology in Minute 323. The meeting focused on development of a preliminary draft scope-of-work for the next one-to-two years of their activity, to be discussed with Mexican representatives in Tijuana at a meeting in October 2019. The Hydrology Work Group also discussed the importance of delaying negotiations regarding any controversial binational issues until after the renegotiation of the Interim Guidelines formally begins in 2020 or 2021 within the U.S.

Basin Study – New Pilot Program Authorized

The Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study effort included grant funding for qualifying pilot projects. In September 2019, USBR notified Metropolitan, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD), and the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) that their joint proposal for matching funds was successful and that USBR will provide \$200,000 to investigate methods of quantifying 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 proposal is to evaluate existing quantification methods and suggest methodological improvements to better guide investment in Lower Basin agricultural conservation going forward. The project team will consist of Metropolitan, CAWCD, SNWA, USBR Lower Colorado Region, an outside consultant, and a broad stakeholder group.