

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

**July 12, 2005**

**ADMINISTRATION**

Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Budget for the Colorado River Board of California

At its the June meeting, the Colorado River Board of California (Board) approved the Board's FY 2005-06 Budget and entering into Standard Agreement No. 38 with the Six Agency Committee to fund the Board's approved Budget. On July 11, 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger signed California's FY 2005-06 Budget Act. This Act includes the funding level as approved by the Board at its June meeting.

Colorado River Board Workshop

On July 8, 2005, the Board held a workshop on Colorado River Reservoir Operations. During the workshop the focus of the discussions was on the operation of the Colorado River reservoir system, the required reservoir releases and delivery obligations to comply with various components of the "Law of the River," and Secretary Norton's call for the Basin states to develop the process and guidelines associated with Colorado River reservoir operations at Lakes Powell and Mead under low reservoir conditions. Also, discussed at the workshops was the current status of the Basin states discussions regarding the operation of the reservoir system under low reservoir and drought conditions, and in particular, how those operations relate to development of shortage guidelines for the Lower Basin as well as conjunctive management of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. During the workshop, there were discussions related to development of the 2006 Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River System Reservoirs, how the 602(a) storage requirement is determined for the Upper Basin, and the status of the Basin states discussions.

Resolution Honoring Jesse P. Silva of IID

Included in the Board handout material is a resolution regarding the recent retirement of Mr. Jesse Silva as the General Manager of the Imperial Irrigation District. The resolution acknowledges Jesse's contributions toward finalization of the Quantification Settlement Agreement, the Interim Surplus Guidelines, and the completion of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, as well as continuing involvement in resolution of important Colorado River Basin states issues. I attended Jesse's retirement celebration on July 1<sup>st</sup> and conveyed the Board's best wishes to both him and his family.

## Resolution Honoring New Mexico's Phillip B. Mutz

At the June Board meeting, Board members were advised that Phil Mutz, the Interstate Stream Commissioner for the New Mexico Interstate Streams Commission, planned to retire at the end of June or when the Governor Richardson of New Mexico appointed his replacement. On July 8<sup>th</sup>, Governor Richardson appointed John D. Antonio to represent New Mexico on the Upper Colorado River Commission. Mr. Mutz has been actively involved in the Colorado River Basin states discussions and served the citizens of the State of New Mexico for more than 30 years. A draft resolution acknowledging Board's appreciation for his contributions toward reaching resolution of various Colorado River issues will be considered at the Board's July meeting.

## **PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS**

### Colorado River Water Report

As of July 1, 2005, storage in the major Upper Basin reservoirs increased by 2,225,000 acre-feet and storage in the Lower Basin reservoirs decreased by 194,000 acre-feet during June. Total System active storage as of July 7<sup>th</sup> was 35.997 million acre-feet (maf) or 61 percent of capacity, which is 4.592 maf more than one year ago.

June releases from Hoover, Davis, and Parker Dams averaged 15,110, 15,210 and 11,510 cubic feet per second (cfs), respectively. Planned releases from those three dams for the month of July 2005 are 15,900, 15,400, and 12,100 cfs, respectively. The July releases represent those needed to meet downstream water requirements including those caused by reduced operation of Senator Wash Reservoir.

The final July 6, 2005, forecasted April through July 2005 unregulated inflow into Lake Powell was 9.100 maf, which is 115 percent of the 30-year average for the period 1961-1990. The final July 6, 2005, forecasted unregulated inflow into Lake Powell for the 2004-05 water year was 13.348 maf, or 111 percent of the 30-year average.

As of July 7<sup>th</sup>, taking into account both measured and unmeasured return flows, the Lower Division States' consumptive use of Colorado River water for calendar year 2005, as forecasted by Reclamation, totals 7.033 maf and is described as follows: Arizona, 2.526 maf; California, 4.228 maf; and Nevada, 0.279 maf. The Central Arizona Project (CAP) will divert 1.395 maf, of which 0.129 maf are planned to be delivered to the Arizona Water Bank. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) will use about 0.621 maf, which is 0.129 maf less than its actual use of mainstream water in 2004.

The preliminary end-of-year estimate by the Board staff for 2005 California agricultural consumptive use of Colorado River water under the first three priorities and the sixth priority of the 1931 *California Seven Party Agreement* is 3.547 maf. This estimate by the Board staff is based on the collective use, through May 2005, by the Palo Verde Irrigation District, the Yuma

Project-Reservation Division (YPRD), the Imperial Irrigation District, and the Coachella Valley Water District. Figure 1, found at the end of this report, depicts the historic projected end-of-year agricultural use for the year.

### Colorado River Operations

#### *Reclamation's Approval of PVID Estimated Annual Diversion*

Reclamation in a letter, dated June 2, 2005, approved an estimated 2005 diversion for the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) of 981,360 acre-feet, or an estimated consumptive use of 478,322 acre-feet. Reclamation further indicated that it would be monitoring the projected consumptive use to ensure that the entitlement of each authorized user is not exceeded. A copy of Reclamation's June 2<sup>nd</sup> letter is included in the Board folder.

#### *Federal Register Notice Regarding Colorado River Operations and the Development of Management Strategies for Lakes Powell and Mead*

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, Reclamation published a *Federal Register* Notice regarding the development of management strategies associated with Colorado River reservoir operations at Lakes Powell and Mead under low reservoir conditions. The Department of the Interior and Reclamation expect that the management strategies developed during this process will guide the development and implementation of future Annual Operating Plans for the Colorado River System reservoirs. Part of the process will entail the development of detailed guidelines for making shortage determinations that will permit water users to identify reservoir conditions under which less than 7.5 million acre-feet would be available for use on an annual basis. Reclamation intends to use a public process to develop these strategies and is soliciting comments from all interested parties to be considered during the process. All comments must be received by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Reclamation proposes to hold two public meetings associated with the process. These public meetings are scheduled to be held on July 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, in Henderson, Nevada, and Salt Lake City, Utah, respectively. Copies of the *Federal Register* Notice and Reclamation's press release are included in the Board folder.

#### *Miscellaneous News Articles*

Two news articles regarding growth in the Las Vegas area and impacts to Lake Mead, and recreational boating opportunities and water supply issues in Lake Powell have been included in the Board folder. The article about Las Vegas indicates concern that the growth in the Las Vegas metropolitan area may cause more pollution problems in Lake Mead. The article about Lake Powell describes the potential impacts to recreational users and the short- and long-term water supply impacts related to the low reservoir conditions in Lake Powell.

## Basin States Discussions

### *Basin States' Meetings*

Representatives of the Colorado River Basin states met on July 6, 2005, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The focus of the discussions was on the process that Secretary Norton has initiated with the June 15<sup>th</sup> *Federal Register* Notice regarding the development of management strategies associated with Colorado River reservoir operations at Lakes Powell and Mead under low reservoir conditions. During the meeting, the Basin states agreed to support the process initiated by Secretary Norton and to look at the operation of both Lake Powell and Lake Mead under low reservoir and shortage conditions, putting aside a number of legal issues such as: the Mexican Treaty delivery obligations, tributary consumptive use, the limitation on development in the Upper Basin, and the 602(a) storage requirement. The Basin states will attempt to have the framework for their recommended interim shortage guidelines by the first of September. It was also agreed that the proposed interim shortage guidelines should run concurrent with the existing Interim Surplus Guidelines, which expire at the end of 2016.

The next meeting of the Basin states is scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup>. Between now and August 4<sup>th</sup> a Technical Committee will identify a number of operating strategies that can be considered at the next Basin states meeting.

### *Miscellaneous News Articles*

Included in the Board folder are four articles regarding regional water supply issues in Arizona. The first article, from the Tucson Arizona Daily Star describes several of the elements from the City of Tucson's 50-year water management plan. The potential water supply and management options include towing icebergs south to areas where the water can be used, construction and use of desalination plants, cloud-seeding, increased water conservation activities, and inter-basin transfers of water supplies.

The second Arizona Daily Star article describes the benefits associated with a bond election that was recently held in Tucson related to use of CAP water in the Tucson metropolitan region. The funds would be used to expand the drinking water system in the city, develop the use of reclaimed water, and expand recharge facilities in the Tucson area.

The third article, from the Arizona Republic, discusses the fact that Arizona expects to use less than its full 2.8 million acre-feet apportionment this year. Currently, Arizona expects to leave approximately 200,000 acre-feet of its annual apportionment in Lake Mead.

The last article describes the efforts underway in rural Arizona associated with long-term water supply management and planning. The rural communities are evaluating various regulatory and administrative actions that can be implemented to ensure the long-term availability of water supplies. One of the tools being considered is the implementation of a long-term, 100-year adequate and assured water supply requirement for new housing construction.

## Colorado River Environmental Activities

### *Implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP)*

Reclamation is currently developing the Fiscal-Year 2006 work plan associated with LCR MSCP implementation. A working group of LCR MSCP stakeholders is working with Reclamation to finalize the 2006 work plan and budget. The work plan and proposed budget are expected to be finalized and approved later this summer by the LCR MSCP Steering Committee.

Reclamation is working with stakeholders in Arizona and California in identifying potential restoration activities that can be implemented over the next few years on portions of the newly acquired lands within the Cibola Valley Irrigation and Drainage District and the California Department of Fish and Game lands within the Palo Verde Irrigation District. It is likely that restoration activities on portions of these lands could begin in 2006.

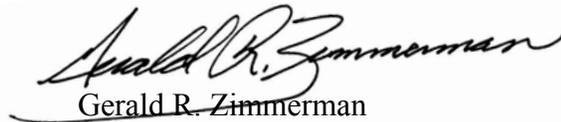
### *Management Plan for Big River Fishes of the Lower Colorado River Basin*

On June 19<sup>th</sup> the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released the final Management Plan for the Big River Fishes of the Lower Colorado River Basin. This plan is intended to provide management guidelines for the long-term recovery of populations of native endangered fishes in aquatic habitats within the Lower Colorado River Basin. These management actions identified in the plan are intended to be complimentary to the proposed activities of the LCR MSCP, as well as, the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. Primary elements of the plan call for the establishment of native fish genetic refugia for razorback sucker and bonytail, augmentation through use of hatchery facilities, use of natural and constructed habitats, and exploitation of habitats made available through the drawdown of reservoirs associated with river and reservoir water management operations.

## **WATER QUALITY**

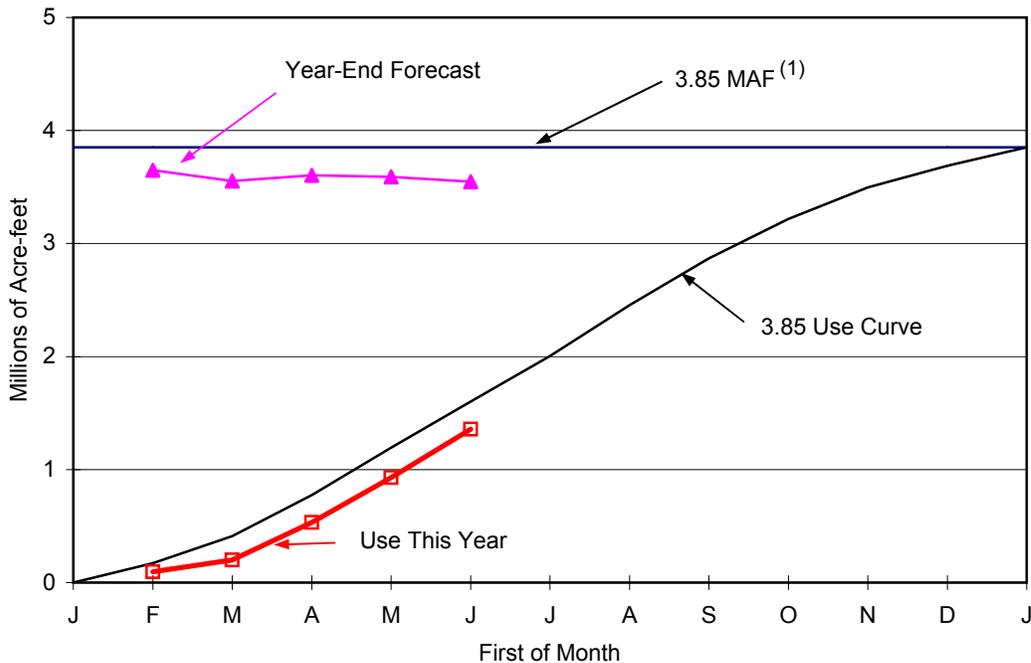
### PG&E Topock Gas Compression Station

Representatives from PG&E will be attending the Board meeting and will make a PowerPoint presentation. This presentation will provide the Board members an update on the status of the clean-up at the Topock Gas Compressor Station site.



Gerald R. Zimmerman  
Executive Director

**FIGURE 1  
JULY 1 FORECAST FOR 2005 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	0.097	3.650	0.056
Mar	0.199	3.554	0.152
Apr	0.533	3.604	0.102
May	0.929	3.589	0.117
Jun	1.356	3.547	0.159
Jul			
Aug			
Sep			
Oct			
Nov			
Dec			
Jan			

(1) The forecast of unused water is based on the availability of 3.713 MAF under the first three priorities of the water delivery contracts. This accounts for the 101,900 acre-feet of conserved water available to MWD during 2004 in accordance with the 1988 IID-MWD Conservation Agreement and the 1989 IID-MWD-CVWD-PVID Agreement, as amended; and 35,000 AF of conserved water available to SDCWA in accordance with the IID-SDCWA Transfer Agreement, as amended. As USBR is charging disputed uses by Yuma Island pumpers to priority 2, the amount of unused water has been reduced by those uses - - 0.007 maf. The CRB does not concur with the USBR's viewpoint on this matter.