

One Water and Stewardship Committee

Authorize Colorado River System Conservation Agreements

Item 8-3 November 13, 2023

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Authorize Colorado River System Conservation Agreements

Subject

Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program in 2023

|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 2023.

Recommendation and Fiscal Impact

Authorize entering into agreements with CVWD, IID, and SDCWA to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under Reclamation's LC Conservation Program in 2023; Increased CY 2023 sales by 50,000 AF

¹Budget

Not budgeted. Metropolitan would benefit from increased revenues through full-service sales to SDCWA

Background

Spring/Summer 2022

USBR calls for 2-4 MAF of annual reductions in response to historic low reservoir elevations

October 2022

California submits proposal to cut 400 TAF each year from 2023-2026

April 2023

USBR publishes original
Draft Supplemental
Environmental Impact
Statement (SEIS)

October 2023

USBR publishes Revised
Draft SEIS; designates
Lower Basin Proposal as
the



August 2022

\$4 billion for drought mitigation within Inflation Reduction Act

Winter 2023

Upper Colorado
River Basin receives
near-record
snowpack

May 2023

Lower Basin Plan proposes to conserve at least 3 MAF from 2023-2026

2 California System Conservation Projects

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CVWD's Groundwater Replenishment System Conservation Project

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IID Irrigation Reduction System Conservation Project

 Concept developed in partnership with IID, SDCWA, and MWD

Metropolitan's Forbearance is Necessary

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

Groundwater Replenishment Reduction in CVWD



CVWD System Conservation Project

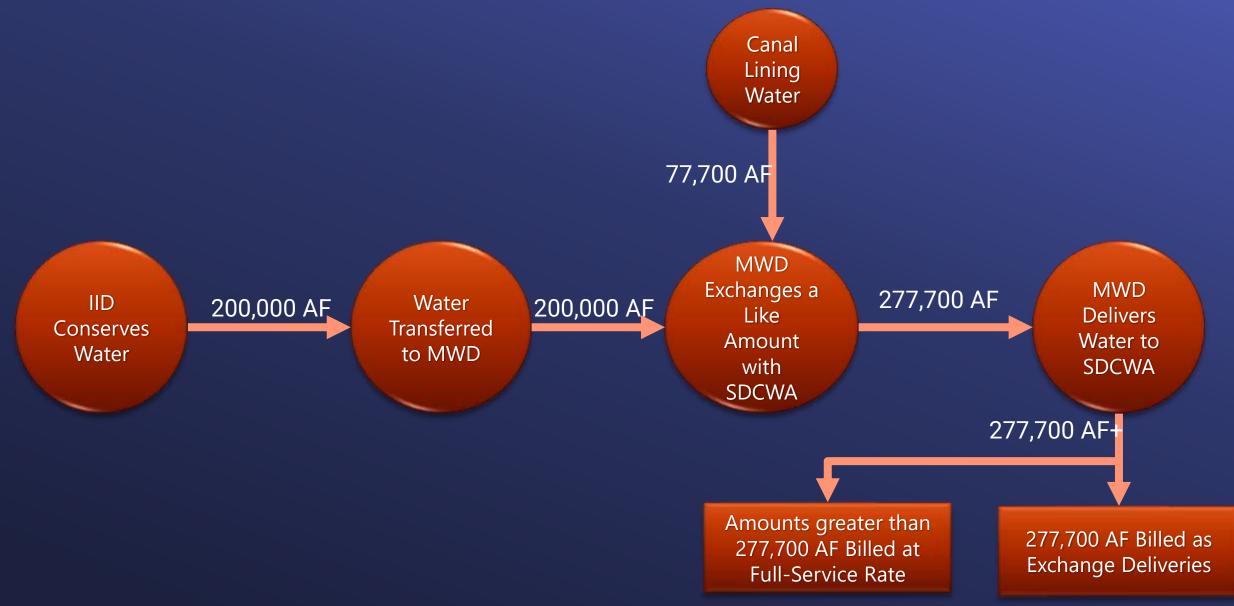
- USBR to fund up to 35,000 acre-feet in 2023
- Reduction in groundwater replenishment deliveries
- Verification through measured limited deliveries to Tom Levy Groundwater Recharge facility
 - ✓ No impact to MWD's Advanced Delivery Account

Irrigation Reduction in Imperial Irrigation District

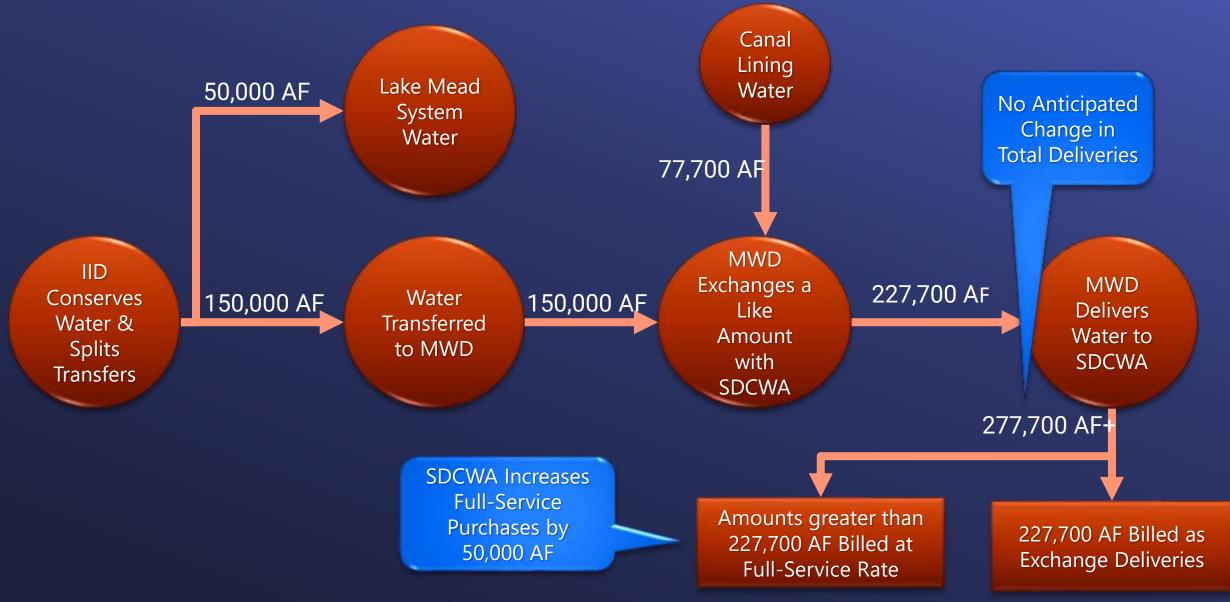
IID System Conservation Project

- USBR to fund up to ll5,000 AF in 2023
- Reduced irrigation water due to:
 - ✓ IID's Existing Conservation Programs
 - Up to 65,000 AF
 - ✓ Water planned for transfer to SDCWA
 - 50,000 AF
- SDCWA would pay IID for 150,000 AF of Transfer Water instead of 200,000 AF of Transfer Water

Existing Annual Scheduled SDCWA Deliveries for 2023

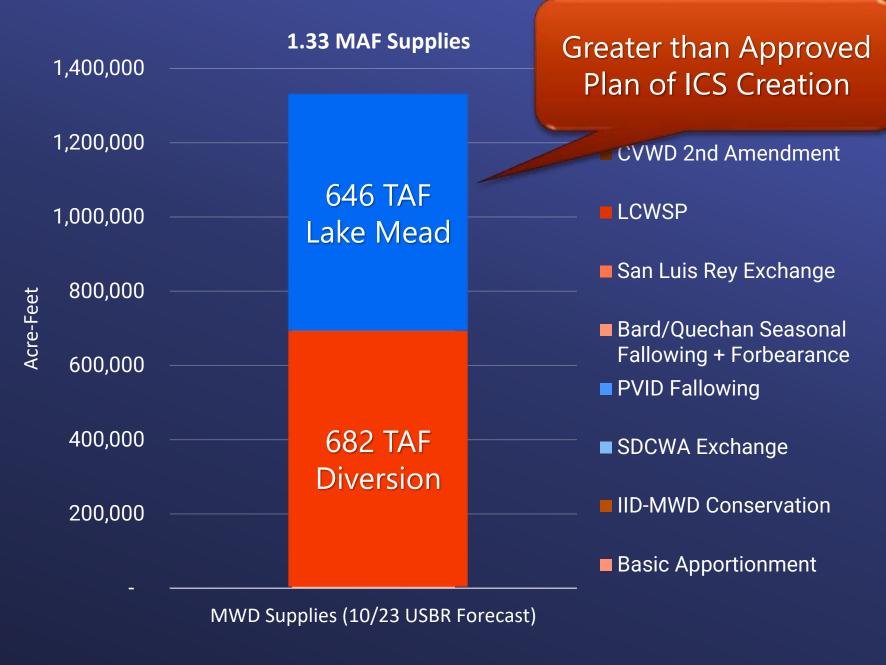


Proposed Annual Scheduled SDCWA Deliveries for 2023



Metropolitan Supplies in Absence of LC Conservation Program*

* Includes all MWD LC Conservation Program concepts that have been proposed to USBR in Bucket 1, including IID/SDCWA/MWD concept



2023 MWD Supplies to Decrease for System Conservation Projects*

* Includes all MWD LC Conservation Program concepts that have been proposed to USBR in Bucket 1, including IID/SDCWA/MWD concept

1.125 MAF Supplies



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1.12 MAF Supplies Within Approved 1,400,000 Plan of ICS Creation 1,200,000 1,000,000 443 TAF Lake Mead 800,000 **Acre-Feet** 600,000 682 TAF 400,000 Diversion 200,000 **MWD Supplies**

2023 Expected

Colorado River

Supply with LC

Conservation

Program

Projects*

^{*} Includes all MWD LC Conservation Program concepts that have been proposed to USBR in Bucket 1, including IID/SDCWA/MWD concept

Benefits Summary

USBR

 California parties are working together to meet the goals set forth in California's October 2022 letter to conserve water through 2026

<u>IID</u>

 Conserves a portion of the water that the California parties proposed to conserve through 2026

SDCWA

 Reduces its purchases of conserved water from IID and purchases an equivalent amount from Metropolitan at the full-service rate

Metropolitan

- Increases ability of Metropolitan to manage surplus supplies in a wet year that otherwise may not have been captured in a Metropolitan storage account
- Increases revenue by ~\$16 M

Board Options

Option #1

Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, and San Diego County Water Authority to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program in 2023.

Option #2

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

Staff Recommendation

• Option #1

