



• 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 June 2021.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Agreement to Share Lake Mead Intentionally Created Surplus Storage Space

Metropolitan is working with the Arizona Department of Water Resources (Arizona), Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and the Colorado River Commission of Nevada to develop an agreement that would allow the parties to share Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) accumulation space in Lake Mead through 2026. Currently, Lake Mead elevations are declining while at the same time, Arizona and SNWA are close to running out of ICS accumulation space. Based on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) May 2021, 24-Month Study the first ever shortage declaration is projected to happen in 2022. This agreement will encourage Arizona and SNWA to conserve and store ICS in Lake Mead, which will help to reduce the decline of Lake Mead elevations. This agreement protects Metropolitan's ability to store the full amount of ICS that it may create, as provided in the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan and enhances flexibility for the parties to store ICS through the end of the Interim Period in 2026.

Metropolitan and PVID Agree on Voluntary Fallowing Program

In anticipation of implementing an agreement with Reclamation, SNWA, and Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) to fund additional fallowing in the Palo Verde Valley this year, Metropolitan and Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) agreed on terms to implement a voluntary short-term fallowing program. Currently, due to Metropolitan's significant storage balance in Lake Mead, the fallowing call in PVID is set to be at the minimum level starting in August of this year. At the same time, Lake Mead's total storage is dropping, and is anticipated to reach the lowest level on record this June. To augment Lake Mead storage, Reclamation, SNWA, CAWCD, and Metropolitan are considering a system conservation agreement to fund additional land fallowing in PVID, with the conserved water remaining in Lake Mead as system water. If approved, those parties would begin funding additional fallowing this August.

In Metropolitan's fallowing agreement with PVID, Metropolitan makes a fallowing call one year in advance, and the fallowing level this August was made in July of 2020. In order to increase fallowing for a system conservation agreement this August, a new agreement is needed with PVID. Under the terms of the agreement, participating farmers would voluntarily fallow additional lands to meet the new fallowing call and have the option of beginning the additional fallowing the first of any month from August through December of 2021. Payments to the farmers would be prorated based on the number of months the land was fallowed. Lands that Metropolitan owns would also be included in the program at the same fallowing level. The new agreement would only be implemented if the agencies considering the system conservation agreement execute a funding agreement.