



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Colorado River Resources

• Colorado River Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River resources for May 20–June 16, 2025.

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

[Draft 2026 Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River Reservoirs](#)

Detailed Report

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Begins 2026 Annual Operating Plan Consultation

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) held the first of three annual consultation meetings regarding its Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River Reservoirs (AOP) for 2026 (The link is attached above). Each year Reclamation prepares an AOP that reports on operations of Colorado River Reservoirs during the past year, and projects operations and releases for the current year based on current and projected reservoir elevations and hydrologic conditions throughout the Basin. The AOP provides Metropolitan with significant operational information regarding projected releases from Lake Powell to Lake Mead and whether the Lower Division States (California, Arizona and Nevada) will be at normal, surplus, or shortage conditions. Metropolitan uses information in the AOP to plan diversions, ICS creation and/or delivery, interstate banking determinations, and Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) Contributions. The draft 2026 AOP forecasts annual Lake Powell releases of 7.48 million acre-feet, shortages and DCP Contributions from Arizona and Nevada, and water savings contributions from Mexico.

Ted Cooke Nominated for Commissioner of Reclamation

On June 16, the former general manager of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) was nominated by President Trump to lead the Bureau of Reclamation as its next commissioner. Metropolitan has a long working relationship with Mr. Cooke and his former agency. He was general manager of CAWCD, which operates the Central Arizona Project, from 2016 through 2023.

Salinity Control Forum Activities

In early June, staff participated in the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum meeting in Utah. The meeting included a one-day retreat to discuss potential reforms to the Salinity Control Program. Those potential reforms include consideration of including a water conservation component to the Program, changing the cost-share formula so that Arizona pays their fair share, and exploring new opportunities to reduce salinity through non-point source control by capturing salt from several saline springs in the Basin. The salinity of the Colorado River has been stable for the last several years, but there is concern that climate change could increase the River's salinity if the flow continues to decrease, so long-term salinity planning is important to the Forum.

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