



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 March 2025.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

State Department Announcement Canceling Delivery of Colorado River Water to Tijuana

Metropolitan, in coordination with San Diego County Water Authority and Otay Water District, regularly makes water deliveries to Tijuana according to the terms of Treaty Minute 327 and a domestic agreement among Metropolitan, San Diego County Water Authority and Otay Water District. Although these deliveries are called "emergency," they are common and have been made for planned events like maintenance outages and unplanned events like leaks. On March 20, 2025, the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs announced that: "Mexico's continued shortfalls in its water deliveries under the 1944 water-sharing treaty are decimating American agriculture—particularly farmers in the Rio Grande Valley. As a result, today for the first time, the United States will deny Mexico's non-treaty request for a special delivery channel for Colorado River water to be delivered to Tijuana." Following the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs' announcement, the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) sent a notice to Metropolitan that Minute 327 deliveries for April will not resume as originally requested. The 1944 United States-Mexico Treaty governs both the Colorado River and the Rio Grande, but until this action, the U.S. Section of IBWC administered the two rivers separately. The Rio Grande flows north into the U.S., and Mexico has been unable to meet its obligation to make deliveries from the Rio Grande tributaries to the U.S. in the past, but that has not been a basis for denying deliveries of Colorado River water to Mexico. Staff will provide future updates to the Board as the issue unfolds.