



● **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 October 2022.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Bard Water District and Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Field Trip

On October 4 and 5, General Manager Adel Hagekhalil and Director Gloria Cordero went to Yuma, Arizona to tour the Bard Water District and Quechan Tribe's lands to learn about their irrigation practices and see first-hand how monies from Metropolitan's programs are being used for system-wide efficiencies. Stops included visiting Tribal lands, Yuma Island, Imperial Dam, Senator Wash, and Laguna Dam to learn about water project operations and to talk with individual farmers who grow produce dependent on Colorado River Supplies. Both Bard Water District and the Quechan Tribe expressed interest in conserving additional water with funding provided by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to stabilize Lake Mead. Metropolitan staff will work with these agencies to see if a proposal can be developed.

Colorado River Basin States Meeting with the Department of Interior and Reclamation

On October 20 and 21, the Colorado River Basin States met to discuss efforts to protect Lake Mead, including California's proposal to conserve up to an additional 400,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead each year from 2023-2026. Reclamation gave an updated overview of current hydrologic conditions, noting that if next year is critically dry, Reclamation needs additional tools to deal with the low reservoir levels, including options such as reduced releases from Glen Canyon Dam and additional Lower Basin shortages. They will be working with the Basin States as they develop these tools. Additionally, there was general discussion regarding the Department of Interior's September 22, 2022, announcement about its new Lower Colorado Conservation and Efficiency Program that is intended to provide new opportunities to fund system conservation and efficiencies in the Lower Colorado River Basin. Proposals for the first phase are due in November 2022, and Metropolitan is working with its partners on the Colorado River to explore what options might be available. Reclamation said that long-term savings programs, like turf removal and replacement programs, would be evaluated in phase 2 of the process.

Metropolitan Staff Participate in Colorado River Field Visit

From October 17-19, more than 20 of the newer Metropolitan employees saw firsthand how Metropolitan and its Colorado River partners develop and manage our water conservation programs. As part of a succession planning effort, many employees who have never visited the Colorado River but are managing some of our programs got a better understanding of the challenges we face in keeping these programs productive. The trip included discussions with staff from Imperial Irrigation District, Palo Verde Irrigation District, Bard Water District, the Quechan Tribe, and Coachella Valley Water District. The trip provided a valuable opportunity to interact and learn from our partners and senior staff that work on the Colorado River.