



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Colorado River Resources

• Colorado River Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation 2025 Annual Operating Plan Consultation

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) held the second of three annual consultation meetings regarding its Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River Reservoirs (AOP) for 2025. 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, Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) creation and/or delivery, interstate banking determinations, and Drought Contingency Plan Contributions.

Reclamation's draft AOP states that the annual release from Lake Powell is forecast to be 7.48 million acre-feet. The Lower Basin is forecast to be in shortage condition, requiring Nevada, Arizona, and Mexico to take shortages and make Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) contributions. California is not forecast to be required to make DCP contributions in 2025. ICS may be created and delivered, and reservoir protection conservation as provided in the Lower Basin Plan will be implemented consistent with the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision.

Metropolitan Issues Annual Fallowing Call for Palo Verde Program

By July 31 of each year, Metropolitan is required to make an annual fallowing call for the amount of land it wishes to be fallowed in Palo Verde Valley for the following two years. This year, the call was for 100 percent of the lands to be fallowed from 2025-2026. However, rather than the water being made available to Metropolitan, the water will be added to Lake Mead as system water, per the terms of the System Conservation Agreement executed by Reclamation, Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID), and Metropolitan. Reclamation is funding the entire cost of the program and will be receiving 117,000 acre-feet per year through 2026. Part of Reclamation's funding will be set aside to fund community improvement projects in the city of Blythe and the surrounding area. A committee of three directors, each from PVID and Metropolitan, will be meeting to determine the process for selecting projects to be funded by the nearly \$7.5 million that was established through an agreement signed by PVID and Metropolitan.