



## ● 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 May 2018.

### Purpose

---

Informational

### Detailed Report

---

#### Salinity Control Forum Meeting

The Colorado River Salinity Control Forum held its spring meeting on May 16 and 17 in St. George, Utah. Don Barnett, Executive Director of the Forum, announced that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) was able to add an additional \$2 million to its fiscal year 2017/18 budget, which will be used to put additional salinity control measure in place this summer. The Forum meeting included a tour of Pah Tempe Hot Springs, a natural spring which adds about 100 million tons of salt to the Virgin River and flows into the Colorado River each year. The Forum heard options to capture much of the salt and prevent it from reaching the Colorado River. Additional studies will be done, and if they prove economically feasible, the Forum will consider recommending a project to further reduce the salt load of the Colorado River. One of the challenges facing the Forum is the financial provisions in which the state cost share dollars are provided by a surcharge on Hoover Power generation. Because of long-term drought conditions on the Colorado River, Hoover Power generation has dropped significantly, resulting in substantially fewer cost-share funds being available from the Lower Basin states, and draws from reserves that have been used to fully fund the program. Eventually, the funding provisions would need to be changed through federal legislation, or the salinity control program activities would need to be reduced from current levels.

#### Drought Contingency Plan Development

Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman met in May with representatives of both the Upper Basin and Lower Basin to express support for the states' ongoing efforts to develop drought contingency plans. At these meetings, the Commissioner emphasized the need to finalize drought contingency plans given that expected spring and summer runoff this year will only be 42 percent of the long term average and that the most recent predictions show further declines in reservoir elevations. Following these meetings, Reclamation issued a press release calling on the states to put drought contingency plans into effect before the end of the year. The press release included statements of support from representatives of each of the seven basin states.

#### Central Arizona Project (CAP) Tour of Southern California Facilities

Board members and other representatives of the Central Arizona Project toured several agencies within Metropolitan's service area in order to learn about groundwater recycling, ocean desalination and groundwater desalination projects in Southern California. Metropolitan board members and staff joined CAP throughout the tour.