One Water and Adaptation Committee

Information on extending agreements with (1) Bard Water District and farmers within Bard Unit, and with (2) the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land, to provide incentives for land fallowing related to the Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program and the Quechan Seasonal Fallowing Program, respectively, for years 2027 to 2028

Item 9-2

October 13, 2026

Presented by: Megan Sims

Item 9-2
Information on Extending Agreements with Bard and Quechan

Subject

- Information on extending agreements with (1) Bard Water District and farmers within Bard Unit, and with (2) the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land, to provide incentives for land fallowing related to the Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program and the Quechan Seasonal Fallowing Program, respectively, for years 2027 to 2028

Purpose

- To provide information on request to extend the Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program and Quechan Pilot Seasonal Fallowing program to calendar years 2027 and 2028.

Next Steps

- Staff will incorporate committee feedback and return to the Board in November 2026 to request authorization to extend BWD and Quechan Agreements.

Bard Unit and Quechan Tribe Background

Bard Unit and Quechan Tribe Background

- Part of the Reservation Division of the Yuma Project
- Diverts water from All-American Canal
  - Bard unit has nearly 6,400 irrigable acres
  - Quechan tribe has nearly 6,100 irrigable acres
- High value vegetables grown in winter
- Lower-value, water-intensive crops grown in summer

Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program

- Board approved in 2019
- Program active from 2020-2026
- To Date:
  - 44,000 AF in Water Savings
  - $14,000,000 in Program Funding

Program Size	3,000 acres (2020-2024) 6,000 acres (2025 to present)
Fallowing Season	April – July
Incentive Rate	75% to Farmers 25% to Bard Water District

System Conservation Implementation Agreement (SCIA) for Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program

Original SCIA

- Terms: 2024-2026
- Parties: Metropolitan, Bard Water District and United State Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
- Purpose: To create Colorado River system water and leave it in Lake Mead
- Amendment #1: Expand program from 3,000 acres to 6,000 acres for 2025 and 2026

Amended SCIA

- Amendment #2
- Board Approval: July 2026
- Terms: Extend to years 2027 and 2028
- Current Rate: $617.50 per acre fallowed
- Modifications: Metropolitan has the first right and can choose not to fund conserved water

Quechan Pilot Seasonal Fallowing Program

- Board approved in 2021
  - Board extended the program in 2023
- Program active from 2022-2026
- To Date:
  - 2,300 AF in Water Savings
  - $790,000 in Program Funding

Program Size	1,600 acres
Fallowing Season	April – July
Incentive Rate	75% to Farmers 25% to Quechan

Bard and Quechan Joint Infrastructure Improvements

- Canal lining
- SCADA and automation
- Renewable energy opportunities

Proposed Action for November

- Extend Bard and Quechan Programs to 2028
- Maintain previously expanded program size of 6,000 acres for Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program
- 2027 Rate: $584.07 per acre fallowed* escalated annually

*does not include $15,000 administrative fee.

Summary

- Successful partnership with Bard and Quechan
- Funding supports infrastructure improvements in the division
- Enhance reliability
- Augments Colorado River Supplies

Next Steps

Staff will incorporate committee feedback and return to the Board in November 2026 to request authorization to extend BWD and Quechan Agreements.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
1928