



## ● Colorado River Management Report

### Summary

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This report provides a summary of activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River resources for the month of March 2021.

### Purpose

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Informational

### Detailed Report

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#### Quantification Settlement Agreement Annual Meeting

Metropolitan staff attended the annual Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) Implementation Workshop in a virtual format, hosted by Imperial Irrigation District (IID). The purpose of the annual meeting is to review each agency's accomplishments in the prior year and verify conservation amounts needed for the QSA water transfers. Metropolitan, IID, Coachella Valley Water District, and San Diego County Water Authority made presentations summarizing significant activities and conservation achievements made during calendar year 2020. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation made a presentation on preliminary 2020 Colorado River water accounting and 2021 water supply numbers. Finally, IID's consultant gave a detailed presentation on the quantitative verification of IID's System Discharge Reduction Conservation Program, a new method IID developed to save water to meet its transfer obligations. Metropolitan is reviewing the data and will make that determination before the 2020 Decree Accounting Report is finalized in May 2020.

#### Bard Fallowing Program Update

The Bard Land Management and Seasonal Fallowing Program (Program) between Metropolitan and Bard Water District (Bard) successfully launched last year with the fallowing of 2,750 irrigable acres. For the 2021 Fallowing Season, Metropolitan executed agreements with five farmers, four of which also participated in the 2020 Fallowing Season. The five farmers within the Bard Unit will fallow approximately 2,950 irrigable acres of land from April 1 – July 31, 2021. However, due to unforeseen shipping schedule delays that affected harvest schedule, Metropolitan will be allowing the fallowing of five parcels within one participating farmer's land to occur from April 15 – August 15, 2021, instead of April 1 – July 31, 2021. Staff has determined this flexibility will allow the farmer to fully participate without compromising the integrity of the Program. By providing an annual incentive of \$459 per irrigable acre fallowed, Metropolitan will issue a total payment of \$1.37 million for this year's fallowing season. In addition to the payments to participating farmers, Bard will receive an estimated payment of \$353,400, which includes \$15,000 for direct program costs and system improvements. Metropolitan anticipates that it will receive about 6,000 acre-feet of Colorado River supply under this program this year.

#### CLE's Annual Law of the River Conference

Metropolitan staff co-chaired CLE's annual Law of the River Conference in March. Due to the pandemic, this year's conference was held virtually. The annual Law of the River Conference, which has been co-chaired by Metropolitan staff for more than 20 years, highlights past successes, current issues, and future challenges facing the Colorado River. This year's conference included a panel that highlighted the benefits of the Metropolitan/Southern Nevada Water Authority partnership, including the potential partnership in the development of the Regional Recycling Project in Carson. Additional topics included effort to reduce demand in the Upper Colorado River Basin and Arizona's challenges dealing with a potential first-ever shortage declaration for 2022. Next year, the conference hopes to return to a live event in Santa Fe, New Mexico to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the signing of the Colorado River Compact.