

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

April 8, 2013

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes of the March 13, 2013 Meeting of the Colorado River Board

A copy of the draft March 13th Board meeting minutes has been included in the Board folder for your review and consideration. I am respectfully requesting the Board's adoption and approval of the March 13th minutes at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 10th.

New Board Member Orientation Materials

Staff will distribute background materials regarding the Colorado River Board to the incoming board members and alternates during the meeting on April 10. During the meeting we will walk through some of the highlights from the materials and be able to answer questions about general procedures and ongoing activities.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Basin Water Report

As of April 1, 2013, the water level at Lake Mead was at 1,118.6 feet with 13.47 million acre-feet (maf) of storage, or 52 % of capacity, while the water level at Lake Powell was at 3,599 feet with 11.65 maf of storage, or 48 % of capacity. The total System active storage as of April 1 was 31.87 maf, or 53 % of capacity, which is 5.69 maf less than one year ago when the System storage was at 63 % of capacity. March releases from Hoover, Davis, and Parker Dams averaged 16,050, 15,560, and 11,060 cubic feet per second (cfs), respectively. Planned releases from those three dams for the month of April 2013 are 18,600, 17,900, and 13,300 cfs, respectively.

As of April 2 2013, taking into account both measured and unmeasured return flows, the Lower Division states' consumptive use of Colorado River water for calendar year 2013, as forecasted by Reclamation, is forecast to be 7.24 maf and is described as follows: Arizona, 2.76 maf; California, 4.22 maf; and Nevada, .263 maf.

As of April 2, the preliminary end-of-year estimate by the Bureau of Reclamation for 2013 for California's agricultural consumptive use of Colorado River water under the first three priorities and the sixth priority of the 1931 *California Seven Party Agreement* is forecasted to be 3.467 maf. This estimate is based on the collective use, through January 2013, by the Palo Verde Irrigation District, the Yuma Project-Reservation Division (YPRD), the Imperial Irrigation District, and the Coachella Valley Water District. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is forecasted to use about .663 maf.

COLORADO RIVER OPERATIONS

Drought Prediction Workshop, April 29th—May 1st, San Diego, California

The Western States Water Council and California Department of Water Resources are sponsoring a workshop entitled, “Improving Drought Prediction at Seasonal to Inter-Annual Timescales” that will be held on April 29th through May 1st in San Diego, California. Based upon the draft proposed agenda for the workshop, the first day and much of the second will be spent in information-sharing about the current state-of-knowledge associated with drought prediction and the various activities and projects that the federal and state agencies are involved in. The remainder of the workshop will involve the use of breakout sessions and facilitated group discussions associated with techniques for improving the predictability of drought conditions. A copy of the proposed workshop agenda has been included in the Board folder.

Coachella Valley Water District Names James Barrett as General Manager-Chief Engineer

On March 25th, the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) Board of Directors announced that it had appointed James Barrett as the new General Manager-Chief Engineer of the CVWD. Mr. Barrett joined the CVWD in 2010 as assistant general manager, and has served as the acting general manager since May 2012 following the illness and death of General Manager-Chief Engineer Steve Robbins. Prior to joining CVWD, Mr. Barrett served as the director of Public Utilities for the City of San Diego, and also served on the boards of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the San Diego County Water Authority. Mr. Barrett retired from the United States Navy in 2004, and is a registered civil engineer in California. A news release from CVWD announcing Mr. Barrett’s appointment has been included in the Board folder.

Status of the Development of the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental Management Plan and the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Technical Work Group Meeting on April 3, 2013

In late-February, the National Park Service and Reclamation released a draft of the “Performance Criteria for Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan” for review and comment by interested stakeholders. The criteria are to function as “objective metrics of the performance of alternatives relative to goals for each resources”. The Basin States are evaluating the proposed performance criteria and application to the evaluation of the Basin States “Resource Targeted Condition Dependent Strategy” (RTCD) alternative that was submitted to Reclamation and NPS in July 2012. It is expected that a joint-Seven Basin States letter will be prepared and submitted to Reclamation and NPS with comments and recommendations regarding the proposed performance criteria.

Basin States representatives have continued to meet with interested stakeholder groups, including the Trout Anglers, the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, and the Grand Canyon Trust to provide a more comprehensive overview of the Basin States proposed RTCD alternative.

On April 3, 2013, the Glen Canyon Dam Technical Work Group held a webinar meeting to discuss ongoing technical issues relating to the program including a review of FY13-14 budget considerations, a report from the program's Science Advisors and a review of satellite imagery and planned over-flights to acquire monitoring information relating to the program.

BASIN STATES DISCUSSIONS

Minute 319 Updates and Next Steps

On March 20, 2013, bi-national working group meetings were held in Tijuana, Mexico to continue the progress toward implementing specific projects identified in Minute 319. Several representatives from the U.S. and Mexico were present for the meetings. Personnel from Reclamation's Boulder City and Yuma offices also participated in the meeting. Additional working group meetings are planned to continue, including a meeting on April 9-10 in Yuma, Arizona regarding implementation of the environmental pilot project.

Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report Next Steps

The Basin States continue to work with Reclamation and additional stakeholders on the development of a plan for moving forward with the next steps associated with the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study. In-depth educational workshops were held on March 25 (in Salt Lake City) and March 26 (in Phoenix) and a three-hour webinar was held on April 3. Reclamation reported good public attendance the Phoenix meeting and over 200 people were signed on to the webinar. It is anticipated that small work groups will be formed in the near future to concentrate on the next-step areas of "Municipal Conservation and Reuse" and "Agricultural Conservation and Transfers" as contemplated by the Basin Study. The Basin States will also continue to evaluate the feasibility of augmentation projects and Upper Basin water banking, among other options.

Basin States Technical Committee Meeting, April 17th, Las Vegas, Nevada

On April 17th, members of the Basin States Technical Committee are meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. The purpose of the meeting is to receive updates from Reclamation associated with current and projected hydrologic conditions in the Colorado River Basin, and a series of status reports from the Basin States regarding ongoing activities, projects and issues. A copy of the proposed agenda for the meeting has been included in the Board folder.


Tanya M. Trujillo
Executive Director