

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

**September 14, 2010**

**ADMINISTRATION**

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2010

A copy of the August 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting minutes has been included in the Board folder for review and comment. I am respectfully asking for approval and adoption of these meeting minutes by Board members.

Governor Schwarzenegger's Memorandum Regarding "Ongoing and Future Hiring Practices, August 31<sup>st</sup>"

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, the Governor's Office issued a memorandum implementing a hiring freeze, and curtailing promotions, transfers, and the retaining of contract services. Exceptions to this policy will require the approval of the Governor's Office. I have included a copy of the Governor's memorandum in the Board folder.

Agency Managers' Meeting

The agency managers have not met since the August Board meeting.

Colorado River Authority

The Colorado River Authority of California members and others conducted an investigation of salinity control and other projects in the Upper Colorado River Basin on September 7<sup>th</sup> through September 11<sup>th</sup>. The investigation trip began in Salt Lake City, Utah. The members on the trip were joined by Mr. Don Barnett from the Colorado River Salinity Control Forum and sponsors of various salinity control projects in Utah and Wyoming. The members also were able to visit Flaming Gorge and Glen Canyon Dams where presentations were made by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation representatives. Below Glen Canyon Dam the group was joined by Mr. Mathew Anderson of the USGS and the Glen Canyon Monitoring and Research Center. The group also was able to generally follow the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline route from Lake Powell to Saint George, Utah. In route, presentations were made by Mr. Dennis Strong and representatives of the Washington County Water Conservation District. In route from Saint George to Las Vegas, Nevada, the group received presentations from the Southern Nevada Water Authority representatives on Nevada's activities in meeting its water supply needs from the Virgin and Muddy Rivers.

## PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

### Colorado River Water Report

As of September 1, 2010, storage in the major Upper Basin reservoirs decreased by 345,870 acre-feet and storage in the Lower Basin reservoirs decreased by 57,200 acre-feet during August 2010. Total System active storage as of September 6<sup>th</sup> was 33.642 million acre-feet (maf), or 56 percent of capacity, which is 1.093 maf less than one year ago (Upper Basin reservoirs decreased by 0.479 maf and Lower Basin reservoirs decreased by 0.614 maf).

August releases from Hoover, Davis, and Parker Dams averaged 13,480, 13,630 and 10,510 cubic feet per second (cfs), respectively. Planned releases from those three dams for the month of September 2010, are 11,900, 13,400, and 9,100 cfs, respectively. The September releases represent those needed to meet downstream water requirements including those caused by reduced operation of Senator Wash Reservoir.

As of September 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 2010, as forecasted by Reclamation, totals 7.381 maf and is described as follows: Arizona, 2.788 maf; California, 4.318 maf; and Nevada, 0.274 maf. The Central Arizona Project (CAP) will divert 1.651 maf, of which 0.134 maf are planned to be delivered to the Arizona Water Bank. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) will use about 1.082 maf, which is 23,000 acre-feet less than its 2009 use of mainstream water.

The preliminary end-of-year estimate by the Board staff for 2010 California agricultural consumptive use of Colorado River water under the first three priorities and the sixth priority of the 1931 *California Seven Party Agreement* is 3.389 maf. This estimate is based on the collective use, through July 2010, by the Palo Verde Irrigation District, the Yuma Project-Reservation Division (YPRD), the Imperial Irrigation District, and the Coachella Valley Water District. Figure 1, found at the end of this report, depicts the projected end-of-year agricultural use for the year.

As of September 12<sup>th</sup>, the water level at the Lake Mead was at 1,085.8 feet above the mean sea level, and the storage was 10,260 maf, 40 percent of capacity, while the water level at Lake Powell was at 3,634.1 feet above the mean sea level and the storage was 15,316 maf, 63 percent of capacity.

### Colorado River Operations

#### *2011 Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River System and Reservoirs*

As we have discussed at previous Board meetings, two consultation meetings have been held during the development of the draft of the 2011 Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River System Reservoirs (AOP). The most recent consultation meeting was held in Las Vegas, Nevada on August 26, 2010. During the meeting a number of comments were received by

Reclamation on the previous draft of the 2011 AOP. There is still some concern among the representatives of the Basin states associated with the inclusion of specific language in the draft AOP regarding operations at Glen Canyon Dam. Reclamation has committed to re-evaluate the proposed language, based upon the Basin states' comments. The results of that evaluation will be reflected in the next iteration of the draft 2011 AOP. As the Board has discussed, the draft 2011 AOP contains the following Secretarial determinations:

- Upper Basin Delivery – The annual release volume from Lake Powell during water year 2011 shall be consistent with Section 6.B (Upper Elevation Balancing Tier) of the Interim Guidelines; and shall be 8.23 million acre-feet unless conditions cause Section 6.B.3 or Section 6.B.4 to apply;

The Interim Guidelines provide for adjustments to Glen Canyon Dam operations in April 2011 based upon the April 24-Month Study that would result in a water year release greater than 8.23 MAF. As such, current projections under the most probable inflow scenario are that the August 2010 24-Month Study would indicate that the operations of Glen Canyon Dam would begin the year under an 8.23 MAF release and that an April adjustment would occur and result in the Equalization Tier governing operations of Glen Canyon Dam for the remainder of the water year.

- Lower Basin Delivery – Taking into account (1) the existing water storage conditions in the basin, (2) the most probable near-term water supply conditions in the basin, and (3) Section 2.B.5 of the Interim Guidelines, the Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) Surplus Condition is the criterion governing the operation of Hoover Dam for calendar year 2011 in accordance with Article III(3)(b) of the Operating Criteria and Article II(B)(2) of the Consolidated Decree;
- No unused apportionment for calendar year 2011 is anticipated. If any unused apportionment becomes available after adoption of the 2011 AOP, Reclamation shall allocate any such unused apportionment in accordance with Article II(B)(6) of the the Consolidated Decree;
- Colorado River water may be stored off-stream pursuant to individual Storage and Interstate Release Agreements (SIRAs) and 43 CFR Part 414 within the Lower Division States. The Secretary shall make Intentionally Created Unused Apportionment (ICUA) available to contractors in the Lower Division States pursuant to SIRAs and 43 CFR Part 414;
- The Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy will be in effect during calendar year 2011;
- The Interim Guidelines adopted the ICS mechanism that encourages the efficient use and management of Colorado River water in the Lower Basin. ICS may be created and delivered in 2011 pursuant to the Interim Guidelines and appropriate delivery and forbearance agreements; and

- U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty Delivery – A volume of 1.5 MAF will be available to be scheduled for delivery to Mexico during calendar year 2011 in accordance with Article 15 of the 1944 United States-Mexico Water Treaty and Minutes 242 and 314 of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC).

Reclamation is still planning to hold the final stakeholder consultation meeting for the 2011 AOP on September 24, 2010, in Las Vegas, Nevada, at McCarran International Airport. The current version of the draft 2011 AOP can be down-loaded from Reclamation's website at [http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/rsvrs/ops/aop/AOP11\\_draft.pdf](http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/rsvrs/ops/aop/AOP11_draft.pdf).

#### *Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Dedication of Hoover Dam, September 30<sup>th</sup>*

On August 17<sup>th</sup> I received an announcement from Reclamation that it has scheduled an event celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the dedication of Hoover Dam. Reclamation plans to hold the celebration at Hoover Dam on September 30<sup>th</sup>, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. I have included a copy of the event invitation and information in the Board folder. Please note that if you would like to attend this celebration that an R.S.V.P. to Reclamation is required by September 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Reclamation's Proposed Procedures for Administering the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy*

On August 25<sup>th</sup> Reclamation's Lower Colorado Regional Office released the latest draft of the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy (IOPP) Proposed Procedures. As we have discussed at previous Board and Agency Managers meetings, there have been several consultation meetings with Lower Division entitlement holders with respect to the proposed IOPP procedures. I have included the latest draft of the proposed IOPP procedures in the Board folder. Comments associated with the procedures are being accepted by Reclamation's Lower Colorado Regional Office through September 30, 2010. With the coordination among representatives of the Lower Division States and representatives from the agencies within California, I do not believe that we need to comment on the draft procedures at this time. The draft procedures will not be finalized until the Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) Procedures are developed and finalized. The process to develop the ICS Procedures is continuing.

#### Basin States Discussions

##### *Status of Bi-National Projects and Programs with Mexico*

As discussed at the August Board meeting the discussions with Mexico are progressing. Several meetings have been held among representatives of the Basin states and their technical representatives to develop a response to the draft Minute 318 that contains Mexico's proposal on a comprehensive deal that addresses the creation and delivery of Intentionally Created Mexican Apportionment (ICMA), the conversion of ICMA to Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS), surplus and shortage sharing, and pursuit of new water and environmental projects.

As reported at the August Board meeting, a Bi-National meeting was held on August 6<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas, Nevada, to begin negotiations on the key terms to be included in Minute 318. During the August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, IBWC and Department of the Interior representatives presented the United States position on the key terms to be included in Minute 318. During the meeting, Mexico raised concerns with several of the provisions that were contained in the United States proposal and the Mexican delegation committed to provide a counter offer at the next meeting, which was held in El Paso, Texas, on September 10, 2010. Also, during the August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, it was agreed to have the modelers from the United States and Mexico hold a technical modeling meeting in El Paso, Texas, on August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in an attempt to reconcile the differences in the results that are occurring in the model runs by the two countries.

During the August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, the modelers were able to identify several differences in the assumptions that were being used for the U.S. and Mexican model runs and these differences are being addressed in the models.

Based upon the discussions leading up to the September 10<sup>th</sup> Bi-National meeting and discussions during the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the near-term discussions will focus on reaching agreement on a draft minute that addresses the water that has been created in Mexico as a result of the April 2010 earthquake in northern Mexico. Although the near-term discussions will focus on the emergency water resulting from the earthquake, there remains interest in reaching agreement on the comprehensive package that was contained in the original draft of Minute 318.

A number of meetings and conference calls have been scheduled to further the near-term discussions. These meetings and conference calls among the legal group, the modelers, the technical group, and the next negotiating session between the U.S. and Mexico on September 28<sup>th</sup> will be discussed during the Board meeting. Also to be discussed during the Board meeting are the latest concepts to be included in the new draft of Minute 318.

Finally, I have included a copy of a recent article from the *Sacramento Bee*, dated August 14<sup>th</sup>, that discusses the status of the Bi-National negotiations associated with the U.S. working with Mexico in improving water deliveries following the Easter Sunday earthquake in the Mexicali Valley. The article also points out that these discussions are also part of the larger framework of discussions that are ongoing associated with overall Colorado River reservoir system management with an emphasis on looking for ways of providing Mexican water users with additional storage and delivery efficiency opportunities.

*Lower Basin States Letter to Director of the Bureau of Land Management Regarding Water Efficient Solar Power*

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, representatives of the Lower Division states sent a letter to BLM Director, Mr. Robert Abbey, regarding the siting and development of solar energy projects on public lands administered by the BLM and the long-term impacts to Colorado River water supplies. While the Lower Division states support the goal of energy independence and implementation of more solar energy projects across the southwestern region, there is concern that water uses associated with these solar projects may not be utilizing best management practices (BMPs) and efficient technologies. The letter requests that BLM include provisions in

future right-of-way grants or leases that require use of BMPs and water use efficient technologies. A copy of the final letter to BLM has been included in the Board folder.

### Colorado River Environmental Programs

#### *Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program*

The Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) met in Phoenix, Arizona, on August 24-25, 2010. The purpose of the AMWG meeting was to approve the work plan and budget for the upcoming year, and a potential water-year hydrograph governing releases from Glen Canyon Dam pursuant to the 2011 Annual Operating Plan and the goals of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) Work Plan for FY-2011. In the context of the adoption of a proposed hydrograph for releases from the dam, consideration was given to the total volume of water to be released from Lake Powell pursuant to the AOP, the sediment budget of the Glen and Grand Canyon reaches of the mainstream Colorado River, and the needs of the terrestrial and aquatic species being managed for under the tenets of the GCDAMP.

The AMWG adopted the proposed 2011 hydrograph that was prepared by the Department of the Interior and Department of Energy. The proposed hydrograph utilizes two potential Water Year Scenarios, and both scenarios conform to the interim guidelines for the coordinated operations of Lakes Powell and Mead (2007). Decisions or modifications associated with which Water Year Scenario is utilized during WY-2011 is made after evaluation of forecasts, the 24-Month Study, the 2011 AOP, and consultation with the Basin states, and other stakeholders.

Water Year Scenario No. 1 (WYS 1) would facilitate the release of between 8.23 MAF and 9.0 MAF from Glen Canyon Dam (GCD), and falls within the Balancing Tier of the interim guidelines. Under WYS 1, the monthly release volumes would be adjusted monthly based upon the 24-month forecast and would fall under the Modified Low Fluctuating Flow (MLFF) alternative specified in 1996 Record of Decision for Glen Canyon Dam operations (with daily peak releases no greater than 16,000 cfs). This scenario would also accommodate steady flow releases in September and October (i.e., peak releases would not exceed 8,000-10,000 cfs).

Water Year Scenario No. 2 (WYS 2) would facilitate releases above 9.0 MAF from GCD. Again, monthly release volumes would be developed based upon a review of the forecasts and the 24-Month Study, and are intended to also fit under the MLFF EIS alternative. Daily peaks would be no greater than 22,000 cfs, and could also incorporate seasonally-adjusted steady flows in September and October. The goal of WYS 2 would be to try and reduce damage to the overall storage of sediment in the mainstream reaches of Glen and Grand Canyons, and reduce damage to existing beaches and sandbars, while facilitating the release of a much larger volume of water than during normal years.

Reclamation staff also provided an overview of the status of the proposed Temperature Control Device (TCD) to warm releases from Glen Canyon Dam to benefit downstream native fish populations. The TCD would be a significant construction project involving the attachment of louvered gates on the upstream face of the dam through which warmer water taken from near

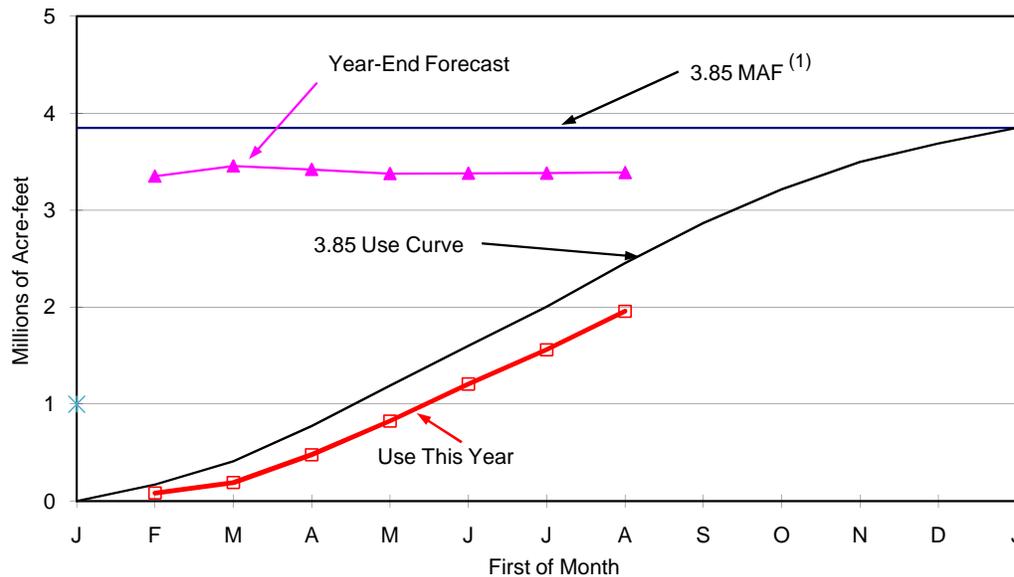
the top of Lake Powell could be routed through the penstocks and generator turbines and then discharged below the dam. After extensive discussion by the AMWG, it was agreed to set this proposal aside until additional data is collected and analyzed. The greatest concern is that while warm water could directly benefit the endangered humpback chub, it could also encourage a proliferation on non-native warm water aquatic species which could negatively impact the humpback chub.

Reclamation continues to work with the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center to collate and evaluate the results from all of the previous high-flow release experiments and prepare a detailed “High Flow Experiment Protocol Environmental Assessment” (HFEP EA). This HFEP would guide the planning and development of all future high flow experimental releases from Glen Canyon Dam. It would allow careful scientifically-based hypothesis testing, develop rigorous monitoring plans, and require the collection of data and timely synthesis and evaluation of experimental results in a report following each HFE.

/S/Gerald R. Zimmerman

Gerald R. Zimmerman  
Acting Executive Director

**FIGURE 1**  
**SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 FORECAST OF 2010 YEAR-END COLORADO RIVER WATER USE**  
**BY THE CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES**



Forecast of Colorado River Water Use by the California Agricultural Agencies (Millions of Acre-feet)			
Month	Use as of First of Month	Forecast of Year End Use	Forecast of Unused Water (1)
Jan	0.000	-----	-----
Feb	0.084	3.352	0.191
Mar	0.192	3.456	0.087
Apr	0.479	3.421	0.122
May	0.826	3.378	0.165
Jun	1.208	3.381	0.162
Jul	1.561	3.382	0.161
Aug	1.958	3.389	0.154
Sep			
Oct			
Nov			
Dec			
Jan			

(1) The forecast of unused water is based on the availability of 3.543 MAF under the first three priorities of the water delivery contracts. This accounts for the 85,000 af of conserved water available to MWD under the 1988 IID-MWD Conservation agreement and the 1989 IID-MWD-CVWD-PVID Agreement as amended; 70,000 AF of conserved water available to SDCWA under the IID-SDCWA Transfer Agreement as amended being diverted by MWD; an estimated 28,500 AF of conserved water available to SDCWA and MWD as a result of the Coachella Canal Lining Project; 67,700 AF of water available to SDCWA and MWD as a result of the All American Canal Lining Project; 14,500 af of water IID and CVWD are forbearing to permit the Secretary of the Interior to satisfy a portion of Indian and miscellaneous present perfected rights use of Indian and miscellaneous present perfected rights use. As USBR is charging disputed uses by Yuma island pumpers to priority 2, the amount of unused water has been reduced by those uses - 6,470 af. The CRB does not concur with USBR's viewpoint on this matter.