

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

December 10, 2013

ADMINISTRATION

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

A copy of the draft Board meeting minutes from the meeting held on November 13 has been included in the Board packet for your review.

2014 Board Meeting Schedule

A memo describing options for the 2014 Board meeting schedule is included in the Board packet for review and approval during the meeting. Based on feedback from the Board members during the November 13 meeting, the meetings will continue to be held on the Wednesday after the second Tuesday of every month but we will rotate the meeting locations between Ontario and various member agency locations. We will strive to provide specific details regarding meeting times and locations for the non-Ontario meetings at least one month in advance of the meeting date. Meetings scheduled for Ontario will continue to start at 10:00 am and will take place at the Ontario Airport Holiday Inn, 2155 E. Convention Center Way, Ontario, CA 91764.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Basin Water Report

As of December 1, 2013, the water level at Lake Mead was at 1,106 feet with 12.31 million acre-feet (maf) of storage, or 47 % of capacity, while the water level at Lake Powell was at 3,588 feet with 10.62 maf of storage, or 44 % of capacity. The total System active storage as of December 1 was 29.56 maf, or 50 % of capacity, which is 3.75 maf less than one year ago when the System storage was at 56 % of capacity. November releases from Hoover, Davis, and Parker Dams averaged 8,630, 8,920, and 5,270 cubic feet per second (cfs), respectively. Planned releases from those three dams for the month of December 2013 are 8,900, 6,900, and 4,300 cfs, respectively.

As of December 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 forecasted to be 7.42 maf and is described as follows: Arizona, 2.79 maf; California, 4.39 maf; and Nevada, 0.236 maf.

As of December 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 3.36 maf. This estimate is based on the collective use, through November 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 0.948 maf.

Status of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

The Basin Study Coordination Team met on November 14 in San Diego. The team reviewed the progress of each of the workgroups and received detailed updates regarding the federally led projects relating to climate science research, data development and the tribal basin study. Draft reports regarding Phase I of the next-steps process are expected in April of 2014. The presentation slides from the November 14 meeting are included in the Board packet for your review.

The *Environmental and Recreational Flows* workgroup is scheduled to meet on December 10, 2013. The *Municipal and Industrial Conservation and Reuse* and *Agricultural Conservation, Productivity and Water Transfers* workgroups will meet again in January 2014.

Status of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program Work Group and Advisory Council

The Salinity Control Program's Work Group held its fall meeting at the offices of the Washington County Water Conservancy District in St. George, Utah, on November 20-22, 2013. The Work Group meeting also featured a tour of the Pah Tempe Springs site on the Virgin River where the U.S. Geological Survey is conducting an experiment to try and better understand the hydrology of the saline spring system and whether the salt entering the Virgin River can be effectively controlled. Unfortunately, a significant rainstorm event during the evening of November 20 raised the flow of the Virgin River near Pah Tempe Springs to nearly 200 cubic-feet-per-second and removed much of the temporary measuring and monitoring equipment that the USGS had installed around the springs complex and the experiment will have to be rescheduled.

The Work Group also initiated its review of two recent draft comprehensive planning studies that evaluate the potential for salinity control activities in both the Uinta Basin in Utah and the Lower Gunnison Basin in western Colorado. Based upon preliminary analysis and discussion of the two comprehensive planning studies, the Work Group believes that there may be some significant opportunities to implement cost-effective salinity control measures in the Lower Gunnison Basin, but that it may not be cost-effective to implement salinity control activities in the Uinta Basin at the present time. Reclamation and the Work Group are coordinating the review and comments on the two planning studies with the consultants preparing the reports and plan to have final reports readied for presentation to the Forum at its meeting in Jackson, Wyoming in May 2014.

Staff from Reclamation's Lower Colorado Regional Office provided the Work Group with a detailed overview and explanation of the financial underpinnings of the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund (LCRBDF). The presentation of this material was intended to provide Work Group members with a better understanding of how funds are deposited and withdrawn from the LCRBDF and what programs—including the Salinity Control Program—are supported by the various accounts in the LCRBDF.

The Work Group is planning to meet again in Phoenix, Arizona in late-February 2014 to continue working on development of the draft 2014 Triennial Review.

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council is scheduled to meet on December 11, 2013 in Las Vegas, NV. The regularly scheduled meeting in conjunction with the Salinity Control Forum meeting in October was canceled as a result of the federal government's shutdown last fall. It is anticipated that the Advisory Council will develop recommendations for continued funding of the salinity control program by the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

Status of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program and LTEMP EIS Process

Technical representatives of the Basin States and the science team met with the federal EIS Team on November 22 to discuss the Department of the Interior's plans for moving forward with the EIS. The Basin States are in the process of refining the Resource Targeted Condition-Dependent (RTCD) alternative for the LTEMP EIS. The science experts and Basin States technical representatives prepared detailed comments associated with the various models being used to evaluate the alternatives being analyzed in the EIS and anticipate further discussions with the Department of the Interior on those issues. The Department of the Interior is in the process of deciding whether to hold another decision analysis workshop to better understand stakeholder preferences in connection with elements of the LTEMP EIS alternatives. The Basin States have suggested that DOI should not proceed with another workshop but should rather continue its focus on development of the LTEMP EIS alternatives.

/S/Tanya Trujillo

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