



## ● Colorado River Management Report

### Summary

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This report provides a summary of activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River resources for the month of January 2022.

### Purpose

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Informational

### Detailed Report

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#### 500+ Plan Update

The 500+ Plan is agreement among the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Colorado River Commission of Nevada, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, and Metropolitan to add or retain 500,000 acre-feet or more of water to Lake Mead each year in 2022 and 2023 in order to reduce the risk of Lake Mead declining below critical reservoir elevations. Since signing the 500+ Plan MOU in December, the Parties began developing the implementation and funding agreement and have continued to work on identifying and in some instances started contracting for sources of system water to meet the goals of the 500+ Plan. In California, the parties continue to fund the additional fallowing in Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) for system water, and Metropolitan reduced its diversions at the end of 2021, both of which have raised Lake Mead's levels. Metropolitan staff is in discussions with PVID, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), and Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to explore opportunities for additional conservation activities in California. If a new program or programs are developed, they would be brought to Metropolitan's Board for consideration and approval. The parties in Arizona are close to finalizing some fallowing agreements in Arizona which would be funded by the Parties. Staff will keep the Board updated as the 500+ Plan is implemented.

#### Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plan Implementation Update

The Upper Colorado River Commission and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Upper Colorado River Basin Region hosted a webinar to provide public information regarding implementation of the Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA). The DROA is part of the 2019 Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan in the Upper Basin that allows changes in the timing of monthly releases at Lake Powell and increased releases from upstream Colorado River Storage Project Initial Unit reservoirs within their existing operational ranges. One key objective of the releases is to reduce the risk of Lake Powell falling below minimum power pool, which could happen later this year or next year with very dry conditions. Any water released from the upstream Initial Units will be later recovered in those Units when conditions allow First Year of Shortage Highlights Beneficial Partnerships.

Last August, Reclamation made its first ever shortage declaration for calendar year 2022, and announced that Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico would take a first ever shortage this year. But the shortage also effects operational flexibility that is key on the Colorado River. For example, in a shortage, inadvertent overruns are not allowed, and agencies that did not sign the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) do not have approval to access their storage reserves in Lake Mead. For IID, which did not sign the DCP, these restrictions can be quite limiting. However, IID and Metropolitan entered in a storage agreement over the last decade, and IID has nearly 200,000 acre-feet of water stored with Metropolitan, so that if IID were to need additional water this year to avoid an overrun, Metropolitan could return that water to IID, retaining the flexibility IID needs to operate their system.

## Board Report (Colorado River Management Report)

Metropolitan has a similar agreement with CVWD to help ensure they avoid overrun in shortages. These agreements highlight the multiple benefits from partnerships on the Colorado River.