



● Colorado River Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Actions to Protect Lake Powell Critical Elevation

The Department of the Interior's April 8 letter to the Governors' representatives of the Colorado River Basin States (Basin States) requested reducing Glen Canyon Dam releases from 7.48 million acre feet (MAF) to 7.0 MAF this water year in order to reduce the risks of Lake Powell declining below elevation 3,490 feet, including risks to dam infrastructure, power generation, and the ability to access water supply for the City of Page, Arizona and the LeChee Chapter of the Navajo Nation. The Basin States issued a response letter on April 22 indicating support for the proposal that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) implement the 480,000 acre-foot (AF) reduction to the 2022 water year release from Glen Canyon Dam to reduce the risks the Basin faces and urged Reclamation to evaluate any needed maintenance or feasible modifications to water delivery or hydropower generation infrastructure at the facility. The Basin States requested that such temporary reductions in releases from Glen Canyon Dam be implemented in a manner that is operationally neutral for tier and release determinations made pursuant to the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan, and Minute 323. Specifically requesting that operational determinations be made as if the 480,000 AF had been released from Glen Canyon Dam in the 2022 water year. A Department of the Interior response to the Basin States' letter is expected soon. Implementation of the reduced releases from Glen Canyon Dam may begin after the Department of the Interior's responds to the Basin States' April 22 letter.

The Upper Colorado River Commission and Reclamation posted the Upper Basin's Drought Response Operation Plan for 2022. In this plan, an additional 500,000 AF of water will be released from Flaming Gorge reservoir by April 2023 to help support the elevation of Lake Powell. With the reduced Lake Powell releases to Lake Mead and the increased releases from Flaming Gorge reservoir, the risk of Lake Powell falling below minimum power pool in the next two years will be substantially reduced.

Metropolitan Confirms Storing 25,000 AF of water for Imperial Irrigation District (IID) in 2021

Following approval of the settlement agreement between IID and Metropolitan, staff from the agencies reviewed the data and confirmed that IID conserved at least 25,000 AF of water in 2021 in addition to the water needed to meet its transfer commitments. Under the terms of the settlement agreement, Metropolitan will store that water in Lake Mead in an Intentionally Created Surplus sub-account, which IID can access in a future year to avoid an overrun. The extra conservation helped decrease the decline in Lake Mead in 2021.