COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
770 FAIRMONT AVENUE, SUITE 100
GLENDALE, CA 91203-1068
(818) 500-1625
(818) 543-4685 FAX

April 2, 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:	April 11, 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.

Christopher S. Harris
Acting Executive Director

attachment: Agenda

Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
April 11, 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 March 14, 2012, Consideration and Approval **(Action)**

4. Agency Managers Meetings

5. Protection of Existing Rights
   a. Colorado River Water Report
      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
      - Status of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report
      - Reclamation's Letter of Verification for MWD's Creation of 2010 Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus
      - Reclamation's Letter of Approval of MWD's 2012 Plan for the Creation of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus
   d. Basin States Discussions
      - Status of U.S./Mexico Binational Discussions
   e. Colorado River Environmental Issues
      - Seven Basin States Letter Requesting an extension to develop an alternative for the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement

Agenda (continued)

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
      May 9, 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 March 14, 2012, Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, March 14, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held in the Vineyard Room, of Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, 2155 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, California, 91764-4452, Wednesday, March 14, 2012.

Board Members and Alternates Present

Dana Bart Fisher, Jr, Chairman
Franz W. De Klotz
John V. Foley
W.D. Bill Knutson
David R. Pettijohn
Jeanine Jones, Designee
Department of Water Resources

Board Members and Alternate Absent

Terese Marie Ghio
James Cleo Hanks
Henry Merle Kuiper
James B. McDaniel
John Pierre Menvielle
John Palmer Powell, Jr.
Christopher G. Hayes, Designee
Department of Fish and Game

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott
James H. Bond
John Penn Carter
J.C. Jay Chen
Dave Fogerson
Leslie Gallagher
Christopher S. Harris
Eric M. Katz
Michael L. King
William J. Hasencamp
Thomas E. Levy
Lindia Y. Liu
Jan P. Matusak
Carrie Oliphant
Glen D. Peterson
Halla Razak
Steven B. Robbins
Tom J. Ryan
Tina L. A. Shields
Ed W. Smith
Catherine M. Stites
Mark Stuart
Mark Van Vlack
Fred A. Worthley
Bill D. Wright
Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher announced the presence of a quorum, and called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.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 the meeting to the next agenda item.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fisher asked if there was a motion to approve the February 15th meeting minutes. Mr. Knutson moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Ms. Jones. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the February 15th meeting minutes.

Statement of Economic Interests

Mr. Harris reminded the Board members that the Fair Political Practices Commission Form 700 - Statement of Economic Interests, are due in Sacramento by April 7, 2012.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that precipitation from October 1st to March 5th was 89 percent of normal, and the snowpack was about 81 percent of normal. The April through July runoff is expected to be 5.3 maf or 74 percent of normal. The anticipated 2012 water year runoff is 8.7 million acre-feet (maf) or about 80 percent of normal. Mr. Harris mentioned how dry the water year started out, however some areas in the Upper Basin are approaching near normal precipitation conditions.

Mr. Harris reported that as of March 4th, the storage in Lake Powell was 15.4 maf, or 64 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 3,635.2 feet. The storage in Lake Mead was 14.9 maf, or 58 percent of capacity, and water surface elevation was 1,132.9 feet. Total System storage was about 37.88 maf, or 63 percent of capacity. Last year at this time, there was 31.79 maf in storage, or 53 percent of capacity. There was an increase of slightly over 6 maf acre-feet in total system storage over this time last year.

Mr. Harris added that Reclamation's projected consumptive use (CU) for the State of Nevada is slightly under its basic apportionment of 300,000 acre-feet (i.e. 281,000 acre-feet); and for Arizona, the CU is projected to be over its basic apportionment of 2.8 maf (i.e. 2.841 maf); and for California, the CU is projected to be 4.268 maf. The total projected CU in the Lower Basin is expected to be about 7.389 maf.

State and Local Water Reports

Mr. Mark Stuart, of the California Department of Water Resources, reported on the current climate conditions in California. At the Los Angeles Civic Center, January precipitation totals were less than fifty percent of average for this time of year and about a third of precipitation as this time last year. Precipitation statewide is about 55 percent of average; runoff is only about 35 percent of average, however reservoir storage was about 105 percent of average. The snowpack is only slightly greater than the recorded driest year of 1977. In the northern Sierra, as of March 9th, the snowpack was about 38 percent of average, in the central Sierra the snowpack was about 33 percent of average, and in the southern Sierras the snowpack was about 31 percent of average. The State Water Project (SWP) storage north of the Delta was about 72 percent of capacity and south of the Delta SWP storage was about 88 percent of capacity, overall SWP storage was about 77 percent of capacity. The SWP projected deliveries, due to the low inflow, was reduced from 60 to 50 percent of Table A allocations. Mr. Stuart reported that a storm system is expected for about ten days starting Tuesday, March 13th, with a forecast of about ten inches of precipitation and about two inches of snow in the mountains. Ms. Jones added that as of the morning of March 14th it was reported that there were already five inches of rain recorded at the Sutter precipitation gaging station.

Mr. Foley, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that as of March 1st, MWD's combined reservoirs storage of Lakes Skinner, Mathews, and Diamond Valley was about 951,000 acre-feet, or about 92 percent of capacity. Diamond Valley Lake was about 766,000 acre-feet, or about 95 percent of capacity. Lake Mathews was about 146,000 acre-feet, or at 80 percent of capacity. Lake Skinner is about 39,000 acre-feet, or 89 percent of capacity. Mr. Foley added that Metropolitan's Colorado River Aqueduct has been shut down for maintenance for the longest period since its construction. Mr. Foley reported that for January the delivery to member agencies was about 100,000 acre-feet, where the ten-year average was about 140,000 acre-feet.

Mr. Pettijohn, of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), reported that precipitation conditions in the Eastern Sierra as of March 13th. There was a slight increase in precipitation in the Eastern Sierra but only slightly better than 1977, the driest year on record. The ten day forecast calls for about eight days, so there is potential for recovery.

Colorado River Operations

Metropolitan Water District's Report on Southern Nevada Water Authority Interstate Account for 2011

Mr. Harris reported that included in the Board folder is a letter dated February 21st, where MWD reported that in Calendar Year 2011 MWD did not store any additional water supplies on behalf of the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). In 2004 MWD, SNWA, and Reclamation entered into an agreement for MWD to store unused Nevada apportionment in its system. SNWA's balance at the beginning and ending of Calendar Year 2011 was 70,000 acre-feet. During 2011, MWD, SNWA, and Central Arizona Project all requested that Reclamation leave any unused mainstream apportionment in storage in Lake Mead rather than reallocate via Article II.B.3.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Rejects Preliminary Permit Application for Flaming Gorge Pipeline Project

Mr. Harris reported that on February 23rd, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) dismissed the preliminary permit application to Wyco Power and Water Incorporated (Wyco) associated with the proposed Flaming Gorge Pipeline Project (Project). The proposed Project included a 500-mile pipeline, with seven hydroelectric power generation facilities and a terminal storage reservoir, from the Green River, in Wyoming, at the Flaming Gorge Reservoir to the Front Range in Colorado, ending near Pueblo, Colorado. FERC dismissed the Wyco application because of its lack of specific data and information that would have been required to develop a more complete license application for the proposed hydropower project.

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

Mr. Harris reported that in late 2011, Reclamation had initiated Phase 4 of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report (Basin Study Report) titled *Development and Evaluation of Opportunities for Balancing Water Supply and Demand*. Reclamation and the Basin Study Team, through public outreach solicitations, web questionnaires and public meetings, sought a broad range of options and strategies to help resolve future water supply and demand imbalances in the Colorado River System. Proposed options and strategies were solicited through February 1st. A total of 139 options and strategies were received. Twenty one of the options/strategies submitted were from members of the Basin Study Team or their member agencies, and 118 options/strategies were submitted by interested stakeholders. The Basin Study Team is currently evaluating and classifying each of the options/strategies by Project Types and Categories for further analysis and description. The Basin Study Report is still on schedule to be completed and a final report published in July 2012.

<u>Basin States Discussion</u>

Status of the Bi-National Discussions

Mr. Zimmerman reported that a U.S. draft of Minute 319 was presented to Mexico in late February. After receiving the draft Minute, Mexico responded with about twenty-five questions. The Small Group of U.S. federal and state representatives collaborated in developing responses to Mexico s questions. The Small Group submitted the U.S. responses to Mexico s questions in early March 2012. Mexican representatives met in Mexico City the second week of March 2012 and a response is expected soon.

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the Small Group continues to work on a series of domestic agreements that need to be developed and executed prior to execution of Minute 319 between the U.S. and Mexico. Mr. Zimmerman reported that the Small Group is scheduled to meet March 19th and 20th to work on the funding agreement for the pilot project as well as guidelines for future projects in Mexico, the delivery agreement for the pilot project, the forbearance agreement for the conversion of Intentionally Created Mexican Apportionment to Intentionally Created Surplus, as well as other states agreements such as voluntary non-use of surplus water, assurances agreements and environmental compliance documentation. Mr. Zimmerman reported that he expects further development by the next Board meeting in April 2012.

Proposed Federal Legislation, "Navajo-Hopi Little Colorado Water Rights Settlement Act of 2012 (S. 2109)

Mr. Harris reported that Arizona Senators, McCain and Kyl, have introduced Senate Bill 2109 (S. 2109) to resolve long-standing water rights claims of the Hopi Tribe and the Navajo Nation within Arizona. Mr. Harris reported that both tribes occupy approximately one-quarter of the state of Arizona in the northeastern part of the state. Most of Hopi and Navajo Nation land is within the Little Colorado Watershed. The proposed legislation would authorize $359 million to build two groundwater delivery projects on the Navajo reservation and one on the Hopi reservation. In exchange, the tribes will settle their reserved water rights claims within the Little Colorado River watershed. Within the Little Colorado River Basin there's been a general stream adjudication that's been going on for about the past twenty-five years, and S. 2109 will endeavor to resolve the tribal water rights within that watershed. The proposed settlement would also make 6,411 acre-feet available for use on the eastern portion of the Navajo reservation. Finally, the Navajo Nation will work to ensure the continued long-term operation of the Navajo Generating Station near Page, Arizona.

<u>Colorado River Water Quality and Environmental Issues</u>

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Work Group Meeting

Mr. Harris reported that the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Work Group met February 14th and 15th, in Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Harris reported that the U.S. Geological Survey is scheduled to complete its hydrogeologic study of the Paradox Valley in March 2012. The study will provide a better understanding of precisely where the underlying salt is being dissolved and the depth to the freshwater-brine interface in the Paradox Valley. Currently, the Paradox Valley injection well removes about 100,000 tons of salt per year from the mainstream of the Colorado River. There is concern regarding the continued operation and lifespan of the well. Reclamation held public scoping meetings in early December 2011 associated with the proposed Paradox Evaporation Pond Pilot Study in Paradox and Montrose, Colorado. There are concerns about the toxicity of the brine solution in the proposed evaporation pond and migratory bird mitigation and safety concerns in the event of a flood that could potentially flush thousands of tons of salts into the Dolores River and the mainstream of the Colorado River. Reclamation continues to work to identify alternative sites for the evaporation pond and plans to update the Salinity Control Forum on the status of its efforts at the May Salinity Control Forum meeting in Utah.

Mr. Harris reported that the current Farm Bill is set to expire on September 30th, and the process for Farm Bill development and reauthorization is currently underway in the Congress. Mr. Harris reported that much of the funding for the Colorado River Salinity Control Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is through the Farm Bill. Mr. Harris reported that the Salinity Control Program is very important to California and all of the Basin states. Mr. Harris requested that all of the agencies work with their delegations and that we work with the Basin states to ensure that the Salinity Control Program continues to be supported. Mr. Harris reported that historically the Salinity Control Program has received its funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), although another option would be to pursue specific funding directly. Board staff will be working closely with the

member agencies and Basin states counterparts in ensuring that the requisite Salinity Control Program funding continues to be provided by Congress during the upcoming legislative process. Board staff will be preparing testimony for the appropriate subcommittees addressing program funding in Congress. Mr. Harris reported that the Forum's Executive Director has contacted senior staff of the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry and Natural Resources, whose chairman is Colorado's U.S. Senator Michael Bennet. With Colorado's help we're likely to keep attention on the program in the next iteration of the Farm Bill.

Mr. Harris reported that the Forum Work Group and Science Team are continuing to explore options and potential methods for capturing saline flows from the Pah Tempe Springs in the Virgin River watershed. Though this area is within the Lower Basin it shouldn't be excluded. There could also be other meaningful salinity control projects in the Lower Basin.

Mr. Harris reported that the next meetings of the Forum, Work Group and Advisory Council are scheduled for May 15-18, to be held in Midway, Utah.

Status of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

Mr. Harris reported that the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) met in Tempe, Arizona, on February 22-23, 2012. The AMWG approved the catalog of "Desired Future Conditions" (DFCs) that will be used to guide future budget development, development of science and monitoring plans, and future experimental activities. The catalog of DFCs has been in the works for about ten years. The DFCs will be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior for approval and adoption.

Mr. Harris reported that the AMWG recommended that the Secretary of the Interior authorize the development of a socioeconomics program for the Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Program that evaluates market, non-market, and non-use impacts. The socioeconomic program will quantify what are qualitative uses of the Grand Canyon such as recreational use and derive a common unit of value that is measurable that can be compared with readily measurable values such as power generation, and cost of replacement power. This updated socioeconomic program study will likely be a phased process taking about three to four years.

Mr. Harris reported that the AMWG received its first look at the biennial Fiscal Years 2013-2014 budget for the Adaptive Management Program. The Fiscal Year 2013 budget is $8.5 million and $8.8 million for Fiscal Year 2014. Mr. Harris reported that the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center is currently spending about 60 percent of its budget in both the physical sciences and biology programs on mandated environmental compliance activities associated with recent National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act decisions or opinions.

Status of the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan for Glen Canyon Dam

Mr. Harris reported that the Basin states submitted its comment letter to Reclamation on January 31st providing scoping comments associated with preparation of the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Primary comments in the letter included: 1) Discussion of the legal framework for the LTEMP EIS

analyses; 2) Requiring consistency of Glen Canyon Dam operations and the 2007 Interim Guidelines; 3) Geographic scope of the LTEMP EIS; 4) Consideration of impacts to existing species conservation and recovery implementation programs; 5) Ensuring a clear distinction between experimental and management actions associated with operations at Glen Canyon Dam; 6) Ensuring development of alternatives that are realistic and comply with existing laws and regulations; and 7) Comments associated with actual process developing the LTEMP EIS.

Mr. Harris reported that the Basin states representatives met in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 29th to meet with several scientists involved in on-going long-term monitoring and research activities through the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. The scientists represented expertise in: Humpback chub biology and ecology; Biology and ecology of rainbow trout; Aquatic food-base ecology of Glen and Marble Canyons; and sediment and sand resources of the Grand Canyon Ecosystem. The scientists provided an overview and synthesis of the current state-of-knowledge data and information. The Basin states representatives discussed the potential for developing a collaborative alternative that would be submitted to Reclamation and the National Park Service for analysis and evaluation in the LTEMP EIS process. The Basin states representatives have scheduled a conference call for Friday March 16th to discuss the effort of the Basin states to submit a Basin States alternative to Reclamation and the National Park Service. This collaborative effort is similar to the Basin States Alternative submitted in the 2007 Interim Guidelines process. Mr. Harris believes that the Basin states have about two months to finalize a Basin states alternative and formally submit the alternative for inclusion in the LTEMP EIS.

Basin States' Letter – Comments on the Final Environmental Assessment for the Development and Implementation of a Protocol for High Flow Experimental Releases from Glen Canyon Dam, 2011-2020

Mr. Harris reported that on March 8th, the Basin states finalized their joint letter to Reclamation s Upper Colorado Regional Office associated with the final Environmental Assessment for the High Flow Experimental Releases Protocol for Glen Canyon Dam. The primary purpose of the High Flow Experimental Protocol is to test and evaluate short-duration, high-volume dam releases during sediment-enriched conditions during a ten-year period of experimentation from 2011 to 2020. The primary issues described in the letter include: 1) Ensuring a clear distinction and/or demarcation between management actions versus experimental actions; 2) Relationship between the decision making process and the High Flow Experimental Protocol, and the goals and objectives of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program and the Desired Future Conditions for the Grand Canyon Ecosystem; 3) The High Flow Experimental Protocol Monthly Release Determinations must be consistent with the 2007 Interim Guidelines; and 4) The need for Reclamation to clearly articulate process and steps for coordinating and integrating the High Flow Experimental Protocol and the LTEMP EIS process.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, 2155 East 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. Knutson, seconded by Mr. Foley, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned 11:05 a.m. on March 14, 2012.

Christopher S. Harris
Acting Executive Director

DRAFT

5.a. - Colorado River Water Report

SUMMARY WATER REPORT
COLORADO RIVER BASIN
April 2, 2012

RESERVOIR STORAGE (as of April 1)	MAF	ELEV. IN FEET	% of Capacity	March 5, 2012 MAF	ELEV. IN FEET	% of Capacity
Lake Powell	15.465	3,635.4	**64**	15.443	3,635.2	**64**
Flaming Gorge	3.230	6,026.9	**86**	3.279	6,028.2	**87**
Navajo	1.310	6,057.0	**77**	1.282	6,054.8	**76**
Lake Mead	14.539	1,129.4	**56**	14.890	1,132.9	**58**
Lake Mohave	1.654	641.4	**91**	1.644	641.0	**91**
Lake Havasu	0.566	447.2	**91**	0.562	447.0	**91**
Total System Storage	37.559		**62**	37.882		**63**
System Storage Last Year	31.491		**53**	31.794		**53**

		March 5, 2012
WY 2012 Precipitation (Basin Weighted Avg) 10/01/11 through 4/02/12	**79 percent (15.2")**	**89 percent (14.3")**
WY 2012 Snowpack Water Equivalent (Basin Weighted Avg) on day of 4/02/12	**54 percent (9.5")**	**81 percent (12.1")**
(Above two values based on average of data from 116 sites.)		

March 19, 2012 Forecast of Unregulated Lake Powell Inflow	MAF	% of Normal	March 2, 2012 MAF	% of Avg.
2012 April through July unregulated inflow forecast	4.800	**67 %**	5.300	**74%**
2012 Water Year forecast	8.250	**76 %**	8.687	**80%**

USBR Forecasted Year-End 2012 and 2011 Consum. Use, April 2, 2012 a./ MAF

			2012 Diversion	- Return =	Net	2011
Nevada (Estimated Total)			0.484	0.210	0.274	0.221
Arizona (Total)			3.774	0.921	2.852	2.785
CAP Total					1.600	1.625
Az. Water Banking Authority					*0.134*	*0.134*
OTHERS					1.252	1.160
California (Total) b./			4.915	0.666	4.249	4.315
MWD					0.619	0.699
3.85 Agriculture	Total	Conserved			Forecasted	Estimated
IID c./	3.118	-0.306			2.812	2.916
CVWD d./	0.364	-0.028			0.336	0.309
PVID	0.389	0			0.389	0.320
YPRD	0.046	0			0.046	0.048
Island e./	0.007	0			0.007	0.007
Total Ag.	*3.924*	*-0.334*			*3.590*	*3.600*
Others					0.040	0.016
PVID-MWD fallowing to storage (to be determined)					--	0
Arizona, California, and Nevada Total f./			**9.172**	**1.797**	**7.375**	**7.321**

a./ Incorporates Jan.-Jan. 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 2012 basic use apportionment of 4.4 MAF has been adjusted to 4.175 MAF for creation of Intentionally Created Surplus Water by IID (-25,000 AF), and Creation of Extraordinary Conservation (ICS) by MWD (-200,000 AF).

c./ In 2012, 0.105 MAF being conserved by IID-MWD Agreement as amended in 2007: 112,500 AF being conserved for SDCWA under the IID-SDCWA Transfer Agreement as amended, 90,000 AF of which is being diverted by MWD; 21,000 AF being conserved for CVWD under the IID-CVWD Acquisition Agreement, 67,700 AF being conserved by the All American Canal Lining Project.

d./ In 2011, 28,265 acre-feet conserved by the Coachella Canal Lining Project.

e./ Includes estimated amount of 6,660 acre-feet of disputed uses by Yuma Island pumpers and 653 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.

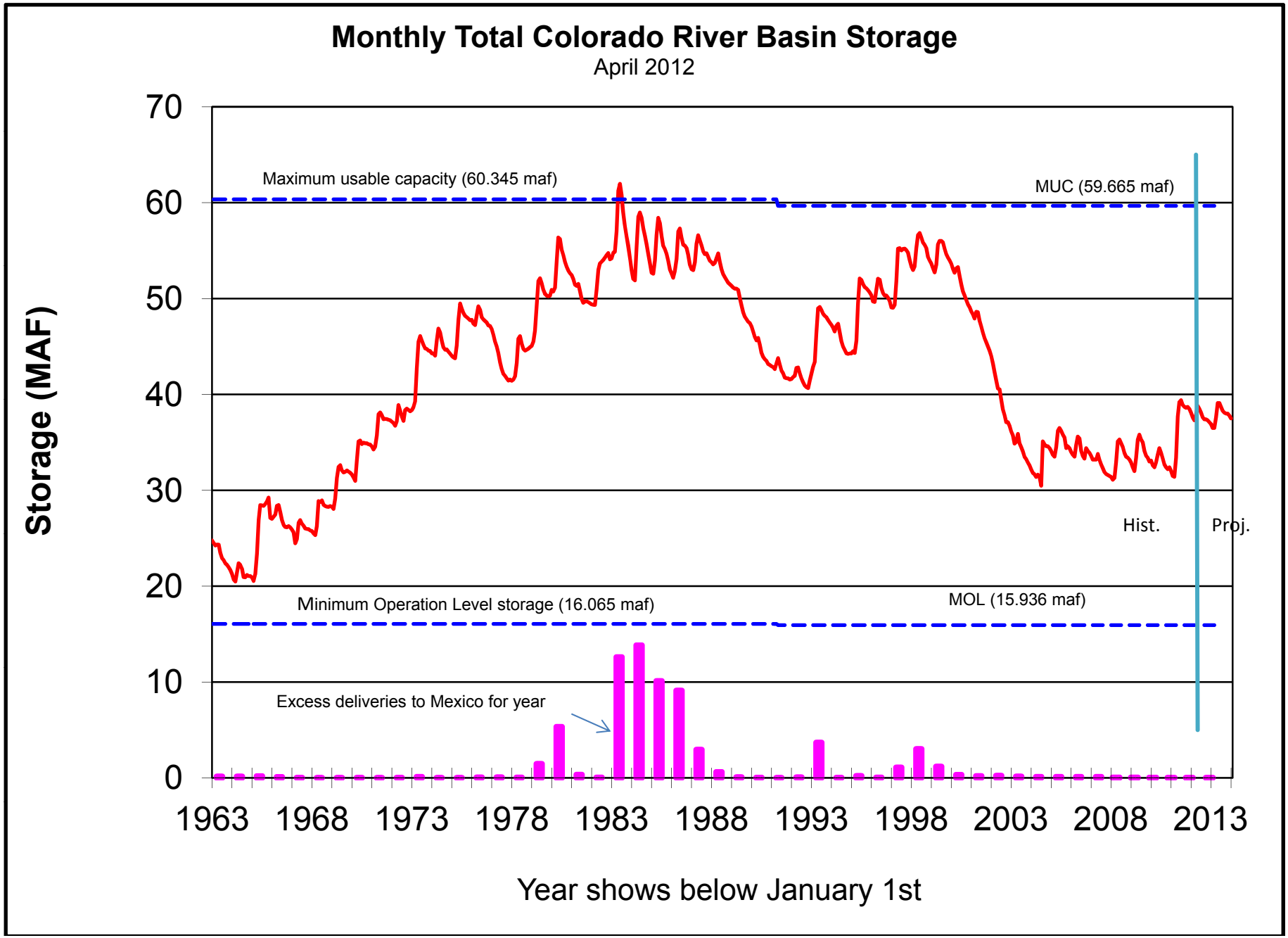
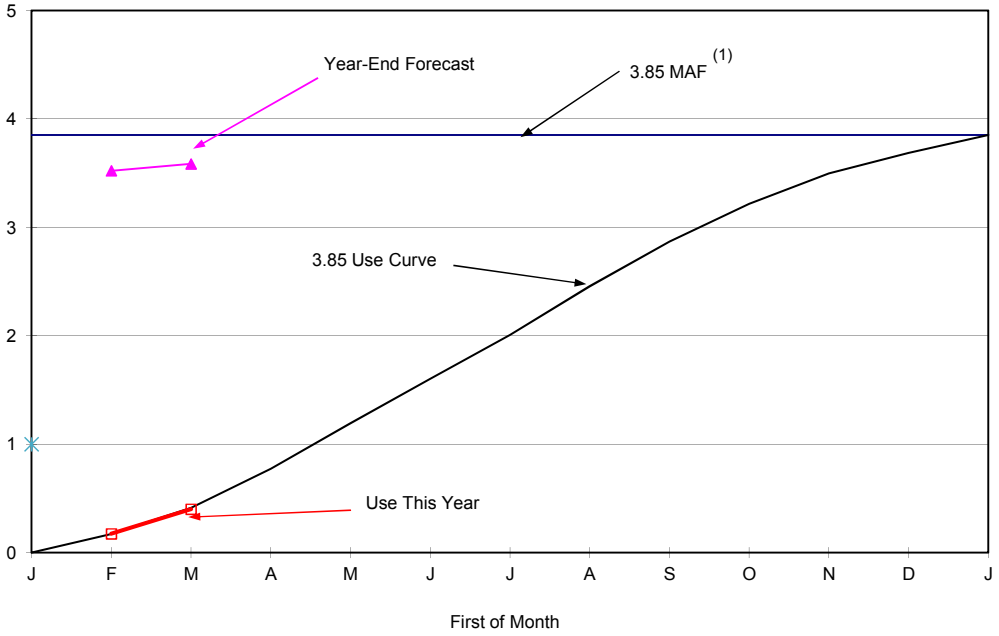

Monthly Total Colorado River Basin Storage
April 2012
Storage (MAF)
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Maximum usable capacity (60.345 maf)
MUC (59.665 maf)
Hist.
Proj.
Minimum Operation Level storage (16.065 maf)
MOL (15.936 maf)
Excess deliveries to Mexico for year
1963
1968
1973
1978
1983
1988
1993
1998
2003
2008
2013
Year shows below January 1st

FIGURE 1
APRIL 1, 2012 FORECAST OF 2012 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 (1)	Forecast of Unused Water (2)
Jan	0.000	--------	--------
Feb	0.174	3.522	-0.008
Mar	0.401	3.585	-0.071
Apr			
May			
Jun			
Jul			
Aug			
Sep			
Oct			
Nov			
Dec			
Jan			

(1) The forecast of year end use is based on continuation of the QSA, without QSA year end use is estimated to be about 3.660 maf.

(2) The forecast of unused water is based on the availability of 3.514 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; 90,000 AF of conserved water available to SDCWA under the IID-SDCWA Transfer Agreement as amended being diverted by MWD; as estimated 24,500 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 and 25,000 AF of water IID is conserving to create Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus. 22,500 AF has been subtracted for IID's Salton Sea Salinity Management in 2012. As USBR is charging uses by Yuma Island pumpers to priority 2, the amount of unused water has been reduced by those uses - 6,660 AF. The CRB does not concur with USBR's viewpoint on this matter.

COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

January 28, 2012

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).

December 2011

Upper Basin	Storage	Elevation in feet	% of Capacity	Change During Month	Change from 2010
Lake Powell	15,972	3,639.7	66%	-713	1,503
Flaming Gorge	3,404	6,031.4	91%	-31	292
Fontenelle	207	6,486.9	60%	-40	-3
Navajo	1,311	6,057.1	77%	-16	-51
Blue Mesa	574	7,489.1	69%	-61	17
Morrow Point	113	7,155.0	97%	3	1
Crystal	16	6,751.0	92%	0	1
Sub-total	21,598		69%	-859	1,761
Lower Basin					
Lake Mead	14,644	1,132.8	56%	711	4,343
Lake Mohave	1,586	638.8	88%	75	-64
Lake Havasu	537	445.7	87%	-30	-45
Sub-total	16,767		59%	756	4,234
Upper and Lower BasinTotal	38,366 [2/]		64%	-103	5,995

1/ Figures shown do not include reservoir dead storage.

2/ Storage above minimum operation level is 38,366 - 15,936 = 22,430 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).

Station	Meas. Flow December 2011	Cumulative Flow October thru December	Meas. Flow Adjusted for CRSP Surface Storage Changes: December 2011	Meas. Flow Adjusted for CRSP Surface Storage Changes: % of Dec. 90- year average (1922-2011 water years)
Green River at Green River, Utah	198,200	706,800	166,800	139%
Colorado River near Cisco, Utah	250,300	806,200	191,500	102%
San Juan River near Bluff, Utah	45,800	154,700	29,800	60%
At Lee Ferry (Compact Point)	1,232,000	3,341,600	413,000	114%

III. Lower Basin Discharge (Acre-feet).

Station	December 2011	Cumulative Flow October thru December
Below Hoover Dam	496,700	1,504,200
Below Davis Dam	426,100	1,525,800
Below Parker Dam	262,100	1,050,400
Above Imperial Dam	286,000	1,027,200

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

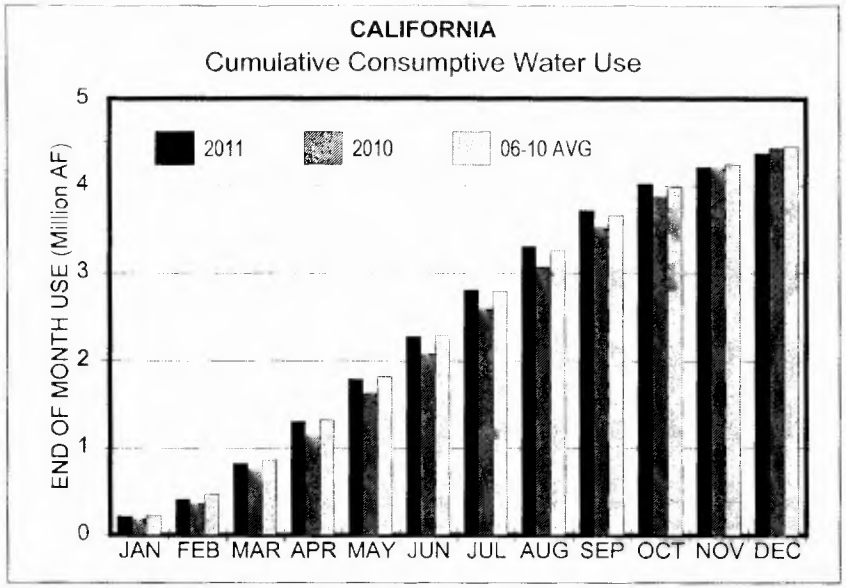
California Users	Diversion	Return	Consumptive Use	Change in Cons.Use From Dec 2010	Cumulative Cons. Use January thru December	Cumulative Cons. Use Change from prev. Jan. thru Dec.	Cumulative Cons. Use 12 Months thru December
Palo Verde Irrig. Dist.	34,740	35,070	-330	-2,160	365,520	55,460	365,520
Yuma Proj. (Res. Div.) b/	2,860	2,710	150	-900	47,280	8,660	47,280
Imperial Irrig. Dist. a/	119,540		119,540	-270	2,792,460	258,140	2,792,460
Salton Sea Mitigation	0		0	-1,020	0	-79,340	0
USBR Operations	4,170		4,170	4,170	114,660	102,170	114,660
IID plus Salton Sea Mitigation	123,710		123,710	2,880	2,907,120	280,970	2,907,120
Coachella Val. Wat. Dist. a/	16,960		16,960	1,300	313,570	11,680	313,570
Subtotal	178,270	37,780	140,490	1,120	3,633,490	356,770	3,633,490
Fort Mojave Ind. Res. c/	370	170	200	-640	7,940	-16,820	7,940
Cal. Miscellaneous d/	950		950	0	34,000	0	34,000
Metropolitan Water Dist.	15,220	430	14,790	-78,050	696,850	-399,710	696,850
Total	194,810	38,380	156,430	-77,570	4,372,280	-59,760	4,372,280
Arizona Users							
Central Arizona Project	150,540		150,540	-32,040	1,620,070	-31,850	1,620,070
Colorado River Ind. Res.	28,960	21,480	7,480	-730	384,090	-29,020	384,090
Gila Gravity Main Canal	30,030	10,760	19,270	-3,180	581,870	54,860	581,870
Yuma Proj. (Valley Div.)	17,070	11,120	5,950	-2,110	233,950	20,910	233,950
Fort Mojave Ind. Res. c/	2,220	1,020	1,200	-6,250	39,430	-45,700	39,430
Havasu Nat. Wildlife Ref.	40	0	40	-90	10,290	-25,200	10,290
Arizona Miscellaneous d/	3,700		3,700	0	85,000	0	85,000
Total	232,560	44,380	188,180	-44,400	2,954,700	-56,000	2,954,700
Nevada Users							
From Lake Mead b/	27,140	14,930	12,210	-1,030	270,580	-12,110	270,580
Mohave Steam Plant	0		0	-20	140	-230	140
Total	27,140	14,930	12,210	-1,050	270,720	-12,340	270,720
Total Consumptive Use (Ariz., Cal., Nev.)	454,510	97,690	356,820	-123,020	7,597,700	-128,100	7,597,700

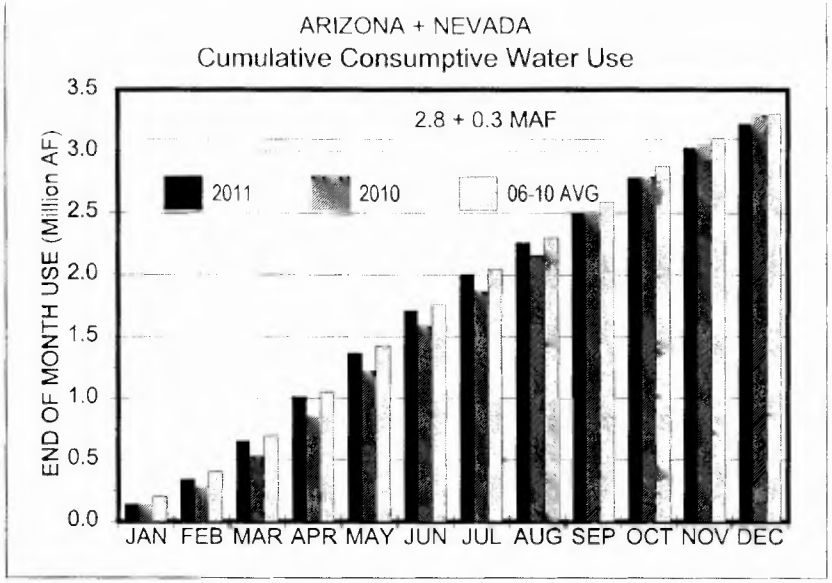
a. Based on measurements below Pilot Knob (assumed to be equal to USBR Article V data after credit is given for unmeasured California return flows between Imperial Dam and Pilot Knob). In addition, Salton Sea mitigation is not part of IID's use but is included in IID total diversion. USBR Operations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

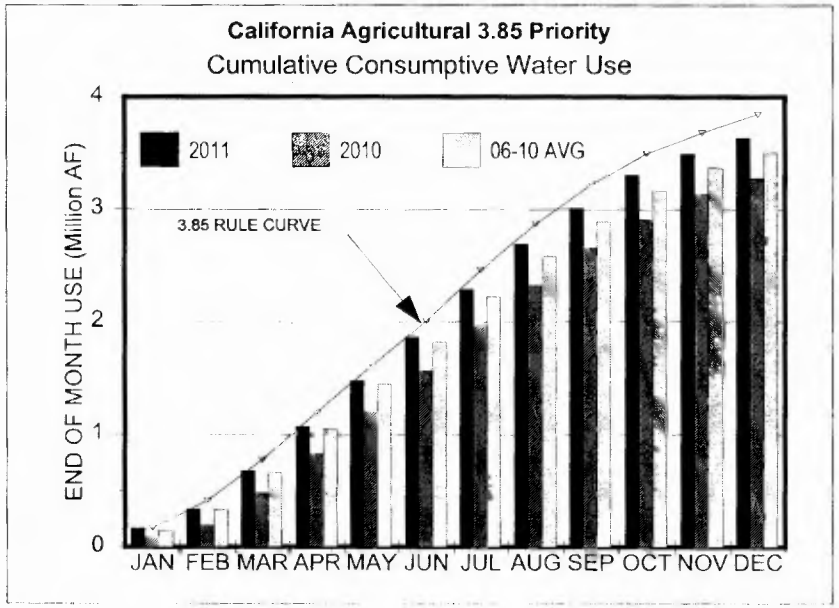
b. Return flow estimates based on averages of past returns as calculated by USBR for Article V data.

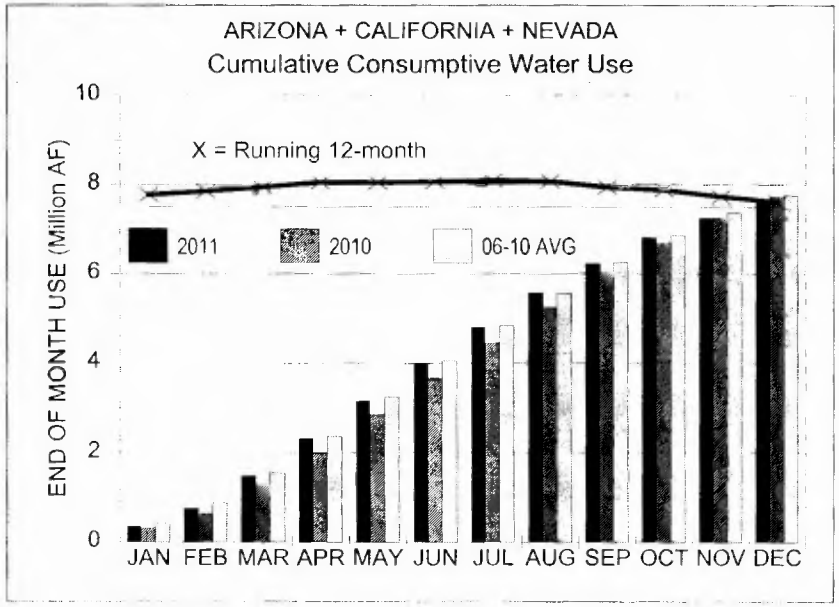
c. Starting January 2011 consumptive use value is diversion minus returns as reported by Reclamtion.

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
END OF MONTH USE (Million AF)
0
1
2
3
4
5
2011
2010
06-10 AVG
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC


ARIZONA + NEVADA
Cumulative Consumptive Water Use
2.8 + 0.3 MAF
END OF MONTH USE (Million AF)
0.0
0.5
1.0
1.5
2.0
2.5
3.0
3.5
2011
2010
06-10 AVG
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC


California Agricultural 3.85 Priority
Cumulative Consumptive Water Use
END OF MONTH USE (Million AF)
0
1
2
3
4
2011
2010
06-10 AVG
3.85 RULE CURVE
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC


ARIZONA + CALIFORNIA + NEVADA
Cumulative Consumptive Water Use
X = Running 12-month
END OF MONTH USE (Million AF)
0
2
4
6
8
10
2011
2010
06-10 AVG
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

March 19, 2012, Observed Colorado River Flow into Lake Powell (1) (Million Acre-feet)

	USBR and National Weather Service		Change From Last Month's Projected	
	April-July 2012	Water Year 2012	April-July 2012	Wat Yr 2012
Maximum (2)	6.800	10.950	1.500	2.263
Mean	4.800 *	8.250 **	-0.500	-0.437
Minimum (2)	4.000	6.250	-1.300	-2.437

* This month's A-J observed is 67% of the 30-year A-J average shown below.
** This month's W-Y observed is 76% 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)

	April-July Flow	Water Year Flow
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) Scheduled Flow (9)	(2) Total Arrivals	(3) Excess Arrivals in accord with Minute 242	(4) Other Excess Arrivals	(5) Total Excess Arrivals	(6) Cumulative Excess Arrivals	(7) Flow Through NIB and Limitrophe	(8) 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.	92,321	121,388	15,229	13,838	29,067	208,581	96,044	15,222
	1,449,666	1,658,247	130,619	77,962			1,385,233	130,612

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 Irritation 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 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 Calander 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 3/			Palo Verde 3/ Canal Near Blythe			At Imperial Dam			At Northerly International Boundary			Running 12-Month Flow-Wtd. Differential 2/	
	5-Year avg.1/ 1974-78	2010	2011	5-Year avg.1/ 1974-78	2010	2011 4/	5-Year avg.1/ 1974-78	2010 4/	2011 4/	5-Year avg.1/ 1974-78	2010	2011	5-Year avg.1/ 1974-78	2010	2011	2010	2011
Jan.	690	623	606	709	630	620	751	660	640	913	756	714	1,041	831	882	130.7	143.3
Feb.	675	628	612	706	660	620	732	690	620	835	729	686	998	856	779	131.2	137.9
March	684	622	589	699	640	620	727	650	610	805	663	660	925	746	802	125.8	147.1
April	680	613	613	700	630	620	714	650	630	801	672	674	892	752	735	123.6	153.6
May	677	614	604	698	630	620	709	640	630	822	685	683	962	951	852	130.6	146.3
June	678	607	602	695	610	620	712	640	640	812	672	667	956	909	819	136.3	140.1
July	682	611	601	688	620	620	709	620	630	797	658	661	909	834	848	139.8	141.1
August	690	594	577	686	620	620	706	620	610	800	678	680	907	888	915	142.7	142.4
Sept.	672	590	565	686	620	620	737	650	640	815	676	693	952	843	913	144.0	145.1
Oct.	680	592	559	689	620		739	630		854	694	695 5/	1,070	783	913 5/	141.1	151.3
Nov.	682	609	544	692	640		746	650		897	692	739 5/	1,010	816	879 5/	142.9	153.0
Dec.	681	596	589	702	620		731	650		877	733	769 5/	999	819	868 5/	137.3	155.8

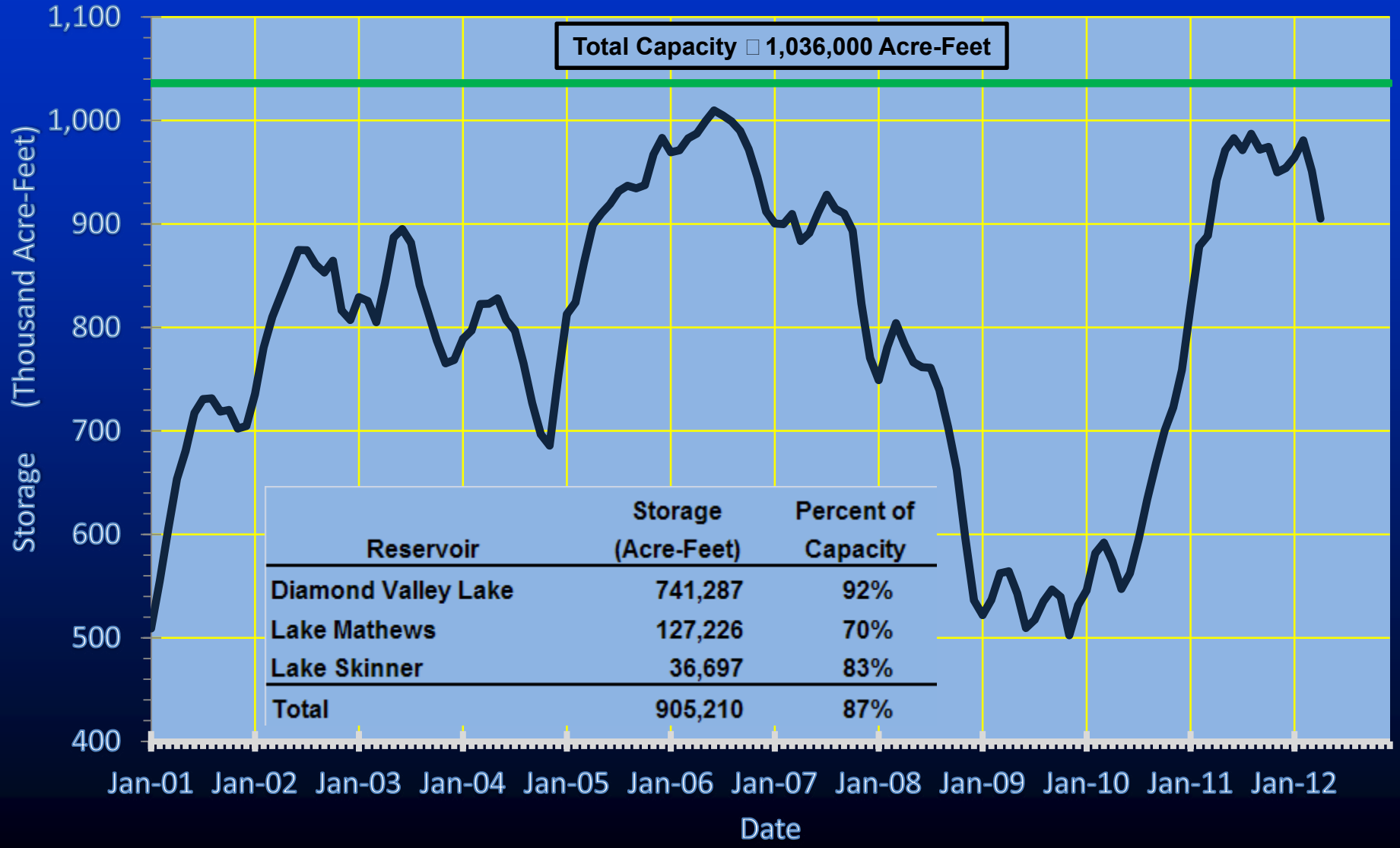
General Notes:

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/ Preliminary.

5.b. - State and Local Water Reports

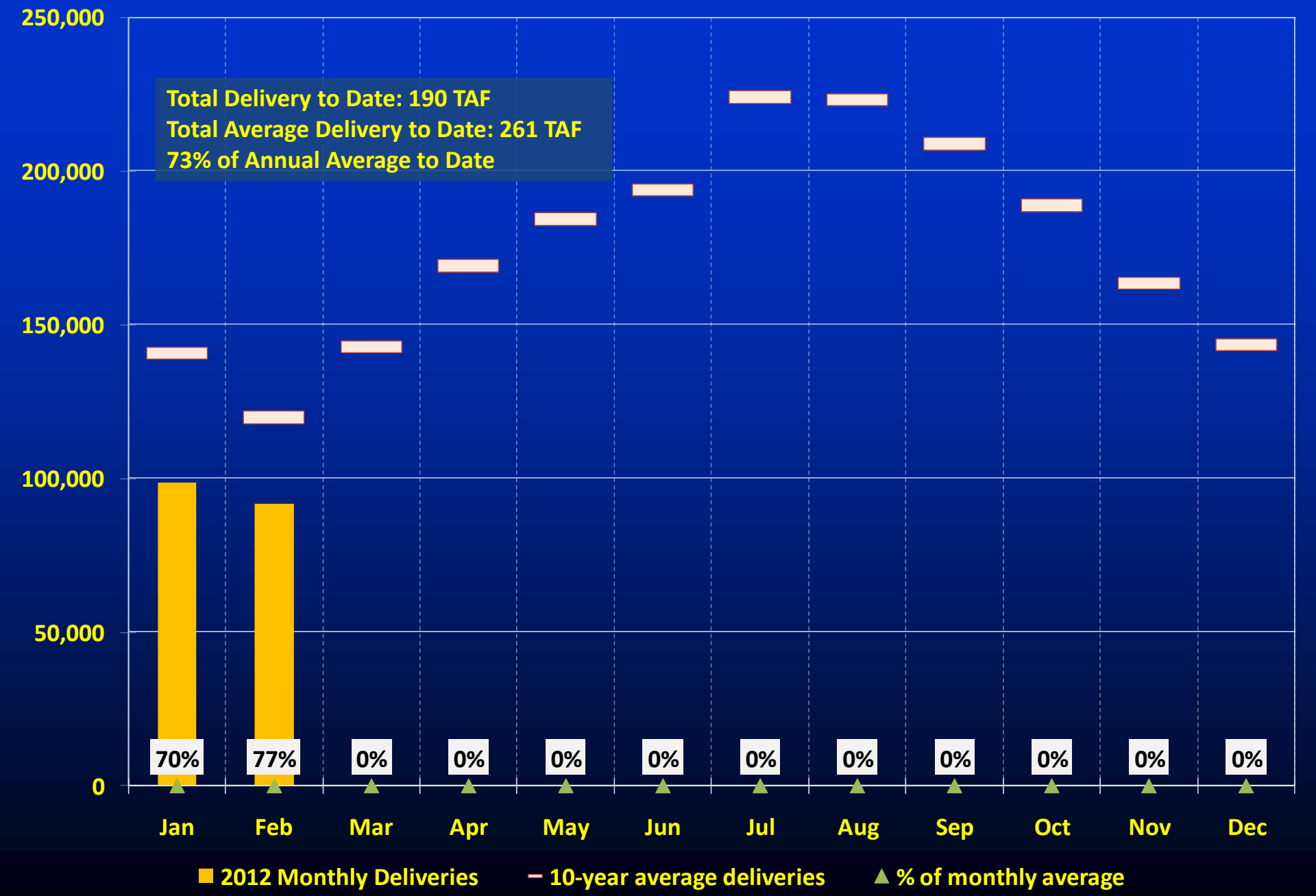
MWD's Combined Reservoir Storage as of April 1, 2012

Lake Skinner, Lake Mathews, and Diamond Valley Lake



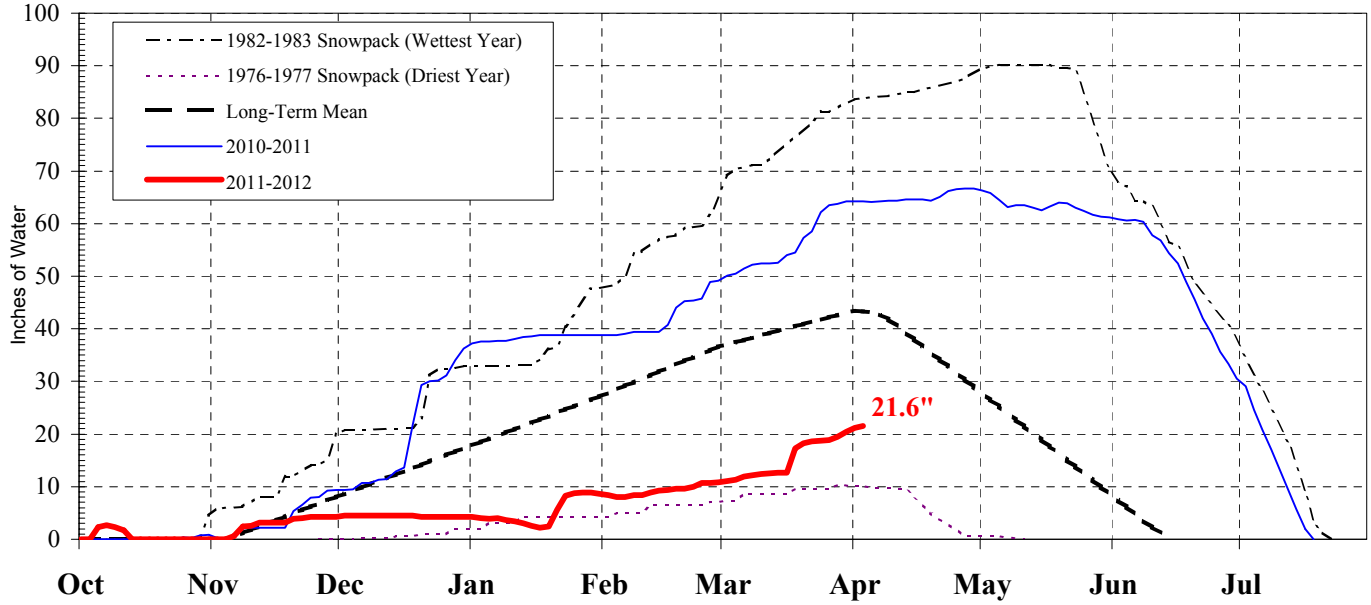
Reservoir	Storage (Acre-Feet)	Percent of Capacity
Diamond Valley Lake	741,287	92%
Lake Mathews	127,226	70%
Lake Skinner	36,697	83%
Total	905,210	87%

2012 Water Deliveries to Member Agencies (AF)

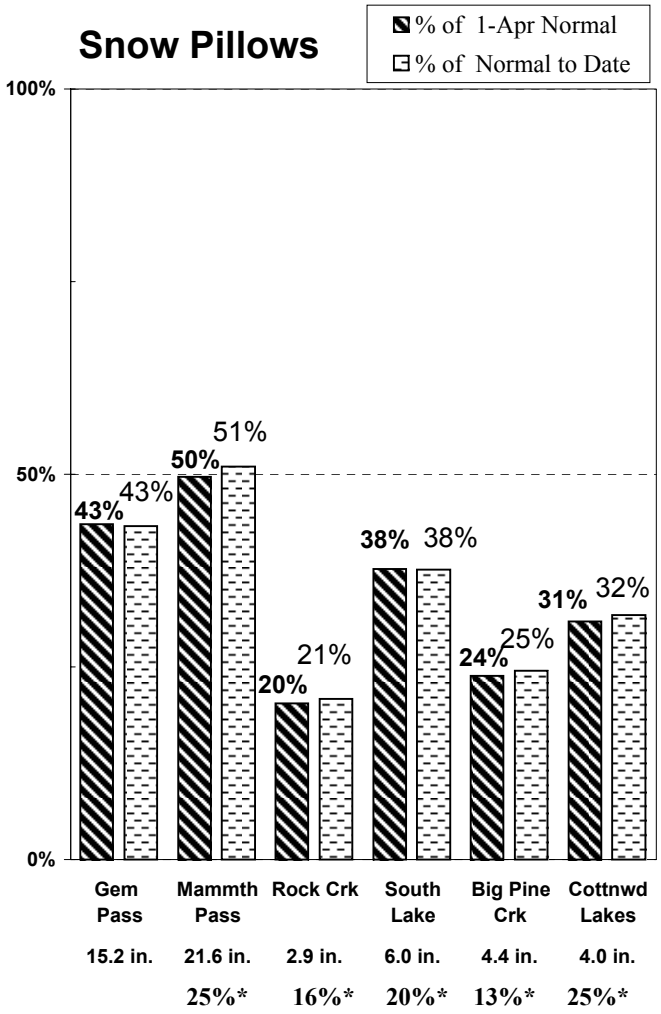


EASTERN SIERRA
CURRENT PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS
As of April 3, 2012

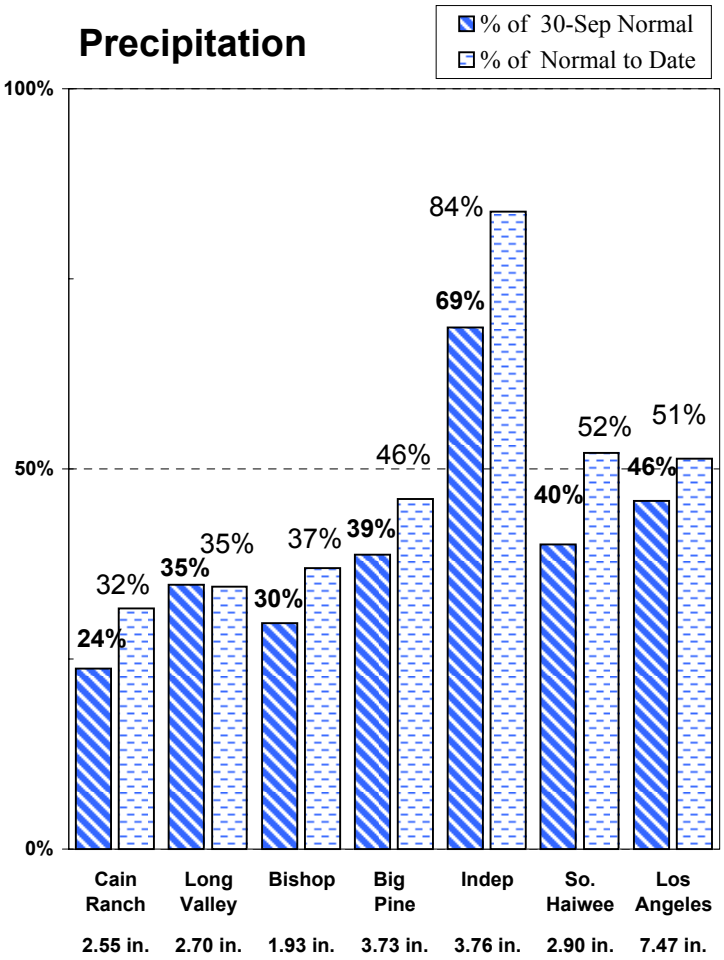
Mammoth Pass Snowpack



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
April 1, 2012

MAMMOTH LAKES AREA (Contributes 25% of Owens River Basin runoff)

Course	Water Content	April 1 Normal	Percent of Normal
Mammoth Pass	21.2	43.5	49%
Mammoth Lakes	8.9	21.1	42%
Minarets 2	12.7	30.1	42%
Mammoth Lakes Area Average:	**14.3**	**31.5**	**45%**

ROCK CREEK AREA (Contributes 16% of Owens River Basin runoff)

Course	Water Content	April 1 Normal	Percent of Normal
Rock Creek 1	1.9	7.4	26%
Rock Creek 2	3.1	10.5	29%
Rock Creek 3	3.9	14.4	27%
Rock Creek Area Average:	**3.0**	**10.8**	**28%**

BISHOP AREA (Contributes 20% of Owens River Basin runoff)

Course	Water Content	April 1 Normal	Percent of Normal
Sawmill*	5.4	19.7	27%
Bishop Area Average:	**5.4**	**19.7**	**27%**

BIG PINE AREA (Contributes 13% of Owens River Basin runoff)

Course	Water Content	April 1 Normal	Percent of Normal
Big Pine Creek 2	1.2	13.9	9%
Big Pine Creek 3	4.6	18.6	25%
Big Pine Creek Area Average:	**2.9**	**16.3**	**18%**

COTTONWOOD AREA (Contributes 25% of Owens Basin River runoff)

Course	Water Content	April 1 Normal	Percent of Normal
Cottonwood Lakes 1	4.0	13.0	30%
Trailhead**	4.5	13.7	33%
Cottonwood Area Average:	**4.2**	**13.3**	**32%**

EASTERN SIERRA OVERALL SNOW PACK (Weighted by contribution to Owens River Basin runoff)

Average of all Snow Courses	Water Content	April 1 Normal	Percent of Normal
	6.6	**19.2**	**35%**

Normals are based on the 1961-2010 period
* Measured by Dept of Water Resources
** Trailhead has only been measured since 1982.

5.c. - Colorado River Operations

United States Department of the Interior

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

MAR 29 2012

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LC-4220
WTR-4.03

CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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

Subject: Verification of 2010 Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) Created by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)

Dear Mr. Patterson:

By letter dated September 9, 2011, MWD submitted its 2010 Certification Report for Extraordinary Conservation ICS for the Metropolitan funded Palo Verde Irrigation District Forbearance and Fallowing Program (Certification Report), in accordance with Section 3.D.1 of the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (Interim Guidelines). As documented in MWD's Certification Report, MWD indicates that it created 100,864 acre-feet of Extraordinary Conservation ICS in calendar year 2010, prior to the one-time deduction of 5 percent specified in Section 3.B.2 of the Interim Guidelines for the benefit of additional system storage in Lake Mead.

In accordance with Section 3.D.2 of the Interim Guidelines, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Lower Colorado Regional Director of the Bureau of Reclamation, has reviewed the information contained in MWD's Certification Report and has confirmed that it adequately demonstrates the amount of ICS created and that the method of creation was consistent with MWD's approved 2010 ICS Plan of Creation, Exhibit G of the Lower Colorado River Basin Intentionally Created Surplus Forbearance Agreement, and the Delivery Agreement (Contract No. 07-XX-30-W0519) between the United States and MWD. Therefore, I verify and make the final determination that MWD created 100,864 acre-feet of Extraordinary Conservation ICS during calendar year 2010, prior to accounting for the one-time deduction of 5 percent for the benefit of additional system storage.

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

Sincerely,

Michael R. Gabaldon
Acting Regional Director

cc: See next page.

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

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

COLORADO RIVER BOARD
OF CALIFORNIA

MAR 30 2012

RECEIVED

United States Department of the Interior

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

MAR 29 2012

IN REPLY REFER TO:
LC-4220
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 the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) 2012 Plan for the Creation of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS)

Dear Mr. Patterson:

MWD submitted its 2012 Plan for the Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS (ICS Plan) by letter dated July 25, 2011. MWD's ICS Plan describes three separate activities from which MWD intends to create Extraordinary Conservation ICS, including the Metropolitan Funded Palo Verde Irrigation District Forbearance and Fallowing Program, the Metropolitan Funded Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation Program, and the Metropolitan Funded Water Supply from Desalination. From the yields of these extraordinary conservation activities, MWD plans to create up to 200,000 acre-feet (af) of ICS during calendar year 2012.

The Bureau of Reclamation has reviewed MWD's ICS Plan and confirms 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 MWD plans to create during 2012 is within the limits established in the California Agreement for the Creation and Delivery of Extraordinary Conservation ICS. Pursuant to Section 7.B.5 of the Interim Guidelines, Reclamation has consulted with the Basin States regarding MWD's ICS Plan.

Based upon Reclamation's review of MWD's ICS Plan and the completion of the consultation process, I approve MWD's 2012 ICS Plan for the creation of up to 200,000 af of Extraordinary Conservation ICS as provided in the table below.

Metropolitan Funded Palo Verde Irrigation District Forbearance and Fallowing Program	up to 116,000 af
Metropolitan Funded Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation Program	up to 105,000 af
Metropolitan Funded Water Supply from Desalination	up to 56,300 af
Total Extraordinary Conservation ICS for Calendar Year 2012	Not to exceed 200,000 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 containing appropriate information to demonstrate 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.

In accordance with Section 3.D.2 of the Interim Guidelines and Section VII of the Delivery Agreement between the United States and MWD (Delivery Agreement), Reclamation will verify the information in MWD's Certification Report and provide a final written decision to MWD regarding the amount of ICS created. If Reclamation determines that the information provided in MWD's Certification Report is insufficient to verify the amount of ICS created, or to verify that the creation was consistent with the Delivery Agreement and the corresponding exhibit to the Forbearance Agreement, Reclamation will request additional information from MWD. Such information may include, but is not limited to, records demonstrating MWD's financial contribution to its member agencies or other agencies performing the extraordinary conservation activities approved in this ICS Plan and records demonstrating the amount of water conserved by each activity and/or by each project thereof.

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

Sincerely,

Michael R. Gabaldon
Acting 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
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Ms. Jayne Harkins
Executive Director
Colorado River Commission of Nevada
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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

Continued on next page.

cc: Continued from previous page.

Scott A. Verhines, P.E.
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
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Cheyenne, WY 82002-0001

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

COLORADO RIVER BOARD
OF CALIFORNIA

MAR 30 2012

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5.e. - Colorado River Water Quality & Environmental Issues

Basin States Representatives on Colorado River Operations
States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming

March 22, 2012

Via E-mail and U.S. Mail

Ms. Beverly Heffernan
Manager, Environmental Resources Division
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Region, Attn: UC-700
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84138
bheffernan@usbr.gov

Mr. Rob Billerbeck
Environmental Planning Specialist
National Park Service

12795 West Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80228
Rob_P_Billerbeck@nps.gov

Re: Request for an extension of time to develop a preliminary alternative for the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Heffernan and Mr. Billerbeck:

As stated in our January 31, 2012 letter, the Colorado River Basin States and the Upper Colorado River Commission (referred to herein as the Basin States) intend to propose an alternative in sufficient detail for consideration in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (DEIS). The Basin States have a long history of coming together to provide cooperative and balanced solutions to complex and multi-faceted issues that have arisen on the Colorado River. Our representatives have been actively engaged in the Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Program (AMP) since its inception and continue to be engaged in the development of the EIS through the AMP and, some representatives, as cooperating agencies in the EIS. Through these actions, we have been made aware of deadlines for preliminary alternative development during the first two weeks of April.

At this time the Basin States are also engaged with the Bureau of Reclamation on other projects requiring significant staff allocations and resources such as the Colorado River Basin Supply and Demand Study and the development of cooperative agreements with Mexico. The Basin States would like to propose a preliminary alternative that is consistent with and subject to the Law of the River while also presenting thorough, thoughtful, and balanced considerations for all resources. Adequate time is necessary to develop that alternative which will require, among other things, a thorough review of the data and information.

We feel that the April deadline will not provide enough time to develop such an alternative. In consideration, we ask that you please extend the deadline for submitting preliminary alternatives

by at least ninety (90) days. This time frame will be similar to the amount of time that was required for the Basin States to develop their preliminary alternative for the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead[1]. Of course, we may require additional time depending on the scope of the LTEMP, and we cannot understand the full scope that the NPS and BOR are considering until we are able to review the scoping report. We have begun our review of the lengthy scoping report, which just became available recently.

In order to allocate staff time and arrange priorities, we ask that you please respond to our request in writing on or before March 29, 2012. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

[Signatures on next page]

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

[1] Scoping was formally initiated with Federal Register notice on June 15, 2005 and the Basin States submitted their alternative to the Secretary of the Interior on February 3, 2006.

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

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

Jennifer Gimbel
Director
Colorado Water Conservation Board

Patricia Mulroy
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Southern Nevada Water Authority

Estevan Lopez
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Jayne Harkins
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Dennis J. Strong
Director
Utah Department of Water Resources
Utah Interstate Stream Commission

Don A. Ostler
Executive Director
Upper Colorado River Commission

Patrick Tyrrell
State Engineer
Wyoming State Engineer

March 20, 2012

Western Support of

Seven Basin States Alternative Development

for the

LTEMP EIS

Work Plan – Phase I

Objective:

To assist the Colorado River Basin States in the development of a states' alternative for the LTEMP EIS.

Western will assist by:

- **Providing access to scientists with expertise in the Grand Canyon ecology and by helping to prepare scientists to address policy and management questions developed by the states and pertinent to an LTEMP EIS alternative.**
- **Writing meeting summaries and compiling information from meetings and conference calls pertinent to developing an alternative**
- **Writing drafts of the alternative and facilitating states' review. Also, writing the final draft alternative for state review in preparation for submission to USBR.**

Product:

A science-based alternative to be submitted by the Colorado River Basin States to the USBR and the NPS to be included in the LTEMP EIS.

Schedule:	Target Dates
Draft framework of alternative and schedule available for review	3/23
Basin states and scientists review draft framework & prepare comments	4/02
Conference call with states and Western to review comments	4/02
Conference call with scientists to review draft framework and states' comments	4/05
Full alternative drafted and out for review by scientists and states	4/28
Science panel review of the alternative's science design	5/04
Draft final alternative out for states' review	5/18
States submit alternative to USBR	5/30

LTEMP EIS Schedule - Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating Agency conference call	3/27
LTEMP Alternatives Workshop	4/4 – 5
Cooperating Agency conference call	4/18
Cooperating Agency conference call	5/23

Science Support:

Senior Scientist (Rich Valdez – working under SWCA)

- Organizes scientists for workshops, conference calls, etc (w/ Clayton)
- Writes and revises framework and alternative (w/ Shane, Craig and Clayton)
- Prepares materials for scientists and States (w/ Shane, Craig and Clayton)
- Attends science design workshop
- Is the science interface with the states

Scientists (for alternative development):

Target is four scientists with expertise in the Grand Canyon – Colorado River ecosystem

- Provide detailed review of draft summary of February 29th workshop,
- Review and comment on alternative framework and draft alternative. This may also involve a conference call (s) as the alternative is drafted and redrafted.
- Participate in a science design workshop.
- Review draft final alternative prior to submission to the USBR for inclusion in the EIS.

Scientists (for science design panel):

- Review draft alternative and prepare to report on science design aspects
- Attend science design workshop
- Prepare report on alternative science design and suggested alternative designs

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., Governor

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March 30, 2012

Statement of
the
Colorado River Board of California

to the
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

Presented by
Christopher S. Harris, Acting Executive Director
March 30, 2012

Support for Fiscal Year 2013 Federal Funding of $14.5 Million for the Department of the Interior - Bureau of Reclamation's Basin-wide Salinity Control Program

This testimony is in support of Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 funding for the Department of the Interior for the Title II Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-320). In the Act, Congress designated the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to be the lead agency for salinity control in the Colorado River Basin. For nearly twenty-eight years this very successful and cost-effective program has been carried out pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act and the Clean Water Act (P.L. 92-500). California's Colorado River water users are presently suffering economic damages in the hundreds of millions of dollars per year due to the River's salinity.

The Colorado River Board of California (Board) is the state agency charged with protecting California's interests and rights in the water and power resources of the Colorado River system. In this capacity, California participates along with the other six Colorado River Basin states through the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum), the interstate organization responsible for coordinating the Basin States' salinity control efforts. In close cooperation with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and pursuant to requirements of the Clean Water Act, the Forum is charged with reviewing the Colorado River's water quality standards every three years. The Forum adopts a Plan of Implementation consistent with these water quality standards. The level of appropriation being supported by this testimony is consistent with the Forum's *2011 Plan of Implementation* for continued salinity control efforts within the Colorado River Basin. If adequate funds are not appropriated to Reclamation's Basin-wide Program, significant damages associated with increasing salinity concentrations of Colorado River water will become more widespread in the United States and Mexico.

The Plan of Implementation, as adopted by the states and approved by EPA, calls for 368,000 tons of additional salinity control measures to be implemented by Reclamation by 2030, or approximately 20,000 tons of additional salinity control measures each year. Based on current program cost levels, Reclamation's funding under its Basinwide Program needs to be at least $14.5 million. This level of appropriation requested in this testimony is in keeping with the adopted *2011 Plan of Implementation.*

Waters from the Colorado River are used by approximately 35 million people for municipal and industrial purposes and used to irrigate approximately 4 million acres of agricultural lands in the United States. Currently, the salinity concentration of Colorado River water causes about $300 million in quantifiable damages in the United States annually. Economic and hydrologic modeling by Reclamation indicates that the quantifiable damages could rise to more than $500 million by the year 2030 without the continuation of Basin-wide salinity control measures as identified in the *2011 Plan of Implementation.* Significant un-quantified damages also occur. For example, damages occur from:

- A reduction in the yield of salt sensitive crops and increased water use for leaching in the agricultural sector;

- A reduction in the useful life of galvanized water pipe systems, water heaters, faucets, garbage disposals, clothes washers, and dishwashers, and increased use of bottled water and water softeners in the household sector;

- An increase in the use of water for cooling, and the cost of water softening, and a decrease in equipment service life in the commercial sector;

- An increase in the use of water and the cost of water treatment, and an increase in sewer fees in the industrial sector;

- A decrease in the life of treatment facilities and pipelines in the utility sector;

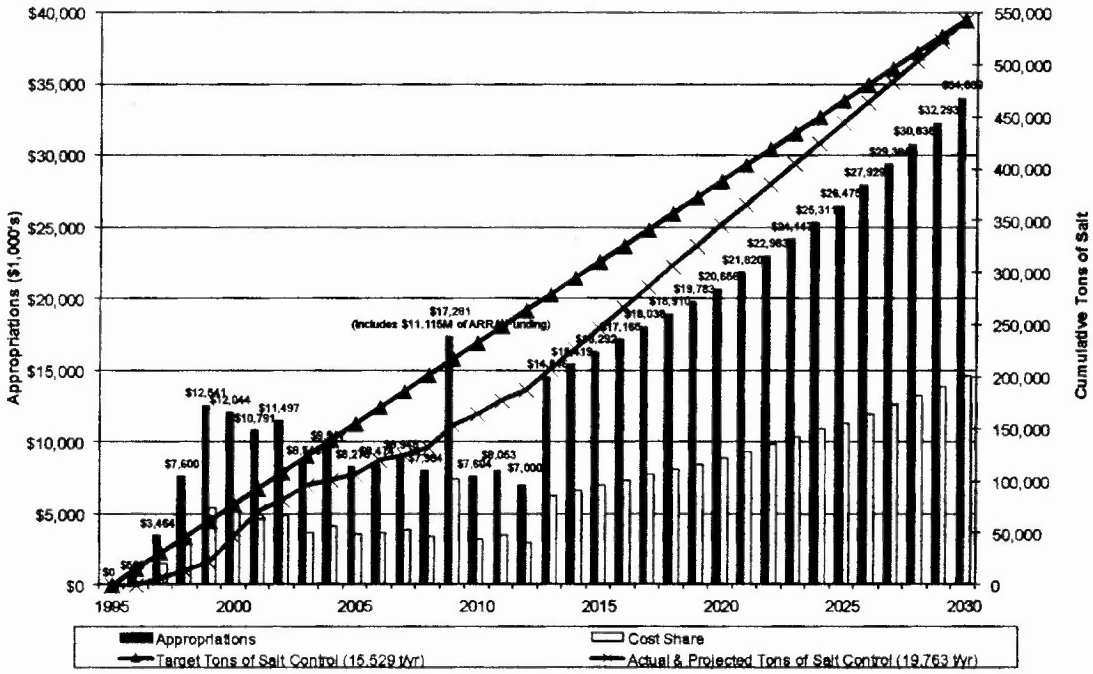
- Difficulty in meeting wastewater discharge requirements to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and conditions, an increase in desalination and brine disposal costs due to accumulation of salts in groundwater basins, and fewer opportunities for recycling and reuse of the water due to groundwater quality deterioration; and

- Increased use of imported water for leaching and the cost of desalination and brine disposal for recycled water.

Some of the most cost-effective salinity control opportunities occur when Reclamation can

improve irrigation delivery systems in a coordinated fashion with the activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) programs working with landowners to improve on-farm irrigation systems. With the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), more on-farm funds are available and it continues to be important to ensure that there are adequate Reclamation funds available to maximize Reclamation's effectiveness in addressing water delivery system improvements. Shortfalls in recent Basinwide Program funding have led to inefficiencies in the implementation of the overall salinity control program. The funding amount identified above, and in the graph below, are required to get the Basinwide Program back on pace with the implementation schedule identified in the *2011 Plan of Implementation.*

Basinwide Program: Funding Based on controlling 19,763 t/yr Beginning in FY 2013



In addition, the Colorado River Board recognizes that the federal government has made significant commitments to the Republic of Mexico and to the seven Colorado River Basin states with regard to the delivery of quality water pursuant to the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico. In order for those commitments to be honored, it is essential that in FY-2013, and in future fiscal years, that Congress provide funds to the Bureau of Reclamation for the continued operation of current projects.

The Colorado River is, and will continue to be, a major and vital water resource to the nearly 20 million residents of southern California, including municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users in Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial counties. The protection and improvement of Colorado River water quality through an effective salinity control program will avoid the additional economic damages to users in California and the other states that rely on the Colorado River.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., Governor

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March 28, 2012

Statement of
the
Colorado River Board of California

to the
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and related Agencies

Presented by
Christopher S. Harris, Acting Executive Director
March 28, 2012

Support for Fiscal Year 2013 Federal Funding
of $5.2 Million for the Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
to assist in the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, with $1,500,000
to be designated specifically to identified salinity control efforts

This testimony is in support of Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 funding for the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) associated with the sub-activity that assists Title II of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-320). This long-standing successful and cost-effective salinity control program in the Colorado River Basin is being carried out out pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act and the Clean Water Act (P.L. 92-500).

The Colorado River Board of California (Board) is the state agency charged with protecting California's interests and rights in the water and power resources of the Colorado River system. In this capacity, California participates along with the other six Colorado River Basin states through the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum), the interstate organization responsible for coordinating the Basin States' salinity control efforts. In close cooperation with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and pursuant to requirements of the Clean Water Act, the Forum is charged with reviewing the Colorado River water quality standards every three years. The Forum adopts a Plan of Implementation consistent with these water quality standards. The level of appropriation being supported in this testimony is consistent with the Forum's *2011 Plan of Implementation*. If adequate funds are not appropriated, significant damages associated with increasing salinity concentrations of Colorado River water will become more widespread in the United States and Mexico.

The EPA has determined that more than sixty-percent of the salt load of the Colorado River comes from natural sources. Due to geological conditions, much of the lands that are controlled and managed by BLM are major contributors of salt to the Colorado River system. Past management practices have led to human-induced and accelerated erosion processes from which soil and rocks have been deposited in various stream beds or flood plains. As a result, salts are dissolved and enter the Colorado River system causing water quality problems downstream.

Through passage of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act in 1974, Congress recognized that much of the salts in the Colorado River originate on federally-owned lands. Title I of the Salinity Control Act deals with the U.S. commitment to efforts related to maintaining the quality of waters being delivered to Mexico pursuant to the 1944 Water Treaty. Title II of the Act deals with improving the quality of the water delivered to U.S. users. In 1984, Congress amended the Salinity Control Act and directed that the Secretary of the Interior develop a comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River from lands administered by BLM. In 2000, Congress reiterated its directive to the Secretary and requested a report on the implementation of BLM's program (Public Law 106-459). In 2003, BLM employed a Salinity Coordinator to coordinate BLM efforts in the Colorado River Basin states to pursue salinity control studies and to implement specific salinity control practices. With a significant portion of the salt load of the Colorado River coming from BLM-administered lands, the BLM portion of the overall program is essential to the success of the entire effort.

The BLM's Budget Justification Document for FY-2013 has stated that the BLM continues to implement on-the-ground projects, evaluate progress in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and report salinity control measures in order to further the Plan of Implementation associated with the Federal Salinity Control Program in the Colorado River Basin. The BLM Budget, as proposed in the BLM Budget Justification Document, calls for six key performance goals within the BLM's Soil, Water, and Air Management Program. One of the goals is to reduce saline runoff from public lands into the Colorado River system by 10,000 to 20,000 tons of salt from new projects. Additionally, the BLM Budget Justification Document reported a cumulative salt-loading reduction from ongoing BLM efforts in 2011 that totaled 126,000 tons per year. The Soil, Water and Air Management Program sub-activity is responsible for reducing the discharge of salts to waters of the Colorado River Basin to ensure usable water supplies to tens of millions of downstream users of which nearly 20 million are located in Southern California.

Congress has charged federal agencies, including the BLM, to proceed with programs to control the salinity of the Colorado River. BLM's rangeland improvement programs can lead to some of the most cost-effective salinity control measures available. These measures significantly complement programs and activities being considered for implementation by Reclamation through its Basin-wide Program and by the USDA through its on-farm Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

The 2011 Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council report states that the funding from BLM's Soil, Water and Air Program has been generally expended on studies, research, and implementation. These studies and research have successfully identified several different tools which could be used to reduce salinity contributions to the Colorado River from publicly administered lands. BLM's efforts are now transitioning towards implementation of salinity control. During the past several years proposals for implementation of salinity control specific efforts have exceeded more than $1,500,000 million. The Advisory Council's 2011 report recommends that BLM make at least $1,500,000 million available annually for salinity-specific activities in addition to the $5.2 million expended under the Soil, Water and Air Program for general improvements within the Colorado River Basin. The Colorado River Board supports the Advisory Council's recommendation and urges the Subcommittee to specifically designate $1,500,000 million for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.

Over the twenty-eight years since the passage of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act, much has been learned about the impact of salts in the Colorado River system. Currently, the salinity concentration of Colorado River water causes about $300 million in quantifiable damages in the United States annually. Economic and hydrologic modeling by Reclamation indicates that the quantifiable damages could rise to more than $500 million by the year 2030 without the continuation of the Salinity Control Program. For example, damages can be incurred related to the following activities:

- A reduction in the yield of salt-sensitive crops and increased water use for leaching in the agricultural sector;

- A reduction in the useful life of galvanized water pipe systems, water heaters, faucets, garbage disposals, clothes washers, and dishwashers, and increased use of bottled water and water softeners in the household sector;

- An increase in the use of water for cooling, and the cost of water softening, and a decrease in equipment service life in the commercial sector;

- An increase in the use of water and the cost of water treatment, and an increase in sewer fees in the industrial sector;

- A decrease in the life of treatment facilities and pipelines in the utility sector;

- Difficulty in meeting wastewater discharge requirements to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and conditions, an increase in desalination and brine disposal costs due to accumulation of salts in groundwater basins, and fewer opportunities for recycling and reuse of the water due to groundwater quality deterioration;

- Increased use of imported water for leaching and the cost of desalination and brine disposal for recycled water.

In addition, the federal government has made significant commitments to the Republic of Mexico and to the seven Colorado River Basin states with regard to the delivery of quality water pursuant to the 1944 Water Treaty. In order for those commitments to be honored, it is essential that in FY-2013, and in future fiscal years, that the Congress continue to provide adequate funds to BLM for its salinity control activities within the Colorado River Basin.

The Colorado River is, and will continue to be, a major and vital water resource to the nearly 20 million residents of southern California, including municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users in Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura Counties. The protection and improvement of Colorado River water quality through an effective salinity control program will avoid the additional economic damages to users in California and the other states that rely on Colorado River water resources.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., Governor

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March 30, 2012

Statement of
the
Colorado River Board of California

to the
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Presented by
Christopher S. Harris, Acting Executive Director
March 30, 2012

Support for Fiscal Year 2013 Federal Funding of at least $18 million annually of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

This testimony is in support of funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its on-farm Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. This program has been carried out through the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act (P.L. 93-320) (Act), since it was enacted by Congress in 1974. Further, with the enactment of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act (FAIRA) in 1996 (P.L. 104-127), Congress directed that the Program should continue to be implemented as one of the components of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Finally, Congress passed the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA) in 2008, that addressed the cost-sharing required from the Basin Funds, and redesignated the cost-sharing requirement as the Basin States Program (BSP). Currently, the BSP provides approximately thirty percent of the total amount that will be spent each year by the combined EQIP and BSP efforts.

The Salinity Control Program benefits both the Upper Basin water users through more efficient water management and the Lower Basin water users, through reduced salinity concentration of Colorado River water. For example, California's Colorado River water users continue to suffer economic damages in the hundreds of million of dollars per year due to the current salinity of the Colorado River.

The Colorado River Board of California (Colorado River Board) is the state agency charged with protecting California's interests and rights in the water and power resources of the Colorado River system. In this capacity, California participates along with the other six Colorado River Basin

states through the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum), the interstate organization responsible for coordinating the Basin States' salinity control efforts. In close cooperation with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and pursuant to requirements of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 92-500), the Forum is charged with reviewing the Colorado River's water quality standards every three years. The Forum adopts a Plan of Implementation consistent with these water quality standards. The level of appropriation being supported in this testimony is consistent with the Forum's 2011 Plan of Implementation. If adequate funds are not appropriated, significant damages associated with increasing salinity concentrations of Colorado River water will become more widespread in the United States and Mexico.

Currently, the salinity concentration of Colorado River water causes about $300 million in quantifiable damages in the United States annually. Economic and hydrologic modeling by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) indicates that the quantifiable damages could rise to more than $500 million by the year 2030 without the continuation of the Salinity Control Program as identified in the 2011 Plan of Implementation. For example, salinity damages occur from:

- A reduction in the yield of salt-sensitive crops and increased water use for leaching in the agricultural sector;

- A reduction in the useful life of galvanized water pipe systems, water heaters, faucets, garbage disposals, clothes washers, and dishwashers, and increased use of bottled water and water softeners in the household sector;

- An increase in the use of water for cooling, and the cost of water softening, and a decrease in equipment service life in the commercial sector;

- An increase in the use of water and the cost of water treatment, and an increase in sewer fees in the industrial sector;

- A decrease in the life of treatment facilities and pipelines in the utility sector;

- Difficulty in meeting wastewater discharge requirements to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and conditions, and an increase in desalination and brine disposal costs due to accumulation of salts in groundwater basins, and fewer opportunities for recycling due to groundwater quality deterioration; and

- Increased use of imported water for leaching and the cost of desalination and brine disposal for recycled water.

In recent fiscal years, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has directed that about $18 million of EQIP funds be used for the Salinity Control Program. The Colorado River

Board respectfully urges the Subcommittee to support funding for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program for FY-2013 at least at this level.

The Forum has taken the position that funding for the Program should be consistent with the three-year funding plan submitted by the three NRCS State Conservationists for Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The NRCS funding plan for 2013 is $18 million and includes both farm and technical assistance program elements. It should also be pointed out that state and local cost-sharing is triggered by federal appropriations. In FY-2013, it is anticipated that the states will cost-share with about $7.7 million and that local agriculture producers will add another $5.5 million. Consequently, it is anticipated that the FY-2013 state and local contributions are expected to be approximately forty-two percent of the total Program costs.

In conclusion, the Colorado River Board of California recognizes that the federal government has made significant commitments to the seven Colorado River Basin States with regard to the delivery of Colorado River water. In order for those commitments to continue to be honored, it is essential that Congress continue to provide funds to the USDA to allow it to provide needed technical support to agricultural producers for addressing salinity control activities in the Colorado River Basin. Over the past twenty-eight years, the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control program has proven to be a very cost-effective and collaborative approach to help mitigate the impacts of the salinity of Colorado River water. Continued federal funding of the USDA elements of this important Basin-wide program is essential to maintaining this effort.