



## ● 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 2020.

### Purpose

---

Informational

### Detailed Report

---

#### Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

Last month the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) released a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for public comment. This DEIS describes the alternatives to replace the Paradox Valley Unit (Unit), a deep aquifer brine injection well that has been used to remove approximately 100,000 tons of salt each year from the Colorado River in the Upper Basin. Ongoing seismic activity in the vicinity of the Unit led Reclamation to temporarily discontinue use of the Unit because the brine injection from the well is believed to be the cause of the seismic activity. Since the DEIS was released, Metropolitan has participated in the Salinity Control Forum's (Forum) work to select a preferred alternative to recommend to Reclamation. Alternatives include a new injection well at a new location, evaporation ponds, and "Zero Liquid Discharge" (a proprietary technology that removes salt from saline water). Selecting an alternative that all Forum members support has been challenging because each alternative has implementation challenges. Forum members will continue discussion of the DEIS in coming weeks with the intent of reaching consensus by the DEIS comment deadline in mid-February.

#### Bard Water District Seasonal Fallowing Program - 2020 Fallowing Call

In December 2019, Metropolitan and Bard Water District (Bard) agreed to a seasonal fallowing program (Program). This Program incentivizes farmers within Bard to fallow up to 3,000 irrigable acres for a four month period at \$452 per acre, escalated annually. Metropolitan estimates a water savings of 1.5 to 2.0 acre-feet per irrigable acre. After the agreement was executed in December, Metropolitan sent a letter to Bard seeking participation of 3,000 irrigable acres within Bard Water District during 2020. In order to participate in the fallowing program, participants must notify Metropolitan of the land offered for fallowing by February 1, 2020 for summer 2020 (April 1–July 31) fallowing.