



## ● 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 April 2021

### Purpose

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Informational

### Detailed Report

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#### **U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Issues April 24-Month Study**

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) uses the April 24-Month Study to predict inflows into Lake Powell, model possible reservoir elevations, and pursuant to the 2007 Interim Guidelines, determine operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Water Year 2021 will be governed by the Upper Elevation Balancing Tier. Since Lake Powell does not have enough storage to increase releases, there will be an 8.23 million acre-feet release from Lake Powell to Lake Mead. Runoff projections of unregulated inflow into Lake Powell between April and July 2021 are 45 percent of the 30-year average. In Water Year 2021 the Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) Surplus Condition applies, which gives Metropolitan and other ICS contractors the option to order delivery of ICS, which Metropolitan is planning to do based on the low State Water Project allocation.

The study also reinforces the prior forecast of a first-ever shortage declaration being made in August of 2021, which would result in reduced deliveries to Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico in 2022. Metropolitan's water supplies would not be impacted unless and until Lake Mead reaches 1,045 feet, which is very unlikely to occur within in the next two years. This spring, as was the case in the spring of 2020, highlights the concerns of warming temperatures, which cause early melt of the snowpack, resulting in higher evaporation and transpiration losses and less water flowing into the reservoirs.

#### **Testimony Submitted to Congress Requesting Funding of Salinity Control Programs**

Metropolitan submitted six letters to Congress requesting funding of various programs related to salinity control in the Colorado River Basin. Testimony was submitted supporting funding for salinity control programs in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Land Management and Reclamation, which provides funding for the Salinity Control Forum (Forum).

The Forum is an organization of the seven Colorado River Basin states (Basin States) that guides state and federal agency work to implement the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. The Forum also works with Congress on Program reauthorization and funding, as well as promoting efforts to reduce salt loading to the Colorado River. The program keeps 1.2 million tons of salt out of the Colorado River annually. Metropolitan currently holds one of the three Governor-appointed positions representing California on the Forum's Board of Directors.

#### **Basin States Letter for Reappointment of U.S. IBWC Commissioner**

The Basin States sent a letter of support for the reappointment of Jayne Harkins as Commissioner of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC). The IBWC was formed by treaty in 1944 to regulate and exercise the respective rights and obligations of the United States and the Republic of Mexico regarding boundary disputes and the shared use of the waters of the Colorado River, the Rio Grande, and the Tijuana River. The IBWC is an international body consisting of United States and Mexican "Sections;" each Section headed by a Commissioner. Ms. Harkins was appointed to the position of United States Commissioner in 2018 but was asked to step down from the position in 2020. Because the position is still vacant, the Basin States

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have encouraged her reappointment based on her knowledge of binational issues heading into important negotiations with Mexico concerning the Colorado River.