



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

## Colorado River Resources

### • 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 June 17 – July 28, 2025.

#### Purpose

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Informational

#### Detailed Report

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**Develop Post-2026 Guidelines and Negotiate Implementation Agreements: Provide input that shapes U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) selected alternative**

##### **Colorado River Basin States (Basin States) Meetings**

The Basin States are meeting frequently in an effort to reach consensus on an alternative for Post-2026 operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. This spring, the Basin States agreed to focus on the Supply-Driven Alternative that would provide a fixed percentage of river inflow to the Upper Basin and base Lake Powell releases on the average of the last three years of inflow— using hydrology instead of reservoir elevations like the current guidelines. The releases from Lake Powell would supply both the Lower Basin and Mexico Treaty deliveries. The Interior Department and Reclamation support the Basin States effort to reach a consensus alternative that may be incorporated into the Post-2026 Guidelines. Metropolitan staff participates in these meetings as advisors to California's representative in the Basin States negotiations, JB Hamby, in his role as Chair of the Colorado River Board of California.

**Develop Post-2026 Guidelines and Negotiate Implementation Agreements: Negotiate implementation agreements that protect and benefit Metropolitan's interests**

##### **California 440 Meetings**

California, Arizona, and Nevada have tentatively agreed to reduce Lower Basin water use by 1.5 million acre-feet (maf) under most system conditions to address evaporation and other system losses - often referred to as the structural deficit. The 1.5 maf of reductions includes 250,000 acre-feet (af) that is contingent on Mexico's participation at past levels. California's share of the 1.5 maf would be 440,000 af (440). The California contractors have started meeting to develop commitments to meet California's 440. Metropolitan is working with the other contractors to develop principles for sharing California's Colorado River reductions in the Post-2026 Guidelines. The agencies have agreed to develop a proposal for sharing reduction by this November. Staff will provide updates and receive board direction on the process as it moves forward.

**Desert Water Agency (Desert), Coachella Valley Water District (Coachella), and Metropolitan meet to negotiate an extension of their Exchange Agreement**

Staff from Desert, Coachella, and Metropolitan met in July to discuss terms for extending the three-party agreement for exchanging State Water Project with Colorado River supplies. The current agreement expires in 2035, and Desert and Coachella are interested in extending that agreement this year, so that they can be assured that the money they are considering investing in Sites Reservoir, the Delta Conveyance Project, and other State

Date of Report: 8/18/2025

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Water Project activities can result in water deliveries post 2035. The agencies are targeting board actions in December. Staff will provide updates to the Board as the negotiations develop.