



One Water and Stewardship Committee

Authorize Colorado River System Conservation Agreements

Item 8-1

August 19, 2024

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Authorize Colorado River System Conservation Agreements

Subject

Authorize the General Manager to enter into (1) a forbearance agreement with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, Palo Verde Irrigation District, and the City of Needles to allow water conserved under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's conservation program to be added to Lake Mead, and (2) agreements with Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego County Water Authority under Reclamation's conservation program to add water conserved by Imperial Irrigation District to Lake Mead that would otherwise accrue San Diego County Water Authority

Purpose

To obtain Board approval for agreements allowing water conserved by CVWD and IID to be added to Lake Mead under Reclamation's LC Conservation Program in 2024-26.

Recommendation and Fiscal Impact

Authorize entering into agreements to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under Reclamation's LC Conservation Program in 2024-26.

Budget

Not budgeted.

Metropolitan would benefit from increased revenues through increased full-service sales to SDCWA.

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**

June 2024

**Update on status of
additional conservation
projects under development
and forbearance**



Two Agreements for Board Approval

1

Forbearance Agreement with CVWD, IID, PVID,
and City of Needles

2

Implementing Agreements with IID and SDCWA

2024-2026 Forbearance Agreement for System Conservation Projects

Forbearance Agreements

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

- IID Irrigation Reduction System Conservation Project
- CVWD's Agricultural System Conservation Project
- CVWD's Groundwater Replenishment System Conservation Project

**MWD Approved Forbearance
in Previous Board Actions**

**MWD Approval for
Forbearance Still Needed**

CVWD System Conservation Project

- ❖ Project: Reduction in groundwater replenishment
- ❖ Volume: 35,000 acre-feet per year
- ❖ Duration: 2024 and 2025

No Impact to MWD's Advanced Delivery Account

Groundwater
Replenishment
Reduction in
CVWD



CVWD System Conservation Project

- ❖ Project: Fallowing
- ❖ Volume: Up to 10,000 acre-feet per year
- ❖ Duration: 2024, 2025, 2026

Agricultural Conservation in CVWD



Irrigation Reduction in Imperial Irrigation District

IID System Conservation Project

❖ Projects:

- IID's Existing On-Farm Conservation Program
 - Including water planned for transfer to SDCWA
- New Deficit Irrigation Program
- Potential Fallowing Program

❖ Volume:

- Annual: Up to 300,000 AF
- Cumulative: Up to 700,000 AF

❖ Duration: 2024, 2025, 2026

Implementing Agreements with IID and SDCWA

Terms

- Source: IID/SDCWA Transfer
- Volumes :
 - 2024: Up to 100,000 AF
 - 2025: Up to 100,000 AF
 - 2026: Up to 100,000 AF
- SDCWA agrees to purchase a like amount of MWD water

Financial Impact

- Additional revenue dependent on volumes
 - Expected 50-75 TAF in 2024, would result in \$16.6M - \$24.9 M in extra revenue

Part of \$60M
Revenue Target
for FY24-25

Board Options

- Option #1

Authorize the General Manager to enter into: (1) a forbearance agreement with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, Palo Verde Irrigation District, and the City of Needles to allow water conserved under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's conservation program to be added to Lake Mead, and (2) agreements with IID and San Diego County Water Authority under Reclamation's conservation program to add water conserved by Imperial Irrigation District to Lake Mead that would otherwise accrue to San Diego County Water Authority

- Option #2

Direct the General Manager not to enter into agreements under the proposed terms.

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

