

Minutes of Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, November 19, 2014

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held at the Steve Robbins Administration Building, Coachella Valley Water District, 75-515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, California, 92211 on Wednesday, November 19, 2014.

Board Members and Alternates Present

Stephen Benson
Dana Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman
Franz De Klotz
Henry Kuiper
Glen Peterson
David Pettijohn

John Powell Jr.
Jack Seiler
Michael Touhey
Jeanine Jones, Designee
Department of Water Resources

Board Members and Alternates Absent

James Hanks
James McDaniel
Doug Wilson
Bud Pocklington
David Vigil

Others Present

Steve Abbott
Tim Blair
Tom Buschatzke
Robert Cheng
Chuck Cullom
Dan Denham
Matt Dessert
Craig Elmore
Christopher Harris
Bill Hasencamp
Michael Hughes
Jim James
Lisa Johansen
Lori Jones
Eric Katz
Kathy Kunysz
Tom Levy
Lindia Liu
Kara Mathews

Jan Matusak
Mike Morgan
Kathy Murphy
Jessica Neuwerth
Thang (Vic) Nguyen
Carrie Oliphant
Autumn Plourd
Angela Rashid
Eric Ruckdaschel
Harry Ruzgerian
Tom Ryan
Tina Shields
Ed Smith
Joanna Smith
Mark Stuart
Tanya Trujillo
Joseph Vanderhorst
Mark Van Vlack
Jerry Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chairman Fisher asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to address the Board on items on the agenda or matters related to the Board. Hearing none, Chairman Fisher moved to the next agenda item.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Minutes of the October 15, 2014 Colorado River Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher asked if there was a motion to approve the October 15, 2014 minutes. Mr. De Klotz moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Peterson. By unanimous support, the October 15, 2014, meeting minutes were approved. Executive Director Trujillo noted that the final meeting minutes would incorporate comments and edits made by Mr. Jan Matusak from the Metropolitan Water District.

2015 Board Meeting Schedule

Ms. Trujillo reported that the recommendation for next year's meeting schedule is to return to a more traditional meeting schedule with meetings held primarily in Ontario with a few out-of-town meetings. One of next year's meetings will include a meeting hosted by the San Diego County Water Authority in October 2015.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER REPORT & DROUGHT UPDATE

Colorado River Basin Water Report

Executive Director Trujillo reported that as of November 3, 2014, the water level at Lake Mead was at 1082.82 feet with 10.25 million acre-feet (MAF) of storage, or 39% of capacity, while the water level at Lake Powell was at 3605.54 feet with 12.29 MAF of storage, or 51% of capacity. The total System active storage as of November 2 was 29.96 MAF, or 50% of capacity, which is almost 350,000 acre-feet (AF) higher than one year ago when the System storage was also at 50% of capacity. As of November 6, 2014, the Upper Colorado River Basin reservoirs, other than Lake Powell, ranged from 65% to 95% of their capacities. Ms. Trujillo reported that there was above normal precipitation throughout the Colorado River Basin (Basin) in September, which was followed by below average precipitation in October. The unregulated inflow into Lake Powell as of October was 10.38 MAF, or 96% of average.

Ms. Trujillo reported that the November 4, 2014 U.S. Drought Monitor map

indicates that the Western U.S. is still experiencing widespread drought. While there had been some drought relief in Wyoming and Colorado, the California drought conditions were still the most severe with 55% of the state in the exceptional drought category (the most severe drought category).

The Basin States Technical Committee met on October 16 and received an updated hydrologic forecast and update from Reclamation. Reclamation estimates a most probable release from Lake Powell this year of nine million acre-feet. The release will start out as an 8.23 million acre feet release and will probably be increased after the April review. Regarding the probability of shortages under the 2007 Guidelines, there is a zero percent chance of shortage in 2015, and the latest predictions show a 25 percent chance of a first tier of shortage in 2016, and a 53 percent chance of shortage in 2017.

Basin States Technical Committee Meeting, October 16th, Las Vegas, Nevada

The Basin States Technical Committee held its bi-annual meeting in Las Vegas on October 16 to receive an update on Colorado River Basin reservoir operations and hydrology, forecasting, and status reports on a variety of Basin projects and programs.

The Colorado River Basin Forecast Center provided an update on its latest forecast for 2015. Reclamation provided an update regarding proposed modeling changes to the Colorado River Simulation System (CRSS) and Mid-Year Operations Probabilistic Model (MTOM). Updates were provided on topics including Minute 319 implementation, the California drought, Salton Sea issues, and weather modification programs. The next Technical Committee meeting has been tentatively scheduled for April 28, 2015.

An initial briefing was held by the Colorado River Basin Forecast Center on November 6, which was primarily a review of the 2014 season to evaluate how accurate the center's predictions were. The center concluded that the results were pretty accurate but they identified a few areas to refine and improve upon. The next presentation will occur on December 9, 2014, and sessions are scheduled on a monthly basis after that. One of the presentation slides included a review of the water year hydrology indicating that the better hydrology occurred primarily in the latter months. On average, the majority of the Basin received below-average precipitation.

Also noted was the USGS 2010 summary of estimated water use in the U.S. that analyzes water withdrawals throughout the country. California has the highest level of withdrawals in the nation. On a nationwide basis, the report concludes that water use in 2010 was 13 percent lower than what was recorded in 2005.

State and Local Reports

Mr. Mark Stuart from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) provided an overview of current hydrologic and water supply conditions in the state. With the exception of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara, the precipitation was below

normal for the month of October in Southern California, with Los Angeles at 44% of average. The Northern Sierra Precipitation Index indicates receipt of 3.8 inches of precipitation, which is normal for this time of the year. Statewide, precipitation was at 55% of average, runoff at 35% of average, and reservoir storage is at 60% of average. For State Water Project (SWP) facilities, Oroville is at about 950,000 AF (27% of capacity) and San Luis at 197,000 AF (19% of capacity). The total SWP storage is at 30% of capacity. Other reservoirs are well below their historic average levels.

Mr. Stuart noted that DWR recently released the updated California Water Plan 2013 and Bulletin 132-12, which provides a summary of State Water Project operations for 2011.

Board Member Peterson stated that MWD's combined reservoir storage as of November 1 is at 45% of capacity. Mr. Peterson reported that MWD has a target to divert a total of 1.172 MAF by end of the year from the Colorado River. Mr. Peterson also noted that MWD's water deliveries have started to decline as a result of the conservation and public outreach efforts.

California Drought Update

Ms. Trujillo noted that the state of emergency issued in January was still in effect and that 55% of the state continues to be in the exceptional drought category. Ms. Trujillo noted that the California Water Plan includes a Colorado River-specific section that included input from CRB agencies. She also noted that on November 13, Governor Brown co-hosted the Western Governors' Association Drought Forum in Sacramento, which focused on agricultural issues. Board Member Jeanine Jones reported that the Drought Forum highlighted that drought impacts are site specific, so the same drought event may have different consequences for different sectors depending on location. Advances in technology and practices such as drip irrigation and scheduling have also been key tools to allow producers to deal with the drought.

Ms. Jones reported that federal and state agencies are coordinating on preparation of a Drought Contingency Plan for operation of the projects while still complying with regulatory requirements related to protecting listed fish species.

Ms. Jones presented a graph comparing El Nino, Neutral and La Nina conditions within the Colorado River Basin and concluded that there is essentially no statistical significance between the categories.

Ms. Trujillo noted that the California voters passed Proposition 1 on November 4th and provided background regarding potential funding opportunities for the Colorado and Coastal regions.

Update regarding Basin States Drought Contingency Planning efforts

Ms. Trujillo updated the Board regarding the status of the ongoing discussions

among the seven Basin States regarding contingency planning for a continued drought. The Upper Basin States and the Lower Basin states have each been developing their own strategies. Ms. Trujillo provided an overview of the Lower Basin States' process and previewed the request for approval from the Board to authorize the Executive Director to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with other parties in the Lower Basin relating to continuing the contingency drought planning efforts over the next few years.

Ms. Trujillo reminded the Board that the ongoing 14-year drought has led to the discussions, which were initiated through a meeting with the Secretary of the Interior a year and a half ago, for contingency planning if the hydrology does not improve. The States have a history of prior successes in the Basin such as the 2007 Guidelines for the coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead and for shortage sharing in the Lower Basin. One of the goals of the current round of contingency planning discussions is to ensure that the 2007 Guidelines are protected and that they can function as they were designed to function through 2026.

The Board's interests have been consistent with the statutory authorization to protect California's rights and interests with respect to the use of the waters of the Colorado River. Ms. Trujillo explained that in the Lower Basin, the goals are to store more water in Lake Mead on a voluntary basis and to find more flexibility to use water during low reservoir conditions but there is sometimes a tension between those two goals. One initial step of the process has been the completion of the Pilot System Conservation Program, which was started by an agreement among the Metropolitan Water District, the Central Arizona Project, Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Denver Water in the Upper Basin and the United States Bureau of Reclamation to contribute funds that could be used to encourage conservation projects that would be used to generate water for the system. The water would not be reserved for any particular funder, but would be generated for the benefit of the system. As mentioned during a prior Board meeting, Reclamation initiated the first step in implementing that program in the Lower Basin by sending out a Request for Proposals to Section 5 contractors, seeking requests for projects that could be funded through the program. Reclamation received several proposals and will evaluate those proposals with the funding entities to determine which projects might be approved through that process.

The Resolution proposed for Board action would demonstrate a continued commitment to the drought contingency planning process. Ms. Trujillo walked through several provisions of the Resolution. The Resolution acknowledges the Colorado River Board's statutory authority and interests in protecting the waters of the State of California and acknowledges that the Law of the River, including the Compact, the Boulder Canyon Project Act, the Colorado River Basin Project Act and the Consolidated Decree in Arizona v. California, are important elements of the Law of the River. The Resolution acknowledges that the Colorado River Basin States have a long history of working together within the Law of the River to meet challenges as they arise and to develop innovative water management strategies for the benefit of the Colorado River system. The Resolution highlights the 2007 Guidelines for the coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The Resolution also notes that in 2003, California agencies

entered into the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) that has been successfully implemented over the past ten years. The QSA and other agreements in California have led to the conservation and transfer of over two million acre-feet of water from agricultural to municipal uses and have helped keep California within its normal apportionment under the Law of the River. The Resolution reiterates the Board's support for the continued implementation of the QSA agreements and other water management agreements that have helped California effectively utilize its Colorado River resources. The Resolution recognizes the need to continue to address the ongoing challenges associated with the continued drought within California and within the Colorado River Basin. The Resolution notes that the Colorado River Board and other water management agencies in California have participated with the other Lower Division States and with the Upper Division States to develop strategies and programs that can be implemented in a coordinated fashion in the Basin to respond to the drought. The Resolution notes that the drought contingency planning efforts will be ongoing and will require the involvement of additional parties. The Resolution supports the ongoing efforts and notes that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for pilot drought response actions is being developed and will help guide the actions as the Lower Basin States move forward. The Resolution asks for authority for the Executive Director to execute the MOU. The MOU describes efforts that would be taken to create additional volumes of water to store in the reservoir and is structured to build off of the existing pilot system conservation agreement. The MOU involves commitments from the Central Arizona Project, Metropolitan Water District and the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the United States to use their best efforts to generate additional volumes of water to be stored in Lake Mead and to coordinate those efforts with other agencies in the Basin. The MOU contains a commitment to continue to work together within the Lower Basin and anticipates re-consultation no later than August of 2016, to evaluate the success of the process.

Board member Benson asked whether the MOU was a public document, and Ms. Trujillo responded that it was still under development and had not yet been publicized, but that she could provide copies of the draft if anyone needed it.

With no further discussion, Board member Kuiper moved to adopt the Resolution in support of the drought contingency planning process and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU with the other Lower Basin entities. The motion was seconded by Board member Peterson. The motion passed with no opposition.

Presentation by the Central Arizona Project regarding a proposal to create Intentionally Created Surplus in Arizona

Ms. Trujillo introduced Tom Buschatzke from the State of Arizona's Department of Water Resources and Chuck Cullom from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) who was invited to make a presentation regarding CAP's proposal to create a new category of Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) water. Mr. Cullom thanked the Board for the opportunity to share CAP's proposal to create Extraordinary Conservation ICS that is intended to create part of the water supply CAP is committing to use its best efforts to

create through the MOU. Mr. Cullom stated that when CAP originally undertook the development of an extraordinary conservation ICS program, it failed to understand some of the difficulties involved and he congratulated the California agencies who have been leaders in the Lower Basin in the creation of ICS and in developing unique and innovative partnerships among MWD, PVID and IID. Mr. Cullom stated that those examples have been useful to CAP as it attempts to develop new ways to develop water supplies to store in Lake Mead through the ICS program.

Mr. Cullom provided background information about CAP. The CAP is a 336-mile aqueduct system that takes about 1.6 million acre-feet of water from the Colorado River and delivers it to 57 urban water users and 18 irrigation districts and 11 Native American communities in Central Arizona. Mr. Cullom noted that the CAP serves approximately 5.2 million people and approximately 300,000 acres of irrigated land. Mr. Cullom described the priorities of the water uses within Arizona, with the high priority uses being for Tribes and irrigation districts and indicated that CAP has a lower priority. CAP has a contract to divert approximately 1.415 million acre-feet of water but also has the ability to divert unused water within Arizona's apportionment. Mr. Cullom noted that CAP typically diverts 1.6 million acre-feet of water per year. Mr. Cullom described the relative priorities within the CAP system among tribal water, municipal water and irrigation water. CAP has a category of "excess water" that it estimates will be approximately 75,000 acre-feet in 2015 and 2016, which would largely go to the Arizona Water Banking Authority as the replenishment function of CAP to replace groundwater that is pumped by certain municipalities through a special permit. If the shortage triggers of the 2007 Guidelines are reached, CAP would have an initial reduction in supply of 320,000 acre-feet of water per year and Mr. Cullom described how the reductions would be administered with the CAP system.

CAP's goal through the MOU is to store 345,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead during 2014-2017 through two methods –by committing to reduce Arizona's diversion of water below its 2.8 million acre-foot apportionment thus saving water in Lake Mead in order to avoid a shortage and to reduce risk for Colorado River water users from low reservoir elevations, and through the development of an Extraordinary Conservation ICS program. Mr. Cullom stated that CAP is targeting the creation of up to 100,000 acre-feet of ICS in both 2015 and 2016 for a total of 200,000 acre-feet. Because of the risk of shortage, the goal is to create the storage volumes by the end of 2016 because if there is a shortage, CAP has a limited ability to store water in Lake Mead because it will be taking a reduction of 320,000 acre-feet. Mr. Cullom described CAP's proposal to create ICS through two programs – by reducing deliveries to the agricultural customers and by using local supplies. Agricultural users would be paid to reduce their CAP consumption, and 9 districts have already expressed interest in the new program which has the potential to generate approximately 80,000 acre-feet of savings in both 2015 and 2016. For the replacement supply piece, Mr. Cullom described that municipal customers would be paid to replace a portion of their CAP supply with some other local supply. Mr. Cullom estimated that the program could generate approximately 15,000 acre-feet in 2015 and that potential programs with the Arizona Water Banking Authority are being explored. To summarize the proposal, Mr. Cullom explained that ICS would be created when CAP

reduces its diversion of Colorado River water as a result of a reduced order for CAP water delivery. Mr. Cullom explained that the agricultural users would either fallow land, use deficit irrigation techniques or use a local supply when it was available. CAP would propose to stay within the 2007 Guidelines's annual ICS creation limit for Arizona of 100,000 acre-feet and an account total of 300,000 acre-feet.

Mr. Cullom explained that the CAP Board has approved the ICS plan and has amended its agricultural policy to allow CAP to not remarket the water saved through demand reductions. Mr. Cullom stated that CAP intends to prepare an ICS Creation Plan and an exhibit to the 2007 Guidelines' Forbearance Agreement and to seek conditional approval of the ICS Creation Plan as soon as possible and to seek approval from the parties to the Forbearance Agreement, who are the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Colorado River Commission of Nevada, Metropolitan Water District, Palo Verde Irrigation District, IID, Coachella Valley Water District and the City of Needles, in the coming months.

Board Member Peterson asked Mr. Cullom how much water CAP has been storing since 2000. Mr. Cullom noted that the Arizona Water Banking Authority has stored about three million acre-feet underground to firm up municipal and industrial CAP contract priorities and to firm Indian water rights settlements. Mr. Cullom noted that Arizona has also stored approximately 600,000 acre-feet of groundwater for the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Approximately 89,000 acre-feet of water had been stored for MWD that had been recovered from 2007-2010.

Board Member Peterson asked about the capability of pulling the groundwater out and Mr. Cullom responded that there is a current recovery capacity of permitted recovery wells in some of the irrigation districts of approximately 40,000 acre-feet which is the approximate amount that would be necessary to firm CAP's M&I customers under a tier 3 shortage.

Ms. Trujillo asked whether a program would proceed with the agricultural districts that had already signed up for the program even if an ICS program did not go forward. Mr. Cullom stated that CAP hoped to move forward with a successful ICS program with the support and assistance of the Forbearance parties. He stated CAP is working to improve its proposed ICS Forbearance exhibit based on comments from California agencies and that CAP's intent was to meet with the agency staff to walk through the ICS Creation Plan before it is submitted to Reclamation and that a draft of the plan should be completed before November 26.

Ms. Trujillo noted that one of the comments received from the California agencies involved the level of verification that CAP was proposing for its programs. Mr. Cullom noted that CAP was working to demonstrate its water savings and that the CAP program may be more simple than the programs in place in California because the reduction in use would be measured at the point of diversion and not within the service area. Mr. Cullom noted that CAP regretted some of its efforts in the 2007 Guidelines process because some of the same questions are now being directed back at CAP. Ms. Trujillo stated that there

is an expectation of continued discussions with CAP regarding the Forbearance exhibit and that CAP will comply with the existing requirements in the Forbearance program. Mr. Cullom confirmed the intention to work through the discussions with the California agencies so that the agencies can make a well-informed and thoughtful decision about the Forbearance exhibit. Mr. Cullom stated the intention of CAP to host a tour of the CAP in the spring for the California agencies.

Board Member Pettijohn asked about the 75,000 acre-feet of excess water within CAP's supply pool. Mr. Cullom explained that if any higher priority water user was not using its allocation, an excess pool would be available for storage underground. Since 2009 the excess supply has decreased dramatically from a high of approximately 300,000 acre-feet in 2000.

Chairman Fisher thanked Mr. Cullom for presenting to the Board regarding the program and asked Mr. Buschatzke whether he would like to make any comments. Mr. Buschatzke stated that Arizona was comfortable with CAP's proposal and that CAP has a unique situation and can ensure diversion of less than 2.8 million acre-feet of water.

Mr. Buschatzke also stated that the State of Arizona intended to sign the MOU and did not have to go through its legislature for approval.

Mr. Benson asked whether CAP's ICS proposal would go through the normal BOR process and Mr. Buschatzke affirmed that CAP would follow the normal process and would require the parties to the Forbearance Agreement to approve the exhibit. Mr. Benson mentioned that IID had an interest in developing its on-farm conservation programs as future ICS projects.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROGRAM REPORTS

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Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

Ms. Trujillo reported that the workgroups and the Coordination Team are finalizing the review of the Phase 1 report, which will document the progress of the three workgroups which include the Agricultural Water Conservation, Productivity, and Transfers, Municipal and Industrial Water Conservation and Reuse, and Environmental and Recreational Flows. The Phase 1 report includes options and strategies for additional conservation for both the agricultural and municipal sectors. Ms. Trujillo noted that the report acknowledges the challenges associated with increasing conservation measures, as a multitude of conservation efforts have been underway in the Basin for several years. It is anticipated that the summary chapter of the Phase 1 report will be completed in early December.

Minute 319 Implementation

Ms. Trujillo reported that Mexico had recently revised its 2014 delivery schedule, and indicates that it intends to defer delivery of an additional 56,000 acre-feet of

Colorado River water this year. This amount will be added to Mexico's deferred delivery account. Reclamation's final 2014 water accounting report will also reflect the deduction of the approximately 105,000 acre-feet that was utilized for the environmental pulse flow during spring 2014.

Ms. Trujillo also reported that a workshop was held in Mexicali, Mexico on October 28 to introduce the System Conservation Pilot Program to Mexican representatives. Ms. Trujillo indicated that the Mexican contingent expressed interest in the pilot program and may develop proposals for projects that could be funded through the program.

Ms. Trujillo reported that other binational workgroups continue to meet and work on various issues. The Hydrology workgroup is focused on providing information to Mexican participants regarding how drought conditions in the United States are evaluated and classified, and the methods associated with water supply forecasting and water use accounting. The Environmental Flows workgroup continues to work on a report describing preliminary monitoring results associated with 2014 pulse flow release. Ms. Trujillo indicated that the workgroups will be meeting again in December.

Salinity Control Forum, Work Group, and Advisory Council

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Salinity Control Forum and Advisory Council met on October 29 and 30 of 2014 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Forum adopted the 2014 Triennial Review (Review), which sets the standards for the Salinity Control Program (Program) for the next three years with the goal to achieve an additional 67,000 tons of salinity control per year by 2017. During the meeting Reclamation provided an update on the status of the Paradox Valley Injection Well EIS. Ms. Trujillo reported that she passed on to Reclamation the importance of the project and the need to develop an emergency plan in the event the well fails prior to the completion of the current EIS process. Ms. Trujillo noted that she will meet with the Upper Basin Regional Director in December in Salt Lake City, Utah to obtain a more thorough response from Reclamation on their funding plan for the EIS completion, and for planning and implementation of the alternatives once they are chosen.

Ms. Trujillo reported that Reclamation is moving forward with a Request for Information for an alternative design to develop a commercial market for the brine. More information is expected after the next Salinity Control Workgroup meeting in February. The next Paradox Well Cooperating Agency meeting is scheduled for January of next year.

Ms. Trujillo reported that another issue is the potential for a deficit in the Lower Basin's cost share for the Program. She reported that Tom Buschatzke from Arizona, is a member of the Forum, and is spearheading the underfunding strategy with Pat Tyrrell, a representative from Wyoming. A committee is in place to work on developing some strategies. Because the Forum recognizes that it will require a legislative fix to remedy

the situation, it is trying to move forward with a solution that is acceptable to all seven Basin States. One of the two goals is to obtain a better balance between the Lower and Upper Basins cost shares because the Lower Basin currently contributes 85 percent and Upper Basin contributes 15 percent. Ms. Trujillo noted that the second goal was to obtain contributions from entities in Arizona because currently the Lower Basin contributions are funded from power revenues from users only in California and Nevada. The next Forum meeting is scheduled for May 20 and 21, 2015 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The next Workgroup meeting will be hosted by California starting on February 17, 2015.
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Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group and Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan EIS

Mr. Harris reported that the Glen Canyon Dam Technical Work Group (TWG) met in Phoenix, Arizona on October 28-29, 2014. This was the last meeting for Dr. Jack Schmidt as Chief of the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center as he has resigned from federal service and is returning to his teaching position at Utah State University. Dr. Scott Vanderkooi, the deputy chief will fill in as the acting GCMRC Chief until the USGS makes a selection in early 2015.

Mr. Harris reported that recent research on the status of the Lees Ferry trout population indicates that this population may be beginning a cycle of decline. The observed decline in health and vigor of the Lees Ferry trout population may be related to the lack of sufficient food for these fish. The researchers speculate that trout management flows could actually result in thinning out some of these trout and restoring a balance between available food resources and numbers of rainbow trout. This could reduce the potential out-migration of rainbow trout from the Lees Ferry Reach down to the confluence with the Little Colorado River where the endangered humpback chub tend to congregate.

Mr. Harris also reported that the USFWS is kicking off a process to prepare a revised recovery plan for the humpback chub. Dr. Rich Valdez will head up the recovery team preparing the new recovery plan. The team will include native fish experts and personnel from both of the USFWS's Regions 2 and 6. A draft of the revised recovery plan is expected to be released for public review and comment in late-2015.

Regarding the status of the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan EIS process, Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation has confirmed that all of the modeling analyses will be completed for each of the proposed alternatives being evaluated in the draft EIS. This includes the hydropower economic impacts model. Completing these modeling analyses means that the completion schedule for the draft LTEMP EIS will be delayed, and that a draft EIS will be released for review and comment in early 2015. The USFWS indicated that it will have a draft biological opinion associated with the LTEMP EIS during the summer 2015.

Mr. Harris reported that the Southern Nevada Water Authority recently conducted a webinar associated with potential Lake Mead water quality impacts related to implementation of the LTEMP. Based upon significant modeling and analyses performed by SNWA, at this juncture there does not appear to be any significant water quality concerns or impacts associated with implementation of any of the alternatives currently under consideration in the LTEMP EIS process. SNWA indicated that it will be sharing the modeling and monitoring data, via a technical report, to the LTEMP co-lead agencies and Argonne National Laboratory for inclusion in the draft EIS.

Finally, Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation initiated implementation of its third high-flow experimental release under the 2012 HFE Protocol on November 10, 2014. This was a 96-hour event that achieved a maximum magnitude release of 37,500 cfs, and was intended to remobilize and redistribute approximately 1.5 million metric tons of sediment that had accumulated just below the confluence with the Paria River since July 2014. Of the 37,500 cfs release, 15,000 cfs was released through the jet-tubes and bypassed the Glen Canyon Dam powerplant. Reclamation and the GCMRC hope to have some preliminary results of this HFE release available for distribution at the Annual Reporting meeting in January 2015 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Mr. Harris reported that the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) held a Steering Committee meeting on October 22, 2014, at which the underfunding strategy to address the FY-2011 through FY-2014 funding shortfall was formally adopted. All federal and non-federal parties will have paid their underfunding amounts through the conclusion of FY-2015.

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation provided an update on the status of the Hualapai Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement, which would also facilitate the acquisition of the Planet Ranch Property on the Bill Williams River for LCR MSCP purposes. Mr. Harris reported that Arizona's La Paz and Mohave Counties continue to express concern regarding the potential economic impacts associated with the land and water transfers being authorized in the proposed legislation.

Mr. Harris also reported that the LCR MSCP would be celebrating the tenth anniversary of its implementation with a tour April 7-9, 2015. It is anticipated that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will attend the formal dedication of the Laguna Conservation Area on April 7th, and it is hoped that those instrumental in the founding of the program will attend.

Finally, Mr. Harris reported that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service have reopened the comment period for the proposed critical habitat designation for the threatened yellow-billed cuckoo. The comment period reopened on November 10, 2014 and will close on January 12, 2015. Mr. Harris reported that the Board had already submitted comments and doesn't intend to submit any additional comments.

Announcements/Notices

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Board packet includes information regarding the next round of WaterSMART grants which include Title 16 and Water Conservation and Efficiency Projects. Ms. Trujillo stated that she would provide an update on the implementation status of the WaterSMART grants in the future.

Ms. Trujillo introduced Tina Shields from the Imperial Irrigation District to speak about IID's recently filed petition with the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the restoration of the Salton Sea. Ms. Shields explained that the State Water Resources Control Board is the permitting agency overseeing the water transfers with San Diego and the other portions of the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA). The petition asks the State Water Resources Control Board to reconvene the consultation process with the affected parties to discuss the Salton Sea restoration plan. The petition requested a six-month facilitated process to evaluate restoration options and opportunities. At the end of that process, a workshop would be convened to evaluate whether the restoration of the Salton Sea should be a condition of the QSA permit.

Ms. Shields explained that when the transfer was approved in 2002/2003, the intention for setting up 15 years of mitigation water deliveries was meant to allow time for the restoration plan to move forward. Unfortunately, within three years the mitigation deliveries will be discontinued and there is no plan to transition from the mitigation flows to restoration activities. Ms. Shields stated that copies of the petition were available and that she was happy to provide more information regarding the permit, if needed. IID is currently waiting for response from the State Water Resources Control Board.

Board member Pettijohn asked about the impact to the existing transfer if the State Water Resources Control Board decides to make the restoration of the Salton Sea a contingency of the transfer permit and the restoration does not go forward. Ms. Shields admitted that would be a problem but explained that the permit requires certain actions to occur in order for the transfers to proceed, one of which is the State's responsibility to provide funding for mitigation of the Salton Sea. Once funding from the agencies has concluded, the State has an obligation to continue funding mitigation activities. Ms. Shields explained that it would be more effective to implement restoration activities instead of continuing to spend money to mitigate the problem. Ms. Shields stated that the State's \$9 billion dollar restoration plan is too costly to implement and that restoration planning efforts need to be refocused to create a more manageable plan that focuses on the immediate effects of the receding shoreline, such as air quality. Ms. Shields stressed that the State needs to reopen discussions and planning on this issue now and avoid waiting until the mitigation deliveries conclude in three years.

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference is scheduled for December 2nd through December 5th in San Diego. Many of the CRB's agencies are members of ACWA and participate in the conference. In

addition, the Colorado River Water Users Association is scheduled in December in Las Vegas, Nevada which also coincides with the timing of the next Board meeting.

Chairman Fisher reported that this would be Vice Chairman Franz De Klotz's last meeting with the Colorado River Board. Mr. Fisher noted that Mr. De Klotz served on the Board on behalf of Coachella and performed his duties well. Mr. De Klotz thanked Mr. Fisher and stated that it had been a pleasure to serve on the Board.

Adjournment

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon the motion of Mr. Benson seconded by Mr. Pettijohn, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. on November 19, 2014.