



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of the General Manager

• Colorado River Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River resources for December 2023.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

California Conservation Agreements Signing Ceremony

Following Metropolitan's November 14 and December 5 Board approval of various agreements with its partners in California, on December 13, as part of the Colorado River Water Users Association's annual conference, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) signed numerous water conservation agreements with California water agencies and the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe (Quechan Tribe) to help meet the state's commitment to conserve 1.6 million acre-feet of water for Lake Mead's benefit through 2026. Metropolitan's General Manager and General Counsel signed conservation agreements with Imperial Irrigation District, Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID), the Quechan Tribe, Coachella Valley Water District, and San Diego County Water Authority. These agreements will collectively leave about 250,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead this year. The agreements with PVID and the Quechan Tribe will leave additional water in Lake Mead through 2026. These agreements, along with Metropolitan's projected record amount of storing a projected 450,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead in 2023, have resulted in California's water use being at its lowest level since 1949.

Clarification Regarding Management of Binational Intentionally Created Surplus

In 2017, as part of Treaty Minute 323 with the country of Mexico, Metropolitan and its partners agreed to fund conservation in Mexico, with the conserved water being shared by both countries. The parties to the Minute 323 Contributed Funds Agreement clarified provisions of that agreement regarding water that was conserved in Mexico with funding from Metropolitan, Imperial Irrigation District, Southern Nevada Water Authority, and Central Arizona Water Conservation District (Funding Parties). Reclamation and the Funding Parties exchanged a letter agreement clarifying that Reclamation will account for 36,367 acre-feet of water provided by Mexico to the United States pursuant to the schedule established in Treaty Minute 323 by the end of 2023 and that Reclamation will credit that water to the Funding Parties' Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) accounts by the end of 2026. This clarification allows compliance with the schedule provided in Treaty Minute 323 and results in additional space being available in California's ICS accumulation space through 2026 because Reclamation will credit the binational ICS to the Funding Parties in 2026 instead of this year.