



● 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 February 2021.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Warren H. Brock Reservoir Conservation Summary Report

Warren H. Brock Reservoir (Brock Reservoir), previously known as Drop 2 Reservoir, is an 8,000-acre-foot (AF) capacity regulatory water storage facility. It is in southern California, 25 miles west of Yuma, Arizona, adjacent to the All-American Canal near the Drop 2 Power Plant. The purpose of this facility is to augment regulatory storage capacity in the Colorado River system for flows below Parker Dam, which allows water to be conserved by reducing flows to Mexico in excess of treaty obligations. The construction costs of Brock Reservoir were funded jointly by Southern Nevada Water Authority, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, and Metropolitan. In exchange for the agencies' funding, each agency received Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) credits in Lake Mead.

In February, the Bureau of Reclamation published a study that documents the volume of water conserved by Brock Reservoir during calendar years 2013 through 2019. Conserved water was estimated based on the modeled difference in regulatory storage below Parker Dam with and without Brock Reservoir based on actual operations during those years. Model results show that Brock Reservoir has conserved approximately 389,339 AF, or 55,620 AF per year. Lake Mead is about 5 feet higher today because of the operation of Brock Reservoir. Based on those results Brock Reservoir is projected to conserve an additional 2,392,000 AF over the remaining life (43 years) of the project. The actual volume will be larger or smaller depending on year-to-year variability of hydrologic conditions, rainfall events, and other operational considerations along the lower Colorado River, though total conservation will be far in excess of the 600,000 AF of System Efficiency ICS granted to project funders. The estimated annual volume of water conserved by Brock Reservoir will be reported in future Decree Accounting Reports.

Outlook for Lake Mead Continues to Decline

At the end of February, Lake Mead had reached its high point for the year, and the forecast is for it to drop precipitously for the next 18 months. Lake Mead currently stands at 1,087 feet, which is 12 feet above the shortage trigger. However, as Lower Basin demands begin to increase and releases from Lake Powell decrease, Lake Mead is forecast to decrease by 30 feet by the end of next summer and reach 1,057 feet. It is also likely that this August, Reclamation will declare a first ever shortage for the Lower Basin states. This initial shortage would impact Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico. California, because of its higher priority status, would not be cutback in this initial shortage. However, if Lake Mead were to drop an additional 12 feet below the current forecast, California and Metropolitan would be required to contribute water to Lake Mead under the terms of the Drought Contingency Plan. Staff will keep the Committee updated on the outlook for the Colorado Basin as it enters the key spring months where temperatures can have a large impact on amount of snowmelt runoff.

Family Farm Alliance Virtual Annual Conference

The Family Farm Alliance held a virtual Annual Conference, "Bridge Over Troubled Water" that featured U.S. Senators, members of the House of Representatives, staff from Senate and House natural resources committees, Regional Directors from the Bureau of Reclamation, as well as recently named Department of

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Interior appointees. Discussions focused on infrastructure needs and financing, and the current dry conditions throughout the West. Metropolitan staff attended this conference.