



Water Resources Management Group

- **Water Surplus and Drought Management Update
Conditions as of 01/08/2026**

Summary

This report provides a preliminary accounting for water supply, demand, and storage conditions for calendar year (CY) 2026 as of January 08, 2026. This report also tracks the hydrologic conditions for water year (WY) 2025/26. Updated supply and hydrologic information will be provided during the February oral report.

Northern Sierra snowpack levels measure below normal at 71 percent, and precipitation levels measure above normal at 160 percent. The Upper Colorado River Basin snowpack measured below normal at 75 percent, and precipitation levels measured at around normal at 104 percent.

The estimated amount of imported supply available from the State Water Project (SWP) and Colorado River, prior to withdrawing water from storage, is 1.15 million acre-feet (MAF) for CY 2026. The SWP portion is 191 thousand acre-feet (TAF) based on the current SWP Table A allocation of 10 percent. Recent storms have raised Oroville's storage well above average, leading DWR to make flood control releases from the main spillway. The SWP allocation is expected to increase in late January 2026. Further increases to the SWP allocation are possible and will depend on an assessment of current and future hydrologic conditions. The final allocation is typically declared in May or June. With high storage levels in the SWP share of San Luis Reservoir, Metropolitan is closely monitoring its SWP carryover supplies and will take appropriate actions to evacuate supplies, if needed, to minimize potential losses. Such actions may include the initiation of the Cyclic Cost-Offset Program (CCOP).

Meanwhile, on the Colorado River, the Lower Basin is at a Level 1 shortage in CY 2026, which does not impact Metropolitan's operations and water supply. Metropolitan's Colorado River supply is currently estimated at 958 TAF. This supply may change based on higher priority water use in California and future water management actions taken by Metropolitan.

The demands on Metropolitan, including other obligations, are currently estimated to be 1.49 MAF for CY 2026. With the estimated imported supply available, there is a supply gap of approximately 0.34 MAF. Should supplies remain low, Metropolitan has sufficient dry-year storage available to satisfy the potential supply gap for CY 2026, including for the SWP Dependent Area. Holding the currently estimated demand on Metropolitan and Colorado River supplies constant, a SWP Table A allocation of approximately 30 percent would balance supplies and demands and eliminate the need to utilize stored supplies. It is early in the water year, and a wide range of supply and demand outcomes remain possible.

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

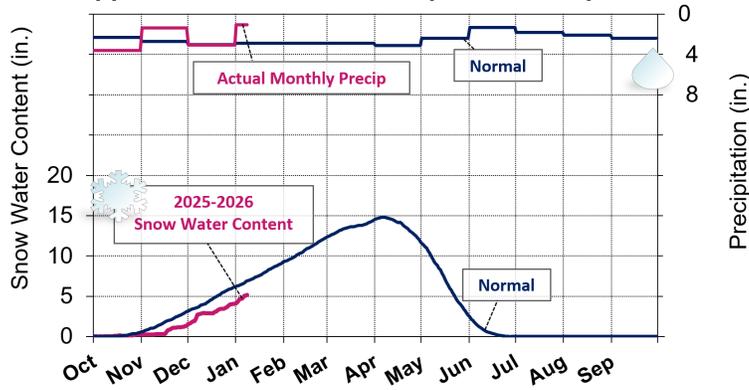
Attachment 1: Projected 2026 WSDM Storage Detail (10 percent SWP Table A allocation)

Attachment 2: Future Contributions and Obligations and Cyclic Program

Detailed Report

This Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) report provides the preliminary water supply and demand estimates for CY 2026 and developing hydrologic conditions for water year (WY) 2025/26.

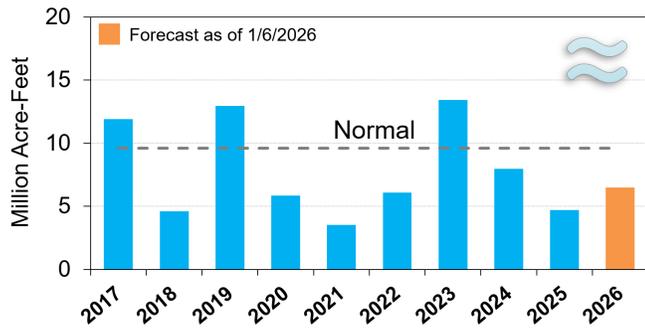
Upper Colorado Basin Snowpack & Precipitation



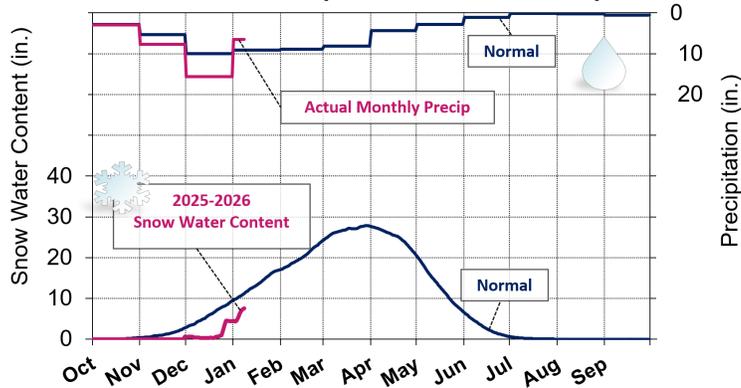
Upper Colorado River Basin

- ✳ Below normal snowpack water content for this date:
5.16 inches or 75 percent of normal.
- ◆ Normal precipitation to date:
9.12 inches or 104 percent of normal.
- ≈ Below normal runoff forecast:
68 percent of normal.

Powell Unregulated Water Year Runoff



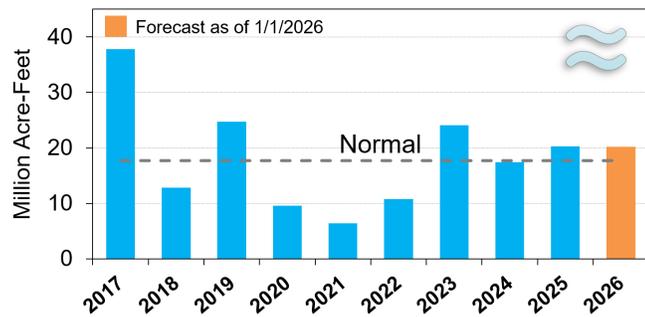
Northern Sierra Snowpack & 8-Station Precipitation



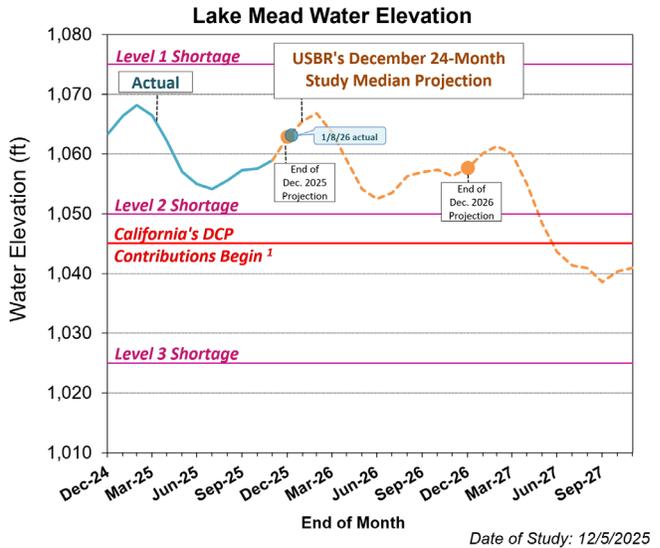
Sacramento River Basin

- ✳ Below normal snowpack water content for this date:
7.70 inches or 71 percent of normal.
- ◆ Above normal precipitation to date:
32.80 inches or 160 percent of normal.
- ≈ Above normal runoff forecast:
115 percent of normal.

Sacramento River Water Year Runoff



CRA Supplies	Acre-Feet
Basic Apportionment	550,000
IID/MWD Conservation Program	105,000
PVID Following Program ¹	0
Exchange w/ SDCWA (IID/Canal Lining)	278,000
Exchange w/ USBR (San Luis Rey Tribe)	16,000
Lower Colorado Water Supply Project	9,000
Bard Seasonal Following Program ¹	0
Quechan Diversion Forbearance ¹	0
Quechan Seasonal Following Program ²	0
Higher Priority Water Use Adjustment	0
CVWD - 2nd Amendment, Exchange of Additional Water	0
Total CRA Supplies³	958,000



¹ Not a supply for Metropolitan in 2026. Water generated from these programs becomes system water as part of USBR's Lower Colorado Conservation Program to help protect Lake Mead.
² Rounded to the nearest thousand, supply is 240 AF.
³ Per Metropolitan's Initial Estimate of the Colorado River Diversion. Total may not sum due to rounding. CRA Supply is limited by an operational constraint of 1.25 MAF.

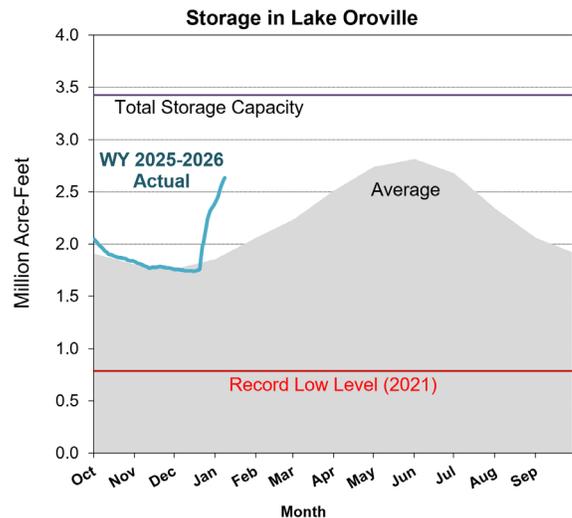
¹ Metropolitan is required to make Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) contributions in the following year if the August 24-month Study projects Lake Mead's elevation to be at or below 1,045 feet on January 1. Since the August 2025 24-month Study projected Lake Mead's elevation to be above 1,045 feet on January 1, 2026, Metropolitan is not required to make DCP contributions in 2026. This figure reflects the latest 24-month study (December 2025) available at the time of this report. The 2027 Lake Mead elevation projection should be considered highly speculative as changes of magnitude are expected in post-2026 operations.

- Lake Mead storage is currently 8.7 MAF or elevation 1063.10 feet (33 percent of total capacity).
- The Lower Basin is at a Level 1 shortage in CY 2026. Under this level, Metropolitan's operations and water supply are not impacted.

SWP Supplies	Acre-Feet
Table A (10 percent SWP allocation)	191,000
Port Hueneme ¹	0
Total SWP Supplies²	191,000

Total Supplies (CRA + SWP) (Prior to storage actions)²	1,149,000
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¹ Rounded to the nearest thousand. Supply is 185 AF.
² Total may not sum due to rounding.

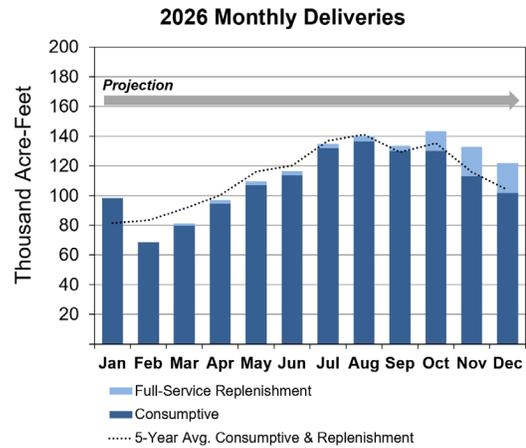


- The current SWP Table A allocation for CY 2026 is 10 percent. Further increases to the SWP allocation are possible and will depend on future hydrologic conditions. The final allocation is typically determined in May or June.
- Lake Oroville is currently at 2.63 MAF (77 percent of total capacity) or 138 percent of the historical average, as of the date of this report.

2026 WATER DEMANDS

Conditions as of 01/08/2026

Current Demand	Acre-Feet
Member Agency Consumptive ¹	1,316,000
Member Agency Replenishment	72,000
Coachella Valley Water District Agreement	
2nd Agreement	35,000
Imperial Irrigation District Return ²	0
Exchange w/ San Luis Rey Tribe	16,000
System and Storage Losses	50,000
Cyclic Deliveries	0
Reverse Cyclic Deliveries	0
Bucket 2 Obligations ³	0
SWP Water Sales Outside Service Area	0
Total Demands⁴	1,489,000



¹ Includes exchange w/SDCWA (IID/Canal Lining) and CUP sales.

² Per USBR Forecast (01/02/2026).

³ The deliveries for the Bucket 2 obligation are estimated as of January 2026. Metropolitan left 242,300 acre-feet in Lake Mead for the creation of system water in satisfaction of several System Conservation Implementation Agreements, satisfying the full USBR Bucket 2 obligation. The final value will be reported in the USBR Water Accounting Report, expected in May 2026.

⁴ Total may not sum due to rounding.

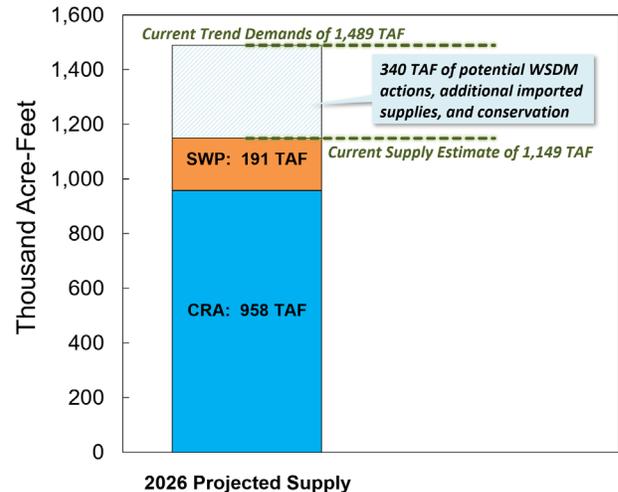
CY 2026 deliveries are forecasted to be generally consistent with the 5-year average.

MANAGING REGIONAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Supply/Demand Balance	Acre-Feet
Total Supplies	1,149,000
Total Demands	1,489,000
Current Balance Estimate¹	-340,000

¹ Total may not sum due to rounding.

Balancing Supply and Demand



WSDM Strategies/Actions

Metropolitan is monitoring supply development and updated demand projections. Appropriate WSDM actions will be taken to satisfy any supply/demand gap. Should supplies remain low, Metropolitan has sufficient dry-year storage available to satisfy the potential supply gap for CY 2026, including for the SWP Dependent Area. With high storage levels in the SWP share of San Luis Reservoir, Metropolitan is closely monitoring its carryover supplies and will identify any water at risk of spill and take appropriate actions to evacuate those supplies and minimize or avoid potential losses. Should Article 21 supplies become available or carryover supplies need to be managed, actions such as the initiation of the CCOP may be considered.

2026 WSDM Storage Detail

	1/1/2026 Estimated Storage Levels ¹	CY 2026 Take Capacity ²	2026 Total Storage Capacity
WSDM Storage			
Colorado River Aqueduct Delivery System	1,568,000	124,000	1,622,000
Lake Mead ICS	1,568,000 ³	124,000 ⁴	1,622,000 ³
State Water Project System	1,265,000	769,000	2,401,000
MWD and DWCV SWP Carryover	473,000 ⁵	473,000	592,000 ⁶
MWD Articles 14(b) and 12(e)	0	0	0
Castaic and Perris DWR Flex Storage	219,000	219,000	219,000
Arvin-Edison Storage Program	100,000	0	350,000
Semitropic Storage Program	237,000	45,000	350,000
Kern Delta Storage Program	142,000	32,000	250,000
Mojave Storage Program	19,000	0	330,000
AVEK Storage Program	30,000	0	30,000
AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program	45,000	0	280,000
In-Region Supplies and WSDM Actions	1,042,000	633,000	1,151,000
Diamond Valley Lake	760,000	503,000	810,000
Lake Mathews and Lake Skinner	204,000	92,000	226,000
Conjunctive Use Programs (CUP)	77,000	38,000	115,000
Other Programs	684,000	54,000	1,181,000
Other Emergency Storage	381,000	0	381,000
DWCV Advanced Delivery Account	303,000	54,000	800,000
Total	4,558,000	1,580,000	6,355,000
Emergency	750,000	0	750,000
Total WSDM Storage (AF) ⁷	3,808,000	1,580,000	5,605,000

¹ Preliminary start of year balances, subject to DWR adjustments and USBR final accounting in May 2026.

² Take capacity assumed under a 10 percent SWP Table A Allocation. Storage program losses included where applicable.

³ This amount is net of the water Metropolitan stored for IID in Lake Mead in an ICS sub-account.

⁴ Take capacity is based on planned maintenance activities and current CRA supply estimate.

⁵ The carryover beginning balance is subject to change based on actual December 2025 conditions.

⁶ Total storage capacity varies year-to-year as the contractual annual storage limit, based on the current SWP Table A allocation of 10 percent, is combined with the remaining balance from the previous year. There is a potential risk that Metropolitan's stored water may be converted to SWP contractor water if the San Luis Reservoir approaches full capacity. Metropolitan is actively monitoring the storage in San Luis Reservoir and has plans to manage carryover supply should the reservoir fill.

⁷ Total WSDM Storage level subject to change based on accounting adjustments. Total may not sum due to rounding.

Future Contributions and Obligations and Cyclic Programs

Table 1: Future Obligations ¹

Description	Beginning of Year 2026 Balance
Water Stored for IID under the California ICS Agreement and its Amendment or the 2021 Settlement Agreement with IID ²	207,000
Storage and Interstate Release Agreement with Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) ³	330,000
Coachella Valley Water District Agreement ⁴	35,000
USBR Phase 2 of the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program (Bucket 2 Obligations) ⁵	0
Total (AF) ⁶	572,000

¹ Rounded to the nearest thousand AF. Subject to change based on accounting adjustments.

² Reflects final accounting under USBR's 2025 Water Accounting Report released May 15, 2025. IID can request a return in any year, conditional on agreement terms. The Beginning of Year Balance excludes the IID ICS sub-account water and includes evaporation and system losses charges to IID.

³ SNWA is not expected to call upon Metropolitan to return water until after 2026. SNWA may request up to 30,000 AF per year.

⁴ Obligation must be met by the end of 2026. Metropolitan is projecting to decrease the CVWD agreement obligation by 35,000 AF by the end of this year.

⁵ USBR will provide federal funding to Metropolitan for the AVEK HDWB System Conservation Project, Turf Replacement System Conservation Project, and Disadvantaged Communities Leak Detection and Repair Program through three System Conservation Implementation Agreements. In exchange, Metropolitan will implement the projects and create conserved water to benefit Lake Mead as system water. 265,000 AF of the obligation must be met by 2033 and 4,000 AF must be met by 2034. Metropolitan left 242,300 acre-feet in Lake Mead for the creation of system water in satisfaction of several System Conservation Implementation Agreements, satisfying the full USBR Bucket 2 obligation. The BOY Balance is subject to revision once the final accounting under USBR's 2025 Water Accounting Report is released in May 2026.

⁶ Total may not sum due to rounding.

Table 2: Cyclic Program Activity ¹

CY	Starting Balance (AF)	CY Actions (AF)				Ending Balance (AF)
		Cyclic Pre-Delivery	Cyclic Cost-Offset Pre-Delivery	Total Pre-Delivery	Sale Out of Cyclic to Date	
2026	127,000	0	0	0	0	127,000

¹ This table is updated with actual Cyclic Program activity reflecting certifications through December 2025. Total may not sum due to rounding.