

COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

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March 2, 2012

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COLORADO RIVER BOARD**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the call of the Chairperson, Dana B. Fisher, Jr., by the undersigned, the Acting Executive Director of the Colorado River Board of California, that a regular meeting of the Board Members is to be held as follows:

Date: March 14, 2012, Wednesday
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Vineyard Room Holiday Inn Ontario Airport 2155 East Convention Center Way Ontario, CA 91764-4452 TEL: (909) 212-8000, FAX: (909) 418-6703

The Colorado River Board of California welcomes any comments from members of the public pertaining to items included on this agenda and related topics. Oral comments can be provided at the beginning of each Board meeting; while written comments may be sent to Mr. Dana B. Fisher, Jr., Chairperson, Colorado River Board of California, 770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100, Glendale, California, 91203-1068.

An Executive Session may be held in accordance with provisions of Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code and in accordance with Sections 12516 and 12519 of the Water Code to discuss matters concerning interstate claims to the use of Colorado River System waters in judicial proceedings, administrative proceedings, and/or negotiations with representatives from other states or the federal government.

Requests for additional information may be directed to: Christopher S. Harris, Acting Executive Director, Colorado River Board of California, 770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100, Glendale, CA 91203-1068, or 818-500-1625. A copy of this Notice and Agenda may be found on the Colorado River Board's web page at www.crb.ca.gov.

A copy of the meeting agenda, showing the matters to be considered and transacted, is attached.


Christopher S. Harris
Acting Executive Director

attachment: Agenda

Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
March 14, 2012, Wednesday
10:00 a.m.

Vineyard Room
Holiday Inn Ontario Airport
2155 East Convention Center Way
Ontario, CA 91764-4452

A G E N D A

At the discretion of the Board, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated upon and may be subject to action by the Board. Items may not necessarily be taken up in the order shown.

1. Call to Order
2. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board (Limited to 5 minutes)
As required by Government Code, Section 54954.3(a)
3. Administration
 - a. Minutes of the Meeting Held February 15, 2012,
Consideration and Approval (**Action**) TAB 1
 - b. Statement of Economic Interest, FPPC Form 700 due by April 7th
4. Agency Managers Meetings
5. Protection of Existing Rights
 - a. Colorado River Water Report(s) TAB 2
Report on current reservoir storage, reservoir releases, projected water use,
forecasted river flows, scheduled deliveries to Mexico, and salinity
 - b. State and Local Water Reports TAB 3
Reports on current water supply and use conditions
 - c. Colorado River Operations TAB 4
 - MWD's Report on SNWA Interstate Account for 2011
 - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Rejects Preliminary Permit Application
for Flaming Gorge Pipeline
 - Status of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report
 - d. Basin States Discussions
 - Status of U.S./Mexico Binational Discussions
 - Proposed Federal Legislation, "Navajo-Hopi Little Colorado Water Rights
Settlement Act of 2012 (S. 2109)"
 - e. Colorado River Water Quality & Environmental Issues
 - Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Work Group Meeting,
February 14-15, 2012, Phoenix, Arizona
 - Status of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

Agenda (continued)

6. Executive Session

An Executive Session may be held by the Board pursuant to provisions of Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code and Sections 12516 and 12519 of the Water Code to discuss matters concerning interstate claims to the use of Colorado River system waters in judicial proceedings, administrative proceedings, and/or negotiations with representatives from other states or the federal government.

7. Other Business

a. Next Board Meeting: Regular Meeting

April 11, 2012, Wednesday, starting 10:00 a.m.
Holiday Inn Ontario Airport
2155 East Convention Center Way
Ontario, CA 91764-4452
TEL: (909) 212-8000, FAX: (909) 418-6703

3.a. - Approval February 15, 2012, Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, February 15, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held in the Vineyard Room, at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, at 2155 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, California, Wednesday, February 15, 2012.

Board Members Present

Dana B. Fisher, Jr., Chairman
John V. Foley
W. D. 'Bill' Knutson
Henry Merle Kuiper
David R. Pettijohn

John Palmer Powell, Jr.

Jeanine Jones, Designee
Department of Water Resources

Board Members and Alternate Absent

John Pierre Menvielle
James Cleo Hanks

Christopher G. Hayes, Designee
Department of Fish and Game

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott
Autumn Ashurst
James H. Bond
John Penn Carter
J.C. Jay Chen
David Fogerson
Leslie M. Gallagher
Christopher S. Harris
William J. Hasencamp
Eric M. Katz
Michael L. King
Thomas E. Levy
Jan P. Matusak

Carrie Oliphant
Glen D. Peterson
Halla Razak
Steven B. Robbins
Ed W. Smith
Catherine M. Stites
Mark Stuart
Gary E. Tavetian
Joseph A. Vanderhorst
Mark Van Vlack
Bill D. Wright
Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chairman Fisher asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to address the Board on items on the agenda or matters related to the Board. Hearing none, Chairman Fisher moved to the next agenda item.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fisher requested the approval of the December 14th meeting minutes. Ms. Jones moved the December 14th minutes be approved. Mr. Pettijohn seconded the motion. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the December 14th meeting minutes.

2012 Revised Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. Harris reported that the revised Board meeting schedule was included in the Board folder, reflecting the cancelled meeting in January.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that precipitation from October 1st to February 2nd was 82 percent of normal, and to January 1st it was 77 percent of normal. The snow water equivalent was 68 percent of normal. Reclamation's projections of unregulated inflow into Lake Powell were 5.050 million acre-feet (maf) for April through July 2012, or 71 percent of average; and water year projections from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 were 8.484 maf, about 79 percent of average. Last year, though much wetter than normal late in the season, was considered a La Niña year. This year also is considered by climatologists to be the second La Niña year in a row, and started out dry but ending with about normal precipitation and snow.

Mr. Harris reported that as of February 5th, the storage in Lake Powell was 15.61 maf, or 64 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 3,636.6 feet. The storage in Lake Mead was 15.03 maf, or 58 percent of capacity, and water surface elevation was 1,134.2 feet. Total System storage was about 38.28 maf, or 64 percent of capacity. Last year at this time, there was 32.06 maf in storage, or 54 percent of capacity. There was about six million acre-feet more in storage than this time last year.

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation's estimated consumptive use (CU) during calendar year 2012 for the State of Nevada to be 300,000 acre-feet; and Arizona's estimated CU to be 2.8 maf; and California is expected to be below its basic entitlement of 4.4 maf (4.175 maf). The total Lower Division States CU is estimated to be 7.275 maf. In 2011, the Lower Basin CU was about 7.348 maf.

State and Local Water Reports

Mr. Mark Stuart, of the California Department of Water Resources, reported on the climate in California. Mr. Stuart reported that usually the Los Angeles Civic Center rain gage recorded about five inches as of January 31st, where the average is eight inches. Each day without rain, this year's precipitation falls by about two tenths of an inch from normal. Mr. Stuart reported that statewide precipitation is about 60 percent of average. Runoff, or stream flow, from 31 rivers in California is about 40 percent of average, however, reservoir storage is about 110 percent of average.

Mr. Stuart reported that the Sacramento River Index was about 54 percent of average. December was one of the driest on record. Mr. Stuart reported that the snow water equivalent, as of February 13th, in the Northern Sierra was 35 percent of normal, in the Central Sierra the snow water equivalent was 28 percent of normal, and in the Southern Sierra it was 34 percent of normal. Mr. Stuart reported that the State Water Project surface water storage north of the Delta was about 2.67 maf, or 73 percent of capacity, south of the Delta SWP storage was about 1.62 maf or 88 percent of capacity.

Mr. Foley, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that as of February 1st, MWD's combined reservoir storage of Lakes Skinner, Mathews, and Diamond Valley, was about 980,700 acre-feet, or about 95 percent of capacity. As of February 1st, Lake Mathews had about 155,200 acre-feet, or 85 percent of capacity. Lake Skinner had about 38,900 acre-feet or about 88 percent of capacity. Diamond Valley Lake had about 786,600 acre-feet in storage, or about 97 percent of capacity. Mr. Foley reported that total deliveries for calendar year 2011 were about 1.6 maf, or 75 percent of the ten year average. Total reserves, both surface and ground water, are up to 2.4 maf.

Mr. Pettijohn, of the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), reported that as of February 1st, the Eastern Sierra Snow Survey results are very low. The Mammoth Pass Snowpack are close to the driest year on record. If the Eastern Sierra Snowpack doesn't improve before the end of the season, the LADWP will need to purchase about 100,000 acre-feet more than was purchased last year from MWD.

Colorado River Operations

2012 Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River System Reservoirs

Mr. Harris reported that the Final 2012 Annual Operating Plan (2012 AOP) was approved by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. The Final 2012 AOP was posted on Reclamation's websites for Reclamation's Upper and Lower Colorado Regions. The Lower Colorado Region website is: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/aop/AOP12.pdf>.

Status of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report

Mr. Harris reported the on November 29, 2011, Reclamation announced initiation of Phase 4 of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study. Phase 4 is the Development and Evaluation of Opportunities for Balancing Water Supply and Demand. Reclamation and the Study Team sought public input and suggestions associated with a broad range of options and strategies to help resolve future water supply and demand imbalances. Proposed options and strategies were solicited by Reclamation through February 1, 2012. All of the submitted options, strategies, and suggestions are being evaluated by the Project Team, and is scheduled to be discussed at series of meetings, beginning with the next meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, on February 28th. The Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report is still on schedule to be published in July 2012.

Reclamation's Approval of Revised Calendar Year 2011 Diversions for IID, CVWD, and MWD

Mr. Harris reported that material in the Board folder included three letters dated December

30, 2011, from Reclamation's Lower Colorado Regional Office approving the revised Calendar Year 2011 diversions for the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and the MWD. The CVWD revised consumptive use of 318,735 acre-feet and an approved diversion of up to 326,820 acre-feet. The IID revised consumptive use of 2,803,420 acre-feet and an approved diversion of 2,871,285 acre-feet. The MWD revised consumptive use of up to 643,874 acre-feet and an approved diversion of up to 646,874 acre-feet.

Reclamation's Approval of IID's 2012 Plan for Creation of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus

Mr. Harris reported that in a letter dated December 30, 2011, Reclamation approved IID's 2012 plan for the creation of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (EC ICS) during Calendar Year 2012. The IID plan is expected to create EC ICS from the IID on-farm fallowing program and its Main Canal Seepage Interception System.

Reclamation's Approval of Southern Nevada Water Authority's 2012 Plans for the Creation of Tributary Conservation ICS and Imported ICS

Mr. Harris reported that on December 30, 2011, Reclamation approved the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) plans for the creation of Tributary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (TC ICS) and Imported Intentionally Created Surplus in Calendar Year 2012. The SNWA plans to create 37,000 acre-feet of TC ICS through its conservation programs, on the Muddy River, up to 20,000 acre-feet, and Virgin River, up to 17,000 acre-feet. The SNWA plans to create 7,000 acre-feet of imported ICS through its program in Coyote Springs Valley. Total TC ICS and Imported ICS would be about 44,000 acre-feet.

Basin States Discussion

Status of U.S./Mexico Binational Discussions and Negotiations

Mr. Zimmerman reported that in early December 2011 Mexico provided the U.S. a complete draft Minute 319. He indicated that there were significant differences between the conceptual approach that the U.S. had provided Mexico and Mexico's draft of Minute 319. After considering the significant differences, it was decided that instead of a comprehensive Minute 319 that extended to the year 2026, that Minute 319, as presented by Mexico, needed to be implemented in phases. The first phase, Minute 319, would be five years, through 2016. The second phase would be implemented through a subsequent minute. During the first phase, all of the supporting governing documents that would guide implementation and operations under a comprehensive minute would be developed. Considerable time was taken to craft the elements contained in the draft Minute 319. Initially two assurance letters were considered: one from the Basin states; the other from the federal government, the Departments of Interior and State. The State Department has agreed to write a single letter recognizing that the Basin states must be in full agreement before Minute 319 can be executed. Mr. Zimmerman added that several domestic documents and agreements, such as a Forbearance Agreement, are needed before execution of Minute 319 could be acceptable to the states.

Ms. Halla Razak asked if there was a schedule or critical path for the development of the agreements required to support Minute 319. Mr. Zimmerman responded that a schedule has not yet

been developed, but the required supporting documents and guidelines are being identified. One of the documents that need to be developed is the agreement of the funding partners for the pilot project contained in Minute 319, which would entail a conversion of ICMA to ICS. Ms. Razak asked whether it is anticipated that someone will be working on these documents before Mexico responds to the current draft; or will we wait for Mexico to officially respond. Mr. Zimmerman responded that there isn't enough time to wait for Mexico to officially review and respond to the draft Minute 319; ideally we would have those agreements now. To date, we don't even have a Basin states' agreement on how surplus water, under high reservoir conditions, can be provided to Mexico; yet it is contained in the draft of Minute 319 that has been transmitted to Mexico. The Basin State's Technical Work Group is currently working on this issue and all of the other domestic documents. Chairman Fisher added that participation from the highest levels of the Secretaries Office and the State Department has been given, showing significant flexibility from Federal branches of both the U.S. and Mexico.

There was discussion regarding recent changes that were made to the current draft of Minute 319, and whether the anticipated assurance letters would adequately address their concerns, plus additional documents and agreements that would implement actions of a future Minute with respect to the water rights holders of the Colorado River.

Colorado River Environmental Issues

Basin States' Letter – Scoping Comments on the Adoption of the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan for Glen Canyon Dam

Mr. Harris reported that the Basin states submitted a letter to Reclamation providing scoping comments associated with Reclamation's preparation of the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Mr. Harris reported that the primary scoping comments included: 1) Discussion of the legal framework for the LTEMP EIS analysis; 2) Consistency of Glen Canyon Dam (GCD) operation and the 2007 Interim Guidelines; 3) Geographic scope of the LTEMP EIS; 4) Impacts to existing species conservation and recovery; 5) Ensuring clear distinction between experimental and management actions associated with operations at Glen Canyon Dam; 6) Ensuring development of alternatives that are realistic and comply with existing laws and regulations; and 7) Comments associated with actual process of developing the LTEMP EIS. Mr. Harris added that this is an ongoing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Endangered Species Act compliance process that Reclamation is completing, associated with an outlook toward the next ten to twenty years of operations at Glen Canyon Dam. The intent of the collaboration is for Reclamation to be clear in its distinction between management based on existing laws and regulations and experimental actions with defined terms of criteria based on water year, sediment inputs, species habitat conservation, with an expectation of benefits recognizing pre-existing obligations and responsibilities. The LTEMP EIS is an ongoing process and other federal agencies are participating. It may be eighteen months to two years before the LTEMP EIS is completed.

Basin States' Letter – Comments on the Final Environmental Assessment for the Development and Implementation of a Protocol for High-Flow Experimental Releases from Glen Canyon Dam, 2011-2020

Mr. Harris reported that the Basin states continue to work on finalizing a joint-letter to Reclamation's Upper Colorado Regional Office associated with the release of the final Environmental Assessment for the High Flow Experimental (HFE) Releases Protocol for Glen Canyon Dam. Mr. Harris reported that the primary purpose of the HFE Releases Protocol is to test and evaluate short-duration, high-volume dam releases during sediment-enriched conditions during a ten-year period of experimentation from 2011 to 2020. Mr. Harris reported that a meeting/conference call was held February 7th among the state and federal representatives to discuss issues associated with the HFE Protocol. Mr. Harris reported that the primary issues discussed on February 7th included: 1) ensuring a clear distinction and/or demarcation between management actions versus experimental actions; 2) Decision-making process, and the relationship between the HFE protocol and the goals and objectives of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program and the desired future conditions for the Grand Canyon ecosystem; 3) The HFE Protocol monthly release determinations must be consistent with the 2007 Interim Guidelines; and 4) Reclamation to clearly articulate process and steps for coordinating and integrating the HFE Protocol with the LTEMP EIS process.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, at 2155 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, California.

There being no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon the motion of Mr. Knutson, seconded by Mr. Powell, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned 10:46 a.m. on February 15, 2012.

Christopher S. Harris
Acting Executive Director

5.a. - Colorado River Water Reports

**SUMMARY WATER REPORT
COLORADO RIVER BASIN
March 5, 2012**

RESERVOIR STORAGE (as of March 4)				February 6, 2012		
	MAF	ELEV. IN FEET	% of Capacity	MAF	ELEV. IN FEET	% of Capacity
Lake Powell	15.443	3,635.2	64	15.610	3,636.6	64
Flaming Gorge	3.279	6,028.2	87	3.334	6,029.6	89
Navajo	1.282	6,054.8	76	1.294	6,055.7	76
Lake Mead	14.890	1,132.9	58	15.028	1,134.2	58
Lake Mohave	1.644	641.0	91	1.614	639.9	89
Lake Havasu	0.562	447.0	91	0.569	447.4	92
Total System Storage	37.882		63	38.279		64
System Storage Last Year	31.794		53	32.059		54

			February 2, 2012	
WY 2012 Precipitation (Basin Weighted Avg) 10/01/11 through 3/05/12		89 percent (14.3")		82 percent (10.5")
WY 2012 Snowpack Water Equivalent (Basin Weighted Avg) on day of 3/05/12 (Above two values based on average of data from 116 sites.)		81 percent (12.1")		68 percent (7.8")
			February 2, 2012	
March 2, 2012 Forecast of Unregulated Lake Powell Inflow	MAF	% of Normal	MAF	% of Avg.
2012 April through July unregulated inflow forecast	5.300	74 %	5.050	71%
2012 Water Year forecast	8.687	80 %	8.484	79%

USBR Forecasted Year-End 2012 and 2011 Consum. Use, March 5, 2012 a.					MAF	
			2012		2011	
			Diversion	- Return =	Net	Net
Nevada (Estimated Total)			0.492	0.211	0.281	0.221
Arizona (Total)			3.768	0.928	2.841	2.785
CAP Total					1.590	1.625
Az. Water Banking Authority					0.134	0.134
OTHERS					1.251	1.160
California (Total) b./			4.930	0.662	4.268	4.315
MWD					0.653	0.699
3.85 Agriculture						
IID c./			3.108	-0.306	2.802	2.916
CVWD d./			0.365	-0.028	0.337	0.309
PVID			0.382	0	0.382	0.320
YPRD			0.045	0	0.045	0.049
Island e./			0.007	0	0.007	0.007
Total Ag.			3.907	-0.334	3.573	3.601
Others					0.042	0.015
PVID-MWD following to storage (to be determined)					--	0
Arizona, California, and Nevada Total f./			9.190	1.801	7.389	7.321

- a./ Incorporates Jan.-Jan. USGS monthly data and 75 daily reporting stations which may be revised after provisions; data reports are distributed by USGS. Use to date estimated for users reporting monthly and annually.
- b./ California 2012 basic use apportionment of 4.4 MAF has been adjusted to 4.175 MAF for creation of Intentionally Created Surplus Water by IID (-25,000 AF), and Creation of Extraordinary Conservation (ICS) by MWD (-200,000 AF).
- c./ In 2012, 0.105 MAF being conserved by IID-MWD Agreement as amended in 2007: 112,500 AF being conserved for SDCWA under the IID-SDCWA Transfer Agreement as amended, 90,000 AF of which is being diverted by MWD; 21,000 AF being conserved for CVWD under the IID-CVWD Acquisition Agreement, 67,700 AF being conserved by the All American Canal Lining Project.
- d./ In 2011, 28,265 acre-feet conserved by the Coachella Canal Lining Project.
- e./ Includes estimated amount of 6,660 acre-feet of disputed uses by Yuma Island pumpers and 653 acre-feet by Yuma Project Ranch 5 being charged by USBR to Priority 2.
- f./ Includes unmeasured returns based on estimated consumptive use/diversion ratios by user from studies provided by Arizona Dept. of Water Resources, Colorado River Board of California, and Reclamation.

Monthly Total Colorado River Basin Storage

March 2012

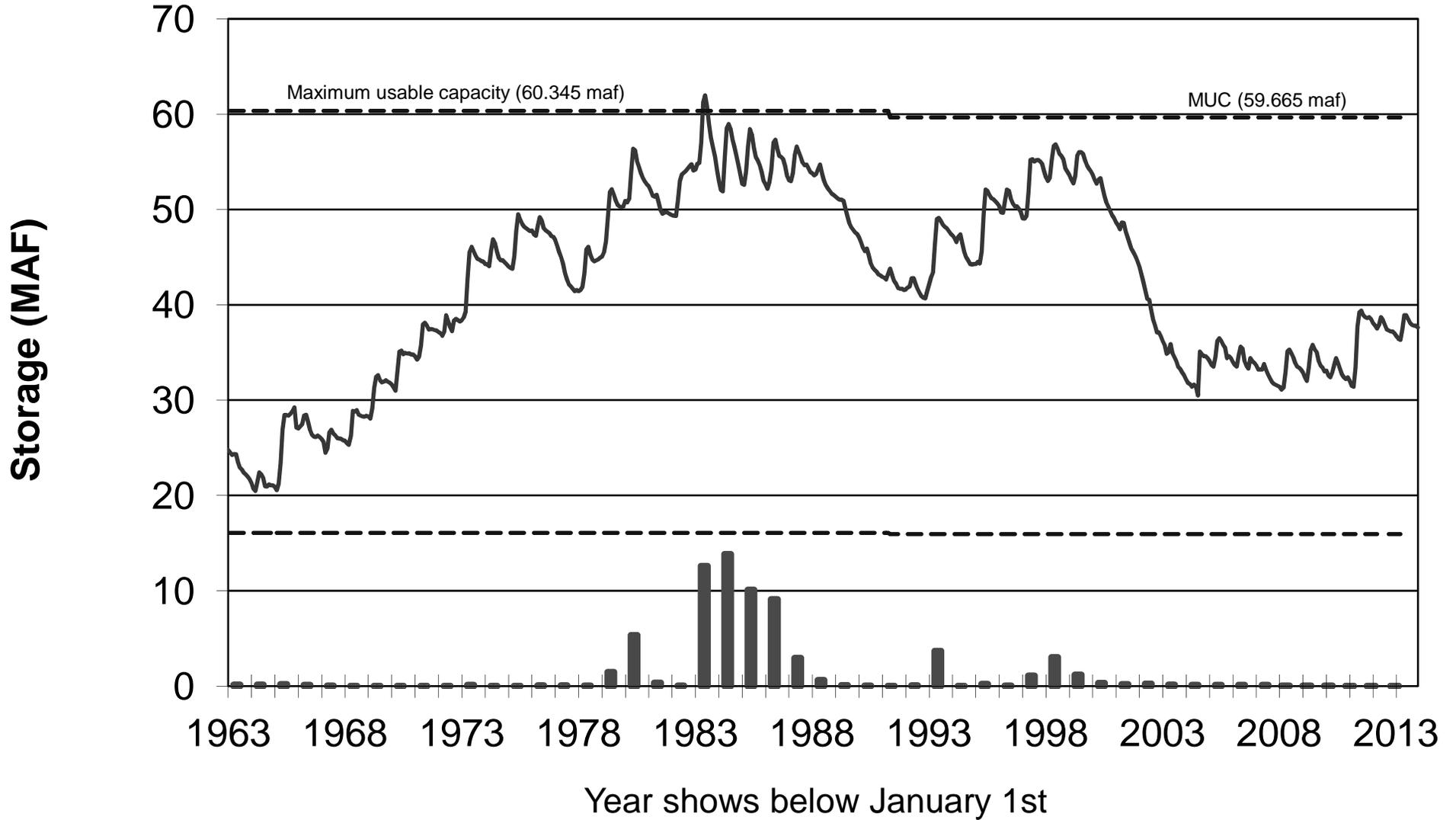
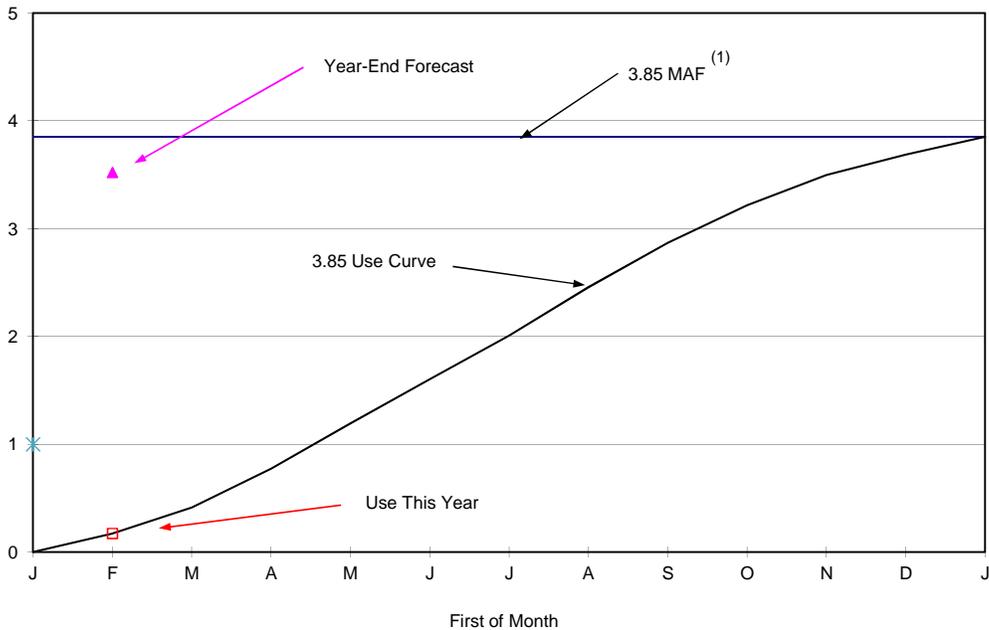


FIGURE 1
MARCH 1, 2012 FORECAST OF 2012 YEAR-END COLORADO RIVER WATER USE
BY THE CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES



Forecast of Colorado River Water Use by the California Agricultural Agencies (Millions of Acre-feet)			
Month	Use as of First of Month	Forecast of Year End Use (1)	Forecast of Unused Water (2)
Jan	0.000	-----	-----
Feb	0.174	3.522	-0.008
Mar			
Apr			
May			
Jun			
Jul			
Aug			
Sep			
Oct			
Nov			
Dec			
Jan			

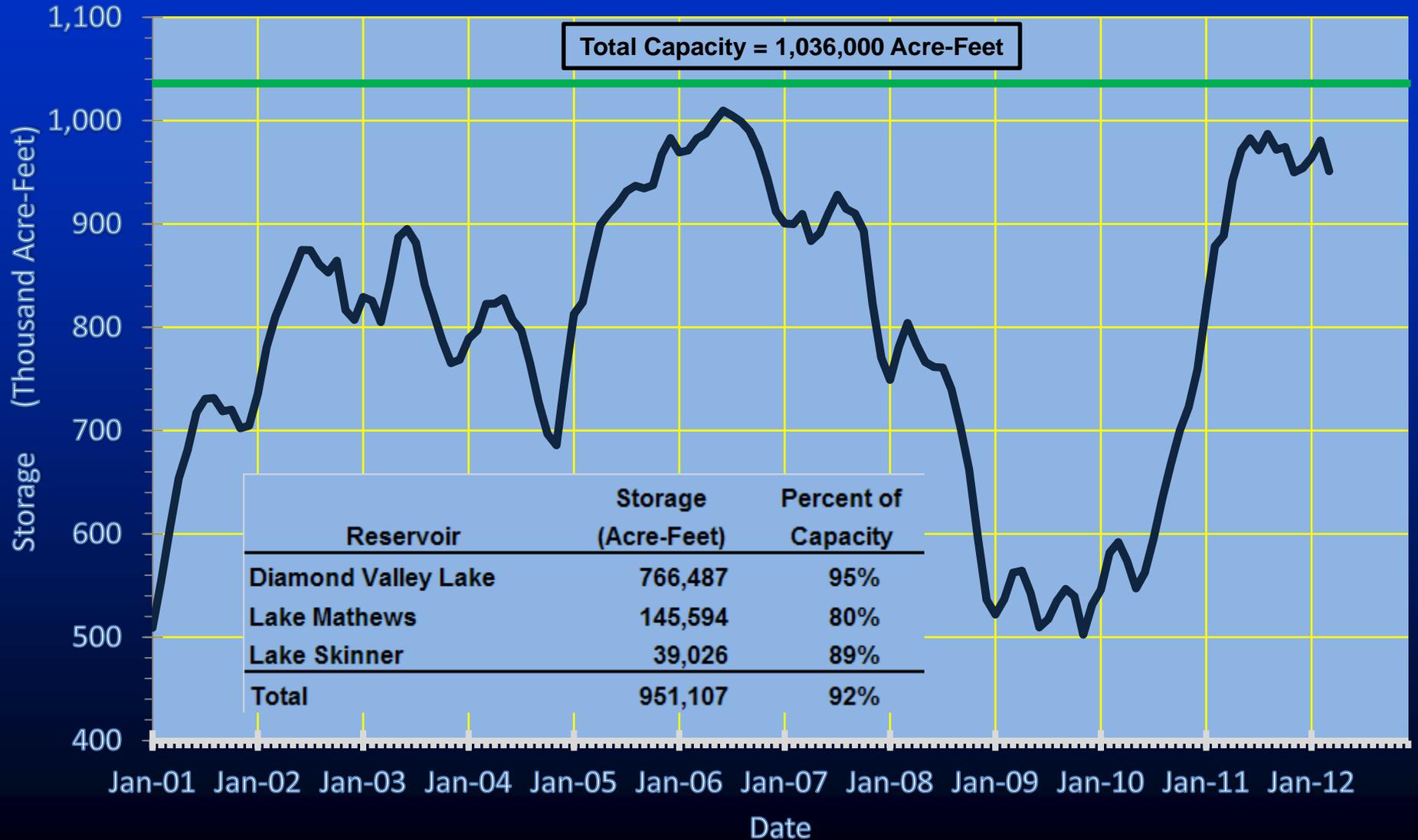
(1) The forecast of year end use is based on continuation of the QSA, without QSA year end use is estimated to be about 3.660 maf.

(2) The forecast of unused water is based on the availability of 3.514 MAF under the first three priorities of the water delivery contracts. This accounts for the 85,000 af of conserved water available to MWD under the 1988 IID-MWD Conservation agreement and the 1988 IID-MWD-CVWD-PVID Agreement as amended; 90,000 AF of conserved water available to SDCWA under the IID-SDCWA Transfer Agreement as amended being diverted by MWD; as estimated 24,500 AF of conserved water available to SDCWA and MWD as a result of the Coachella Canal Lining Project, 67,700 AF of water available to SDCWA and MWD as a result of the All American Canal Lining Project; 14,500 AF of water IID and CVWD are forbearing to permit the Secretary of the Interior to satisfy a portion of Indian and miscellaneous present perfected rights use and 25,000 AF of water IID is conserving to create Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus. 22,500 AF has been subtracted for IID's Salton Sea Salinity Management in 2012. As USBR is charging uses by Yuma Island pumpers to priority 2, the amount of unused water has been reduced by those uses - 6,660 AF. The CRB does not concur with USBR's viewpoint on this matter.

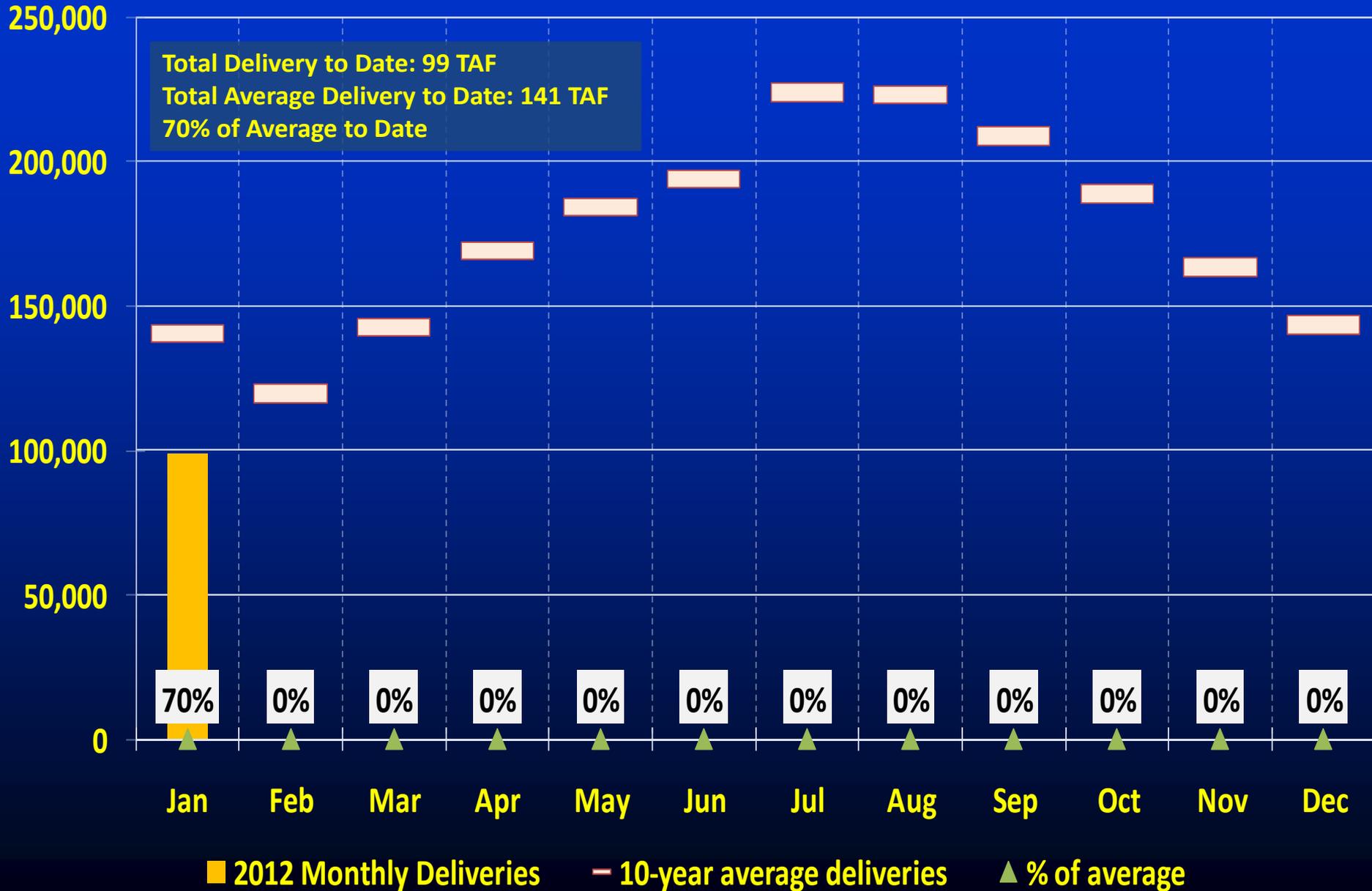
5.b. - State and Local Water Reports

MWD's Combined Reservoir Storage as of March 1, 2012

Lake Skinner, Lake Mathews, and Diamond Valley Lake

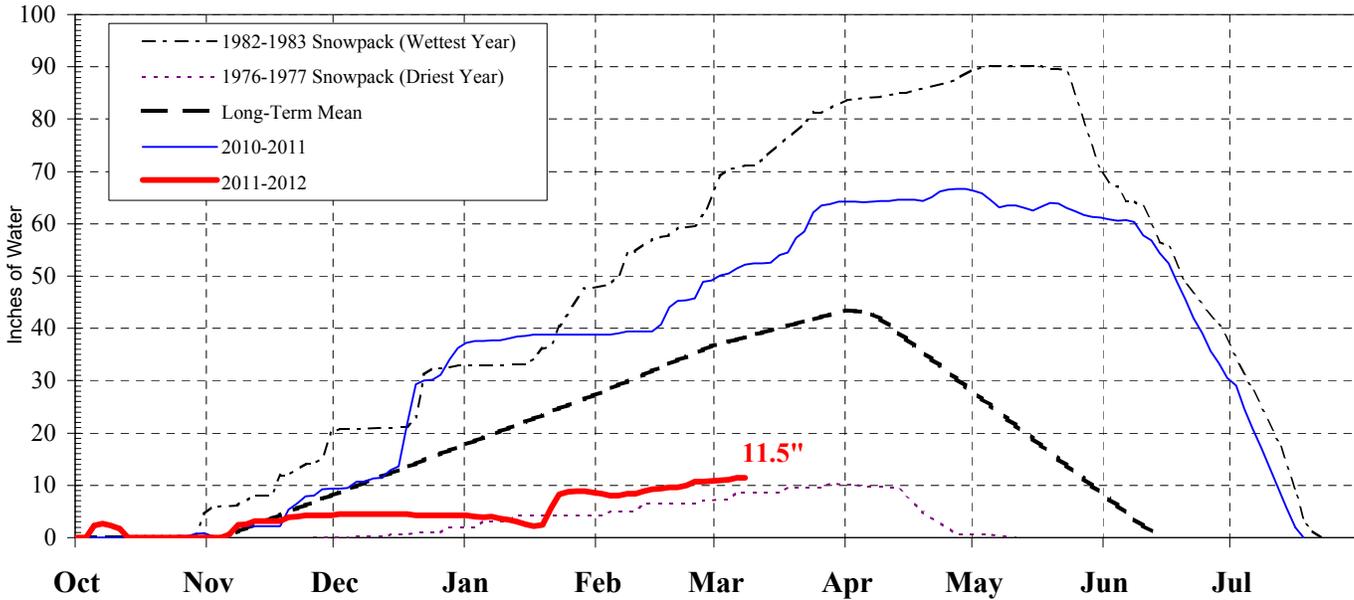


2012 Water Deliveries to Member Agencies (AF)

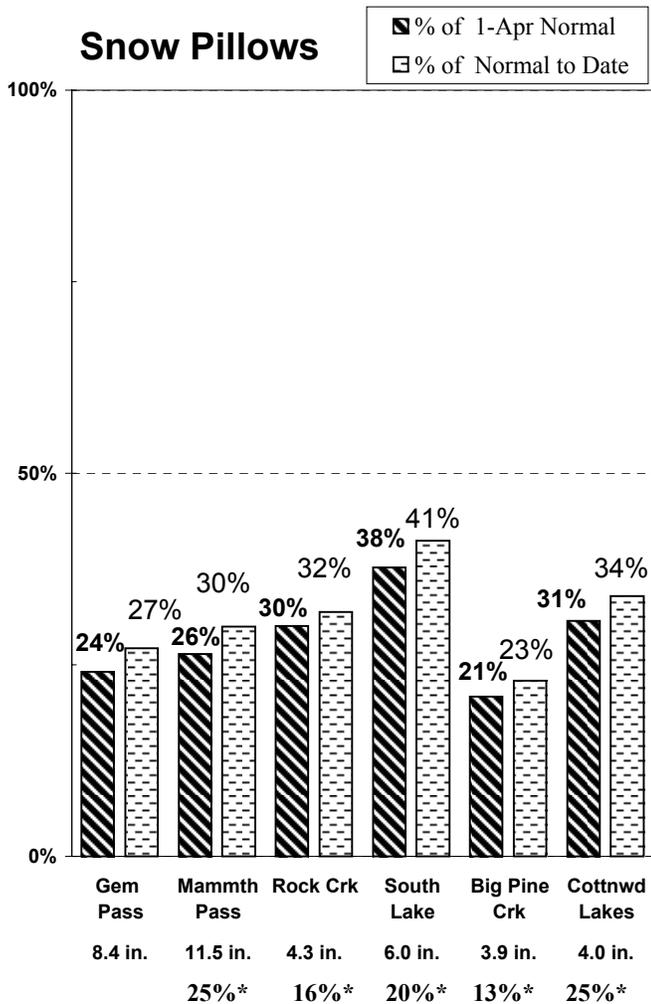


EASTERN SIERRA CURRENT PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS As of March 7, 2012

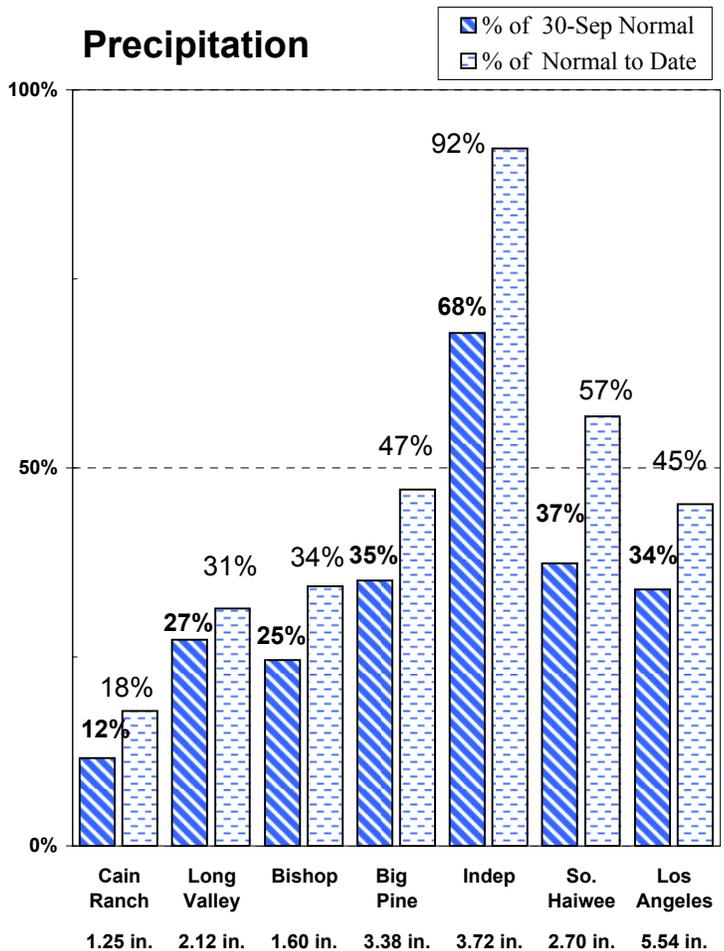
Mammoth Pass Snowpack



Snow Pillows



Precipitation



* Individual snow pillow represents an area that contributes this percent of the total Owens River Basin runoff.

Measurement as Inches Water Content; Precipitation totals are cumulative for water year beginning Oct 1

EASTERN SIERRA SNOW SURVEY RESULTS

March 1, 2012

MAMMOTH LAKES AREA

<u>Course</u>	<u>Water Content</u>	<u>Normal to Date</u>	<u>April 1 Normal</u>	<u>% of Normal to Date</u>	<u>% of April 1 Normal</u>
Mammoth Pass	10.9	36.6	43.5	30%	25%
Mammoth Lakes	4.4	18.7	21.1	23%	21%
Minarets 2	7.7	26.0	30.1	30%	26%
Average:	7.7	27.1	31.5	28%	24%

ROCK CREEK AREA

<u>Course</u>	<u>Water Content</u>	<u>Normal to Date</u>	<u>April 1 Normal</u>	<u>% of Normal to Date</u>	<u>% of April 1 Normal</u>
Rock Creek 1	2.6	8.4	7.4	31%	36%
Rock Creek 2	3.6	10.3	10.5	35%	35%
Rock Creek 3	4.6	13.4	14.4	34%	32%
Average:	3.6	10.7	10.8	34%	34%

BISHOP AREA

<u>Course</u>	<u>Water Content</u>	<u>Normal to Date</u>	<u>April 1 Normal</u>	<u>% of Normal to Date</u>	<u>% of April 1 Normal</u>
Sawmill*	4.0	17.2	19.7	23%	20%
Average:	4.0	17.2	19.7	23%	20%

COTTONWOOD AREA

<u>Course</u>	<u>Water Content</u>	<u>Normal to Date</u>	<u>April 1 Normal</u>	<u>% of Normal to Date</u>	<u>% of April 1 Normal</u>
Cottonwood Lakes 1	4.0	11.4	13.0	36%	31%
Trailhead*	4.8	11.9	13.7	40%	35%
Average:	4.4	11.6	13.3	38%	33%

EASTERN SIERRA OVERALL SNOW PACK

<u>Average of all Snow Courses</u>	<u>Water Content</u>	<u>Normal to Date</u>	<u>April 1 Normal</u>	<u>% of Normal to Date</u>	<u>% of April 1 Normal</u>
	4.9	16.6	18.9	30%	26%

Normals are based on the 1961-2010 period

* Measured by DWR

** Trailhead has only been measured since 1982.

5.c. - Colorado River Operations



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

February 21, 2012

Dr. Terry Fulp
Acting Regional Director
Lower Colorado Regional Office
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

Mr. Chris Harris
Acting Executive Director
Colorado River Board of California
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
Glendale, CA 91303-1035

Ms. Sandra A. Fabritz-Whitney
Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources
3550 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2129

Ms. Jayne Harkins
Executive Director
Colorado River Commission of Nevada
555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 3100
Las Vegas, NV 89101-1065

Dear Mses. Harkins and Fabritz-Whitney, Mr. Harris and Dr. Fulp:

Report on Southern Nevada Water Authority Interstate Account for
2011 Administered by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), Colorado River Commission of Nevada, Southern Nevada Water Authority (Water Authority), and the United States entered into a Storage and Interstate Release Agreement in 2004 to establish a long lasting cooperative relationship between Metropolitan and the Water Authority to better manage limited Colorado supplies. Under the provisions of this agreement, Metropolitan stores unused Nevada apportionment of Colorado River water in California. In future years, at the Water Authority's request, Metropolitan will recover this stored water for Nevada. The agreement will end once all the stored water has been recovered and the parties agree to end the agreement.

Last October, the Central Arizona Project, Metropolitan and the Water Authority urged the Bureau of Reclamation to leave unused Colorado River apportionment in Lake Mead rather than reallocate it to another state. With current trends suggesting below normal runoff and system storage about 65 percent of capacity, it remains prudent to leave this water in Lake Mead.

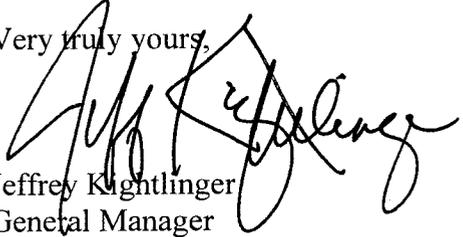
Mses. Harkins and Fabritz-Whitney, Mr. Harris and Dr. Fulp

Page 2

February 21, 2012

Consistent with that approach, Metropolitan did not store any of Nevada's unused apportionment in 2011 and coordinated with the Water Authority to instead leave the water in Lake Mead to aid reservoir storage levels. Enclosed is a final verified accounting for the Water Authority's Interstate Account. If you have any questions regarding the accounting, please contact Mr. Harry Ruzgerian at (213) 217-6082.

Very truly yours,


Jeffrey Knightlinger
General Manager

HMR:vs

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Enclosure

cc: Ms. Patricia Mulroy
General Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority
100 City Parkway, Suite 700
Las Vegas, NV 89106-4615

Final Accounting through Calendar Year 2011
February 21, 2012

Year	Beginning Balance (acre feet)	Amount Diverted and stored for the Benefit of the Water Authority (acre feet)	Debits for Water Withdrawn for Purposes of Developing ICUA (acre feet)	End of Year Net Balance (acre feet)	Cumulative Credits (acre feet)
2004	0	10,000	0	10,000	10,000
2005	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	20,000
2006	20,000	5,000	0	5,000	25,000
2007	25,000	0	0	0	25,000
2008	25,000	45,000	0	45,000	70,000
2009	70,000	0	0	0	70,000
2010	70,000	0	0	0	70,000
2011	70,000	0	0	0	70,000

138 FERC ¶ 62,150
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Wyco Power and Water, Inc.

Project No. 14263-000

ORDER DISMISSING PRELIMINARY PERMIT APPLICATION

(February 23, 2012)

1. On September 1, 2011, Wyco Power and Water, Inc. (Wyco) filed a preliminary permit application to study the feasibility of the Regional Watershed Supply Project No. 14263. Wyco's proposed project would consist of: (1) a proposed 501-mile-long buried water supply pipeline that would extend from two points of diversion in Wyoming (Flaming Gorge Reservoir and the Green River) to a proposed reservoir near Pueblo, Colorado; and (2) seven hydropower projects, including two pumped storage projects, that use water from the proposed pipeline and five projects that would consist of turbines placed in the water supply pipeline. The proposed project would occupy federal lands managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (Forest Service), and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

2. On October 18, 2011, the Commission issued public notice of Wyco's proposal. Notices of intervention were filed by the Forest Service and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.¹ Motions to intervene were filed by Coalition of Local Governments; Colorado River Water Conservation District; Colorado Springs Utilities; Sweetwater County, Wyoming; Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District; American Rivers, American Whitewater, and Colorado River Outfitters Association, filing jointly; Colorado Environmental Coalition, National Parks Conservation Association, and Western Resources Advocates, filing jointly; Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, Rocky Mountain Wild, Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper, Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, Wyoming Outdoor Council, Citizens for Dixie's Future, Glen Canyon Institute, Living Rivers: Colorado Riverkeeper, and Utah Rivers Council, filing jointly; Trout Unlimited; and Wyoming Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife

¹ Timely notices of intervention filed by the Forest Service and state fish and wildlife agencies are granted by operation of Rule 214(a)(2) of the Commission's regulations. 18 C.F.R. § 385.214(a)(2) (2011).

Federation, and Colorado Wildlife Federation, filing jointly.² Approximately 230 comments were filed in response to the public notice.

3. Section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA)³ authorizes the Commission to issue preliminary permits for the purpose of enabling applicants for a license to secure the data and to perform the acts required by section 9 of the FPA. Section 9 of the FPA⁴ requires license applicants to submit “[s]uch maps, plans, specifications, and estimates of cost as may be required for a full understanding of the proposed project,” together with satisfactory evidence of compliance with pertinent state laws, and “such additional information as the Commission may require.” Section 5 of the FPA states that issuance of a permit shall be for the sole purpose of maintaining priority of application for a license for up to three years “for making examinations and surveys, for preparing maps, plans, specifications, and estimates, and for making financial arrangements.”⁵

4. Wyco’s permit application seeks priority of application for a license for a project that would divert the unused part of water allocated to the State of Wyoming and the State of Colorado from the Green River Basin into a 501-mile-long pipeline for delivery to southeastern Wyoming and the Front Range of Colorado for municipal and agricultural use. To develop the hydro potential along the pipeline, the project proposes seven hydropower projects.⁶ As presented in Wyco’s application, these hydropower projects are exclusively dependent on water from the proposed water supply pipeline. However, this pipeline does not currently exist, and Wyco’s application does not provide any information about the timeline for seeking and obtaining the necessary authorizations for the construction and operation of such a pipeline.

5. Wyco’s permit application presents maps with a single line drawn from the water supply pipeline’s two proposed water withdrawal locations to its terminus near Pueblo, Colorado, 501 miles away. Wyco’s maps indicate that the water conveyance pipeline may cross federal lands managed by BLM, FWS, and Forest Service. While Wyco only

² Timely, unopposed motions to intervene are granted by operation of Rule 214(c) of the Commission’s regulations. 18 C.F.R. § 385.214(c) (2011).

³ 16 U.S.C. § 797(f) (2006).

⁴ 16 U.S.C. § 802 (2006).

⁵ 16 U.S.C. § 798 (2006).

⁶ In a letter dated October 5, 2011, the Commission staff clarified that its only role associated with the proposed water supply pipeline would be to authorize the construction and operation of any proposed hydropower projects along the pipeline.

identified federal land ownership on its maps, it is presumed that the water conveyance pipeline will also cross state, county, local government, and private lands. Until a water conveyance pipeline is actually built, authorizations have been obtained for a specific route, or the process to identify a specific route has been substantially completed, Wyco will be unable to prepare “[s]uch maps, plans, specifications, and estimates of cost as may be required for a full understanding of the proposed [hydropower] project,” during a three-year permit term, as required by section 9 of the FPA. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit is to maintain priority of application for license while this information is gathered. Until some certainty regarding the authorization of the pipeline is presented, Wyco will not be able to gather and obtain the information required to prepare a license application for a proposed hydropower project. Therefore, there is no purpose under the FPA for issuing a permit to Wyco for its proposed hydropower project at this time. For this reason, Wyco’s preliminary permit application is dismissed as premature.

The Director orders:

(A) The preliminary permit application filed by Wyco Power and Water, Inc., on September 1, 2011, for Project No. 14263-000 is dismissed.

(B) This order constitutes final agency action. Any party may file a request for rehearing of this order within 30 days of the date of its issuance, as provided in section 313(a) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. § 8251 (2006), and section 385.713 of the Commission’s regulations, 18 C.F.R. § 385.713 (2011).

Jeff Wright
Director
Office of Energy Projects

Colorado River Basin

Salinity Control Forum



March 2, 2012

Sean Babington
Legislative Aid for Energy & Natural Resources
Office of Senator Michael Bennet
458 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

GOVERNORS

Janice K. Brewer, AZ
Jerry Brown, CA
John Hickenlooper, CO
Brian Sandoval, NV
Susana Martinez, NM
Gary R. Herbert, UT
Matthew H. Mead, WY

Re: Continuation of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program
Authority and Funding Under the 2012 Farm Bill

Dear Mr. Babington:

FORUM MEMBERS

Arizona

Perri Benemelis
Larry R. Dozier
Linda Taunt

California

Pete Silva
Gerald R. Zimmerman

Colorado

Jennifer L. Gimbel
Steven H. Gunderson
David W. Robbins

Nevada

Leo M. Drozdoff
John J. Entsminger
McClain Peterson

New Mexico

John R. D'Antonio

Utah

Randy Crozier
Dennis J. Strong
John Whitehead

Wyoming

Dan S. Budd
Patrick T. Tyrrell
John F. Wagner

We greatly appreciate Senator Bennet's and your interest in and willingness to assure the continuation and viability of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Salinity Control Program) through potential changes with the 2012 Farm Bill. As requested, below is a brief summary of the history and needs of the Salinity Control Program as we move toward a new farm bill.

The Salinity Control Program, which is unanimously supported by the seven Colorado River Basin states, has been successful in controlling the water quality of the Colorado River while the Upper Basin States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming have continued to develop their Compact-apportioned water. The Salinity Control Program was created by Congress in 1974 (PL 93-320). It was amended in 1984 (PL 98-369) to add a specific USDA Colorado River Salinity Control Program. The 1996 Farm Bill (104-127) combined this and several other programs into EQIP, from which the Salinity Control Program has been funded for the past 16 years. The 1996 Farm Bill also amended the Salinity Control Act such that the Act specifically references implementation of the program by USDA under EQIP and also allows for cost share in the Salinity Control Program through the Basin States Program.

Every three years, the seven Colorado River Basin States jointly adopt a salinity standard, which is then adopted by each of the seven states individually and submitted to and approved by EPA. Continuation of an on-farm Salinity Control Program is required to meet the salinity standard as the Upper Basin States continue to develop their Compact-apportioned water supply. Water from the Colorado River is supplied to approximately

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Sean Babington

March 2, 2012

Page Two

35 million people and used to irrigate approximately 4 million acres in the United States. Modeling by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation indicates that cessation of the Salinity Control Program would lead to a rise in the total dissolved solids in the river by about 100 mg/L by the year 2030. Under the 2012 Farm Bill, there is a need to

- continue the authority for the USDA's portion of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program,
- maintain the connection between authorized USDA program(s) and the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act,
- provide for or prioritize sufficient funding to keep this successful program moving forward, and lastly
- continue the authority under the Salinity Control Act for cost share dollars to be provided through the Basin States Program.

Again, we greatly appreciate your assistance in shepherding the Salinity Control Program through potential changes with the 2012 Farm Bill. In 2011 through this program, Colorado farmers received approximately \$7.9 million in technical and financial assistance which generated another approximately \$3.4 million in cost share. I would be happy to provide you additional information on this successful and popular program and stand ready to assist with any issues which might arise during the 2012 Farm Bill process.

Sincerely,



Don A. Barnett, P.E., P.G.
Executive Director

cc: Dennis Strong, Chairman
Perri Benemelis, Vice Chairman
Patrick Tyrrell, Management Committee
Jennifer Gimbel, Colorado Forum Member
Steve Gunderson, Colorado Forum Member
David Robbins, Colorado Forum Member