



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Colorado River Resources Group

- **Colorado River Management Report**

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River resources for May 2024.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Publishes 2023 Water Accounting Report

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation published the annual Water Accounting Report (Report) for 2023. This is the official accounting record of the Lower Basin States' mainstem Colorado River consumptive use, required by the decree in *Arizona v. California*. Over the years, the information included in this Report has grown. Now, in addition to the official record of consumptive use of Colorado river water, this Report also contains information on Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) and all transfers, exchanges, and system water creation in the Lower Basin. It is also used to track Drought Contingency Plan contributions and most recently, Reservoir Protection Conservation volumes that apply towards meeting the goal of 3 million acre-feet of additional conservation by the end of 2026 in accordance with the 2024 Near-Term Colorado River Operations Record of Decision.

The Report shows that the Lower Basin's consumptive use was just 5.8 million acre-feet (MAF); the lowest consumptive use by the three lower basin states since Lakes Powell and Mead were making flood control releases in the early 1980s. This Report also shows that California's consumptive use was just 3.7 MAF; the lowest consumptive use since the water account Report was first published in 1964. The Report reflects Metropolitan's creation of 450,000 AF of ICS, and that the lower basin states collectively have over 3.3 MAF stored in Lake Mead as ICS. Additionally, the Report shows that over 1.18 MAF of Reservoir Protection Conservation was added to the system, over one third of the goal of the 2024 Near-Term Colorado River Operations Record of Decision.

Tour of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Projects

On Friday, May 17, Board Chair Ortega, Directors Cordero and Ackerman, along with senior Metropolitan staff spent the day with leaders of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, known as CRIT. The CRIT reservation straddles the Colorado River south of Parker Dam, and irrigates over 70,000 acres of land mostly in the state of Arizona with some in California. CRIT tribal leaders hosted a tour for the Metropolitan team highlighting the conservation CRIT has implemented to be more efficient, including the installation of new drip irrigation systems. The tour also included a stop at Headgate Rock Dam, which was constructed to provide water for the CRIT irrigation system and native habitat recovery area, in which invasive salt cedar has been replaced with native willow and cottonwoods. The tour concluded with a visit to the California lands and some impressive wetlands created to provide fish habitat.

Board Report Colorado River Management Report

Following the tour, CRIT leadership, including Chairwoman Amelia Flores, hosted the Metropolitan team for lunch. The chairwoman was grateful of the new partnership that is developing with Metropolitan, and stated she looks forward to increased collaboration between our agencies. Chair Ortega highlighted the momentous occasion as being the first time Metropolitan's Board chair has visited the CRIT reservation and spent a day collaborating with tribal leadership. And in return for the gesture, Metropolitan offered to host a tour of Metropolitan's service area to CRIT leadership later this year.