



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 November 14 – December 19, 2025

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Interior Department Leadership Remarks at the 2025 Colorado River Water Users Association Conference (CRWUA)

Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Andrea Travincek and Acting U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Commissioner Scott Cameron made remarks during the annual CRWUA conference in Las Vegas emphasizing the importance of the Basin States reaching consensus on the Post-2026 Guidelines with Assistant Secretary Travincek stating that the "time of grandstanding and rhetoric has passed" and "the river will not wait for us." She reiterated a deadline of February 14, 2026, for the Basin States to reach agreement on terms for new Guidelines, which would affect Colorado River operations starting in October 2025. She also announced that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Post-2026 Guidelines would be released for public comment in the next few months.

Develop Post-2026 Guidelines and Negotiate Implementation Agreements: Provide input that shapes Reclamation's selected alternative

Colorado River Basin States (Basin States) Meetings

The Basin States are meeting regularly to develop agreement on the key operational elements of the Post-2026 Guidelines including criteria for releases from Lake Powell, Lower Basin reduction triggers, storage in Lake Mead, and whether and under what conditions the Upper Basin will reduce water uses. Metropolitan staff participates in these meetings as advisors to California's principal representative in the Basin States negotiations, JB Hamby, in his role as Chair of the Colorado River Board of California. Several work groups have been formed to answer questions raised by the principals, including questions about needed flexibility in accessing Intentionally Created Surplus supplies from Lake Mead. Metropolitan staff participates in each of the work groups. The Basin States have regular discussions to meet a February 14 deadline established by the Interior Department to reach agreement on the criteria noted above. Staff will provide an update during Metropolitan's January One Water and Adaptation Committee Meeting.

Metropolitan – Palo Verde Irrigation District System Conservation Implementation Agreement Amendment

Amendment No. 1 to the System Conservation Implementation Agreement revises the existing arrangement among Metropolitan, Reclamation, and Palo Verde Irrigation District to allow Reclamation to fund agricultural land fallowing in the Palo Verde Valley as part of the Lower Colorado Conservation and Efficiency Program. Instead of diverting the water that would otherwise be available under the Palo Verde forbearance program,

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Metropolitan allows that water to remain in Lake Mead as verified Colorado River System Conservation Water in exchange for federal compensation.

The original agreement covers a three-year period from August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2026, with an amendment adding a five-month period in late 2026, and provides for up to full participation in fallowing, generating additional system conservation. Reclamation will pay \$400 per acre-foot for verified conserved water, subject to accounting and verification requirements. The agreement preserves Metropolitan's option to call back and divert a portion of the conserved water in later periods, in which case no federal compensation applies. All other terms of the original agreement remain in effect.