



● 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 June 2021.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Testimony to Congress

Metropolitan's Chief Operating Officer Deven Upadhyay provided written and oral testimony before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife on June 29, regarding the Regional Recycled Water Project (RRWP) and expressed support for both H.R. 1015, the Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act, as well as H.R. 4099, the Large-Scale Water Recycling Project Investment Act. The testimony described the RRWP's many potential benefits, including improving the reliability of the Colorado River system through partnerships with the Southern Nevada Water Authority, and potentially with partners in Arizona.

Federal Appointments

The White House announced the official nomination of Maria Camille Calimlim Touton to be the Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). The U.S. Senate confirmed Tanya Trujillo to be the Assistant Secretary for Water and Power. Reclamation also announced that Carly Jerla will lead Reclamation's effort to develop new guidelines for operation and management of the Colorado River.

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Meeting

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum held its 104th meeting virtually on June 9 and 10. During the meeting, Metropolitan's Manager, Colorado River Resources Bill Hasencamp was re-elected chair of the Forum for a second term. Reclamation discussed the status of the Paradox Valley brine injection well, which has not been operating for more than two years following a magnitude 4.6 earthquake which occurred in 2019. Reclamation stated that they plan on doing a risk analysis before considering returning the well to operation at any level, which would take about two years to complete. This decision means that about 100,000 tons of salt that had previously been captured will continue to flow into the Colorado River upstream of Lake Mead. The Forum urged Reclamation to reconsider that decision and make progress on developing a long-term salt control solution in the Paradox Valley.

Palo Verde Irrigation District System Conservation Agreement

The Metropolitan Board authorized the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Reclamation, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, and Southern Nevada Water Authority to provide up to \$8.8 million to fund land fallowing programs and to forebear up to 246,600 acre-feet of conserved Colorado River water generated by the program to add system water to Lake Mead. Metropolitan's funding share represents one-sixth of the total amount provided by the funding agencies. The water would be conserved through additional fallowing that is not needed for Metropolitan's own use under the Palo Verde Irrigation District/Metropolitan Forbearance and Fallowing Program and the Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program. Metropolitan and other Colorado River water users would benefit from the improved storage in Lake Mead, reducing the risk of future water curtailments.

To implement the program, Metropolitan has made a voluntary fallowing call for the upcoming contract year (Aug. 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022) of 75 percent of the maximum fallowing level under the contract, and farmers may begin fallowing at any time from August 1, 2021 through January 1, 2022. The farmers will begin notifying

Board Report (Colorado River Management Report)

Metropolitan of their following amounts in July 2021. Land owned by Metropolitan will also participate in the program.