

# Report Water Resource Management Group

# Water Surplus and Drought Management Update Conditions as of 11/14/2023

# **Summary**

This report provides an accounting of water supply, demand, and storage balances for calendar year (CY) 2023, as of November 14, 2023. This report also tracks the hydrologic conditions for water year (WY) 2023-2024.

## CY 2023 Highlights:

# **State Water Project Supplies**

- A series of atmospheric river storms and cold temperatures boosted the State snowpack allowing for the State Water Project (SWP) allocation to increase to 100 percent of Table A, the first time since 2006.
- Article 21 surplus supplies were also made available as San Luis Reservoir filled.
- Northern Sierra snowpack peaked with twice the snow water equivalent amount, making it one of the largest snowpacks on record.
- Above normal runoff into the Sacramento River more than twice the previous year's amount.

# **Colorado River Aqueduct Supplies**

- Snowpack in the Colorado River Basin was one of the largest in the past thirty years.
- Above normal inflows into Lake Powell more than twice the previous year's amount.
- Colorado River supplies to Metropolitan decreased to allow conserved water by higher priority water users to be added to Lake Mead, which will help protect storage in Lake Mead and help stabilize the Colorado River reservoir system.
- Due to improved hydrologic conditions, the United States Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) forecasts showed no chance of Metropolitan making Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) Contributions in 2024 and 2025 and reduced chances of Metropolitan making DCP contributions in 2026.

#### **Demands on Metropolitan**

- Lowest projected combined member agency consumptive and replenishment demands on Metropolitan for CY 2023 since electronic records began in 1979.
- Continued conservation and behavioral water use reductions following the drought.

## **Water Management Tools**

- Rescinded the Water Shortage Emergency Condition for the SWP Dependent Area and terminated the Emergency Water Conservation Program due to improved hydrologic conditions.
- Pre-delivered water to local storage managed by member agencies through the Cyclic Program and initiated the Cyclic Cost-Offset Program to help member agencies offset the additional costs incurred from capturing increased volumes of water into their cyclic accounts.
- Reduced obligations to return and/or deliver water by (1) delivering water to member agencies who deferred deliveries through the Reverse Cyclic Program, (2) returned water to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for human health and safety supply received in CY 2022 and for flexible storage takes in CY 2021 and 2022, and (3) delivered water to Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District.
- Stored surplus supply in Metropolitan's dry-year storage reserves. Metropolitan's dry-year storage reserves at the end of CY 2023 is projected to be approximately 3.4 million acre-feet (MAF), a record-high storage balance for Metropolitan.

# **Purpose**

Informational

#### **Attachments**

Attachment 1: Projected 2023 WSDM Storage Detail (100 percent SWP Table A allocation)

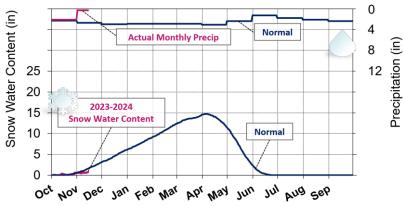
Attachment 2: Future Contributions and Obligations and Cyclic Program

Attachment 3: Range of Future Supply and Demand Gaps

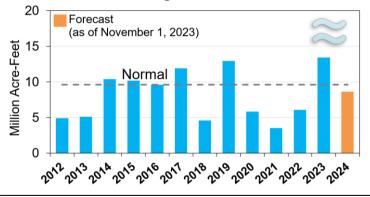
# **Detailed Report**

This Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) report provides the water supply and demand conditions for CY 2023. This report also tracks the hydrologic conditions for water year (WY) 2023-2024.

# **Upper Colorado Basin Snowpack & Precipitation**



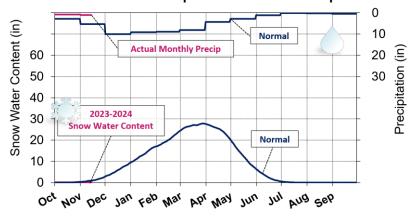
# **Powell Unregulated Water Year Inflow**



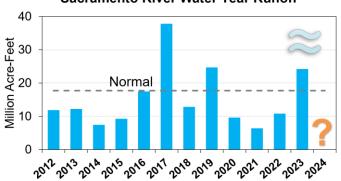
# Upper Colorado River Basin

- \*\* Below normal snowpack water content for this date: 0.6 inches or 38% of normal for this date. Snow data early in the season may not provide a valid measure of conditions.
- Below normal precipitation to date:2.4 inches or 69% of normal.
- ≈ Runoff into Lake Powell for WY 2024 is forecasted at 90% of normal.

## Northern Sierra Snowpack & 8 Station Precipitation



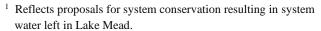
#### Sacramento River Water Year Runoff



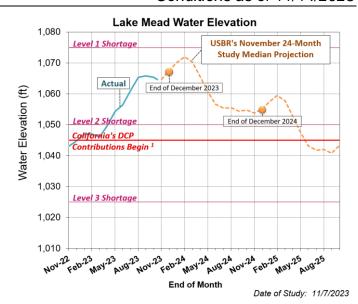
#### Sacramento River Basin

- \* No significant snow reported.
- Below normal precipitation to date:
   1.7 inches or 32% of normal.
- ≈ Runoff forecast for WY 2024 unavailable at the time of this report.

CRA Supplies	Acre-Feet
Basic Apportionment	550,000
IID/ MWD Conservation Program	105,000
CVWD - 2nd Amendment, Exchange of Additional Water	60,000
PVID Fallowing Program	38,000
Exchange w/ SDCWA (IID/Canal Lining) 1	228,000
Exchange w/ USBR (San Luis Rey Tribe)	16,000
Lower Colorado Water Supply Project	9,000
Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program	5,000
Quechan Diversion Forbearance	0
Quechan Seasonal Fallowing Program <sup>2</sup>	0
Higher Priority Water Use Adjustment <sup>1</sup>	133,000
Total CRA Supplies <sup>3</sup>	1,144,000



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Rounded to the nearest thousand. Supply is 281 AF.

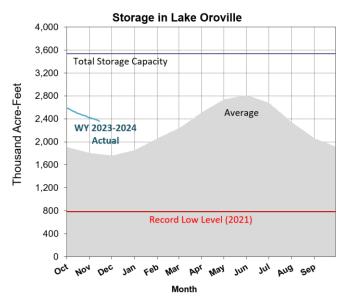


Metropolitan is required to make Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) contributions in the following year if the August 24-month Study projects Lake Mead's elevation to be at or below 1,045 feet on January 1. Since the August 2023 24-month Study projected Lake Mead's elevation to be above 1,045 feet on January 1, 2024, Metropolitan is not required to make DCP contributions in 2024. This figure reflects the latest 24-month study (November) available at the time of this report.

- Lake Mead storage is currently 8.7 MAF or elevation 1,064.6 feet (34 percent of total capacity).
- The Lower Basin is at a Level 2a shortage in CY 2023. Under this level, Metropolitan is not impacted.
- The Lower Basin will be in a Level 1 shortage in CY 2024, an improvement over last year's determination. This determination does not affect Metropolitan's operations.

Acre-Feet
1,912,000
2,000
3,000
134,000
4,000
2,055,000
3,198,000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unbalanced exchange with the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency.



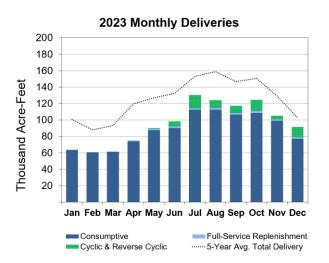
- The SWP Table A allocation for CY 2023 is 100 percent following the three driest years on record.
- Lake Oroville is currently at 2.36 MAF (67 percent of total capacity) or 132 percent of historical average as of the date of this report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Total may not sum due to rounding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Total may not sum due to rounding.

<b>Current Demand</b>	Acre-Feet
Member Agency Consumptive <sup>1</sup>	1,047,000
Member Agency Replenishment	16,000
Coachella Valley Water District Agreement	135,000
Imperial Irrigation District Return <sup>2</sup>	0
Exchange w/ San Luis Rey Tribe	16,000
System and Storage Losses	103,000
Cyclic Deliveries <sup>3</sup>	54,000
2022 Reverse Cyclic Deliveries	18,000
2022 Human Health & Safety Water Return	134,000
Total Demands <sup>4</sup>	1.523,000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Includes exchange w/ SDCWA (IID/Canal Lining) and CUP sales.

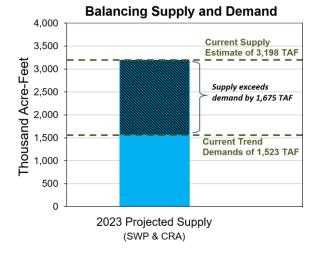


Due to above average in-region precipitation and local supplies, member agency deliveries for CY 2023 are projected to be the lowest since electronic records began in 1979.

### MANAGING REGIONAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Supply/Demand Balance	Acre-Feet
Total Supplies	3,198,000
Total Demands	1,523,000
Current Balance Estimate <sup>1</sup>	1,675,000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Total may not sum due to rounding.



# **WSDM Strategies/Actions**

The following summarizes the WSDM strategies/actions taken to address the estimated supply/demand balance in 2023.

- Balanced the use of available imported supplies from both the SWP and Colorado River.
- Pre-delivered water to local storage managed by its member agencies through the Cyclic Program and initiated the
  Cyclic Cost-Offset Program to help manage surplus supply by offsetting member agency cost associated with taking
  additional Metropolitan deliveries.
- Delivered water to member agencies who deferred deliveries through the Reverse Cyclic Program and returned water to DWR for human health and safety supply received in CY 2022 and for flexible storage takes in CY 2021 and 2022.
- Delivered water to Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District.
- Stored surplus supplies in a manner to achieve equitable reliability across the region.
- Continued to utilize and manage storage assets to satisfy current and future year demands, with special emphasis on rebuilding storage for SWP Dependent Area.
- Metropolitan is projecting to store an estimated 1.17 MAF of the 1.67 MAF of surplus supplies available in CY 2023. Metropolitan's dry-year storage reserves at the end of CY 2023 is projected to be approximately 3.4 MAF, a record-high storage balance for Metropolitan.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Per USBR Forecast (11/14/2023).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Includes an estimate of 13,000 AF of deliveries through the Cyclic Cost-Offset Program.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Total may not sum due to rounding.

# 2023 WSDM Storage Detail

WSDM Storage	1/1/2023 Storage Levels	Net Projected Storage Action Put (+) / Take (-) 1	Projected End of Year 2023 Balance <sup>2</sup>	2023 Total Storage Capacity
Colorado River Aqueduct Delivery System	1,128,000	416,000	1,544,000	1,657,000
Lake Mead ICS	1,128,000 <sup>3</sup>	416,000	1,544,000	1,657,000
State Water Project System	502,000	486,000	988,000	1,889,000
MWD & DWCV Carryover	39,000	258,000	297,000	350,000 <sup>4</sup>
MWD Articles 14(b) and 12(e)	0	0	0	N/A
Castaic and Perris DWR Flex Storage	3,000	216,000	219,000	219,000
Arvin Edison Storage Program	119,000	-19,000 <sup>5</sup>	100,000	350,000
Semitropic Storage Program	158,000	33,000	191,000	350,000
Kern Delta Storage Program	137,000	-12,000	125,000	250,000
Mojave Storage Program	19,000	0	19,000	330,000
AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program <sup>6</sup>	27,000	10,000 <sup>7</sup>	37,000	40,000 <sup>8</sup>
In-Region Supplies and WSDM Actions	698,000	333,000	1,031,000	1,246,000
Diamond Valley Lake	494,000	277,000	771,000	810,000
Lake Mathews and Lake Skinner	194,000	5,000	199,000	226,000
Conjunctive Use Programs (CUP) 9	10,000	51,000	61,000	210,000
Other Programs	662,000	-56,000	606,000	1,181,000
Other Emergency Storage	381,000	0	381,000	381,000
DWCV Advanced Delivery Account	281,000	-56,000	225,000	800,000
Total	2,990,000	1,179,000	4,169,000	5,973,000
Emergency	750,000	0	750,000	750,000
Total WSDM Storage (AF) 10	2,240,000	1,179,000	3,419,000	5,223,000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Storage program losses included where applicable.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Preliminary end of year balances, subject to DWR adjustments and USBR final accounting in May 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Reflects USBR's final accounting for 2022, released May 2023. This amount is net of the water Metropolitan stored for IID in Lake Mead in an ICS sub-account.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Total storage capacity varies year-to-year based on prior year remaining balance added to current year contractual limits.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Via exchange of surface water supplies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Includes water previously stored under the AVEK Storage Program.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Represents early recharge in the AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program.

Reflects a portion of the AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program's total storage capacity. The total storage capacity will be reflected once the program is fully constructed. Anticipated to be fully operational by 2027.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Total of all CUP programs including IEUA/TVMWD (Chino Basin); Long Beach (Central Basin); Long Beach (Lakewood); Foothill (Raymond and Monk Hill); MWDOC (Orange County Basin); Three Valleys (Live Oak); Three Valleys (Upper Claremont); and Western.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Total WSDM Storage level subject to change based on accounting adjustments.

# **Future Contributions and Obligations and Cyclic Programs**

Table 1: Future Obligations 1

	Beginning of Year 2023 Balance	Projected End of Year 2023 Balance
Water Stored for IID under the California ICS Agreement and its Amendment or the 2021 Settlement Agreement with IID	266,000	266,000 <sup>2</sup>
Storage and Interstate Release Agreement with Southern Nevada Water Authority	330,000	330,000 <sup>3</sup>
Coachella Valley Water District Agreement	210,000	105,000 <sup>4</sup>
DWR Flex Storage	216,000 <sup>5</sup>	0
2022 Reverse Cyclic	25,000 <sup>6</sup>	7,000
2022 Human Health & Safety	134,000 <sup>7</sup>	0
Total (AF)	1,181,000	708,000

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

**Table 2: Potential Magnitude of California's Drought Contingency Plan Contribution** 

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Likelihood of Required California Drought Contingency Plan Contribution <sup>1</sup>	0%	0%	0%	13%
Average Metropolitan DCP Contribution When Contributions Are Required (AF)	0	0	0	214,000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Results from USBR's November 2023 Colorado River Mid-Term Modeling System (CRMMS) model run.

Date of Report: December 5, 2023

Reflects final accounting under USBR's 2022 Water Accounting Report released May 15, 2023. IID can request return in any year, conditional on agreement terms.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> SNWA may request up to 30,000 AF per year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Obligation must be met by the end of 2026.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Flexible storage withdrawals from Castaic Lake and Lake Perris must be returned within five calendar years. Metropolitan is required to return 170,000 AF by 2026 for withdrawals in 2021. Metropolitan is required to return 46,000 AF by 2027 for withdrawals in 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Deferred delivery from Calleguas Municipal Water District, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, and Three Valleys Municipal Water District. Metropolitan is required to deliver water to the member agencies by 2027.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Metropolitan's CY 2022 Human Health & Safety deliveries. This water must be returned by 2027.

**Table 3: Cyclic Program Activity** 

			Ending			
СҮ	Starting Balance (AF)	Cyclic Pre-Delivery	Cyclic Cost- Offset Pre-Delivery	Total Pre-Delivery	Sale Out of Cyclic to Date	Ending Balance (AF)
2019	51,000	147,000	19,000	166,000	91,000	126,000
2020	126,000	2,000	0	2,000	50,000	79,000
2021	79,000	0	0	0	28,000	51,000
2022	51,000	0	0	0	27,000	24,000
2023 <sup>1</sup>	24,000	16,000	7,000	23,000	7,000	41,000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This table is updated with actual 2023 Cyclic Program activity on a monthly basis. Total may not sum due to rounding.

# **Potential Future Supply and Demand Gaps**

(Estimate as of November 2023)

Metropolitan's Water Surplus and Drought Management Plan provides a framework for managing Metropolitan's resources in periods of surplus and shortage. To guide WSDM actions, Metropolitan constructs plausible scenarios with different supply and demand assumptions. The table below shows the projected range of plausible end-of-year supply and demand balances for Calendar Years 2024, 2025, and 2026. These ranges provide a bookend for the wide range of supply and demand balances that may unfold.

To reflect a reasonable range of future outcomes, the low supply projection is coupled with high demand projection as one bookend and the high supply projection is coupled with the low demand projection for the other bookend. The resulting ranges and key assumptions are shown in the table below. For CY 2024, the supply and demand balances may range from a shortage of ~722 TAF to a surplus of ~1,536 TAF. Beginning in January 2024, Metropolitan's WSDM report will track the supply and demand balances for CY 2024. The supply and demand balance for 2024 may fall outside of the range presented in the table as information becomes available for specific components throughout the year.

As for the outlook for 2025 and 2026, the supply and demand balance is subject to considerable uncertainty. For 2025, the supply and demand balances may range from a shortage of ~1,011 TAF to a surplus of ~1,642 TAF and for 2026 the balances may range from a shortage of ~1,032 TAF to a surplus of ~1,660 TAF. Regardless of the conditions that may materialize next year and beyond, Metropolitan will continue to adhere to the WSDM Plan to capture surplus water in normal to wet conditions and use stored water and drought actions in drought conditions.

	2024 (TAF)		2025 (TAF)		2026 (TAF)	
Item	Low Supply/High Demand	High Supply/Low Demand	Low Supply/High Demand	High Supply/Low Demand	Low Supply/High Demand	High Supply/Low Demand
SWP <sup>1</sup>	211	1,914	116	1,914	116	1,914
Colorado River <sup>2</sup>	883	1,068	889	1,074	853	1,077
Demand on Metropolitan <sup>3</sup>	-1,700	-1,200	-1,900	-1,100	-1,900	-1,100
Other Demand on Metropolitan <sup>4</sup>	-116	-246	-116	-246	-101	-231
Supply/Demand Balance <sup>5</sup>	-722	1,536	-1,011	1,642	-1,032	1,660

<sup>1</sup> SWP supplies for CY 2024 are based on a low of 10% to a high of 100% of Table A. Supplies for 2025 and 2026 are based on a low of 5% to a high of 100% of Table A.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Colorado River supplies are based on estimated basic apportionment, transfers, exchanges, higher priority water use, and DCP contributions.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 3}$   $\,$  Demand on Metropolitan reflects the total replenishment and consumptive demand.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Includes Coachella Valley purchase, San Luis Rey Agreement, system losses, and Reverse Cyclic and Cyclic Program deliveries.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The supply-demand balances should not be interpreted as an absolute range as they were determined by explicit assumptions to represent reasonable outcomes.