



## ● **Colorado River Management Report**

### **Summary**

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This Report provides a summary of activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River Resources for the month of December 2017.

### **Purpose**

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Informational

### **Detailed Report**

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#### **Commissioner Burman Addresses the Colorado River Water Users Association**

Brenda Burman was confirmed as the Commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) on November 17, 2017. Commissioner Burman addressed the Colorado River Water Users Association annual conference in Las Vegas December 13-15 and described Reclamation's priorities for the Colorado River basin in 2018. In her remarks, Commissioner Burman noted that the Drought Contingency Plan will be the top priority for the upcoming year and that Reclamation is looking for the states to complete their work during that time.

In describing the importance of finalizing work on the Drought Contingency Plan during the upcoming year, the Commissioner noted that the 2007 Shortage Guidelines (Guidelines), alone, are no longer enough to protect the system from the reservoir storage declines and worsening hydrology that have occurred since adoption of the Guidelines and pointed to Reclamation's modeling showing that implementation of both the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan and the Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plan together would provide important protection of the reservoirs and power production. The Commissioner urged the states to resolve any outstanding intrastate issues and to reach final agreement on the drought contingency plans.

#### **Metropolitan Submits a Modified Water Order to the Bureau of Reclamation**

During December, Metropolitan submitted a Request for Revision to Approved Diversions for Calendar Year 2017 to Reclamation seeking approval to divert a total 685,000 acre-feet. Reclamation had approved the diversion of up to 632,676 acre feet of water earlier in 2017. Metropolitan submitted the modified order to:

- Enable Metropolitan to divert and store Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) Excess and Additional Excess Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS), consistent with Metropolitan and IID's storage agreement;
- Include unused Coachella Canal Lining Project mitigation water that Reclamation had not included in its initial approved water order and exchange it with San Diego County Water Authority; and
- Allow Metropolitan to divert water not needed by Coachella Valley Water District consistent the 1989 Approval Agreement.

Earlier this year, Metropolitan received approval to store up to 390,000 acre-feet of ICS in Lake Mead.

#### **San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act Update**

During 2017, the last necessary conditions for satisfaction of Section 104 of the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act occurred. This settlement resolved a long-standing water rights dispute among the United States and the La Jolla, Pala, Pauma, Rincon, San Pasqual Bands of Mission Indians, the San Luis Rey River Indian Water Authority (Indian Water Authority), the City of Escondido, and Vista Irrigation District (collectively, the "Settlement Parties").

Under a 2003 agreement among Metropolitan, the United States, and the Settlement Parties, Reclamation has been making available to Metropolitan 16,000 acre-feet of water annually, as a result of the All-American Canal and Coachella Canal Lining Projects. In return, Metropolitan had been placing funds into trust for the Indian

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Water Authority until the requirements of Section 104 of the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act had been satisfied. As a result of the final requirements being satisfied, Metropolitan has disbursed the funds it had been holding in trust to the Indian Water Authority. Going forward, the United States will continue to deliver 16,000 acre-feet of water per year to Metropolitan for exchange of an equal amount of Metropolitan water at the terminus of Metropolitan's distribution system in San Diego County for conveyance by San Diego County Water Authority to the Settlement Parties.

### **Minute 319 Water Exchange Completed**

Reclamation sent notice on December 14, 2017 that the United States International Boundary and Water Commission received notification from Mexico that Mexico has provided the United States a total quantity of 124,000 acre-feet in satisfaction of Section III.1 of Minute 319. Pursuant to Minute 319 and the implementing agreements, a portion of this conserved water is converted into Binational ICS. Binational ICS is water that was conserved in Mexico, and the conservation was paid for by Metropolitan, IID, Central Arizona Project and Southern Nevada Water Authority (Local Funding Agencies). Each of the Local Funding Agencies will be credited with the amount of Binational ICS agreed to in the Interim Operating Agreement and Contributed Funds Agreements of 2012. Metropolitan's contributions as a Local Funding Agency entitled it to 47,500 acre-feet of Binational ICS, which will be shared equally with IID pursuant to the terms of a 2013 agreement between Metropolitan and IID regarding Binational ICS generated under Minute 319.