

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT
TO THE
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**

December 14, 2010

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2010

A copy of the November 10th Board meeting minutes has been included in the Board folder for review and comment. I am respectfully asking for approval and adoption of these meeting minutes by Board members.

Proposed Colorado River Board Meeting for Calendar-Year 2011

I am enclosing a copy of the proposed Board meeting schedule for Calendar-Year 2011 in the Board folder for your final review and approval. I am respectfully asking for Board approval and adoption of the Calendar-Year 2011 Board Calendar and Schedule of Meetings.

Agency Managers' Meeting

The Agency Managers met following the Colorado River Board meeting on November 10, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the trends and future projections to be included in the Basin Study Report for California. Following that meeting a revised discussion of the current and future demand trends for California was sent to the Bureau of Reclamation for inclusion in the Colorado River Basin Study Report.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

As of December 1, 2010, storage in the major Upper Basin reservoirs decreased by 476,100 acre-feet and storage in the Lower Basin reservoirs increased by 64,700 acre-feet during November 2010. Total System active storage as of December 6th was 32.286 million acre-feet (maf), or 54 percent of capacity, which is 1.118 maf less than one year ago (Upper Basin reservoirs decreased by 0.195 maf and Lower Basin reservoirs decreased by 0.924 maf).

November releases from Hoover, Davis, and Parker Dams averaged 13,440, 10,600 and 7,190 cubic feet per second (cfs), respectively. Planned releases from those three dams for the month of December 2010, are 10,400, 9,800, and 5,500 cfs, respectively. The December releases represent those needed to meet downstream water requirements including those caused by reduced operation of Senator Wash Reservoir.

As of December 9th, taking into account both measured and unmeasured return flows, the Lower Division states' consumptive use of Colorado River water for calendar year 2010, as forecasted by Reclamation, totals 7.414 maf and is described as follows: Arizona, 2.783 maf; California, 4.380 maf; and Nevada, 0.250 maf. The Central Arizona Project (CAP) will divert 1.652 maf, of which 0.134 maf are planned to be delivered to the Arizona Water Bank. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) will use about 1.105 maf, which is the same amount as its 2009 use of mainstream water.

The preliminary end-of-year estimate by the Board staff for 2010 California agricultural consumptive use of Colorado River water under the first three priorities and the sixth priority of the 1931 *California Seven Party Agreement* is 3.422 maf. This estimate is based on the collective use, through October 2010, by the Palo Verde Irrigation District, the Yuma Project-Reservation Division (YPRD), the Imperial Irrigation District, and the Coachella Valley Water District. Figure 1, found at the end of this report, depicts the projected end-of-year agricultural use for the year.

As of December 12th, the water level at the Lake Mead was at 1,083.51 feet above the mean sea level, and the storage was 10,067 maf, 38.9 percent of capacity, while the water level at Lake Powell was at 3,628.73 feet above the mean sea level and the storage was 14,711 maf, 60.5 percent of capacity.

Colorado River Operations

California DWR Winter Outlook Workshop for Water-Year 2011

On November 17th, the California Department of Water Resources held a winter outlook workshop for Water-Year 2011 in San Diego. Key points from the workshop include: (1) Water-Year 2011 follows an approximately average Water-Year 2010; (2) a strong La Nina condition is likely to mean drier than average conditions in southern California, and potentially average conditions in northern California; and (3) the upper Colorado basin may have good prospects for an average water year. I have included a synopsis of the key points from the workshop in the Board folder.

Geophysical Research Letters Article, "Predicting Regime Shifts in Flow of the Colorado River"

I have included a copy of recently published technical article from the October 2010 journal *Geophysical Research Letters*. This article analyzes paleoreconstructions of stream flow in the upper Colorado River basin to develop a potential prediction for shifts between persistently wet or dry hydrologic conditions in the upper basin. While the data seems to indicate that there will be a continuation of decadal to multi-decadal regime shifts from persistently wet to dry conditions, the resultant mean climate conditions for those future wet and dry hydrologic condition may be different than that experienced historically because of the influences resulting from global warming induced climate conditions.

Central Arizona Project Letter to Reclamation Regarding Lake Mead Water Surface Elevation

I am enclosing, in the Board folder, a copy of a letter, dated November 17th, from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) to Reclamation's Lower Colorado Regional Director. The CAP letter requests that Reclamation take steps to carefully manage and conserve water supplies in Lake Mead. In fact, CAP joins with MWD and the Southern Nevada in requesting that should any unused Colorado River water become available, that that water not be made available pursuant to Article II(B)(6) of the Consolidated Decree in *Arizona v. California, et al.*, and that it be retained in storage in Lake Mead.

Basin States Discussions

Status of Bi-National Projects and Programs with Mexico

As discussed at the November Board meeting, the discussions with Mexico have been refocused on developing a minute to the 1944 Mexican Water Treaty that only addresses the water that Mexico would like to delay the delivery of during calendar years 2010 through 2013 as a result of the damage to its infrastructure resulting from the April 2010 earthquake. With this refocus of the discussions, conference calls have been held among representatives of the Basin states and their technical and legal representatives to finalize a draft of Minute 318 that is acceptable to both the United States and Mexico. It is still the intent of both countries to develop a comprehensive deal in a subsequent minute that addresses the creation and delivery of Intentionally Created Mexican Apportionment (ICMA), the conversion of ICMA to Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS), surplus and shortage sharing, and pursuit of new water and environmental projects. This effort will begin once agreement on Minute 318 is reached and it is executed.

As a result of the various conference calls and meetings, general agreement has been reached among the U.S. parties on the contents of the new draft of Minute 318 dealing with delayed delivery of water to Mexico resulting from the earthquake related damaged infrastructure in Mexico. The new draft of Minute 318 is undergoing final review by both countries. A more detailed report on these discussions may be provided at the Board meeting.

Department of the Interior Letter and Agenda for Interior/Basin States Joint Meeting, November 30th, Washington, D.C.

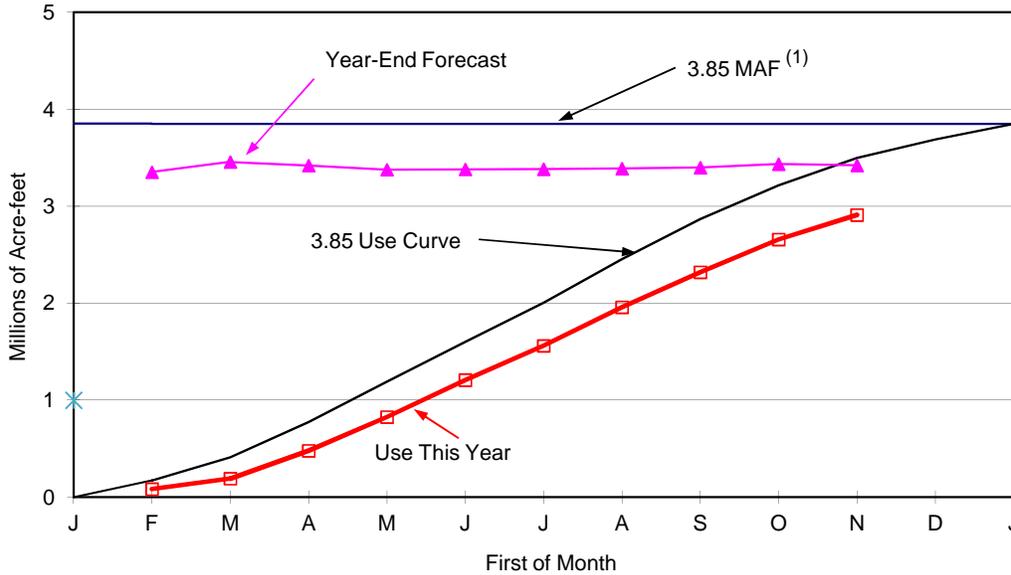
A meeting was held among the Basin states' principals and the Department of the Interior Leadership Team, including Secretary Salazar, on November 30th in the Main Interior Building in Washington, D.C. The primary purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions associated with improving communication and better coordinating the roles of the states and Interior in joint management of the Colorado River. Secretary Salazar, the Assistant Secretaries, and Agency heads attended the meeting. Although, I was not able to attend the meeting in Washington, D.C., the Board's Chairman did and it was his assessment that this was a successful meeting and that the states' objectives for the meeting were achieved. I have included a copy of the letter from Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Anne Castle, and the proposed agenda for the meeting in the Board folder.

In a related vein, I am including a copy of brief letter from the Colorado Water Conservation Board to the Interior agency directors in the Colorado River Basin (i.e., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director, Reclamation Regional Directors, National Park Service Regional Director, and the Senior Science Advisor for the U.S. Geological Survey's Pacific Southwest Area) requesting a coordination meeting with the Basin states' principals on December 17th at the annual Colorado River Water Users Association conference. I have included a copy of Colorado's letter in the Board folder.



Christopher S. Harris
Acting Executive Director

FIGURE 1
DECEMBER 1, 2010 FORECAST OF 2010 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	Forecast of Unused Water (1)
Jan	0.000	-----	-----
Feb	0.084	3.352	0.191
Mar	0.192	3.456	0.087
Apr	0.479	3.421	0.122
May	0.826	3.378	0.165
Jun	1.208	3.381	0.162
Jul	1.561	3.382	0.161
Aug	1.958	3.389	0.154
Sep	2.320	3.398	0.145
Oct	2.658	3.435	0.107
Nov	2.910	3.422	0.121
Dec			
Jan			

(1) The forecast of unused water is based on the availability of 3.543 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 1989 IID-MWD-CVWD-PVID Agreement as amended; 70,000 AF of conserved water available to SDCWA under the IID-SDCWA Transfer Agreement as amended being diverted by MWD; an estimated 28,500 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 of Indian and miscellaneous present perfected rights use. As USBR is charging disputed uses by Yuma island pumpers to priority 2, the amount of unused water has been reduced by those uses - 6,470 af. The CRB does not concur with USBR's viewpoint on this matter.