

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

December 11, 2012

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes of the November 14, 2012 Meeting of the Colorado River Board

A copy of the draft November 14th Board meeting minutes has been included in the Board folder for your review and consideration. I am respectfully requesting the Board's adoption and approval of the November 14th minutes at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on December 12th.

2013 Colorado River Board Meeting Schedule

I have included a copy of the proposed 2013 meeting schedule for the Colorado River Board of California in your Board folder. I am respectfully requesting that you approve the proposed 2013 Board meeting schedule at the December 12th Board meeting.

Resolution Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Colorado River Board of California

The Colorado River Board of California was established by statute in 1937. Consequently, 2012 is the 75th Anniversary year for the Board. In celebration of the Board's 75th Anniversary, and in recognition of the accomplishments that have benefited California's Colorado River water and power entitlement and contract holders as well as the entire Colorado River Basin, I am asking that the Board approve a resolution commemorating its 75th anniversary. A copy of the proposed resolution has been included in the Board folder.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Basin Water Report

As of December 1, 2012, storage in the major Upper Basin reservoirs decreased by 483,550 acre-feet and storage in the Lower Basin reservoirs increased by 176,200 acre-feet during November 2012. Total System active storage as of December 1st was 33.336 million acre-feet (maf), or 56 percent of capacity, which is 5.133 maf less than one year ago (Upper Basin reservoirs decreased by 4.543 maf and Lower Basin reservoirs decreased by 0.589 maf).

November releases from Hoover, Davis, and Parker Dams averaged 10,920, 8,390 and 5,850 cubic feet per second (cfs), respectively. Planned releases from those three dams for the month of December 2012 are 6,800, 5,800, and 4,200 cfs, respectively. The December releases represent those needed to meet downstream water requirements including those caused by

reduced operation of Senator Wash Reservoir and storage in the Warren H. Brock (Drop 2) Reservoir.

As of December 3rd, taking into account both measured and unmeasured return flows, the Lower Division states' consumptive use of Colorado River water for calendar year 2012, as forecasted by Reclamation, totals 7.474 maf and is described as follows: Arizona, 2.796 maf; California, 4.434 maf; and Nevada, 0.244 maf. The Central Arizona Project (CAP) is estimated to divert 1.615 maf, of which 0.134 maf are planned to be delivered to the Arizona Water Bank.

As of December 3rd, the preliminary end-of-year estimate by the Bureau of Reclamation for 2012 for California's agricultural consumptive use of Colorado River water under the first three priorities and the sixth priority of the 1931 *California Seven Party Agreement* is 3.663 maf. This estimate is based on the collective use, through October 2012, by the Palo Verde Irrigation District, the Yuma Project-Reservation Division (YPRD), the Imperial Irrigation District, and the Coachella Valley Water District. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is estimated to use about 0.732 maf, which is 33,000 acre-feet more than in 2011.

As of December 1st, the water level at the Lake Mead was at 1,117.2 feet above the mean sea level, and the storage was 13.334 maf, 52 percent of capacity, while the water level at Lake Powell was at 3,615.1 feet above the mean sea level and the storage was 13.251 maf, 54.1 percent of capacity.

COLORADO RIVER OPERATIONS

Glen Canyon Dam High-Flow Experiment, November 18-23, 2012

Reclamation conducted a High-Flow Experimental (HFE) release from Glen Canyon Dam during November 18-23, 2012. This HFE release was conducted pursuant to the HFE Protocol that was adopted by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior in 2011. This HFE release was intended to redistribute approximately 500,000 metric tons of sediment that has accumulated in the Marble Canyon reach of the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam. This sediment appears to have largely accumulated in this reach of the Colorado River between July 1st and October 1st, and was the result of summer monsoonal precipitation events in the Paria River watershed.

The HFE release included a 24-hour release of water from Glen Canyon Dam of 42,300 cfs (27,300 cfs through the powerplant and 15,000 cfs through the river outlet tubes). This peak flow of 42,300 cfs was preceded and followed by fluctuating flows of 7,000 to 9,000 cfs for a total November monthly release of approximately 724,000 acre feet. To accomplish this HFE experiment, approximately 80,000 acre-feet of water was released via the river outlet tubes (i.e., jet-tubes) and bypassed Glen Canyon Dam power generating facilities. Besides sediment redistribution, ancillary purposes of the experiment were to examine the effects of such releases on sediment accumulation and transport, aquatic foodbase, rainbow trout population and condition, and impacts/effects upon riparian vegetation. Reclamation and the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center focused specific monitoring activities on these resources during the HFE release and will continue to do so for several months following the HFE release.

I have included a news release from the Department of the Interior highlighting the HFE release, and a one-page summary of technical data associated with the HFE release in the Board folder. Finally, if you are interested in more information about the recent HFE release at Glen Canyon Dam, I would encourage you to visit Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region webpage at <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/rm/gcdHFE/2012/>. On Reclamation's webpage you can access some video podcasts and a significant amount of technical information associated with the HFE release.

Status of the Binational Discussions/Negotiations with Mexico

As the Colorado River Board is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year, it can also celebrate the signing of Minute No. 319, which is entitled Interim International Cooperative Measures in the Colorado River Basin through 2017 and Extension of Minute 318 Cooperative Measures to address the Continued Effects of the April 2010 Earthquake in the Mexicali Valley, Baja California. Minute No. 319, as discussed at the November Board meeting, is a five-year agreement between the United States and Mexico that may provide a model for other projects and programs to bring further binational cooperation and benefits to both countries.

Specifically, Minute No. 319 addresses how water will be delivered to Mexico under both high and low flow conditions on the Colorado River; allows Mexico to defer the delivery of water in a year and to create Intentionally Created Mexican Allocation, which will be delivered to Mexico in subsequent years; provides funding for Mexico to repair its water infrastructure and to conserve water, as well as to create environmental water that will be released to the Delta; allows for some of the conserved water from the infrastructure repairs to be converted to Intentionally Created Surplus for use in the United States by the U.S. funding entities; and establishes a process for evaluating implementation of other international projects that could provide benefits to both countries.

The signing ceremony for Minute No. 319 was held on November 20, 2012, in San Diego, California. Chairman Fisher was one of the two state representatives that provided remarks during the ceremony. In his remarks, he welcomed everyone to San Diego and California for this historic event; thanked those who had put so much time and effort into bringing this to a successful conclusion; and observed how this establishes mechanisms and partnerships that can be used to manage our limited water supplies to meet future water needs in both countries. Also providing remarks at the signing ceremony were: Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Department of the Interior; Edward Drusina, U.S. Commissioner of IBWC; Roberto Salmon, Mexican Commissioner of IBWC; Ambassador Julian Ventura Valero, Undersecretary for North America, Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Relations; Jose Luis Luege, Director General of Mexico's National Water Commission; Mike Connor, Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation; and Pat Mulroy, General Manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

In addition to Minute No. 319, all of the domestic documents that were required for implementation of Minute No. 319 were signed on November 20th in San Diego. These included the Forbearance Agreement for Binational Intentionally Created Surplus; the Interim Operating Agreement for Implementation of Minute No. 319; the Contributed Funds Agreement for the Pilot Program; the water delivery agreements between the Department of the Interior and the local funding entities in the United States; and the Memorandum of Agreement on the Implementation of Minute No. 319.

As Chairman Fisher stated during the ceremony, executing the historic Minute provides significant, joint binational benefits to both countries and to the water users in both countries. However, we must now devote our attention to implementation of the provisions contained in Minute No. 319 so that the anticipated results can be achieved and that the additional information, which has been contemplated, can be obtained. The information obtained during the five-year period will pave the way for what is envisioned beyond the initial five-year period.

We are particularly thankful for the participation and efforts that Jerry Zimmerman contributed to the negotiations on behalf of California and the United States. Mr. Zimmerman was a key participant in numerous interstate and bi-national meetings on behalf of the Board over several years. Not surprisingly, he developed tremendous rapport with the Mexican delegation based on his technical expertise, knowledge of the background and history of the basin and his ability to circumnavigate through the complex negotiations.

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

On December 12, 2012 the Department of the Interior will release the final version of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report (Basin Study). The Basin Study is a comprehensive effort to quantify and address future supply and demand imbalances in the Colorado River Basin. The final report will be released during the annual conference and meeting of the Colorado River Water Users Association in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Basin States were cost-share partners in the study and have identified several future actions they are committed to work on with Reclamation and other basin stakeholders.

The Basin Study considers four different water supply scenarios and six different demand scenarios that result in a broad range of possible outcomes. An analysis of the median of the results of the scenarios presents a potential Basin-wide imbalance of demands verses supply of approximately 3.2 million acre-feet per year by 2060. In addition to the ongoing efforts that the states and water users are already employing, a broad range of potential solutions will be necessary to meet a variety of growing needs.

Additional WaterSMART Funding Opportunities

As reported during the last Board meeting, Reclamation has initiated funding opportunity announcements for the next round of WaterSMART program grants. The most recent category of grants opportunities relates to Reclamation's Desalination and Water Purification Research Program. Reclamation anticipates funding four or five research and laboratory studies and one or two pilot scale projects and will provide up to \$150,000 for each of the research studies and \$400,000 for each of the pilot projects. Applications are due to Reclamation by January 3, 2013.

Tanya Trujillo

Tanya M. Trujillo
Executive Director