



● 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 2020.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Lake Powell Pipeline Draft Environmental Impact Statement Update

On September 24, 2020, the Utah Division of Water Resources (UDWR) and Washington County Water Conservancy District requested an extended timeline from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to consider comments received on the Lake Powell Pipeline project (LPP) draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted by the Colorado River Basin States, Tribes, water users, non-government organizations and members of the public. Following Reclamation's publication of the LPP draft EIS on June 20, 2020, over 14,000 comments were submitted during the public comment period. Metropolitan, the Colorado River Board of California, and the six Colorado River Basin States each submitted comment letters to Reclamation regarding the LPP DEIS. In response to this request for an extension of time, Reclamation will establish a new schedule for preparing a supplement to the draft EIS.

The LPP is a proposal by the state of Utah, through UDWR, to construct a pipeline that would divert approximately 86,000 acre feet (AF) of water from Lake Powell near Glen Canyon Dam in Page, Arizona, to Sand Hollow Reservoir near St. George, Utah, for use in Washington County, Utah. The UDWR is proposing to build the LPP in order to bring a second source of water to Washington County, Utah to meet future water demands, diversify the regional water supply portfolio, and enhance the reliability of the water supply.

Metropolitan's Colorado River Water Order for 2021

On September 15, Metropolitan submitted its Colorado River Diversion Estimate and Part 417 Consultation Questionnaire (Water Order) to Reclamation for calendar year 2021. Submitting the Water Order helps ensure Metropolitan's ability to fully access available Colorado River supplies. Metropolitan's 2021 Water Order estimates a total Colorado River water supply of 1.01 million AF, with a minimum diversion of 561,000 AF and a maximum creation of 450,000 AF of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus. The Water Order reflects the 45,000 AF of water that will be generated through the Palo Verde Irrigation District/Metropolitan Forbearance and Fallowing Program and the Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program.

Metropolitan Submits Seasonal Fallowing Call for Bard Water District

On September 30, Metropolitan submitted its notice to Bard Water District to fallow up to 3,000 acres of fallowable land during the spring and summer of 2021, which is the maximum allowed under the seasonal fallowing program. The program, which is in its second year, incentivizes farmers in Bard to not irrigate a crop between April 1 and August 30, when water use is high and crop value low. Bard farmers are not obligated to meet the full fallowing call and will respond to Metropolitan's request later this year to determine how many acres will be fallowed next year. Based on 2020 participation, it is anticipated that nearly the full fallowing call will be met.