



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 April 15 – May 19, 2025.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

2025 California Forbearance Agreement

The California Forbearance agreement authorized by the Board was executed on April 14, 2025. This agreement covers long-term system conservation projects in California paid for with Inflation Reduction Act "Bucket 2" funds (Bucket 2 agreements). In the agreement, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Imperial Irrigation District, Palo Verde Irrigation District, the City of Needles, and Metropolitan agreed to not take delivery of water conserved pursuant to System Conservation Implementation Agreements with Reclamation through 2026 and to leave that water in Lake Mead as system water. System conservation agreements covered under this forbearance agreement include conservation activities in both Metropolitan and CVWD and will cover up to 338,000 acre-feet (AF) of conserved water added to Lake Mead, or a little over 4 feet. With this agreement in place, Metropolitan was able to credit the approximately 27,000 AF it left in Lake Mead in 2024 towards its turf replacement and high desert water bank system conservation implementation agreements.

2024 Lower Basin Colorado River Water Accounting Report

On May 15, the Bureau of Reclamation issued its annual water accounting report, documenting Colorado River water use and transfers in 2024. Included in the report is a summary of the 2023 action, in which Arizona, California, and Nevada collectively pledged to conserve an additional 3 million AF of water in Lake Mead through 2026. This initiative, formalized in the 2024 Record of Decision, aimed to stabilize reservoir levels and mitigate the risk of critical shortages. By the end of 2024, the Lower Basin States had conserved over 2 million acre-feet (MAF), exceeding the target of 1.5 MAF. In 2024, each of the three Lower Basin States used far less than its allocation. Out of California's basic apportionment of 4.4 MAF allocation, California contractors and entitlement holders used 3.9 MAF, voluntarily conserving 456,000 AF. Arizona voluntarily conserved 306,000 AF, and Nevada conserved 75,000 AF.

Quechan Seasonal Fallowing Program Resumes

Seven farmers on California lands located within the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation are participating in this year's Metropolitan-Quechan Pilot Seasonal Land Fallowing Program. Participation has increased each year, with this year's fallowing participation totaling 455.4 acres from April 1 to July 31, 2025. Metropolitan staff, with the

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Quechan Tribe's Water Technician, conducted in-person verifications of the fallowed fields on Monday, April 1, 2025, in the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation. All of the lands were verified to be fallowed during that time. Metropolitan staff will conduct a final in-person inspection the last week of July to verify that the lands remained fallowed. Staff are estimating a water savings of about 780 AF, and Metropolitan is making a payment of \$547.74 per acre fallowed, with 75 percent paid to the farmers and 25 percent to the Quechan Tribe. Metropolitan will pay the Quechan Tribe an additional \$15,000 for direct program costs.