

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

April 9, 2014

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes of the March 10, 2014 Meeting of the Colorado River Board

A copy of the draft Board meeting minutes from the meeting held on March 10, 2014 has been included in the Board packet for your review.

Resolution in honor of Jack Foley

A draft Resolution honoring Jack Foley has been included in the Board folder for consideration. Mr. Foley was the Chairman of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and represented MWD on the Colorado River Board for sixteen years. He was widely respected and appreciated as a leader on water issues in Southern California and will be missed as a member of our community.

Resolution in honor of Rita Schmidt Sudman

A draft Resolution honoring Rita Schmidt Sudman is also included in the Board folder. Ms. Sudman served as the Executive Director of the Water Education Foundation for 34 years and has now retired. The Resolution notes her contributions to the Foundation and the valuable information the Foundation has provided to the public regarding water issues, including many important issues facing the Colorado River Basin.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER REPORT AND CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE

As of March 31, 2014, the water level at Lake Mead was at 1,102 feet with 11.91 million acre-feet (maf) of storage, or 46% of capacity, while the water level at Lake Powell was at 3,575 feet with 9.50 maf of storage, or 39% of capacity. The total System active storage as of March 31 was 28.19 maf, or 47% of capacity, which is 3.69 maf less than one year ago when the System storage was at 53% of capacity. As of April 1, 2014, the Upper Colorado River Basin reservoirs other than Lake Powell ranged from 35% to 91% of their full capacities.

The unregulated inflow into Lake Powell for Water Year 2014, based on Reclamation's March mid-month forecast dated March 17, 2014, is forecast to be 11.4 maf, or 105% of average. As of March 31, 2014, the Upper Basin snowpack was at 112% of average and the Water Year 2014 precipitation to date was at 101% of average. The Colorado River Basin Forecast Center's Snow Conditions Map dated April 2, 2014, indicates that some areas in the Upper Basin are experiencing above average snowpack conditions.

As was noted during the February Board meeting, on January 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared a drought State of Emergency and identified 20 separate actions that should be implemented to help address the drought conditions. The Department of Water Resources has continued to issue weekly Drought Briefs to provide updates on current conditions and key action items taking place regarding the drought. The April 1, 2014 Drought Monitor map for California indicates that approximately 70% of the State is experiencing extreme or exceptional drought conditions and 100% of the state is experiencing some level of drought conditions. Despite recent rainfall and late-season storms, the statewide snowpack reports are still far below average, having reached 32% of average as of the April 1 snowpack readings.

The Bureau of Reclamation has released an initial draft of preliminary data regarding the Lower Basin's end of year water uses for 2013, but adjustments are expected as the Decree accounting process advances.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROGRAM REPORTS

Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

All three workgroups (municipal conservation, agricultural conservation and environmental flows) have begun to shift their efforts from data collection to data analysis. The Ag Conservation sub-teams are working on an analysis of Consumptive Use Reductions, On-Farm Efficiencies, and Conveyance System Improvements and Transfer activities in the Basin. The data gleaned during their analysis will inform the case studies, as well as other critical sections of the Phase 1 report. The M&I workgroup continues to analyze data collected from the Basin States regarding water conservation and reuse programs. The Environmental Flows workgroup continues their investigation and analysis of the focus reaches along the Bill Williams River, the main stem of the Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colorado and the White River in Utah.

Minute 319 Implementation

On February 18, 2014, the IBWC and CILA commissioners approved the January 14, 2014, Delivery Plan for Environmental Flows to the Colorado River Riparian Corridor Pursuant to Minute No. 319 submitted by the Basin States through the Consultative Council process referenced in Minute No. 319. The Delivery Plan was developed by federal, state, local and non-governmental entities in both countries and establishes a "schedule of monthly flows, delivery points and volumes in an amount of approximately 105,392 acre-feet" for the pulse flow as required by Minute 319.

A ceremony hosted by the Mexican delegation/CILA was held on March 27 at Morelos Dam to commemorate the release of pulse flow down the Mexican Delta that began March 23 and will taper off through next week. Chairman Bart Fisher presented remarks at the event on behalf of the Basin States. As of April 6, the pulse flow had traveled approximately 60 miles down the river channel from Morelos Dam and its progress is being closely monitored by U.S.

and Mexican scientists in accordance with a monitoring plan developed by DOI/Reclamation, IBWC, CILA and a bi-national group of NGOs to evaluate the operational, hydrologic and ecological conditions relative to the pulse flow. The Delivery Plan also includes a plan for delivery of a base flow of approximately 52,000 acre-feet of water that would be utilized between 2014 and 2017 to maintain active and passive restoration areas.

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

A small workgroup of Salinity Forum members met on March 25 to discuss strategies to address the existing funding shortfall issues that the program is facing and to ensure the continued fiscal integrity of the Lower Basin Fund in maintaining an adequate revenue stream for implementation of the Salinity Control Program. The next Salinity Control Forum meeting is scheduled for June 12-13 in Wyoming.

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program and Long-Term Experimental Management Plan EIS Process

The Long-Term Experimental Management Plan (LTEMP) EIS co-lead agencies (Reclamation and the National Park Service) hosted a workshop on March 31 and April 1 in Tempe, Arizona. The purpose of the workshop was to present the results of modeling analyses conducted on all of the alternatives submitted for inclusion and review in the LTEMP EIS process. Currently, there are five distinct alternatives being analyzed in the draft EIS. These include the (1) Balanced Resources; (2) Condition-Dependent Alternative Strategy; (3) Resource-Targeted Condition-Dependent (submitted by the Basin States); (4) Year-Around Steady Flows; and (5) the Seasonally-Adjusted Steady Flows alternatives. During the workshop staff preparing the draft EIS for the co-lead agencies presented modeling results that generally indicated that the Basin States' alternative (RTCD) was the best at meeting the resource goals of conserving humpback chub, managing non-native trout populations, conserving sediment resources, protecting hydropower generation capacity at Glen Canyon Dam, and protecting archaeological and cultural resources in the Glen and Grand Canyons. During the workshop, the co-lead agencies received criticism and comments associated with the modeling results and will work to refine the models over the next few weeks.

The Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program's Technical Work Group (TWG) will meet in Phoenix, Arizona on April 8-9, 2014. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the FY-2015/2016 biennial budget for the AMP and receive status reports from the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center staff and TWG ad hoc groups.

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

The Technical Work Group for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) met in Yuma, Arizona on March 12-13, 2014. At the meeting, Reclamation proposed a series of minor modifications to species conservation measures being implemented for western yellow bat, Arizona Bell's vireo, and the Colorado River cotton rat. These minor modifications are based upon nearly ten years of scientific data collection and monitoring results, and will result in the implementation of more effective conservation

measures for these species. After Steering Committee approval of the proposed minor modifications, concurrence will be sought from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

On March 13, Reclamation provided a tour of the Laguna Division Habitat Conservation Area. This nearly 2,000-acre site is located in the Laguna Division between Imperial and Laguna Dams, and is made up of a series of open water features, water control structures, and extensive plantings of native riparian vegetation (e.g., marsh plants, cottonwood, willow, mesquite, saltbush, and arrowweed). The water control structures will be utilized to check-up and periodically flood the marsh and cottonwood-willow habitat to enhance habitat-suitability for LCR MSCP covered species.

The LCR MSCP Steering Committee will meet on April 23 in Las Vegas, Nevada. At this meeting the Steering Committee is expected to approve the minor modifications discussed above as well as receive project status reports from Reclamation staff.

Tanya M. Trujillo
Executive Director