



One Water and Stewardship Committee

Update on Colorado River System Conservation Agreements

Item 6b

June 10, 2024

Subject

Update on Colorado River System Conservation Agreements

Purpose

(1) Provide information on what forbearance is and why it is important in the context of system conservation agreements and (2) update the Board on the status of Colorado River System Conservation Agreements and related forbearance for 2024-2026

Next Steps

Finalize agreements and return to Board with action item to authorize forbearance of Colorado River System Conservation Agreements

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Update on Colorado River System Conservation Agreements

Metropolitan is the Junior Priority User in California

California Priority System (1931)

1. Palo Verde Irrigation District
 2. Yuma Project
 3. (a) Imperial Irrigation District (IID)
Coachella Valley Water District
(b) Palo Verde Irrigation District
 4. Metropolitan Water District
- 3.85 MAF
- 0.55 MAF

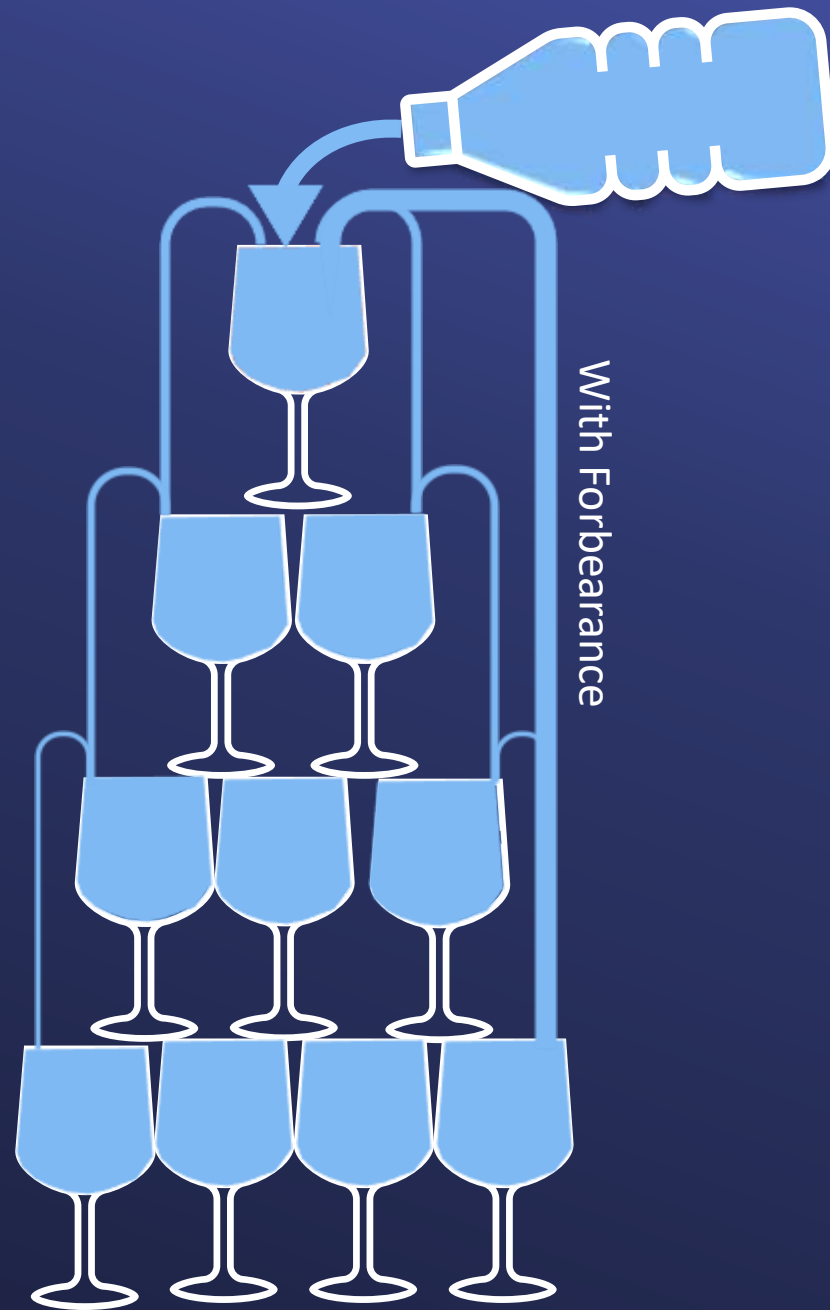
Total CA Basic Apportionment 4.4 MAF

5. Metropolitan Water District
 6. (a) IID and CVWD
(b) Palo Verde Irrigation District
- 0.662 MAF
- 0.3 MAF



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Junior Priority Is the First to be Cut When Water Isn't Available



Risks

When there is insufficient water, junior priority is first to be cut

Benefit

Unused water from higher priorities is made available

Priorities Adjusted Under Quantification Settlement Agreement

California Priority System (1931) + 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement

1. Palo Verde Irrigation District
2. Yuma Project
3. (a) Imperial Irrigation District -----> 3.1 MAF
Coachella Valley Water District --> 0.33 MAF
(b) Palo Verde Irrigation District -----> 0.42 MAF Avg
4. Metropolitan Water District -----> 0.55 MAF

Total CA Basic Apportionment 4.4 MAF



Forbearance is Necessary

Forbearance agreements are the mechanism for ensuring conserved water stays in Lake Mead under the priority system

Metropolitan

Palo Verde
Irrigation
District

Coachella
Valley
Water
District

Imperial
Irrigation
District

City of
Needles

2024-2026 Forbearance Agreement System Conservation Projects

MWD Approved Forbearance in Previous Board Actions

- PVID System Conservation Project
- Bard System Conservation Project
- Quechan System Conservation Project

MWD Approval for Forbearance Still Needed

- IID Irrigation Reduction System Conservation Project
 - Concept developed in partnership with IID, SDCWA, and MWD
- CVWD's Agricultural System Conservation Project
- CVWD's Groundwater Replenishment System Conservation Project

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Next Steps

IID, SDCWA, and MWD to discuss how to jointly participate in System Conservation Agreement

IID and USBR to finalize System Conservation Agreement

Finalize terms of the 2024-2026 forbearance agreement

Seek Board approval of 2024-2026 forbearance agreement



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Update on Colorado River System Conservation Agreements

Purpose

Update the Board on the status of Colorado River System Conservation Agreements for 2024-2026

Next Steps

Finalize agreements and return to Board with Action Item to Authorize Colorado River System Conservation Agreements

Item # Update on Colorado River System Conservation Agreements

Background

November 2023

**MWD Board approves
forbearance for IID and
CVWD Lower Colorado
System Conservation
projects for 2023**

December 2023

**MWD Board approves PVID,
Bard, and Quechan Lower
Colorado System
Conservation projects**



CVWD System Conservation Project

Groundwater Replenishment Reduction in CVWD



- USBR to fund up to 35,000 acre-feet per year in 2024, 2025, and 2026
- Reduction in groundwater replenishment deliveries
- Verification through measured deliveries to Tom Levy Groundwater Recharge facility
- No impact to MWD's Advanced Delivery Account

Agricultural Conservation in CVWD



CVWD System Conservation Project

- USBR to fund up to 10,000 acre-feet per year in 2024, 2025, and 2026
- Reduction in agricultural water use
 - Fields must be irrigated with Colorado River water
 - No source switching
- New program to retire permanent crops and leave land fallowed
- Potential future additional new programs
- Verification through locked delivery gates and meter measurements

Irrigation Reduction in Imperial Irrigation District

IID System Conservation Project

- USBR to fund up to conservation in 2024, 2025, and 2026
- Potential source of reduced irrigation water:
 - ✓ Water planned for transfer to SDCWA
 - ✓ Water planned for transfer to IID
 - ✓ IID's Existing Conservation Programs
 - ✓ New Programs
 - Crop switching, deficit irrigation, fallowing

Design Resources

Document Fonts.

This presentation uses two primary fonts. Both are open-source Google fonts. Find the font specifications and download locations below:

Prata

<https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Prata?query=prata>

Roboto

<https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Roboto>



PROGRAMS



PUMPING



EXCHANGES



POINTS



CONSERVATION



STRATEGY



GROUNDWATER



SUBSIDENCE



WATER RATES



PARTNERSHIP



SNOWPACK



HABITAT



WASTEWATER



EARTHQUAKE



DROUGHT



VETERAN



LOCATION



WILDLIFE



ECONOMY



INFRASTRUCTURE



STORAGE

Design Resources

Icon Suite.

Here is a complementary suite of custom icons that represent many of Metropolitan's common talking points and functions. Suggested applications are included, but feel free to use them in any context that makes sense in your presentation.

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