



One Water and Adaptation Committee

Authorize Forbearance of Conserved Colorado River Water

Item 7-7

March 10, 2025

Item 7-7

Authorize Forbearance of Conserved Colorado River Water

Subject

Authorize the General Manager to forbear water conserved by two Coachella Valley Water District projects, thus allowing the conserved water to be added to Lake Mead under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Purpose

To obtain Board approval for agreements allowing water conserved by CVWD to be added to Lake Mead under Reclamation's LC Conservation Program.

Recommendation and Fiscal Impact

Authorize forbearance of water conserved by two Coachella Valley Water District Projects under the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program; No Fiscal Impact

Budget

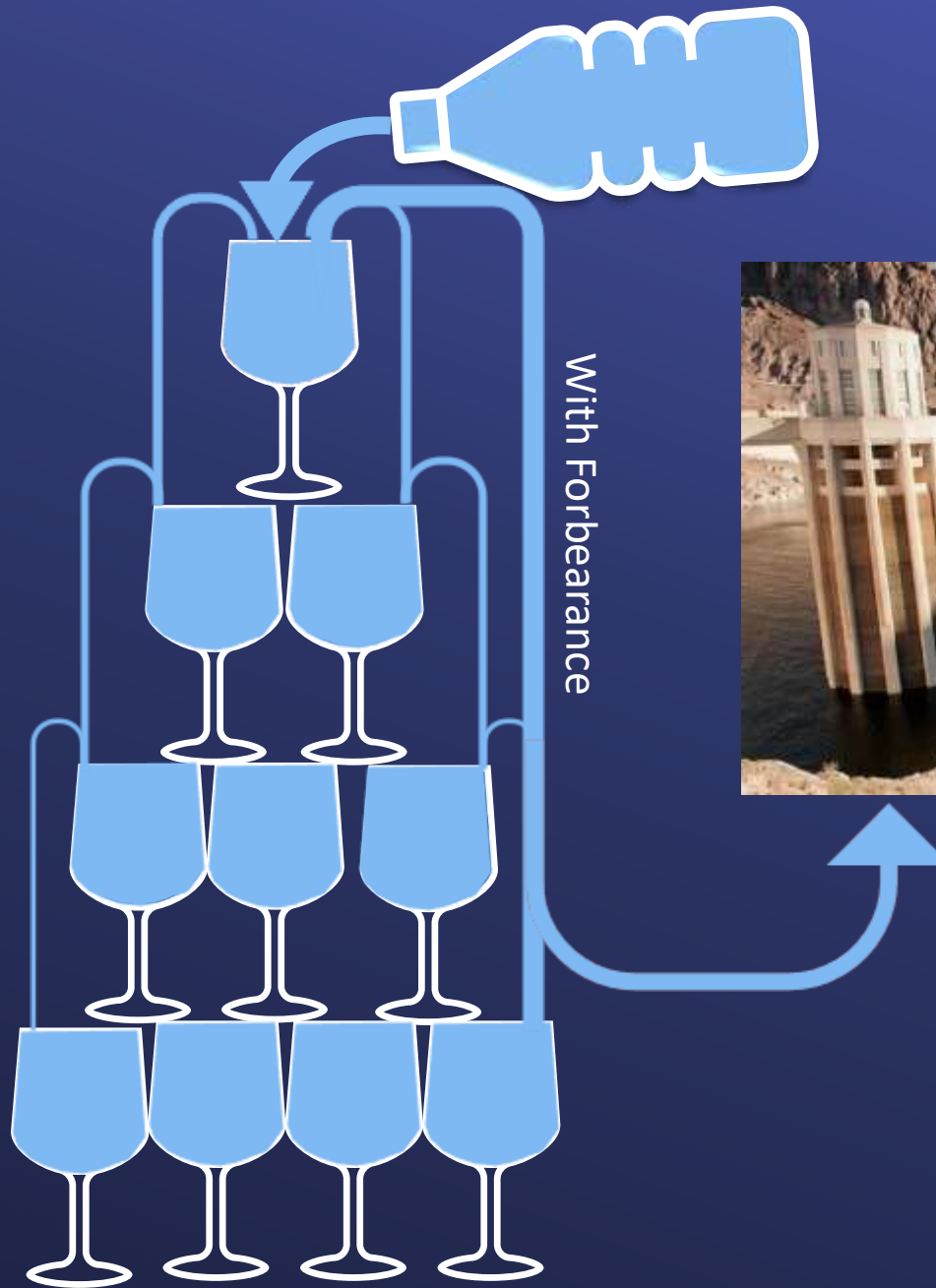
No budget impact

Background



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Forbearance Allows Conserved Water To be Moved Out of Priority



With Forbearance



Metropolitan's Forbearance is Necessary

Forbearance agreements are the mechanism for ensuring conserved water stays in Lake Mead under the priority system

Extension of Groundwater Replenishment Reduction in CVWD



Extend Existing Agreement through 2026

- Reduction in groundwater replenishment deliveries
- USBR to fund up to 35,000 acre-feet in 2026
- Verification through measured limited deliveries to Tom Levy Groundwater Recharge facility
 - ✓ No impact to MWD's Advanced Delivery Account

Tertiary Treatment in CVWD



Tertiary Treatment at Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) No. 4

- Increased reuse results in decreased demand for Colorado River water
- USBR to fund construction of tertiary treatment at WRP No. 4
- CVWD to provide 33,600 AF of conserved water to Lake Mead
 - Tertiary Treated water from WRP No. 4
 - Prepayment through other conservation efforts (like forgoing replenishment)

Board Options

- Option #1

Authorize the General Manager to forbear water conserved by two Coachella Valley Water District projects, thus allowing the conserved water to be added to Lake Mead under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program.

- Option #2

Do not enter into the forbearance agreement under the proposed terms.

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

