

COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

770 FAIRMONT AVENUE, SUITE 100
GLENDALE, CA 91203-1068
(818) 500-1625
(818) 543-4685 FAX



February 3, 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: February 15, 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "CS Harris".

Christopher S. Harris
Acting Executive Director

attachment: Agenda

Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
February 15, 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 December 14, 2011, Consideration and Approval (**Action**)
 - b. Revised 2012 Colorado River Board Meeting Schedule
4. Agency Managers Meetings
5. Protection of Existing Rights
 - a. Colorado River Water Report(s)
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
Reports on current water supply and use conditions
 - c. Colorado River Operations
 - 2012 Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River System Reservoirs (2012 AOP)
 - Reclamation's News Release Announcing Initiation of Phase 4 of the Basin Study Report Development Process
 - Reclamation's Approval of Revised Calendar Year 2011 Diversion for IID, CVWD and MWD
 - Reclamation's Approval of IID's 2012 Plan for Creation of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS)
 - Reclamation's Approval of SNWD's 2012 Plans for the Creation of Tributary Conservation ICS and Imported ICS
 - d. Basin States Discussions
 - Status of U.S./Mexico Binational Discussions

Agenda (continued)

e. Colorado River Environmental Issues

- Seven Basin States' Letter Associated with Scoping Comments on the Adoption of a Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan for the Operation of Glen Canyon Dam

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

March 14, 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 December 14, 2011, Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Special Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, December 14, 2011

A Special Meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held in the Ballroom Emperor I, of Caesars Palace Hotel, at 3570 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109-8924, Wednesday, December 14, 2011.

Board Members and Alternate Present

Dana Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman
John V. Foley
W.D. "Bill" Knutson
David R. Pettijohn

John Palmer Powell Jr.

Jeanine Jones, Designee
Department of Water Resources

Board Members and Alternate Absent

Terese Marie Ghio
James Cleo Hanks
Henry Merle Kuiper
John Pierre Menvielle

James B. McDaniel

Christopher G. Hayes, Designee
Department of Fish and Game

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott
Don Barnett
James H. Bond
David Bradsman
Brenda Burman
John Penn Carter
Ron Derma
Steve Glazer
Leslie Gallagher
William J. Hasencamp
Tim Henley
Fadi Kamand
Michael L. King

Thomas E. Levy
Jan P. Matusak
Stella A. Mendoza
Roger K. Patterson
Glen Peterson
Halla Razak
Steven B. Robbins
Anthony Sanchez
Jack Seiler
Tina L. Shields
Jesse I. Silva
Peter S. Silva
Ed W. Smith

Catherine Stites
Rob Thomson
Deven Upadhyay
Joseph A. Vanderhorst
Bill D. Wright
Michael Yu
J.C. Jay Chen
Christopher S. Harris
Lindia Y. Liu
Mark van Vlack
Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher welcomed the audience and announced that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.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 November 9th meeting minutes. Mr. Foley moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Knutson seconded the motion. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the November 9th meeting minutes.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that precipitation in the Colorado River Basin, as of December 5th, was about 104 percent of average. The observed April through July 2011 unregulated flow into Lake Powell was 12.9 million acre-feet (maf), or 162 percent of average. The observed 2011 water year unregulated flow into Lake Powell was 16.8 maf, or 139 percent of average.

Mr. Harris reported that, as of December 4th, the storage in Lake Powell was 16.59 maf, or 68 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 3,644.9 feet. The storage in Lake Mead was 14.03 maf, or 54 percent of capacity, and water surface elevation was 1,126.8 feet. Total System storage was about 38.47 maf, or 64 percent of capacity. Last year at this time, there was 32.30 maf in storage, also 54 percent of capacity. Lake Powell is up about two million acre-feet and Lake Mead is up about four million acre-feet from this time last year.

Mr. Harris reported Reclamation's projected consumptive use (CU) for the State of Nevada to be under its basic entitlement of 300,000 acre-feet (i.e., 230,000 acre-feet), and Arizona CU of Colorado River water to be under its 2.8 maf apportionment (i.e., 2.783 maf), and that California CU is projected to be slightly under its 4.4 maf apportionment (i.e., 4.318 maf). The CU in the Lower Basin is expected to be about 7.331 maf.

Mr. Zimmerman reported that it's the Board position that if equalization between Lakes Powell and Mead does not occur by the end of the water year then it should occur by the end of the calendar year. Mr. Zimmerman reported that he had attended the Upper Colorado River Commission meeting and that Ms. Ann Gold, Deputy Regional Director of Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region, acknowledged that equalization wasn't reached by the end of the water year but she reported that equalization is expected to occur by December 28th or December 29th.

State and Local Water Reports

Mr. Harris reported that precipitation, in seven major regions in Southern California, was slightly above normal (i.e. 110 to 131 percent of normal) except for the desert regions (30 to 73 percent of normal). Statewide precipitation was about 90 percent of normal, though average reservoir storage was 125 percent of normal, due to last year's season. The California State Water

Project (SWP), as of December 1st, for Northern California was about 2.93 MAF, or 79 percent of capacity and Southern California was about 1.54 MAF, or 84 percent of capacity. Total SWP storage was 4.47 MAF or 81 percent of capacity. Ms. Jeanine Jones, of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), added that the initial SWP projected deliveries for Table A Entitlements was 60 percent. Late November and early December have been particularly dry and the current forecast is dry so the actual deliveries may be less optimistic than current projections. Ms. Jones reported that the California DWR held the annual winter outlook workshop, November 29th, where scientists from the weather and climate fields convened to discuss potential 2012 water year conditions. Weak to moderate La Niña conditions are currently being experienced, following somewhat stronger La Niña conditions last year. The current Water Year 2012 forecast is a near normal runoff season in Northern California while Southern California may be more dry. Ultimately, California's annual water supply conditions may depend on a relatively small number of storms. A few less major winter storms, or conversely a few more winter storms with high rainfall intensities or extended duration, can tip the water year balance to dry or wet.

Mr. Foley, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported surface water storage in MWD's principal reservoirs, as of December 1st, was about 954 thousand acre-feet, or 92 percent of capacity. Diamond Valley reservoir capacity was about 778 thousand acre-feet, or 96 percent of capacity. Lake Mathews was about 141 thousand acre-feet, or 77 percent of capacity, and Lake Skinner was about 35 thousand acre-feet, or 81 percent of capacity. Mr. Foley reported that total 2011 calendar year deliveries through October was about 1.43 MAF, or 77 percent of average deliveries (last ten years).

Mr. David Pettijohn, of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, reported that last two and a half months have been dry in the Eastern Sierra and the forecast for the next two weeks continues to be dry. Last year there was a mid December storm about one half of the annual precipitation occurred from one series of storms, so things could change quickly before the end of the winter season.

Colorado River Operations

2012 Annual Operating Plan

Mr. Harris reported that the final 2012 Annual Operating Plan (2012 AOP) is in the Commissioner's Office awaiting approval. After approval by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, the final 2012 AOP is expected to be posted on Reclamation's Upper and Lower Colorado Region webpages.

Status of the Basin Study Report Development Process

Mr. Harris reported that the Basin Study Report has entered Phase 4, or the "Options & Strategies Phase". The California Basin Study participants are continuing to work with Reclamation to finalize the current trends and demand data and develop data for each of the alternative demand scenarios. The goals of the Phase 4 of the Basin Study are: 1) Receive broad input on potential options for addressing future water supply and demand imbalances; 2) Evaluate representative options for major categories of options received; 3) Explore the effectiveness of various combinations of options; and 4) Summarize the findings related to performance and robustness of various options and portfolios.

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation's efforts to receive input of any and all interested parties includes a public outreach process of meetings with interested stakeholders throughout the Basin, webinars, and a booth at the Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Basin States Discussions

Status of the Binational Discussions

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the objective continues to be to have a signed Treaty Minute 319 acceptable to both countries, early in 2012. Meetings have continued over the last two months. Reclamation Commissioner Conner and IBWC representatives from the U.S. and Mexico are scheduled to meet during the CRWUA and hopefully accelerate the process. The several small subgroups continue to meet, and the larger Legal Committee continues to receive reports from these smaller groups. Mr. Zimmerman reported that as in previous agreements involving the Basin States, much work needs to be done to bring about a Treaty Minute 319 that the Basin States are willing to support.

WATER QUALITY

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

Mr. Don Barnett, of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, reported that they'd just completed their three year review process, where the seven states come together to review the water quality standards for the Colorado River Basin. The review looks at both the numerical criteria as well as planned implementation standards. There are current measures in place controlling about 1.2 million tons per year. Modeling studies performed by Reclamation indicate that current measures lower the total dissolved solids (TDS) by about 100 milligrams per liter (mg/l) at the Imperial Dam. The plan of implementation is to control an additional 644,000 tons by 2030 that would reduce the projected increase by about 50 mg/l.

Mr. Barnett reported that salinity control proposals submitted in 2010 were estimated to cost about \$100 million. Eleven projects were selected that would control between 30,000-35,000 tons of salt annually, at a cost of about \$35 million. Appropriations are expected to fund about \$20 million, with the remaining \$15 million from cost-share. The eleven selected programs are scheduled to be implemented over the next three years.

Mr. Barnett reported that the Paradox Valley Unit that has been in operation since 1996, intercepting brine of 250,000 parts per million (ppm) before it discharges into the Dolores River. This brine is disposed in a 16,000 foot injection well. The injection rate has been steadily decreasing while the pressure to inject the brine is about 500 psi and increasing. Reclamation has received funding to begin seeking well replacement alternatives. Options include: (1) initiating the EIS process for Alternatives Study; (2) a pilot evaporation pond study; (3) hydrogeologic study of the valley; and (4) permitting a replacement well(s) in case the existing injection well fails.

Mr. Barnett reported that since 1996 on-farm salinity control efforts have been funded

through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP), which was last authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program is a small part of the EQIP, and is a very small part of the Farm Bill. Mr. Barnett expressed concern for the future of salinity control efforts given that a large part of the funding is such a small part of a large federal program, whose authorization expires on September 30, 2012. There was discussion about potential future federal funding of the salinity control program that might be under a conservation bill rather than a future Farm Bill. Hopefully the program won't be lost in the shuffle. Mr. Harris reported that the Board will be working with Mr. Barnett so that the salinity control program benefits are not lost in future federal funding programs.

OTHER BUSINESS

Status of Mr. William H. Swan

Mr. John Carter reported that Mr. Bill Swan, long time representative of California agricultural interests – specifically the Imperial Irrigation District, is recuperating from treatments and may remain in the hospital over the holidays depending on the success of the first phase of his treatments. Further tests are scheduled and there may be a need to find a bone marrow match for Mr. Swan. One of his brothers may be a possible donor, but further tests are needed. Mr. Carter reported that Mr. Swan appreciated the cards and letters he had received and that he does check his email on occasion.

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 10:00 a.m., at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, 2155 E. 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. Foley, seconded by Mr. Knutson, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned 2:31 p.m. on December 14, 2011.

Christopher S. Harris
Acting Executive Director

3.b. - Revised 2012 Colorado River Board Meeting Schedule

**COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Calendar Year 2012 Meetings**

February 3, 2012
(Revised)

Board Meeting Date

Other Meetings and Events

January 11 (Canceled)

January 2: New Year's Day Holiday
January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday

February 15

February 9-10: UWII Spring Water Conference,
Hilton Palm Springs, Palm Springs, CA
February 20: President's Day Holiday
February 28-March 3: ACWA 2012 Washington D.C. Conference,
The Washington Court Hotel, Washington, D.C.

March 14

March 27-30: CMUA 80th Annual Conference,
Monterey Plaza Hotel, Monterey, CA
March 26-28: NWRA Federal Water Issues Conference,
The Washington Court Hotel, Washington, D.C.
March 31: Cesar Chavez Day Holiday

April 11

May 9

May 8-11: ACWA 2012 Spring Conference, Conference Center,
Portola & Marriott Hotels, Monterey, CA
May 28: Memorial Day Holiday

June 13

July 11

July 4: Independence Day Holiday

August 15

August 1-3: NWRA Western Water Seminar,
Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, ID
August 22-24: UWII 19th Annual So. California Urban Water
Conference, Hilton Mission Bay Resort, San Diego, CA

September 12

September 3: Labor Day Holiday

October 10

October 31-November 2: NWRA 81st Annual Conference,
Hotel Del Coronado, Coronado, CA

November 14

November 12: Veteran's Day Holiday
November 22-23: Thanksgiving Day Holiday

December 12 (Special

Meeting in conjunction
with CRWUA Conference)

December 4-7: ACWA 2012 Fall Conference,
Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, CA
December 12-14: CRWUA 67th Annual Conference,
Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada
December 25: Christmas Day Holiday

Calendar for 2012

| JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |
| JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
| S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 |

- ACWA - Association of California Water Agencies (916) 441-4545 FAX (916) 325-4849
- CMUA - California Municipal Utilities Association (916) 326-5800 FAX (916) 326-5810
- CRWUA- Colorado River Water Users Association (760) 398-2651 FAX (760) 398-3711
- NWRA - National Water Resources Association (703) 524-1544 FAX (703) 524-1548
- UWII - Urban Water Institute, Inc. (949) 679-9676 FAX (949) 474-8258

NOTE: Regular Meetings are held on Wednesday following the second Tuesday in the month. Unless otherwise noted, Regular Meetings will be held in Ontario area, California, or in the Board's office, 770 Fairmont Avenue, Conference Room, Glendale, California, and will start at 10:00 a.m.

**SUMMARY WATER REPORT
COLORADO RIVER BASIN
February 6, 2012**

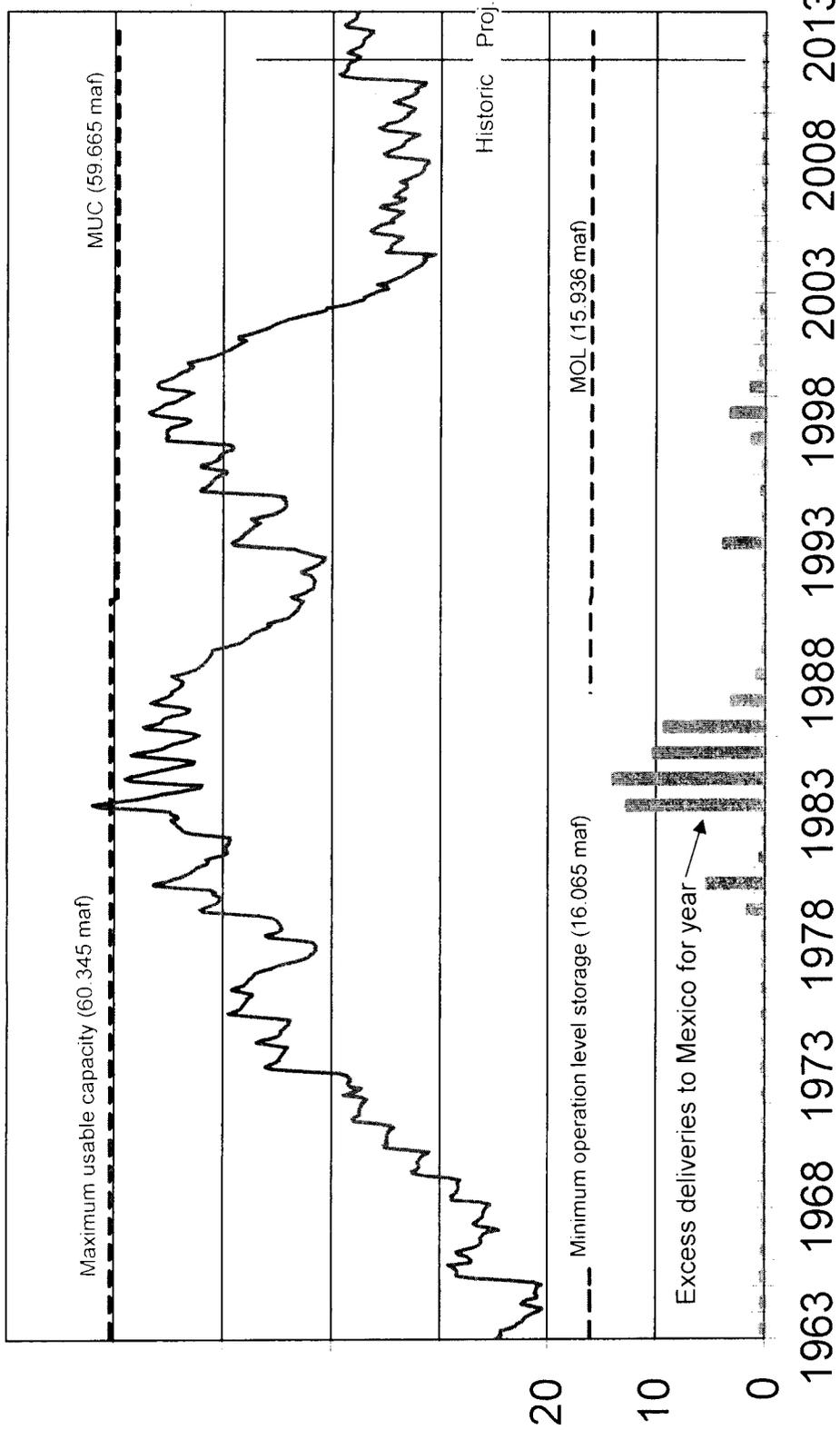
| RESERVOIR STORAGE (as of February 5) | January 9, 2011 | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| | MAF | ELEV. IN FEET | % of Capacity | MAF | ELEV. IN FEET | % of Capacity |
| Lake Powell | 15.610 | 3,636.6 | 64 | 15.858 | 3,638.8 | 65 |
| Flaming Gorge | 3.334 | 6,029.6 | 89 | 3.390 | 6,031.0 | 90 |
| Navajo | 1.294 | 6,055.7 | 76 | 1.307 | 6,056.8 | 77 |
| Lake Mead | 15.028 | 1,134.2 | 58 | 14.965 | 1,133.6 | 58 |
| Lake Mohave | 1.614 | 639.9 | 89 | 1.618 | 640.0 | 89 |
| Lake Havasu | 0.569 | 447.4 | 92 | 0.532 | 445.4 | 86 |
| Total System Storage | 38.279 | | 64 | 38.562 | | 65 |
| System Storage Last Year | 32.059 | | 54 | 32.299 | | 54 |

| | | | | January 9, 2012 | |
|---|--|-------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| WY 2012 Precipitation (Basin Weighted Avg) 10/01/11 through 2/02/12 | | | 82 percent (10.5") | | 77 percent (7.7") |
| WY 2012 Snowpack Water Equivalent (Basin Weighted Avg) on day of 2/02/12 (Above two values based on average of data from 116 sites.) | | | 68 percent (7.8") | | 61 percent (5.0") |
| | | | | January 5, 2012 | |
| February 2, 2012 Forecast of Unregulated Lake Powell Inflow | | MAF | % of Normal | MAF | % of Avg. |
| 2012 April through July unregulated inflow forecast | | 5.050 | 71 % | 5.050 | 71% |
| 2012 Water Year forecast | | 8.484 | 79 % | 8.547 | 79% |

| USBR Forecasted Year-End 2012 and 2011 Consum. Use, February 1, 2012 a./ | MAF | | | |
|--|--------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | 2012 | | 2011 | |
| | Diversion | - Return = | Net | |
| Nevada (Estimated Total) | 0.438 | 0.138 | 0.300 | 0.220 |
| Arizona (Total) | 3.649 | 0.849 | 2.800 | 2.795 |
| CAP Total | | | 1.538 | 1.601 |
| Az. Water Banking Authority | | | 0.134 | 0.134 |
| OTHERS | | | 1.262 | 1.182 |
| California (Total) b./ | 4.906 | 0.731 | 4.175 | 4.333 |
| MWD | | | 0.620 | 0.699 |
| 3.85 Agriculture | <u>Total</u> | <u>Conserved</u> | <u>Forecasted</u> | <u>Estimated</u> |
| IID c./ | 3.110 | -0.360 | 2.750 | 2.917 |
| CVWD d./ | 0.370 | -0.028 | 0.342 | 0.315 |
| PVID | 0.370 | 0 | 0.370 | 0.331 |
| YPRD | 0.045 | 0 | 0.045 | 0.049 |
| Island e./ | 0.007 | 0 | 0.007 | 0.007 |
| Total Ag. | 3.902 | -0.388 | 3.514 | 3.619 |
| Others | | | 0.041 | 0.015 |
| PVID-MWD following to storage (to be determined) | | | = | 0 |
| Arizona, California, and Nevada Total f./ | 8.993 | 1.718 | 7.275 | 7.348 |

- a./ Incorporates Jan.-Sep. USGS monthly data and 75 daily reporting stations which may be revised after provisional data reports are distributed by USGS. Use to date estimated for users reporting monthly and annually.
- b./ California 2011 basic use apportionment of 4.4 MAF has been adjusted to 4.174 MAF for payback of Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy overruns (-1,213 AF), Intentionally Created Surplus Water by IID (-12,000 AF), Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS MWD (-200,000 AF).
- c./ 0.105 MAF conserved by IID-MWD Agreement as amended in 2007: 105,000 AF conserved for SDCWA under the IID-SDCWA Transfer Agreement as amended, 80,000 AF of which is being diverted by MWD; 16,000 AF required to conserved for CVWD under the IID-CVWD Acquisition Agreement, 67,700 AF conserved by the All-American Canal Lining Project.
- d./ 28,265 acre-feet conserved by the Coachella Canal Lining Project.
- e./ Includes estimated amount of 6,530 acre-feet of disputed uses by Yuma Island pumpers and 0 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

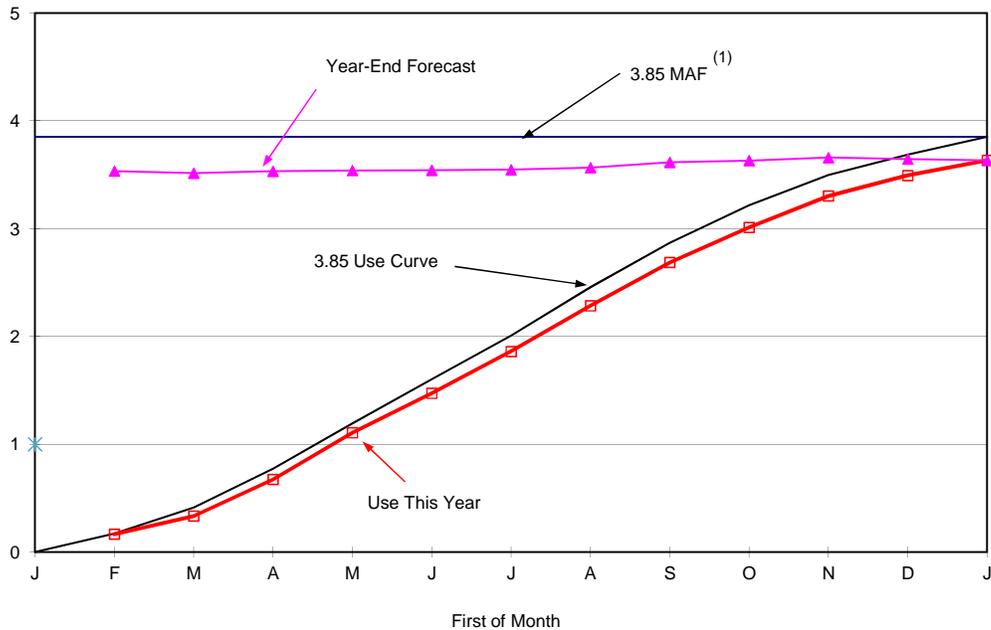


(A resurvey of Lake Powell changed the MUC and MOL in June 1991.)

February 2012

Year shows below January 1st

**FIGURE 1
FEBRUARY 1, 2011 FORECAST OF 2011 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 | 0.167 | 3.533 | 0.009 |
| Mar | 0.335 | 3.514 | 0.028 |
| Apr | 0.674 | 3.531 | 0.011 |
| May | 1.107 | 3.539 | 0.004 |
| Jun | 1.473 | 3.541 | 0.001 |
| Jul | 1.861 | 3.546 | -0.004 |
| Aug | 2.285 | 3.566 | -0.023 |
| Sep | 2.686 | 3.615 | -0.073 |
| Oct | 3.011 | 3.631 | -0.089 |
| Nov | 3.304 | 3.659 | -0.117 |
| Dec | 3.493 | 3.645 | -0.103 |
| Jan | 3.633 | 3.633 | -0.091 |

(1) The forecast of unused water is based on the availability of 3.542 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; 80,000 AF of conserved water available to SDCWA under the IID-SDCWA Transfer Agreement as amended being diverted by MWD; as estimated 26,000 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. 0 AF has been subtracted for IID's Salton Sea Salinity Management in 2011. As USBR is charging uses by Yuma Island pumpers to priority 2, the amount of unused water has been reduced by those uses - 6,530 AF. The CRB does not concur with USBR's viewpoint on this matter.

COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

December 28, 2011

COLORADO RIVER WATER REPORT

The following report summarizes data obtained from provisional reports of the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, International Boundary and Water Commission, and Imperial Irrigation District.

I. Active Surface Storage^{1/} in Reservoirs at end of Month (Thousand Acre-feet).

November 2011

| <u>Upper Basin</u> | <u>Storage</u> | <u>Elevation in feet</u> | <u>% of Capacity</u> | <u>Change During Month</u> | <u>Change from 2010</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lake Powell | 16,685 | 3,645.7 | 69% | -564 | 1,798 |
| Flaming Gorge | 3,435 | 6,032.2 | 92% | -2 | 318 |
| Fontenelle | 247 | 6,492.8 | 72% | -26 | 18 |
| Navajo | 1,327 | 6,058.4 | 78% | 1 | -47 |
| Blue Mesa | 635 | 7,496.8 | 77% | -8 | 80 |
| Morrow Point | 110 | 7,151.7 | 94% | 1 | -1 |
| Crystal | 16 | 6,751.5 | 89% | 0 | 0 |
| Sub-total | 22,457 | | 72% | -600 | 2,167 |
| <u>Lower Basin</u> | | | | | |
| Lake Mead | 13,933 | 1,125.8 | 53% | 477 | 3,997 |
| Lake Mohave | 1,511 | 636.0 | 84% | 76 | -55 |
| Lake Havasu | 567 | 447.3 | 92% | -12 | -5 |
| Sub-total | 16,012 | | 56% | 541 | 3,937 |
| Upper and Lower Basin Total | 38,469 ^{2/} | | 64% | -58 | 6,103 |

^{1/} Figures shown do not include reservoir dead storage.

^{2/} Storage above minimum operation level is 38,469 - 15,936 = 22,533 thousand acre-feet. Minimum operation level (15,936 thousand acre-feet) is defined as the sum of active content at minimum power pool plus minimum active content required to make surface diversions at Lake Havasu and Navajo Reservoir.

II. Upper Basin Discharge (Acre-feet).

| <u>Station</u> | Meas. Flow November 2011 | <u>Cumulative Flow</u> October thru November | <u>Meas. Flow Adjusted for CRSP</u> <u>Surface Storage Changes</u> | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | November 2011 | % of Nov. 90- year average (1922-2011 water years) |
| Green River at Green River, Utah | 159,600 | 426,600 | 157,200 | 106% |
| Colorado River near Cisco, Utah | 210,600 | 523,400 | 203,300 | 93% |
| San Juan River near Bluff, Utah | 48,000 | 109,000 | 48,800 | 80% |
| At Lee Ferry (Compact Point) | 1,124,500 | 2,109,600 | 551,400 | 126% |

III. Lower Basin Discharge (Acre-feet).

| <u>Station</u> | November 2011 | <u>Cumulative Flow</u> October thru November |
|--------------------|------------------|---|
| Below Hoover Dam | 564,200 | 1,007,500 |
| Below Davis Dam | 470,000 | 1,099,700 |
| Below Parker Dam | 318,300 | 788,300 |
| Above Imperial Dam | 321,700 | 741,200 |

IV. Consumptive Use of Lower Colorado River Mainstream Water (Acre-feet).
November, 2011

| California Users | Diversion | Return | Consumptive Use | Change in Cons. Use From Nov 2010 | Cumulative Cons. Use | | |
|---|-----------|---------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | | January thru November | Change from prev. Jan. thru Nov. | 12 Months thru November |
| Palo Verde Irrig. Dist. | 38,390 | 35,840 | 2,550 | -7,350 | 365,850 | 57,620 | 367,680 |
| Yuma Proj. (Res. Div.) ^{b/} | 5,200 | 2,790 | 2,410 | -340 | 47,130 | 9,560 | 48,180 |
| Imperial Irrig. Dist. ^{a/} | 151,530 | | 151,530 | -11,420 | 2,672,920 | 258,410 | 2,792,730 |
| Salton Sea Mitigation | 0 | | 0 | -22,680 | 0 | -78,320 | 1,020 |
| USBR Operations | 10,500 | | 10,500 | 6,460 | 110,490 | 98,000 | 110,490 |
| IID plus Salton Sea Mitigation | 162,030 | | 162,030 | -27,640 | 2,783,410 | 278,090 | 2,904,240 |
| Coachella Val. Wat. Dist. ^{a/} | 22,480 | | 22,480 | -2,150 | 296,610 | 10,380 | 312,270 |
| Subtotal | 228,100 | 38,630 | 189,470 | -37,480 | 3,493,000 | 355,650 | 3,632,370 |
| Fort Mojave Ind. Res. ^{c/} | 1,190 | 550 | 640 | -160 | 7,740 | -16,180 | 8,580 |
| Cal. Miscellaneous ^{d/} | 1,050 | | 1,050 | 0 | 33,050 | 0 | 34,000 |
| Metropolitan Water Dist. | 7,000 | 420 | 6,580 | -91,420 | 682,060 | -321,660 | 774,900 |
| Total | 237,340 | 39,600 | 197,740 | -129,060 | 4,215,850 | 17,810 | 4,449,850 |
| <u>Arizona Users</u> | | | | | | | |
| Central Arizona Project | 175,000 | | 175,000 | 16,190 | 1,469,530 | 190 | 1,652,110 |
| Colorado River Ind. Res. | 25,560 | 24,130 | 1,430 | -11,250 | 376,610 | -28,290 | 384,820 |
| Gila Gravity Main Canal | 35,610 | 11,040 | 24,570 | -8,770 | 562,600 | 58,040 | 585,050 |
| Yuma Proj. (Valley Div.) | 27,100 | 12,230 | 14,870 | -2,440 | 228,000 | 23,020 | 236,060 |
| Fort Mojave Ind. Res. ^{c/} | 2,940 | 1,350 | 1,590 | -5,860 | 38,230 | -39,450 | 45,680 |
| Havasu Nat. Wildlife Ref. | 50 | 0 | 50 | -320 | 10,250 | -25,110 | 10,380 |
| Arizona Miscellaneous ^{d/} | 4,610 | | 4,610 | 0 | 81,300 | 0 | 85,000 |
| Total | 270,870 | 48,750 | 222,120 | -12,450 | 2,766,520 | -11,600 | 2,999,100 |
| <u>Nevada Users</u> | | | | | | | |
| From Lake Mead ^{b/} | 30,560 | 11,920 | 18,640 | -2,730 | 258,370 | -11,080 | 271,610 |
| Mohave Steam Plant | 0 | | 0 | -30 | 140 | -210 | 160 |
| Total | 30,560 | 11,920 | 18,640 | -2,760 | 258,510 | -11,290 | 271,770 |
| Total Consumptive Use (Ariz., Cal., Nev.) | 538,770 | 100,270 | 438,500 | -144,270 | 7,240,880 | -5,080 | 7,720,720 |

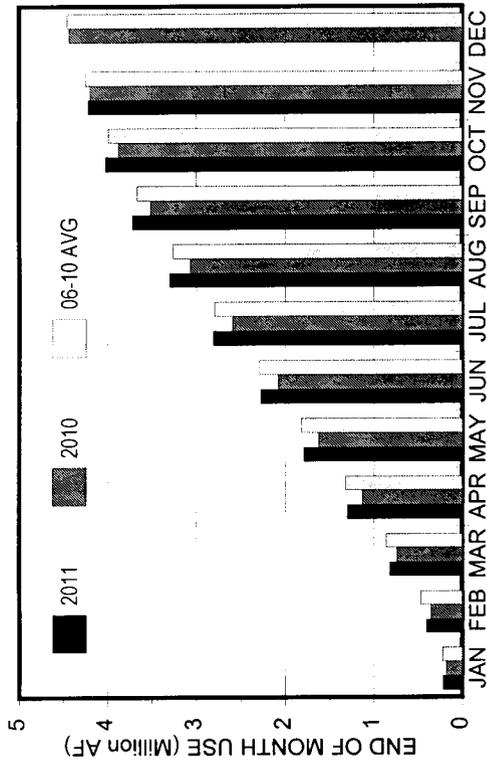
a. Based on measurements below Pilot Knob (assumed to be equal to USBR Article V data after credit is given for unmeasured California return flows between Imperial Dam and Pilot Knob). In addition, Salton Sea mitigation is not part of IID's use but is included in IID total diversion. USBR Operations consists of Salton Sea Operations 0 acre-feet and Warren H. Brock Reservoir Operations 4,040 acre-feet.

b. Return flow estimates based on averages of past returns as calculated by USBR for Article V data.

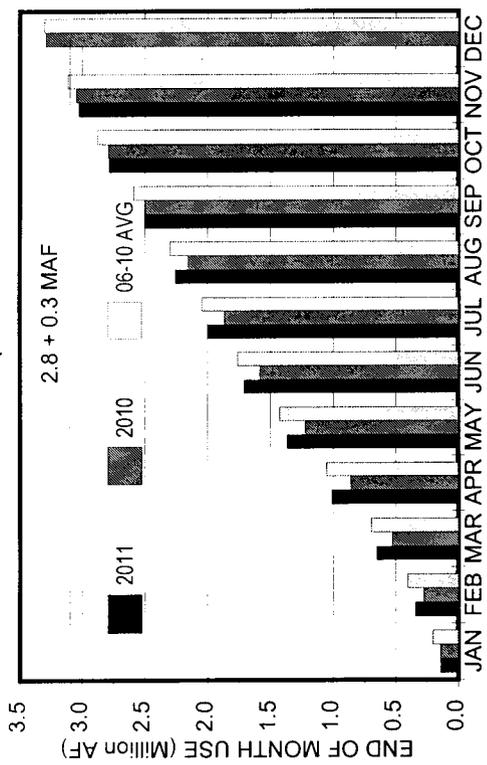
c. Starting January 2011 consumptive use value is diversion minus returns as reported by Reclamation.

d. An estimated residual made by the Colorado River Board of California combining such items as small diversions along the river, unmeasured groundwater return flow, etc., which, when combined with other quantities listed to arrive at the State's total, presents an estimate of the State's Consumptive use of Lower Colorado River water.

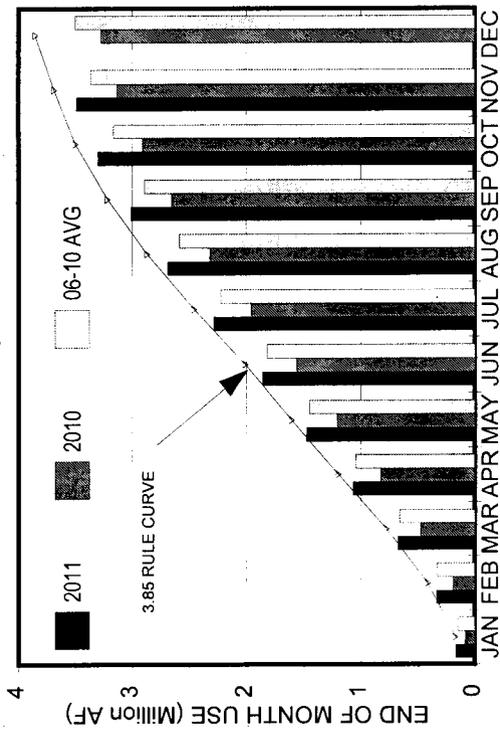
CALIFORNIA
Cumulative Consumptive Water Use



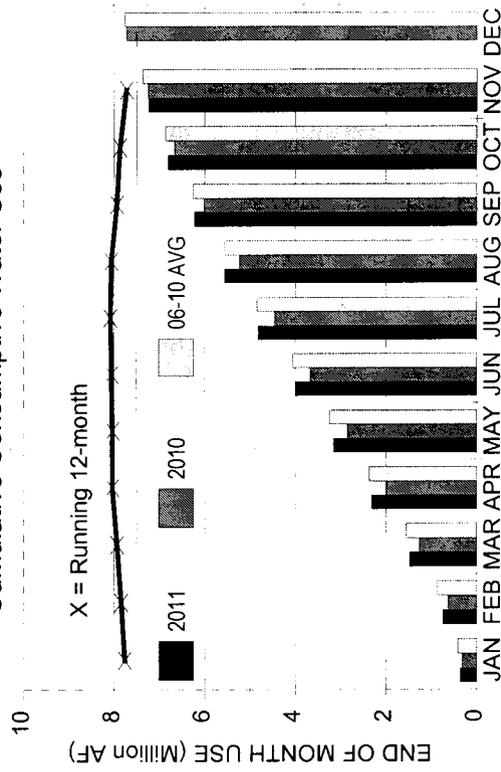
ARIZONA + NEVADA
Cumulative Consumptive Water Use



California Agricultural 3.85 Priority
Cumulative Consumptive Water Use



ARIZONA + CALIFORNIA + NEVADA
Cumulative Consumptive Water Use



December 15, 2011, Observed Colorado River Flow into
Lake Powell (1) (Million Acre-feet)

| | <u>USBR and National Weather Service</u> | | <u>Change From Last</u> | |
|-------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | <u>April-July 2011</u> | <u>Water Year 2011</u> | <u>April-July 2011</u> | <u>Wat Yr 2011</u> |
| Maximum (2) | 12.892 | 16.892 | 0.001 | 0.001 |
| Mean | 12.891 * | 16.891 ** | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Minimum (2) | 12.890 | 16.890 | -0.001 | -0.001 |

* This month's A-J observed is 162% of the 30-year A-J average shown below.

** This month's W-Y observed is 139% of the 30-year W-Y average shown below.

Comparison with past records
of Colorado River
inflow into Lake Powell
(at Lee Ferry prior to 1962)

| | <u>April-July Flow</u> | <u>Water Year Flow</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Long-Time Average (1922-2010) | 7.741 | 11.519 |
| 30-yr. Average (1961-90) | 7.735 | 11.724 |
| 10-yr. Average (2001-2010) | 5.203 | 8.449 |
| Max. of Record | 15.404 (1984) | 21.873 (1984) |
| Min. of Record | 1.115 (2002) | 3.058 (2002) |
| Year 2000 | 4.352 | 7.310 |
| Year 2001 | 4.301 | 6.955 |
| Year 2002 | 1.115 | 3.058 |
| Year 2003 | 3.918 | 6.358 |
| Year 2004 | 3.640 | 6.128 |
| Year 2005 | 8.810 | 12.614 |
| Year 2006 | 5.318 | 8.769 |
| Year 2007 | 4.052 | 8.231 |
| Year 2008 | 8.906 | 12.356 |
| Year 2009 | 7.804 | 10.633 |
| Year 2010 | 5.795 | 8.738 |
| Total Years 2000 - 2004 | 17.326 | 29.809 |
| 5-Year Average (2000-2004) | 3.465 | 5.962 |

(1) Under conditions of no other Upper Basin reservoirs.

(2) USBR and NWS forecasts indicate the probability of 95 percent of the time the actual flow will not exceed the maximum value, and will not be less than the minimum value.

VI. Scheduled Flows to Mexico — Arrivals and excess arrivals of Water for Calendar Year 2011
(Acre-feet)

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) |
|--------|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| | Scheduled Flow ⁽⁹⁾ | Total Arrivals | Excess Arrivals in accord with Minute 242 | Other Excess Arrivals | Total Excess Arrivals | Cumulative Excess Arrivals | Flow Through NIB and Limitrophe | Flow By-Pass Southerly International Boundary |
| Jan. | 128,113 | 146,704 | 5,905 | 12,686 | 18,591 | 18,591 | 130,960 | 5,905 |
| Feb. | 155,921 | 179,145 | 5,785 | 17,439 | 23,224 | 41,815 | 162,997 | 5,785 |
| March | 195,427 | 205,858 | 6,960 | 3,471 | 10,431 | 52,246 | 186,916 | 6,960 |
| April | 192,064 | 215,185 | 11,516 | 11,605 | 23,121 | 75,367 | 189,110 | 11,516 |
| May | 110,741 | 128,851 | 13,637 | 4,473 | 18,110 | 93,477 | 99,134 | 13,637 |
| June | 119,567 | 133,593 | 13,283 | 743 | 14,026 | 107,503 | 105,689 | 13,283 |
| July | 125,941 | 137,212 | 10,042 | 1,229 | 11,271 | 118,774 | 116,164 | 10,042 |
| August | 94,770 | 106,320 | 9,774 | 1,776 | 11,550 | 130,324 | 86,791 | 9,774 |
| Sept. | 89,308 | 103,240 | 12,621 | 1,311 | 13,932 | 144,256 | 79,487 | 12,621 |
| Oct. | 55,371 | 75,234 | 13,157 | 6,706 | 19,863 | 164,119 | 50,142 | 13,157 |
| Nov. | 90,122 | 105,517 | 12,710 | 2,685 | 15,395 | 179,514 | 81,799 | 12,710 |
| Dec. | 116,485 | | | | | | | |
| | <u>1,473,830</u> | <u>1,536,859</u> | <u>115,390</u> | <u>64,124</u> | | | <u>1,289,189</u> | <u>115,390</u> |

φ

- Column (1). Flow schedule requested by Mexico. In surplus years as determined by the United States, Mexico can schedule up to 1.7 rather than 1.5 million acre-feet.
- (2). Total Colorado River waters reaching Mexico. It is the sum of: 1) Colorado River water measured at the Northerly International Boundary, 2) drainage waters measured at the Southerly International Boundary near San Luis, Arizona, and 3) Wellton-Mohawk drainage waters measured at the Southerly International Boundary. It is the sum of Columns (1) + (5).
- (3). Arizona's Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District drainage water. This water is discharged to the Santa Clara Slough in Mexico via a concrete-lined canal.
- (4). Excess arrivals other than Wellton-Mohawk drainage. It is the sum of: 1) a delivery of about 5,000 a. f. per year to ensure that Mexico receives what is scheduled, 2) releases from Parker Dam which are not used due to unexpected rainfall in the Palo Verde, Coachella, Imperial, and Yuma areas, 3) controlled flood releases on the Gila and Colorado River, and 4) local runoff.
- (5). Sum of Columns (3) and (4).
- (6). Cumulation of Column (5).
- (7). Including Colorado River flow at the Northerly International Boundary plus flow from Cooper, 11-mile, and 21-mile spillways.
- (8). Including flow at the Southerly International Boundary, from the East and West Main canals, Yuma Valley Main, 242 Lateral plus diversions from Lake Havasu for Tijuana.
- (9). Revised schedule of Calendar Year 2011 as of May 27, 2011

WEIGHTED MONTHLY SALINITY AT
SELECTED COLORADO RIVER STATIONS
AND RUNNING 12-MONTH NIB-IMPERIAL FLOW-WEIGHTED SALINITY DIFFERENTIAL
(in parts per million)

| Month | Below Hoover Dam | | Below Parker Dam ^{2/} | | Palo Verde ^{3/} Canal Near Blythe | | At Imperial Dam | | At Northernly International Boundary | | Running 12-Month Flow-Wtd. Differential ^{2/} | | | | |
|--------|---|------|---|------|--|------|---|------|---|------|---|------|------|-------|-------|
| | 1974-78 5-Year avg. ^{1/} | 2010 | 1974-78 5-Year avg. ^{1/} | 2010 | 1974-78 5-Year avg. ^{1/} | 2010 | 1974-78 5-Year avg. ^{1/} | 2010 | 1974-78 5-Year avg. ^{1/} | 2010 | 1974-78 5-Year avg. ^{1/} | 2010 | 2011 | | |
| Jan. | 690 | 623 | 709 | 630 | 620 | 620 | 640 | 913 | 756 | 714 | 1,041 | 831 | 882 | 130.7 | 143.3 |
| Feb. | 675 | 628 | 706 | 660 | 620 | 620 | 620 | 835 | 729 | 686 | 998 | 856 | 779 | 131.2 | 137.9 |
| March | 684 | 622 | 699 | 640 | 620 | 620 | 610 | 805 | 663 | 660 | 925 | 746 | 802 | 125.8 | 147.1 |
| April | 680 | 613 | 700 | 630 | 620 | 620 | 630 | 801 | 672 | 674 | 892 | 752 | 735 | 123.6 | 153.6 |
| May | 677 | 614 | 698 | 630 | 620 | 620 | 630 | 822 | 685 | 683 | 962 | 951 | 852 | 130.6 | 146.3 |
| June | 678 | 607 | 695 | 610 | 620 | 620 | 640 | 812 | 672 | 667 | 956 | 909 | 819 | 136.3 | 140.1 |
| July | 682 | 611 | 688 | 620 | 620 | 620 | 630 | 797 | 658 | 661 | 909 | 834 | 848 | 139.8 | 141.1 |
| August | 690 | 594 | 686 | 620 | 620 | 620 | 610 | 800 | 678 | 680 | 907 | 888 | 915 | 142.7 | 142.4 |
| Sept. | 672 | 590 | 686 | 620 | 620 | 620 | 640 | 815 | 676 | 693 | 952 | 843 | 913 | 144.0 | 145.1 |
| Oct. | 680 | 592 | 689 | 620 | 620 | 620 | 630 | 854 | 694 | 692 | 1,070 | 783 | 913 | 141.1 | 141.1 |
| Nov. | 682 | 609 | 692 | 640 | 620 | 620 | 650 | 897 | 692 | 692 | 1,010 | 816 | 913 | 142.9 | 142.9 |
| Dec. | 681 | 596 | 702 | 620 | 620 | 620 | 650 | 877 | 733 | 733 | 999 | 819 | 913 | 137.3 | 137.3 |

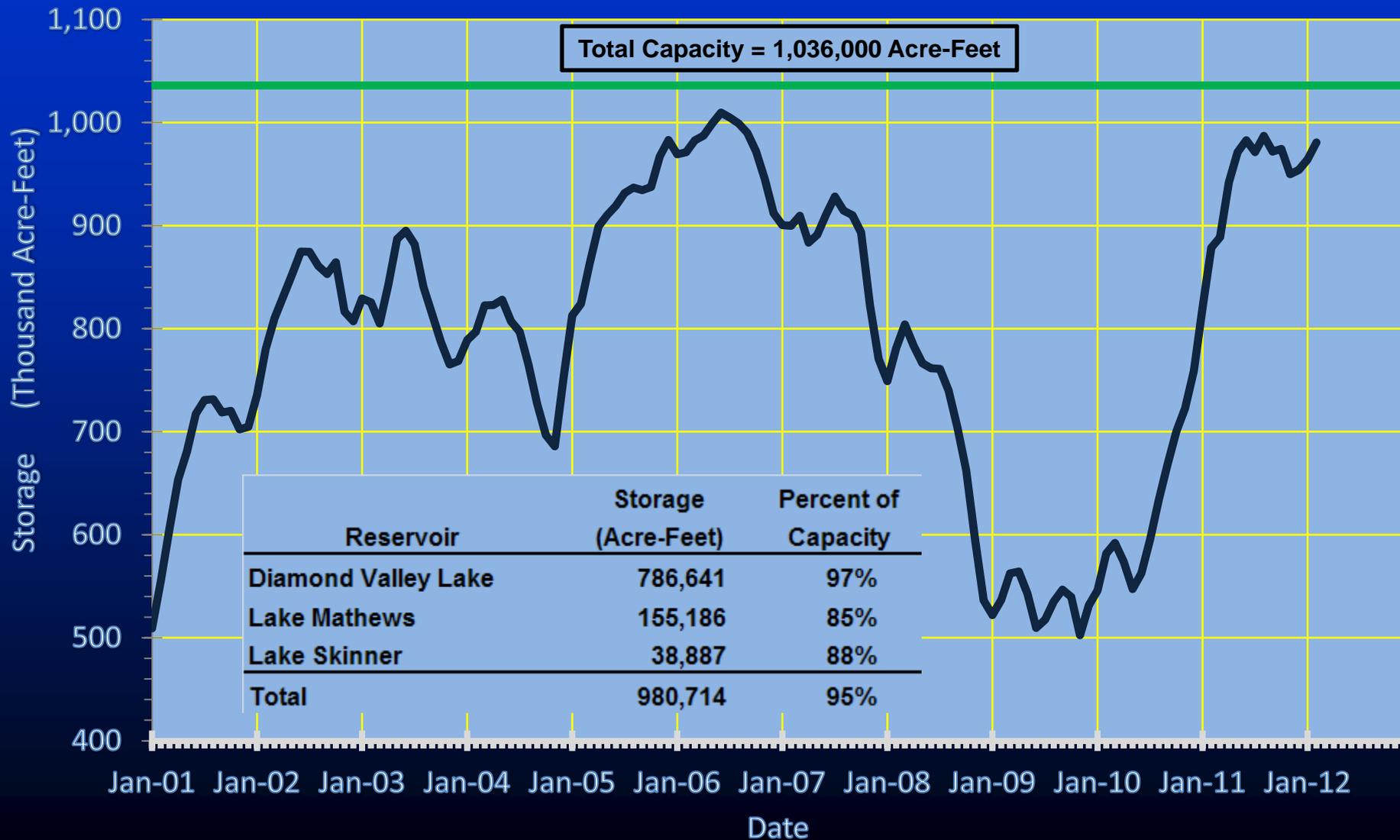
General Notes:

- 1/ 5-Year averages are arithmetical.
- 2/ 12-month flow-weighted differential between NIB and Imperial Dam through month shown in left column.
- 3/ Operational values only.
- 4/ Values are grab samples (one or two samples per month) and are rounded to represent general magnitude of salinity at Parker Dam and Palo Verde Canal..

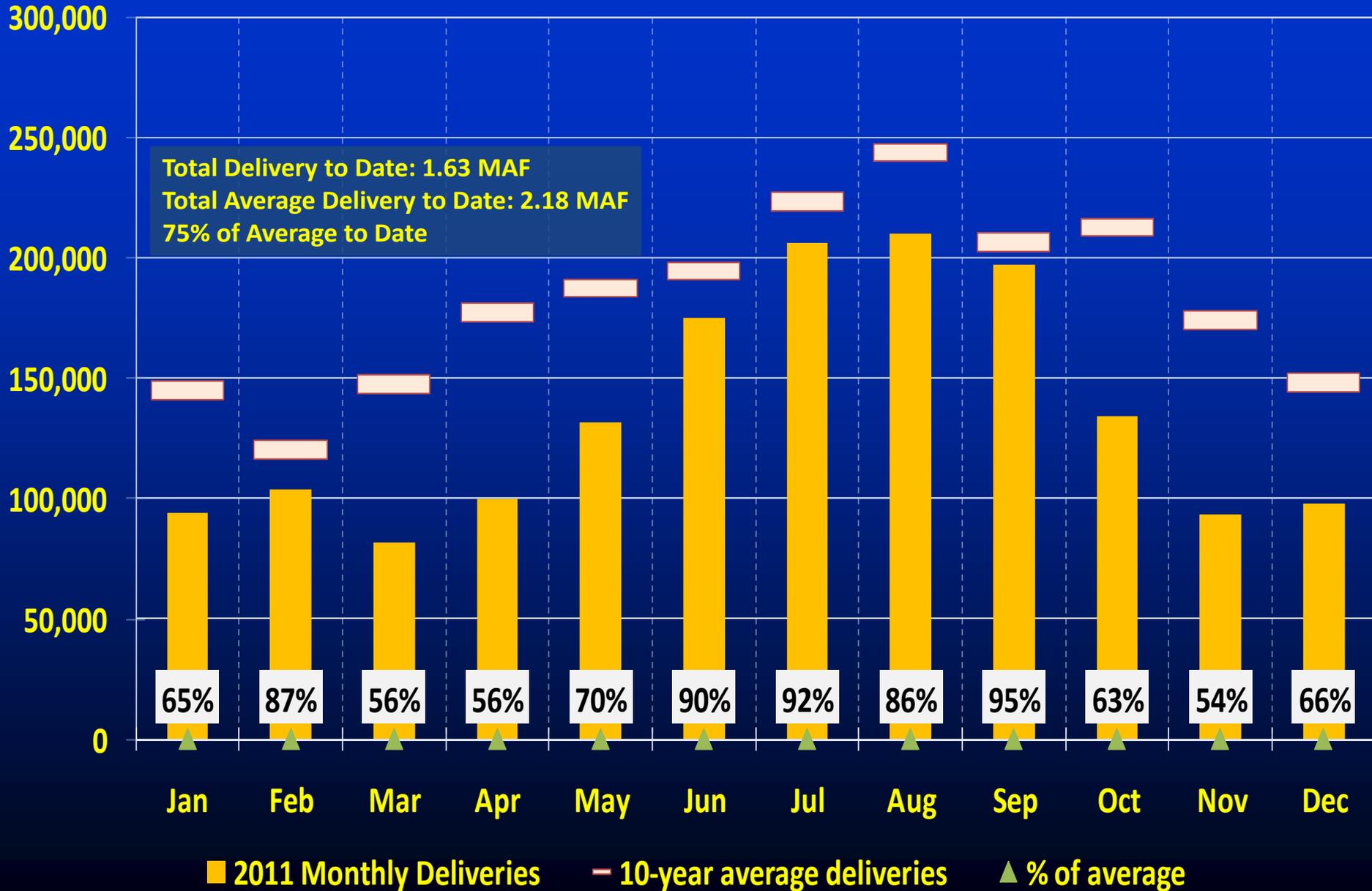
5.b. - State and Local Water Reports

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

Lake Skinner, Lake Mathews, and Diamond Valley Lake



2011 Water Deliveries to Member Agencies (AF)

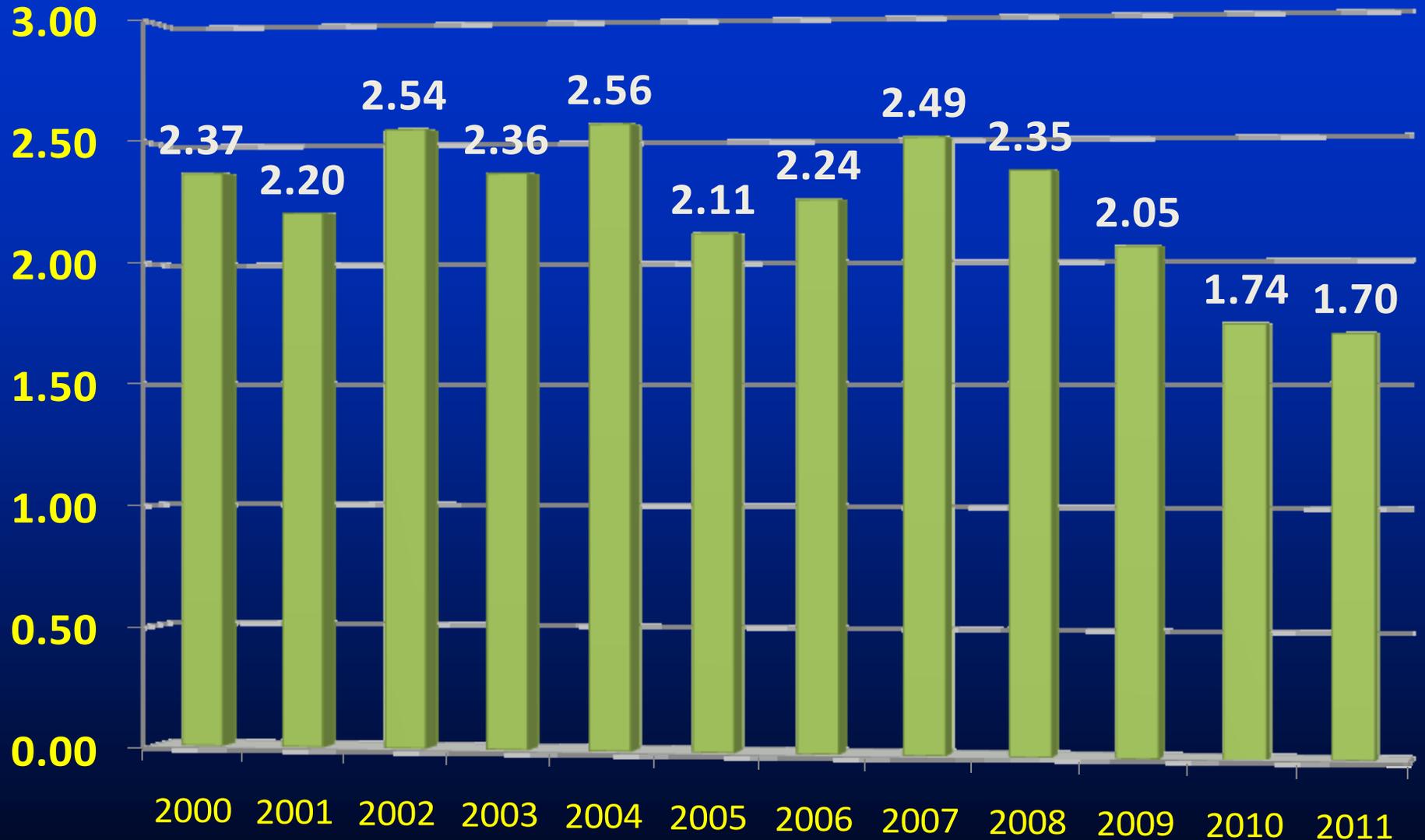


MWD Year End Storage (Surface and Groundwater)

Emergency Storage Storage Balance

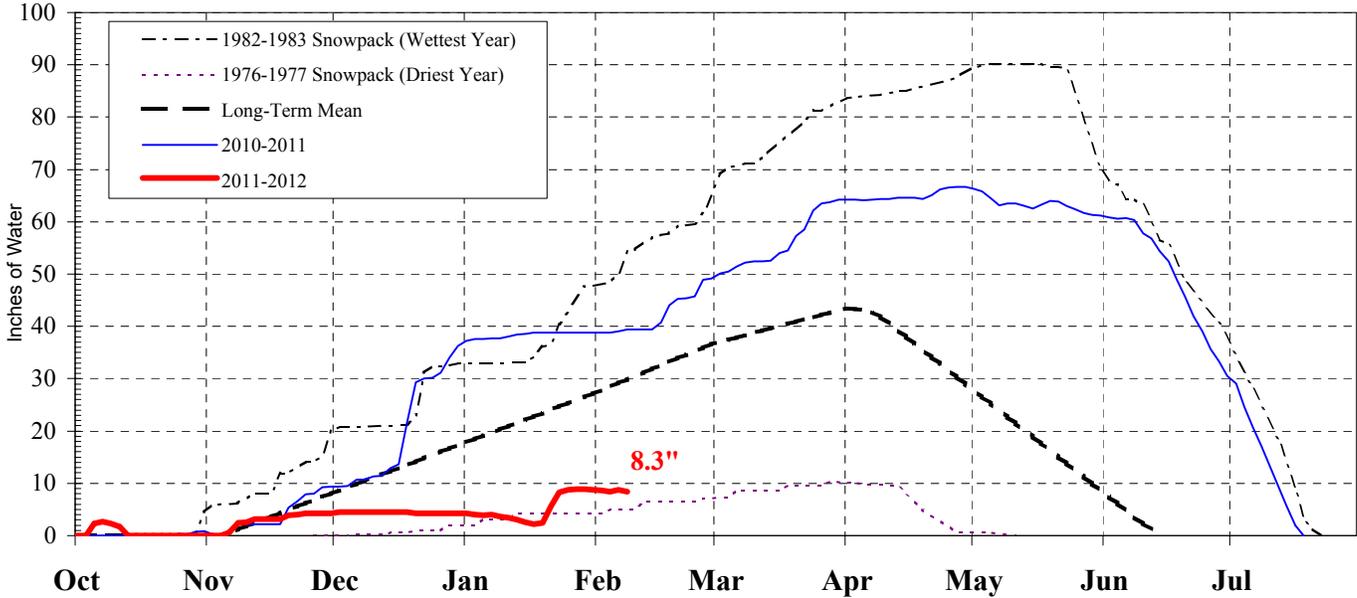


Year End Water Sales (millions acre-feet)

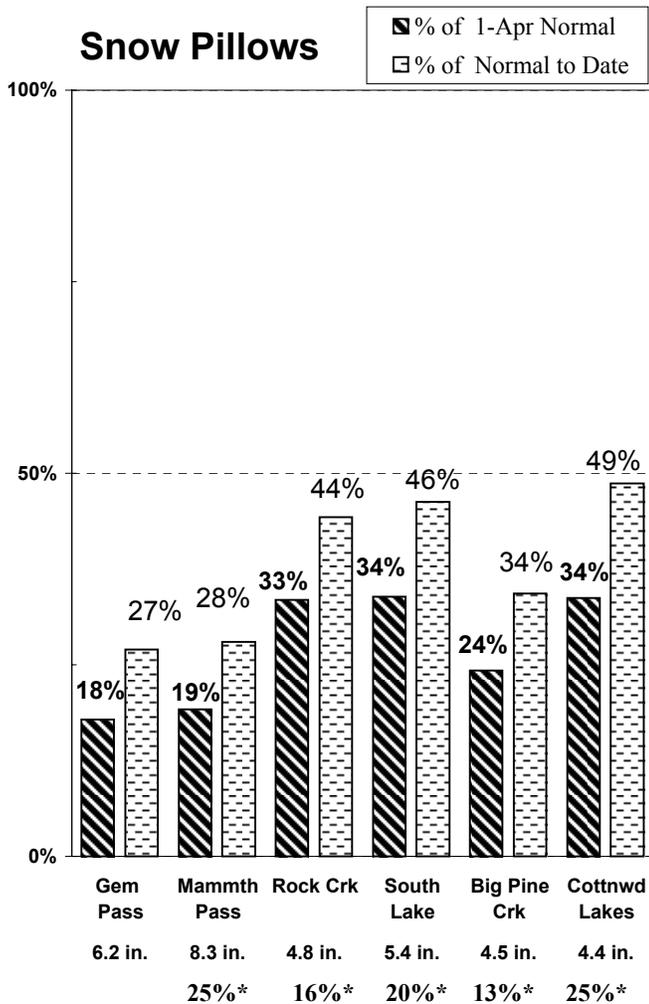


EASTERN SIERRA CURRENT PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS As of February 8, 2012

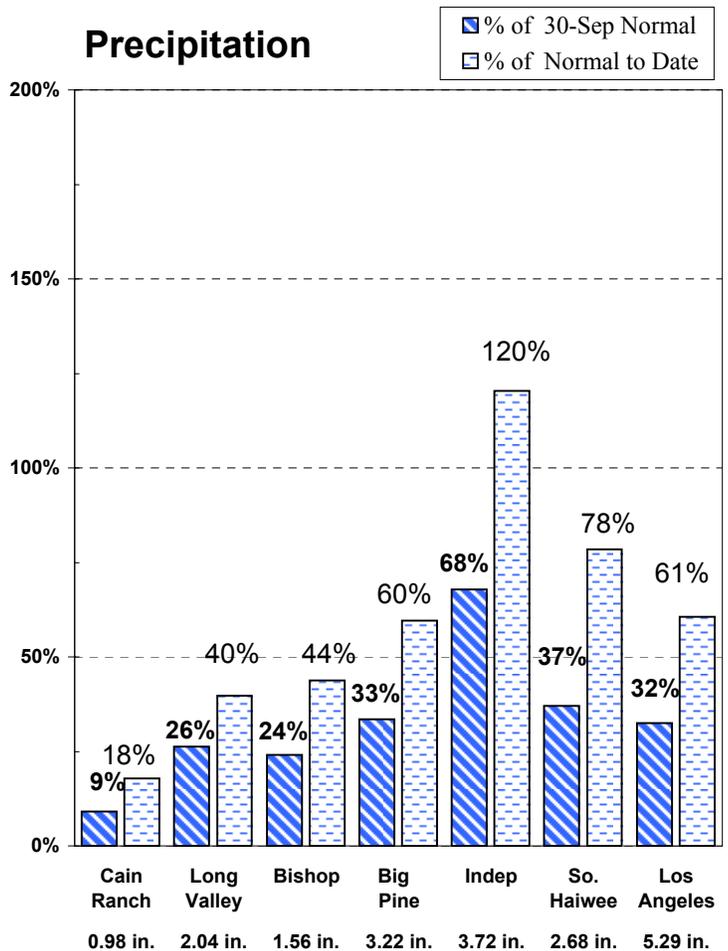
Mammoth Pass Snowpack



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
February 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 | 8.7 | 27.1 | 43.5 | 32% | 20% |
| Mammoth Lakes | 4.0 | 13.7 | 21.1 | 29% | 19% |
| Minarets 2 | 6.3 | 19.2 | 30.1 | 33% | 21% |
| Average: | 6.3 | 20.0 | 31.5 | 32% | 20% |

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 | 3.1 | 6.4 | 7.4 | 49% | 42% |
| Rock Creek 2 | 3.7 | 7.8 | 10.5 | 47% | 35% |
| Rock Creek 3 | 4.8 | 9.9 | 14.4 | 48% | 33% |
| Average: | 3.9 | 8.0 | 10.8 | 48% | 36% |

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* | 7.1 | 12.4 | 19.7 | 57% | 36% |
| Average: | 7.1 | 12.4 | 19.7 | 57% | 36% |

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 | 3.7 | 8.1 | 13.0 | 46% | 29% |
| Trailhead** | 4.8 | 9.1 | 13.7 | 53% | 35% |
| Average: | 4.3 | 8.6 | 13.3 | 50% | 32% |

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> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 5.4 | 12.2 | 18.9 | 44% | 29% |

Normals are based on the 1961-2010 period.

* measured by DWR

** Trailhead has been measured since 1982.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the Senate
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for Colorado River System Reservoirs for 2012. The AOP for 2012 contains both the past operations of the Colorado River Reservoirs for the completed year as well as the projected plan of operation on Colorado River reservoirs for 2012 based on the most probable runoff conditions. The plan of operation reflects use of the reservoirs for all purposes consistent with the Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs Pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Project Act of September 30, 1968. The AOP for 2012 incorporates the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (2007 Interim Guidelines).

The AOP for 2012 was prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation in consultation with: the seven Colorado River Basin States Governors' representatives; the Upper Colorado River Commission; Native American tribes; appropriate Federal agencies; representatives of the academic and scientific communities, environmental organizations, and the recreation industry; water delivery contractors; contractors for the purchase of Federal power; others interested in Colorado River operations; and the general public, through the Colorado River Management Work Group (Work Group). The Work Group held meetings on May 31, July 28, and August 30, 2011.

Given the hydrologic variability of the Colorado River System, the 2012 water year release from Lake Powell is projected to be in the range of 9.46 million acre-feet (maf) (11,670 million cubic meters [mcm]) to 14.48 maf (17,860 mcm) or greater. As of the most current projections, Lake Powell's most probable 2012 water year release is 12.04 maf (14,850 mcm). These projections are updated monthly and are available at: <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/studies/index.html>.

Water deliveries in the Lower Basin during calendar year 2012 will be limited to 7.5 maf (9,250 mcm) plus or minus any credits for Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS). The 2007 Interim Guidelines adopted the ICS mechanism that among other things encourages the efficient use and management of Colorado River water in the Lower Basin. The ICS may be created and delivered in 2012 pursuant to the 2007 Interim Guidelines and appropriate delivery and forbearance agreements.

A volume of up to 1.5 maf (1,850 mcm) of water will be scheduled for delivery to the Republic of Mexico during calendar year 2012 in accordance with Article 15 of the 1944 United States-Mexico Water Treaty and Minutes No. 242, 314, and 318 of the International Boundary and Water Commission.

Inflow to Lake Powell has been below average in 9 of the past 12 water years (2000-2011). This 12-year period is the second lowest in over 100 years of record keeping on the Colorado River. Accordingly, all water users in the Colorado River Basin are encouraged to prudently manage the use of available supplies.

The Department of the Interior continues to closely monitor water supply conditions in the Colorado River Basin and looks forward to continuing to work with your representatives and other interested stakeholders regarding the management of this vital river system.

Sincerely,


Ken Salazar

Enclosure

Identical Letters Sent To:

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gary Herbert
Governor of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

The Honorable Matt Mead
Governor of Wyoming
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

The Honorable Susana Martinez
Governor of New Mexico
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Carson City, Nevada 89701

The Honorable Janice Brewer
Governor of Arizona
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Denver, Colorado 80203

Colonel R. Mark Toy
District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Ms. Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator, Environmental Protection
Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20460

cc: Ms. Jayne Harkins
Executive Director, Colorado River
Commission of Nevada
555 East Washington Avenue, Ste. 3100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Mr. Scott Verhines
State Engineer, Office of the State
Engineer
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

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

Mr. Christopher S. Harris
Acting Executive Director
Colorado River Board of California
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
Glendale, California 91203

Mr. Edward Drusina
Commissioner, U.S. Section International
Boundary and Water Commission
4171 North Mesa, Suite C-100
El Paso, Texas 79902

Mr. Timothy Meeks
Administrator, Western Area Power
Administration
P.O. Box 281213
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Mr. Dennis J. Strong
Director, Utah Division of Water Resources
P.O. Box 146201
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Mr. Patrick T. Tyrrell
State Engineer, State of Wyoming
Herschler Building, 4th Floor East
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Ms. Jennifer Gimbel
Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721
Denver, Colorado 80123

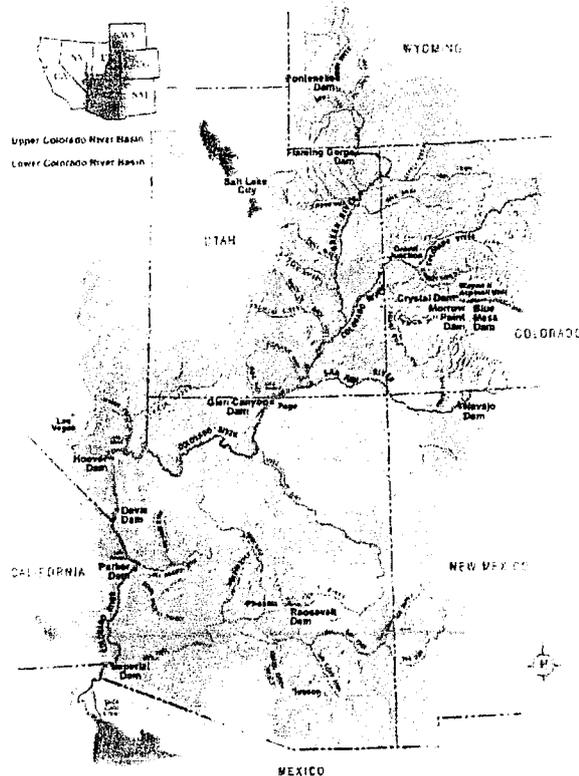
Mr. Don Ostler
Executive Director, Upper Colorado River
Commission
355 South 400 East Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River Reservoirs 2012

Colorado River Basin



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

News Release

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Lower Colorado Region
Boulder City, NV

Media Contact: Rose Davis, 702-293-8421
cell: 702-591-0029
jdavis@usbr.gov

For Immediate Release: November 29, 2011

Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Seeks Input to Help Resolve Projected Future Supply and Demand Imbalances

The Bureau of Reclamation is announcing the initiation of Phase 4 of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study: *Development and Evaluation of Opportunities for Balancing Water Supply and Demand*. The Colorado River Basin (Basin) Study was initiated by Reclamation as part of the Department of the Interior's WaterSMART program under the 2009 SECURE Water Act (P.L. 111-11).

With Phase 4 of the Study, the team is seeking a broad range of options to help resolve future water supply and demand imbalances in the Colorado River. The team will explore the effectiveness of various options and groupings of options, referred to as strategies, for helping resolve projected future imbalances. The performance of options and strategies will be evaluated over time and across the combination of water supply and demand scenarios. Due to the scale of the Basin, the magnitude and timing of projected imbalances, and the broad needs of the Basin resources being considered, a wide variety of options will likely be explored, including conservation and reuse, development of local groundwater supplies, augmentation, water transfers, and operational efficiencies.

The reports and analysis in the Study will better define options for future water management of the Colorado River Basin where climate change, record drought, population increases and environmental needs have heightened competition for scarce water supplies. Based on preliminary assessments, large supply-demand imbalances greater than 3.5 million acre-feet (maf) are plausible over the next 50 years when considering a water supply scenario that incorporates changes in climate. Work is ongoing to explore alternative combinations of supply and demand that could result in a range of imbalances both greater and less than 3.5 maf.

"Those who best understand the dynamics of the Colorado River are the people who can bring the most to the table in gathering ideas and insight on the potential future management of the basin," Commissioner Michael L. Connor said today. "Phase 4 of this basin study invites a broad discussion on ideas that can help identify how future water managers will address imbalances between supply and demand along the Colorado. Reclamation, the seven Colorado River Basin States and our many partners throughout the basin have much to learn from this study to guide future management, so it is critical that we provide this forum to gather a wide array of public input."

Reclamation is considering the needs of the Basin resources that are dependent upon a healthy river system, including water for municipal, industrial and agricultural use, hydroelectric power generation, recreation, fish and wildlife and water dependent ecological systems, under a broad range of conditions that could occur over the next 50 years.

“Bringing in many perspectives is critical to the success of the Study,” said Co-Study Manager for Reclamation Carly Jerla. “We are seeking input from a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties from within and outside of the Basin to help identify a broad range of ideas because no single option will be adequate to meet all of the future needs of Basin resources,” Jerla added.

Due to the inherent complexities of the Study and the many diverse interests and perspectives, new information will be distributed in the form of technical updates. The updates will be published to reflect continuous technical developments and the ongoing input of stakeholders. Interim Report No. 1 was published in June 2011 and technical updates to the reports included in Interim Report No. 1 will be published in January 2012, with additional technical updates in spring 2012. The Study is targeted for completion in July 2012.

Additional information on the Study including preliminary information on future supply and demand projected imbalances, the process for submitting ideas, and information on how to join a webinar about the Study, can be found online at: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy.html>

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Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. Visit our website at www.usbr.gov.

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

Public Input Sought for Options to Resolve Water Supply and Demand Imbalances

Since January 2010, the Bureau of Reclamation and agencies representing the seven Colorado River Basin States have been conducting a study on the Colorado River Basin. The purpose of the Study is to define future imbalances in water supply and demand in the Basin through the year 2060, and to develop and analyze options and strategies to resolve those imbalances. The Study is now entering its final phase and input is being sought on a broad range of options to resolve future water supply and demand imbalances.

The Study will not result in the selection or funding of a particular proposed option. Rather, the Study is intended to explore a broad range of options to help address future imbalances.

Spanning parts of the seven states of Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming, the Colorado River Basin is one of the most critical sources of water in the western United States and Mexico. It is widely known that the Colorado River, based on inflows observed over the last century, is over-allocated and supply and demand imbalances are likely to be exacerbated in the future.

Reclamation is considering the needs of Basin resources that are dependent upon a healthy river system, including water for municipal, industrial, and agricultural use; hydroelectric power generation; recreation; fish and wildlife and their habitats; water quality including salinity; flow and water-dependent ecological systems; and flood control, all under a range of conditions that could occur over the next 50 years.

How to Submit Input

To submit an option to help resolve future supply and demand imbalances in the Basin, please submit an "Option Submittal Form" available on the Study website at:

<http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy.html>

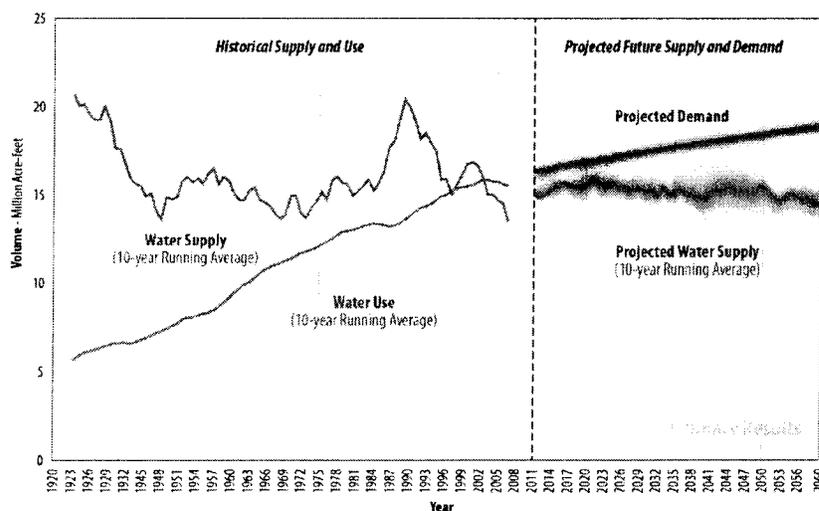
To submit a hard copy of the form, mail to:

Bureau of Reclamation,
Attention Ms. Pam Adams, LC-2721, P.O. Box
61470, Boulder City, NV 89006-1470.
Please submit input by February 1, 2012.

Study Approach and Projected Range of Water Supply and Demand Imbalances

An Interim Report was released in June 2011. It was made available for public comment, and, together with other technical updates, is building the foundation to the complete Study, planned for July 2012. At this point in the Study process, additional input is being sought on a broad range of potential options to resolve imbalances in the Basin. The effectiveness of the various options at resolving those imbalances will then be explored.

Given the historical variability of Colorado River inflows and the potential for increased variability in the future, there is great uncertainty associated with future water supply throughout the Basin over the next 50 years. That uncertainty, coupled with the uncertainty in future demand for water Basin-wide, is being addressed using a scenario planning approach.



Based on preliminary assessments of the scenarios quantified to date, large supply-demand imbalances (greater than 3.5 million acre-feet) are plausible over the next 50 years, particularly when considering potential changes in climate. Work is ongoing to consider alternative combinations of supply and demand that will likely result in imbalances both greater than and less than 3.5 million acre-feet.

Managing Water Supply and Demand in the Colorado River Basin

Water managers and water users in the Basin have long recognized the need to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of shortfalls between water supply and demands.

Recent efforts implemented by Basin stakeholders have focused on improving efficiency of operations, improving water conservation and storage, improving municipal water use efficiency, augmenting the Basin supply, implementing voluntary water transfers, conjunctively using surface water and groundwater, and extending supplies through greater reuse of water.

No single option or project will be adequate to meet all of the needs in all areas under each of the future scenarios. A combination of options addressing supply augmentation, demand management such as conservation, and system operational efficiencies will likely be needed.

Many of these efforts have resulted in solutions to past water management challenges and will continue to provide benefit to the Basin in meeting the challenges that lie ahead. Due to the scale of the Basin, the magnitude and timing of projected imbalances, and the broad needs of the Basin being considered, a wide variety of options will be explored, including additional conservation and reuse, development of local groundwater supplies, augmentation, and operational efficiencies.

Additional Study Information

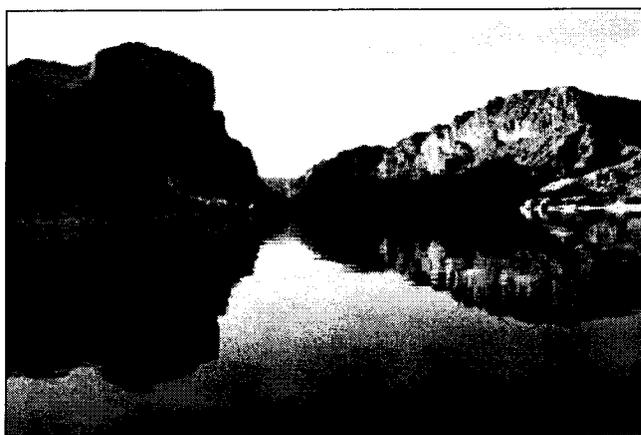
The reports and analysis being prepared as components of this Study will better define options for future water management of the Basin where potential changes in climate, record drought, population increases, and environmental needs have heightened competition for scarce water supplies. Interest in the Study is broad and includes Native American tribes and communities, agricultural users, purveyors of municipal and industrial water, power users and providers, recreational groups, and conservation groups.

As described above, and due to the many diverse viewpoints and perspectives of those interested in the Study, technical updates are being published to reflect Study progress and the ongoing input of stakeholders. Interim Report No. 1 was published in June 2011 and updates to the technical reports included in Interim Report No. 1 are anticipated to be published in January 2012.

For additional information on the Study, including a report describing the preliminary assessment of potential future imbalances and the approach for organizing and evaluating options, visit us **online** at: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy.html> or contact us:

E-mail: ColoradoRiverBasinStudy@usbr.gov

Mail: Bureau of Reclamation
Attention: Ms. Pam Adams, LC-2721
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Phone: 702-293-8500



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lower Colorado Regional Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

IN REPLY REFER TO:
LC-4220
WTR-4.03

DEC 30 2011

CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Kevin E. Kelley
General Manager
Imperial Irrigation District
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251-0937

Subject: Approval of Revised Calendar Year 2011 Diversion for the Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Dear Mr. Kelley:

The Bureau of Reclamation has received IID's letter dated November 30, 2011, in which IID requests a revision to reduce certain line items in its calendar year 2011 Colorado River consumptive use estimate submitted to Reclamation by letter dated September 15, 2010, and to provide for an increase in IID's approved consumptive use. Reclamation approved IID's September 15, 2010, request by letter dated September 12, 2011. In accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations Part 417, this letter provides IID with notice of my determination regarding IID's request to revise its estimate of consumptive use of Colorado River water for calendar year 2011. IID's letter of November 30, 2011, requests revisions based upon changed conditions. Part 417, in particular §417.4, provides for modifications based upon changed conditions.

As specified in IID's letter, IID projects that there will not be any extraordinary conservation from its fallowing program available to create Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) in 2011. As such, IID is requesting a reduction in the amount of conservation associated with this line item activity from 25,000 acre-feet to 12,000 acre-feet. Consistent with Section 3.B.9 of the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, I approve this request.

IID is also requesting a reduction in the amount of conservation yield attributable to the 1988 Agreement for the Implementation of a Water Conservation Program and Use of Conserved Water between IID and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), as amended (1988 IID/MWD Agreement). Specifically, IID is requesting the amount in this line item be reduced from 105,000 acre-feet to 103,940 acre-feet to reflect reduced yields from the Project 18 tailwater return systems. Unlike IID's request for a reduction in the amount of extraordinary conservation associated with the creation of ICS in 2011, a request to reduce the amount of conservation yielded from a project implemented pursuant to the 1988 IID/MWD Agreement has the potential to impact other parties within the state of California. Prior to determining the outcome of this request, Reclamation will seek additional input.

Under the terms of the Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement (CRWDA) and other agreements between interested parties within the state of California, and based upon a review of IID's revised calendar year 2011 consumptive use estimate as outlined above, I approve the consumptive use of up to 2,803,420 acre-feet of Colorado River water during calendar year 2011 for use in IID's service area. This approved consumptive use results in an approved diversion of up to 2,871,285 acre-feet. The following table reflects a reduction in ICS and an increase in approved consumptive use, consistent with the approvals contained in this letter.

| Water Budget Item | Amount¹ |
|---|---------------------------|
| Priority 3 Consumptive Use Cap | 3,100,000 |
| Present Perfected Right Holders and Others | -11,500 |
| 1988 IID/MWD Agreement | -105,000 |
| IID Transfer to the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) | -80,000 |
| Intra-Priority Transfer to the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) | -16,000 |
| All-American Canal Lining Project Conserved Water | -67,700 |
| Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS | -12,000 |
| Total Consumptive Use | 2,807,800 |
| IID Consumptive Use met by the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project | -4,380 |
| Total Approved Consumptive Use from Colorado River | 2,803,420 |
| AAC Returns | 67,865 |
| Total Approved Diversion at Imperial Dam | 2,871,285 |

¹All values in acre-feet.

Please be aware that IID's 2011 revised diversion and consumptive use approval may be adjusted pending the resolution of the following accounting issues from calendar years 2010 and 2011.

- The *Colorado River Accounting and Water Use Report Arizona, California, and Nevada Calendar Year 2010* (Water Accounting Report), documented that, for the purpose of meeting Salton Sea mitigation requirements, IID conserved 33,736 acre-feet of Colorado River water in 2010 which was transferred to SDCWA and exchanged with CVWD for non-Colorado River water. The Water Accounting Report also documented that, in 2010, IID delivered 46,546 acre-feet of Colorado River water to the Salton Sea with a stated intention to meet Salton Sea mitigation requirements for 2011 and 2012. The appropriate accounting for the 46,546 acre-feet is under review by Reclamation.
- In 2011, IID notified Reclamation that IID does not expect to conserve the full 80,000 acre-feet necessary to meet the scheduled transfer of Colorado River water to SDCWA in 2011, as set forth in Column 5, Exhibit B, of the CRWDA. The appropriate accounting for this circumstance is under review by Reclamation.
- By letter dated November 30, 2011, IID has notified Reclamation that the amount of conservation yield attributable to the 1988 IID/MWD Agreement was expected to be 103,940 acre-feet and not 105,000 acre-feet. Enclosed with IID's letter was a letter to the Chairman of the IID/MWD Program Coordinating Committee to that effect. The appropriate accounting for this circumstance will be taken under review by Reclamation.

Reclamation will continue to monitor and project diversions and consumptive use of Colorado River water for the remainder of calendar year 2011 in an effort to ensure each entitlement holder's annual approval is not exceeded. These projections are available to water users on a daily basis on Reclamation's website: www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/forecast11.pdf. It is expected that entitlement holders within the State of California will use this information to adjust diversions to remain within approved annual quantities or, as appropriate, seek modification of the approval.

Thank you for submitting IID's revised consumptive use estimate for 2011. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Paul Matuska, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at 702-293-8164.

Sincerely,


ACTING FOR
Lorri Gray-Lee
Regional Director

cc: Mr. Christopher Harris
Acting Executive Director
Colorado River Board of
California
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
Glendale, CA 91203-1068

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

Ms. Sandra A. Fabritz-Whitney
Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources
3550 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2105

Mr. William Hasencamp
Manager, Colorado River Resources
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lower Colorado Regional Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LC-4212
WTR-4.03

DEC 30 2011

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Steven B. Robbins
General Manager-Chief Engineer
Coachella Valley Water District
P.O. Box 1058
Coachella, CA 92236-1058

Subject: Approval of Revised Calendar Year 2011 Diversion for the Coachella Valley Water District (District)

Dear Mr. Robbins:

The Bureau of Reclamation has received the District's letter dated December 9, 2011, revising its calendar year 2011 diversion and consumptive use estimate of Colorado River water. In accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations Part 417, this letter provides the District with notice of my determination regarding the District's revised diversion and consumptive use of Colorado River water for calendar year 2011.

The District's letter reflects two changes from its original diversion and consumptive use estimate, which it submitted to Reclamation by letter dated September 15, 2010. These changes are identified in Exhibit A to the District's revised estimate that was enclosed with the District's letter dated December 9, 2011. Specifically, the District's revised estimate now incorporates a reduction of 2,265 acre-feet relating to environmental mitigation water associated with the Coachella Canal Lining Project. It also provides for a reduction in the amount of water the District will divert relating to the 1988 Imperial Irrigation District (IID)/Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Water Conservation Agreement, from 20,000 acre-feet to 4,000 acre-feet.

Reclamation notes that by letter dated December 23, 2010, Reclamation approved the diversion of 35,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water by the District in accordance with the Delivery and Exchange Agreement between MWD and the District. By letter dated October 4, 2011, MWD notified Reclamation that, on September 14, 2011, MWD and the District entered into a supplemental agreement under which MWD agreed to divert and deliver this 35,000 acre-feet to the District's Whitewater Service Connections via the Colorado River Aqueduct. The District's letter of December 9, 2011, reflects this supplemental agreement, as does this revised diversion approval.

The Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement (CRWDA) quantifies Colorado River water use within the state of California. Under the terms of the CRWDA and other agreements between interested parties within the state of California, and based upon a review of the District's revised

diversion estimate, I approve the consumptive use of up to 318,735 acre-feet of Colorado River water during calendar year 2011 for use in the District's service area. This approved consumptive use results in an approved diversion of up to 326,820 acre-feet. The following table contains the data used to develop the District's revised approved diversion for 2011:

| Water Budget Item | 2011 Revised Approval Amount¹ |
|---|---|
| Priority 3a Consumptive Use Cap | 330,000 |
| Present Perfected Right Holders and Others | -3,000 |
| 1989 MWD/CVWD Approval Agreement | 4,000 |
| Intra-Priority Transfer to the District from IID | 16,000 |
| Coachella Canal Lining Project Conserved Water | -26,000 |
| Coachella Canal Lining Project Conserved Water for Mitigation | -2,265 |
| District CRWDA Entitlement from the Colorado River | 318,735 |
| MWD/District State Water Project Water Exchange | 0 |
| District Allowed Consumptive Use of Colorado River Water | 318,735 |
| Approved Diversion | 326,820 |

All values in acre-feet.

Reclamation will continue to monitor and project diversions and consumptive use of Colorado River water for the remainder of calendar year 2011 in an effort to ensure each entitlement holder's annual approval is not exceeded. These projections are available to water users on a daily basis on Reclamation's website: www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/forecast11.pdf. It is expected that entitlement holders within the state of California will use this information to adjust diversions to remain within approved annual quantities or, as appropriate, seek modification of the approval.

Thank you for submitting the District's revised diversion estimate for calendar year 2011. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Paul Matuska, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at 702-293-8164.

Sincerely,

ACTING FOR

 Lorri Gray-Lee
 Regional Director

cc: Mr. Christopher Harris
 Acting Executive Director
 Colorado River Board of California
 770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
 Glendale, CA 91203-1035

Ms. Sandra A. Fabritz-Whitney
 Director
 Arizona Department of Water Resources
 3550 North Central Avenue
 Phoenix, AZ 85012-2105

Continued on next page.

cc: Continued from previous page.

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

Mr. William Hasencamp
Manager, Colorado River Resources
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-015



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lower Colorado Regional Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DEC 30 2011

LC-4212
WTR-4.03

CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Roger K. Patterson
Assistant General Manager
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

Subject: Approval of Revised Calendar Year 2011 Diversion for Metropolitan Water
District of Southern California (MWD)

Dear Mr. Patterson:

The Bureau of Reclamation has received MWD's letter dated October 4, 2011, in which MWD requests a revision to its calendar year 2011 Colorado River diversion approval issued by Reclamation by letter dated September 12, 2011. As specified in MWD's letter, MWD is requesting approval to increase its Colorado River consumptive use by 35,000 acre-feet during calendar year 2011. This request is being made in accordance with the Delivery and Exchange Agreement between MWD and the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), dated October 10, 2003, and a supplemental agreement between MWD and CVWD for the exchange of State Water Project water for Colorado River water, dated September 14, 2011. Pursuant to these agreements, MWD has agreed to divert water from the Colorado River and deliver it to CVWD's Whitewater Service Connections via the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Based upon a review of MWD's revised diversion and consumptive use request, I approve an increase in MWD's Colorado River consumptive use by 35,000 acre-feet to reflect MWD's arrangement with CVWD to deliver Colorado River water to CVWD under the above-described agreements. As a result of this increase, I further approve the consumptive use of up to 643,874 acre-feet of water in calendar year 2011. This approved consumptive use results in an approved diversion of up to 646,874 acre-feet.

This revised approval does not include delivery from MWD's Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) account. Reclamation acknowledges that MWD may request delivery from its ICS account, and that if ICS is required, MWD will submit a revised diversion and consumptive use estimate.

I also approve the diversion and consumptive use by MWD in 2011 of the unused California adjusted apportionment of Colorado River water as reflected on Reclamation's 2011 Forecasted Water Use website: www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/forecast11.pdf. The approval is subject to the following conditions:

1. The data on Reclamation's 2011 Forecasted Water Use website are provisional until final records are issued. MWD diversions occurring as a result of the values on the website are at MWD's own risk.
2. All available Colorado River water within California has been approved for beneficial use within the state. The approved amounts remain available to the senior priority entitlement holders. In cases where approvals to senior entitlement holders are less than the diversions allowed by their entitlement, the approvals may be increased to their full entitlement as defined in their contract.
3. Final accounting records published by Reclamation may differ from the provisional data on the website. Adjustments to the final records may result in an inadvertent overrun by MWD.
4. MWD will be required to pay back any overrun according to the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy.
5. Reclamation may at any time rescind this approval to divert unused California adjusted apportionment of Colorado River water.

Please be aware that MWD's 2011 revised diversion and consumptive use approval may be adjusted pending the resolution of the following accounting issues from calendar years 2010 and 2011:

- The *Colorado River Accounting and Water Use Report Arizona, California, and Nevada Calendar Year 2010* (Water Accounting Report), documented that, for the purpose of meeting Salton Sea mitigation requirements, IID conserved 33,736 acre-feet of Colorado River water in 2010 which was transferred to the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) and exchanged with CVWD for non-Colorado River water. The Water Accounting Report also documented that, in 2010, IID delivered 46,546 acre-feet of Colorado River water to the Salton Sea with a stated intention to meet Salton Sea mitigation requirements for 2011 and 2012. The appropriate accounting for the 46,546 acre-feet is under review by Reclamation.
- In 2011, IID notified Reclamation that IID does not expect to conserve the full 80,000 acre-feet necessary to meet the scheduled transfer of Colorado River water to SDCWA in 2011, as set forth in Column 5, Exhibit B, of the Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement. The appropriate accounting for this circumstance is under review by Reclamation.
- By letter dated November 30, 2011, IID has notified Reclamation that the amount of conservation yield attributable to the 1988 IID/MWD Agreement was expected to be 103,940 acre-feet and not 105,000 acre-feet. Enclosed with IID's letter was a letter to the Chairman of the IID/MWD Program Coordinating Committee to that effect. The appropriate accounting for this circumstance will be taken under review by Reclamation.

Reclamation will continue to monitor and project diversions and consumptive use of Colorado River water for the remainder of calendar year 2011 in an effort to ensure each entitlement holder's annual approval is not exceeded. These projections are available to water users on a daily basis on Reclamation's 2011 Forecasted Water Use website. It is expected that entitlement holders within the state of California will use this information to adjust diversions to remain within approved annual quantities or, as appropriate, seek modification of the approval.

Thank you for submitting MWD's revised diversion estimate for 2011. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Paul Matuska, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at 702-293-8164.

Sincerely,

ACTING FOR 
Lorri Gray-Lee
Regional Director

cc: Mr. Christopher Harris
Acting Executive Director
Colorado River Board of
California
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
Glendale, CA 91203-1035

Ms. Sandra A. Fabritz-Whitney
Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources
3550 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2105

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

Mr. Steve Robbins
General Manager-Chief Engineer
Coachella Valley Water District
P.O. Box 1058
Coachella, CA 92236

Mr. William Hasencamp
Manager, Colorado River Resources
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lower Colorado Regional Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LC-4220

WTR-4.03

DEC 30 2011

CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Kevin Kelley
General Manager
Imperial Irrigation District
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251-0937

Subject: Approval of the Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) 2012 Plan for the Creation of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS)

Dear Mr. Kelley:

IID submitted its 2012 Plan for the Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS (ICS Plan) by letter dated June 17, 2011. IID's ICS Plan describes two separate projects from which it intends to create Extraordinary Conservation ICS, including the On-Farm Fallowing Program and the Main Canal Seepage Interception System. From the yields of these extraordinary conservation projects, IID plans to create up to 25,000 acre-feet (af) of ICS during calendar year 2012.

The Bureau of Reclamation has reviewed IID's ICS Plan and confirmed that it contains all necessary information required by Section 3.B of the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (Interim Guidelines). Reclamation has also verified that the amount of ICS IID plans to create during 2012 is within the limits established in the California Agreement for the Creation and Delivery of Extraordinary Conservation ICS (California ICS Agreement). Pursuant to Section 7.B.5 of the Interim Guidelines, Reclamation has consulted with the Basin States regarding IID's ICS Plan.

Based upon Reclamation's review of IID's ICS Plan and the completion of the consultation process, I approve IID's 2012 ICS Plan for the creation of up to 25,000 af of Extraordinary Conservation ICS as provided in the table below.

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| IID On-Farm Fallowing Program | up to 25,000 af |
| IID Main Canal Seepage Interception System | up to 12,000 af |
| Total Extraordinary Conservation ICS for Calendar Year 2012 | Not to exceed 25,000 af |

Reclamation notes that pursuant to Section 1 of the California ICS Agreement, IID may create up to 25,000 af of Extraordinary Conservation ICS in any year. Of the total Extraordinary Conservation ICS created annually by IID, not more than 12,000 af shall be created by seepage recovery projects.

Section 3.B.1 of the Interim Guidelines provides that, subject to approval by Reclamation, a contractor may modify its approved ICS plan during the year of creation. Section 3.D.1 of the Interim Guidelines requires a contractor to submit a Certification Report to the Regional Director demonstrating the amount of ICS created and that the method of creation was consistent with the approved ICS plan, a Forbearance Agreement and a Delivery Agreement.

Reclamation notes that, pursuant to the terms of the California ICS Agreement, in years in which IID intends to create ICS in Lake Mead, IID is required to notify the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in writing of the amount of ICS it plans to create not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date required for submittal of such plan to Reclamation. I urge IID to comply with this requirement in order to ensure the maximum benefit of ICS creation is achieved by all parties.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Paul Matuska, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at 702-293-8164.

Sincerely,

ACTING FOR

 Lorri Gray-Lee
 Regional Director

cc: Mr. Christopher Harris
 Acting Executive Director
 Colorado River Board of California
 770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
 Glendale, CA 91203-1035

Ms. Sandra A. Fabritz-Whitney
 Director
 Arizona Department of Water Resources
 3550 North Central Avenue
 Phoenix, AZ 85012-2105

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

Mr. William Hasencamp
 Manager, Colorado River Resources
 Metropolitan Water District
 of Southern California
 P.O. Box 54153
 Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

Mr. Dennis Strong
 Director
 Utah Division of Water Resources
 P.O. Box 146201
 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6201

Mr. Donald Ostler
 Executive Director
 Upper Colorado River Commission
 355 South 400 East Street
 Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2904

Mr. John D'Antonio
 State Engineer
 Office of the State Engineer
 P.O. Box 25102
 Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

Mr. Patrick T. Tyrell
 State Engineer
 State of Wyoming
 Herschler Building, 4th Floor East
 Cheyenne, WY 82002-0001

Ms. Jennifer Gimbel
 Director
 Colorado Water Conservation Board
 1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721
 Denver, CO 80203-2239



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lower Colorado Regional Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LC-4220
WTR-4.03

DEC 30 2011

CERTIFIED- RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Richard Holmes
Deputy General Manager
Engineering and Operations
Southern Nevada Water Authority
P.O. Box 99956
Las Vegas, NV 89193-9956

Subject: Approval of the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) 2012 Plans for the Creation of Muddy River and Virgin River Tributary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) and Coyote Spring Valley Imported ICS

Dear Mr. Holmes:

SNWA submitted its 2012 Plans for the Creation of Tributary Conservation ICS and Imported ICS (ICS Plans) by letter dated June 30, 2011. SNWA's ICS Plans describe three separate projects from which SNWA intends to create ICS, including the Muddy River and Virgin River Tributary Conservation ICS projects and the Coyote Spring Valley Imported ICS project. From the yields of these projects, SNWA plans to create up to 44,000 acre-feet (af) of ICS during calendar year 2012.

The Bureau of Reclamation has reviewed SNWA's ICS Plans and confirmed that they contain all necessary information required by Section 3.B of the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (Interim Guidelines). Pursuant to Section 7.B.5 of the Interim Guidelines, Reclamation has consulted with the Basin States regarding SNWA's ICS Plans.

Based upon Reclamation's review of SNWA's ICS Plans and the completion of the consultation process, I approve SNWA's 2012 ICS Plans for the creation of up to 44,000 af of ICS as provided in the table below.

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Muddy River Tributary Conservation ICS | up to 20,000 af |
| Virgin River Tributary Conservation ICS | up to 17,000 af |
| Coyote Spring Valley Imported ICS | up to 7,000 af |
| Total ICS for Calendar Year 2012 | Not to exceed 44,000 af |

Section 3.B.1 of the Interim Guidelines provides that, subject to approval by Reclamation, a contractor may modify its approved ICS plan during the year of creation. Section 3.D.1 of the Interim Guidelines requires a contractor to submit a Certification Report to the Regional Director demonstrating the amount of ICS created and that the method of creation was consistent with the approved ICS plan, a Forbearance Agreement and a Delivery Agreement.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Paul Matuska, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at 702-293-8164.

Sincerely,

ACTING FOR 

Lorri Gray-Lee
Regional Director

cc: Mr. Christopher Harris
Acting Executive Director
Colorado River Board of
California
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
Glendale, CA 91203-1035

Ms. Sandra A. Fabritz-Whitney
Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources
3550 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2105

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

Mr. William Hasencamp
Manager, Colorado River Resources
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

Mr. Dennis Strong
Director
Utah Division of Water Resources
P.O. Box 146201
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6201

Mr. Donald Ostler
Executive Director
Upper Colorado River Commission
355 South 400 East Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2904

Mr. John D'Antonio
State Engineer
Office of the State Engineer
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

Mr. Patrick T. Tyrell
State Engineer
State of Wyoming
Herschler Building, 4th Floor East
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0001

Ms. Jennifer Gimbel
Director
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721
Denver, CO 80203-2239

5.e. - Colorado River Environmental Issues



**Colorado River Basin State Representatives of Arizona, California,
Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming**

January 31, 2012

Via E-Mail and U.S. Mail

Glen Canyon Dam LTEMP EIS Scoping
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Ave. – EVS/240
Argonne IL 60439
<http://ltempeis.anl.gov>.

Re: Scoping Comments on the Adoption of a Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan for the Operation of Glen Canyon Dam.

Dear LTEMP Scoping Team,

The Department of the Interior (“Department”), through the Bureau of Reclamation (“Reclamation”) and the National Park Service (“Park Service”), has announced plans to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) and adopt a Long-Term Experimental Management Plan for Operation of Glen Canyon Dam (“LTEMP”). See 76 Fed. Reg. 39435 (July 6, 2011) and 76 Fed. Reg. 64104 (Oct. 17, 2011). The Department conducted a number of informational meetings to initiate the process and provided opportunity for the public to comment on environmental and operational issues and concerns that should be considered when developing the EIS and implementing the LTEMP. The comment period ends January 31, 2012. The following comments are submitted on behalf of the seven Colorado River Basin states and the Upper Colorado River Commission (collectively referred to herein as the “Basin States”) as part of this LTEMP scoping process.

Basin States’ Interests

The Basin States have an undeniable interest in the wise administration of the Colorado River system reservoirs, including Glen Canyon Dam. The Basin States hold federally recognized entitlements to the Colorado River resource that serves as the primary water supply source for over 30 million people in the United States and provides for irrigation on nearly 4 million acres. The Colorado River system also produces more than 4,200 megawatts of hydroelectric energy and provides a source of environmental protection and enhancement from the headwaters of the Colorado Rockies to Mexico. Access to these and other resources make the Colorado River system the lifeline of the southwest.

Over the past 80+ years, the Basin States have been closely involved in negotiation of interstate compacts, litigation over the management and allocation of Colorado River water, and development of federal laws and regulations concerning the Colorado River system. The Upper Basin States have also established an interstate commission through federal compact to address management and allocation of Colorado River water in the Upper Basin. The Basin States have also implemented salinity control measures in the Colorado River Basin ("Basin"), and developed and carried out environmental programs to improve natural resources and recover endangered fish species in the Basin, including the Grand Canyon. Simply put, there is no aspect of Colorado River water management, allocation or operation in the Basin that does not affect the broad public interests represented by the Basin States.

Comments:

A. **Legal Framework:** The LTEMP should be developed according to the framework adopted by Congress in the Grand Canyon Protection Act (GCPA) for operating Glen Canyon Dam and using the Colorado River. This framework includes specific priorities, constraints and requirements as outlined below for the Secretary of the Interior to navigate in developing and implementing the LTEMP.

1. ***Priorities – Water allocation, appropriation, development and exportation.***

- a. § 1802(b) - Operations to protect, mitigate and improve resources in Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area downstream of Glen Canyon Dam must remain consistent with and subject to the existing laws governing allocation, appropriation, development and exportation of the Colorado River resource. See *§1802(b), Grand Canyon Protection Act (1992)*.
- b. Senate Energy Committee Report - The Senate Energy Committee's Report on the GCPA makes clear that "the intent of §1802(b) is not merely to provide a savings clause but to establish that the Secretary's responsibilities for water storage, allocation and delivery under the Law of the River are primary and control the Secretary's actions under [the GCPA.]" *S. Rep. No. 102-267 at p. 135 (1992)*.
- c. § 1806(1) – Nothing in the LTEMP shall affect in any way the allocations of water secured to the Colorado River Basin States by any compact, law or decree. See *§1806, GCPA*.

2. **Constraints** – The priority given to water storage, allocation and delivery under the GCPA substantially limits the Secretary’s ability to change other elements of Glen Canyon Dam operations as part of the LTEMP. *S. Rep. No. 102-267 at p. 136.*
 - a. 2007 Interim Guidelines – The *2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead* (Interim Guidelines) implement the Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs (LROC) to address water storage, allocation and distribution at varying reservoir elevations between now and 2026. The guidelines link release determinations at Glen Canyon Dam to specific trigger elevations at both Lake Powell and Lake Mead to better balance the system under varying water supplies. Depending on the reservoir levels in both, the Interim Guidelines provide a range of possible release volumes from Glen Canyon Dam in any given water year. Because these guidelines directly implicate water storage, allocation and delivery of the Colorado River resource in a manner intended to comply with and implement the Law of the River, the LTEMP must be “consistent with and subject to” the Guidelines.
 - b. Annual/Monthly Releases – The LTEMP must recognize the significant constraints placed on annual and monthly releases from Glen Canyon Dam as a result of water supply considerations, water delivery requirements, and the avoidance of anticipated spills. (“Spills” in this context are recognized as “releases in excess of powerplant capacity, which . . . are referred to as ‘flood releases’.” *S. Rep. No. 102-267 at p. 133.*

Pursuant to the LROC, as implemented by the Interim Guidelines, annual release volumes from Lake Powell are projected for the next Water Year based on the results of the August 24-Month Study. This projected annual release volume is then updated each month of the Water Year to incorporate actual hydrologic conditions as evaluated in the monthly 24-Month Study model runs. Through these updates, the annual release volume for Glen Canyon Dam moves from projected to actual as contemplated under the Interim Guidelines.

The annual release volume as projected (in accordance with the Interim Guidelines and based on the August 24-Month Study) serves as a basis for projecting the monthly release volumes from Glen Canyon Dam for the upcoming Water Year. These monthly

release projections must likewise be updated as necessary throughout the Water Year to track with the updates for annual release volumes from Glen Canyon Dam. The flexibility to modify monthly release volumes based on actual hydrology is essential to assuring that Reclamation can achieve the required annual release volume from Glen Canyon Dam consistent with the Interim Guidelines.

- c. **Balancing** - The Secretary must also balance competing interests on the River when developing the LTEMP pursuant to the GCPA.
 - The Senate Committee Report on the GCPA explains that in fulfilling the basic requirements of the [GCPA], the Secretary is faced with the fundamental challenge of identifying and implementing a set of remedial measures that recreate and preserve the natural processes and value of the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam, while operating within the constraints of the most intensely regulated river in the world. *S. Rep. No. 102-267 at p. 135.*
 - The U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona further clarified that the broadly worded provisions of the Colorado River Storage Project Act (CRSPA) and GCPA impose on the Secretary an obligation to balance many different interests in operating Glen Canyon Dam. *Grand Canyon Trust v. Bureau of Reclamation*, 623 F.Supp.2d 1015, 1036 (D. Ariz., 2009).
 - The Federal Government's brief in the Grand Canyon Trust litigation acknowledges and recognizes the Secretary's obligation to fulfill multiple and sometimes competing statutory requirements applicable to the operation of Glen Canyon Dam. See, Federal Defendants' Memorandum In Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment on Claims 6-8 at p. 38 (Dec. 19, 2008). It further clarifies that the Secretary must continue to recognize that power production is still a primary purpose of the Dam that must be balanced against other purposes, statutory requirements, and water delivery obligations as he considers actions to implement the GCPA. *Id.* at 38.
3. **Requirements** – Consistent with the GCPA and the Senate Committee Report, the LTEMP should also consider and include the following requirements:
- a. **Exercise other authorities** – In addition to dam operations, efforts to protect, improve and/or mitigate resource values in the Grand

Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area should “exercise other authorities under existing law.” See §1802(a), GCPA. According to the Senate Committee Report, this phrase means the Secretary should consider and may implement non-operational measures to address downstream effects of Glen Canyon Dam. *S. Rep. No. 102-267 at pp. 135*. Specifically, the Committee intended that the Secretary consider all alternatives to improve park values and not focus exclusively on dam operations. *Id. at 137*.

- b. EIS and Monitoring – The LTEMP EIS should consider and incorporate the following key elements regarding preparation of the EIS and the long-term operation of Glen Canyon Dam to remain consistent with the statutory requirements of the GCPA. See §§1802, 1804, 1805, GCPA.

* *Audit* - Auditing of the costs and benefits to water and power users and to natural, recreational and cultural resources resulting from management policies and dam operations. §1804(b), GCPA.

* *Criteria* – Adopting criteria and plans based on the findings conclusions and recommendations in the EIS and the Audit. § 1804(c)(1)(A), GCPA.

* *Reporting* - Reporting on LTEMP activities in a manner that does not interfere with the Secretary’s preparation of the Annual Operating Plan as prescribed under the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968. §1804(c)(2), GCPA. Any reporting on the LTEMP pursuant to the GCPA should be separate from and subject to the 1968 Act Annual Operating Plan report. §1804(c)(2), GCPA; *S. Rep. No. 102-267 at p. 137*.

* *Costs* – Reallocating the costs of construction, operation, maintenance, replacement and emergency expenditures for Glen Canyon Dam among the purposes for protecting, mitigating and improving the values downstream of Glen Canyon Dam and the purposes for which Glen Canyon Dam was authorized under the CRSPA. §1802(e), GCPA. Any operational changes that reduce the generation of peaking power in favor of baseload operations will greatly reduce power generation benefits. As benefits of operations shift, the costs allocable to the beneficiaries should shift as well. *S. Rep. No. 102-267 at p. 138*.

* *Monitoring* - Establishing and implementing long-term monitoring programs and activities, including any necessary research and studies to determine the effect of actions on the natural, recreational and cultural resources and ensure the dam is operated in a manner consistent with §1802. §1805(a) and (b), GCPA.

* *Consultation* – Consulting with the Basin States and others in preparing criteria and operating plans as well as monitoring programs and activities for the LTEMP. §1804(c)(3) and §1805(c), GCPA.

B. Geographic Scope of Proposed Actions: As currently described, the project area for the LTEMP EIS includes the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Grand Canyon National Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and resources of importance to American Indian Tribes. However, the stated purpose of the LTEMP does not mention Lake Mead or the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. See Fed. Reg. 76 Fed. Reg. 64104 (explaining that the purpose is to “inform Departmental decisions and operate Glen Canyon Dam in such a manner as to improve and protect downstream resources in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon National Park.”) Furthermore, the GCPA makes no mention of Lake Mead or the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and the current EIS for Glen Canyon Dam operations focuses on “the Colorado River corridor from Lake Powell, formed by Glen Canyon Dam in northwestern Arizona, southward through Glen and Marble Canyons and westward through Grand Canyon to Lake Mead.” Operation of Glen Canyon Dam EIS at pp. 5-6. Recognizing the LTEMP EIS must evaluate and disclose all significant impacts of the alternatives wherever they may occur, the geographic scope of proposed actions considered in the LTEMP EIS should be limited to Glen Canyon Dam through the Grand Canyon National Park to Lake Mead.

C. Species Conservation and Recovery Implementation Programs: The LTEMP EIS process is also intended to determine whether to establish an ESA recovery implementation program for endangered fish below Glen Canyon Dam. This process should be coordinated with (and not allowed to disturb) the existing programs currently operating in the Colorado River Basin – i.e., the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program; and the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, which have been and remain critical to the sustainable development of the river system. Additionally, to the extent the LTEMP EIS considers funding for any recovery implementation program downstream of Glen Canyon Dam, it should be done consistent with the costs framework highlighted in Section A(3)(b), *supra*.

D. **Distinguishing Between Experimental and Management Actions:**

Drawing from experience gained in developing the Beach Habitat Building Flow management action as part of the 1996 Record of Decision for Glen Canyon Dam Operations and subsequent High-Flow Experimental actions, the LTEMP EIS should clearly distinguish between proposed experimental and management actions to operate Glen Canyon Dam. In doing so, stakeholders will be better situated to determine whether and to what extent they can accept a proposed action as necessary to gain experience and knowledge in reservoir operations and environmental resources without waiving rights established under the Law of the River. Management actions involve additional requirements under the Law of the River compared to experimental actions. It remains the Basin States' position that high flow releases can only be legally done by experiment and cannot be considered as a long term operational management decision.

E. **Alternatives:** Generally, the LTEMP EIS should include only those alternatives that can and will remain consistent with and subject to the priorities, constraints, and requirements recognized in the GCPA. *See Section A, supra.* However, with the understanding that the *modified low fluctuating flow* (MLFF) will serve as the "No Action" alternative, the LTEMP EIS should include a post-dam, pre-1996 ROD alternative that can isolate and demonstrate the benefits and impacts of MLFF operations. Finally, the Basin States would like to participate in developing the LTEMP alternatives and anticipate proposing an alternative for consideration.

F. **Process Comments:** The following process comments are specific to standards and processes for developing the LTEMP EIS.

1. **Timeline and Timing -** The LTEMP involves adjusting dam operations that impact a large number of interests and resources. The process for developing management and experimental programs under the LTEMP EIS should be thoughtfully considered and sufficiently flexible to avoid being rushed to completion.

Given the scope, duration and importance of the LTEMP EIS, documents relevant to its development and implementation should allow sufficient time for stakeholder review and comment. The proposed schedule is very aggressive and may not allow a full and robust consideration of all reasonable alternatives and their implications. *See Public Involvement Section, infra.*

2. Public Involvement – Given the potential impact of LTEMP operations throughout the Basin, its development should involve collaboration in addition to consultation with the following stakeholders:
 - i. Basin States. As parties to and beneficiaries of the interstate compacts, laws and a Supreme Court decree that allocate the Colorado River resource, the Basin States have a sovereign interest in the flow of the Colorado River that rises above a mere question of local private rights. Deciding how to develop and implement the LTEMP will directly implicate these interests. Over the past 20 years, the Basin States have fostered a working relationship with the Department to develop innovative and flexible agreements and programs that provide important tools for adapting to challenges and avoid interstate disputes both now and in the future. The Secretary should continue to consult and collaborate with the Basin States on the LTEMP EIS in furtherance of this relationship and mutual goals.
 - ii. GCDAMP Representatives. The Adaptive Management Workgroup (AMWG), Technical Workgroup, Science Advisors, and the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center have developed a knowledge base and expertise in the Colorado River's scientific and policy issues that goes above and beyond an individual stakeholder interest in the River. Their valuable perspectives are, in part, why the Secretary established the AMWG as a Federal Advisory Committee to provide advice and recommendations on Colorado River and Glen Canyon Dam operations. As such, it will be important to directly consult and collaborate with and learn from these representatives in developing the LTEMP EIS.
3. Role of Federal Agencies - There are a number of federal agencies with authorities and obligations concerning the Colorado River– i.e., Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Area Power Administration, and Bureau of Land Management, in addition to Reclamation and the Park Service. The LTEMP EIS should clarify the role and involvement of each agency in preparing, commenting on and finalizing the LTEMP EIS as well as the decision-making and implementation processes.
4. Role of Desired Future Conditions - The Department of the Interior, in conjunction with AMWG, is currently developing Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for key resource elements at and below Glen Canyon Dam. Because these DFCs involve variable resources with differing goals, they also identify potentially competing interests for operating Glen Canyon Dam. Satisfying goals for one resource DFC may ultimately be at

the expense of another. If the DFCs are used to inform the LTEMP process, it will be important to recognize the need to balance the competing DFC goals and interests consistent with the purpose and intent of the GCPA. See Section A(2)(c), *supra*.

5. Role of Science - The Basin States advocate for the LTEMP EIS to be developed and implemented based on credible and objective science concerning the Colorado River Basin.

Conclusion

The Basin States thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on the scope of the LTEMP EIS. We have a particular interest in avoiding potential impacts from the LTEMP while ensuring its success. In this effort, we ask that the Department please consider and incorporate the above comments in determining the final scope for the LTEMP process. We further ask that the Department allow the Basin States to propose an alternative for consideration and evaluation under the LTEMP EIS. Should there be any questions or concerns regarding this letter or any other aspect of the Basin States' interest regarding the LTEMP process, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

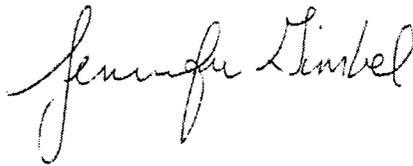
[Signatures on next page]



Sandra A. Fabritz-Whitney
Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources



Dana B. Fisher
Colorado River Commissioner
Colorado River Board of California



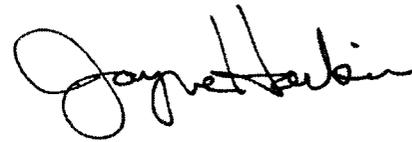
Jennifer Gimbel
Director
Colorado Water Conservation Board



Patricia Mulroy
General Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority



Estevan Lopez
Executive Director
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission



Jayne Harkins
Director
Colorado River Commission of Nevada



Dennis J. Strong
Director
Utah Department of Water Resources
Utah Interstate Stream Commission



Don. A. Ostler
Executive Director
Upper Colorado River Basin



Patrick Tyrrell
State Engineer
Wyoming State Engineer