

Minutes of Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, April 15, 2015

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

Board Members and Alternates Present

Brian Brady	David Pettijohn
Dana Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman	Jack Seiler
Henry Kuiper	Michael Touhey
Peter Nelson	Doug Wilson
Glen Peterson	

Board Members and Alternates Absent

Stephen Benson	Chris Hayes, Designee
James Hanks	Department of Fish and Wildlife
John Powell Jr.	Jeanine Jones, Designee
David Vigil	Department of Water Resources

Others Present

Steve Abbott	Tom Ryan
Robert Cheng	Peter Silva
Chuck Cullen	Mark Stuart
Dan Denham	Gary Tavetian
Christopher Harris	Tanya Trujillo
Bill Hasencamp	Mark Van Vlack
Denise Hosler	Suzanna Webb
Michael Hughes	Meena Westford
Lisa Johansen	Jerry Zimmerman
Lori Jones	
Nicole Klobas	
Kathy Kunysz	
Laura Lamdin	
Tom Levy	
Lindia Liu	
Kara Mathews	
Jan Matusak	
Jessica Neuwerth	
Thang (Vic) Nguyen	
Ned Hyduke	
Autumn Plourd	
Angela Rashid	

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:11 A.M.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chairman Fisher welcomed Mr. Peter Nelson, the newly appointed Board Member representing Coachella Valley Water District.

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

Consideration and Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to approve the March 11 minutes. Mr. Pettijohn moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Wilson. Chairman Fisher asked if there were any additions or corrections. Hearing none and by unanimous support, the March 11 meeting minutes were approved.

Review and Approval of a Revised Budget for the Colorado River Board of California and Request for Authorization of the Executive Director to Execute the Standard Agreement Amendment

Ms. Trujillo reviewed the revised budget and stated that the Board's operating expenses will be higher than anticipated from the initial budget and the funding agreement with the Six Agency Committee. Ms. Trujillo presented an amended reimbursement agreement with the Six Agency Committee to allow the Committee to fully reimburse the State for anticipated expenses that would incur during fiscal year 2014-15. Historically, the Board has relied on vacancy savings to cover the discrepancy between actual operating expenses and projected operating expenses. Ms. Trujillo reported that this fiscal year the Board is fully staffed; therefore, the Board cannot rely on vacancy savings. Board staff received a cost of living increase of two percent in fiscal year 2014-15 and pay-out expenses for a long-term employee with 35 years of state service contributed to higher expenses this year.

Ms. Trujillo requested that the Board authorize the Executive Director of the Colorado River Board, to enter into the standard agreement amendment with the Six Agency Committee that increases the reimbursement authority for the Six Agency Committee and allows the State to accept the additional reimbursement funds. Ms. Trujillo stated that at the end of the fiscal year any extra money unspent would be

refunded to the Six Agency Committee. The Standard Agreement Amendment is approximately \$220,000 higher than the original agreement. No additional assessments will be required from the Six Agency Committee members because the increased payments to the State are still within the original Six Agency Committee's total budget authority.

In response to Mr. Peterson's question whether there is a state policy for reserves that would be available to fund retirement and vacation payouts, Mr. Zimmerman responded that he is unaware of such policy. Mr. Zimmerman stated that the Six Agency Committee does have a reserve that can be drawn upon to make unexpected contributions for support of the Colorado River Board. In response to Mr. Peterson's question, Ms. Trujillo stated that the Board is audited on an annual basis and that no issues have been raised in the past.

MOTION: Upon the motion of Mr. Kuiper, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Standard Agreement Amendment and authorized Ms. Trujillo to execute the Standard Agreement Amendment.

Review Status of Selection of Colorado River Board Vice-Chairman

Ms. Trujillo noted that the Board has not had a Vice-Chairman in place since December. She also explained that if the Chairman died or was not able to serve as Chairman, the Board could take an emergency action to elect a new Chairman.

MOTION: Upon the motion of Mr. Peterson, Doug Wilson was nominated as Vice Chairman, seconded by Mr. Kuiper. Mr. Nelson moved that the nominations be closed, seconded by Mr. Kuiper. Upon a vote, the Board unanimously voted to select Doug Wilson as the Board's Vice Chairman.

PRESENTATION BY DENISE HOSLER, WITH THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND APPLICATIONS GROUP, ON QUAGGA MUSSELS

Ms. Hosler provided an overview of the invasive quagga mussel that is spreading across waterways in the Western United States. Zebra mussels have moved rapidly across the Eastern United States since the late 1980's, and the closely related quagga mussels were first detected in Lake Mead in 2007. Quaggas are found in 14 of the 17 western states that Reclamation operates within.

Ms. Hosler explained the life cycle of the mussel, including how quickly they spread and reproduce, the broad range of surfaces to which they can attach, and how their filter feeding alters the nutrients in the water column. Quaggas have the ability to damage, coat, or plug important structures, including drains, grates, pipes, siphons, and fire protection systems. The shells of dead quaggas are also difficult to manage, and

quagga impacts on water nutrients lead to the proliferation of aquatic weeds that cause further problems for drains, racks, and water delivery systems.

Ms. Hosler reported that testing to determine the presence of young mussels, or veligers, has improved, and that water testing for veligers and mussel DNA can now be done more accurately. Reclamation regularly tests over 300 water bodies across the west to determine whether mussels are present. 76% of first time quagga mussel detections occur at boat launches, indicating that the mussels were transferred via boats, so preventing the spread of mussels through inspections and boat cleaning is critical.

Board Member Kuiper asked whether warmer temperatures could be limiting the spread of quaggas in the southwest. Ms. Hosler replied that temperature is believed to be a factor, as well as the general inhospitality of the western water systems, with shifts in dissolved oxygen and low dissolved solids.

In response to an inquiry from Board Chairman Fisher, Ms. Hosler noted that quagga mussels could lower the pH of water near them, creating more acidic water, which has the ability to damage pipes and structures.

Board Vice Chairman Wilson asked about methods for controlling the quagga mussels. Ms. Hosler explained that chlorine is one of the most commonly used mussel control agents, although its uses were limited by its cost, the defense mechanisms of adult mussels, and water quality issues. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) has used chlorine with good success, but Reclamation is unable to use it and has instead been focusing on UV light and turbulence treatments. Reclamation has also been exploring coatings that discourage the settlement of mussels and makes removing them easier. Ms. Hosler noted that CAP had been using the redear sunfish, which can eat the mussels, to control mussel populations. The mussels also occasionally undergo poorly understood reductions in population, perhaps due to falling levels of nutrients or dissolved oxygen.

PRESENTATION FROM THE CENTRAL ARIZONA WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGARDING PROPOSED PLAN FOR CREATION OF INTENTIONALLY CREATED

Chairman Fisher introduced Chuck Cullom from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) and Nicole Klobas from the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR). Mr. Cullom previously made a presentation to the Board in November 2014 on CAP's proposal to create ICS. The proposal has since been refined and an update of the proposal is presented.

Mr. Cullom thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide additional information on CAP's strategy and management approach to reduce to risk of shortage in the Lower Colorado River system, and to preview the CAP request for approval to Colorado River contractors for forbearance pursuant to the 2007 Interim Guidelines. The

signatories to the forbearance agreements in California include the Imperial Irrigation District, MWD, Palo Verde Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), and City of Needles. Additionally, CAP will make the same request to Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and the Colorado River Commission of Nevada (CRCN) who are also signatories of the forbearance agreements in the 2007 Guidelines.

Mr. Cullom gave an overview of CAP's management programs and how the efforts by CAP, in concert with ADWR, help reduce the risk of shortage in the Lower Colorado River system. One of the shortage mitigation approaches is by storing excess Arizona entitlement underground within Arizona. To date, CAP and the Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA) have stored about 3.4 million acre-feet (MAF) of CAP water underground for future recovery to reduce the impact of shortages to CAP municipal contractors and CAP tribal contractors who have entered into water rights settlement agreements. Mr. Cullom explained that although Arizona has stored about 9 MAF underground, only about 3.4 MAF is reserved to protect CAP contractors from the impact of shortage. CAP, ADWR, and AWBA have been preparing plans to recover the water for the sole purpose of insulating CAP municipal and tribal contractors from shortage impacts.

The next effort that has been undertaken with the Colorado River Board of California, MWD, SNWA, CRCN, and ADWR, is in conjunction with the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of December 10, 2014, which targets conservation and storage of 740,000 acre-feet (AF) in Lake Mead to reduce the risk of shortage. CAP has committed in the MOU to store 345,000 AF of Arizona water in Lake Mead between 2014 and 2017.

CAP is also participating in a pilot system conservation program with SNWA, MWD, Denver Water, and Reclamation to generate 75,000 AF of conservation for the benefit of the system in Lakes Powell and Mead. CAP has also funded innovative conservation research and efforts to improve municipal and agricultural conservation in the Lower Basin. Finally, CAP continues to support weather modification (cloud-seeding) programs in the Upper Basin, and to develop local and bi-national desalinization projects.

Mr. Cullom then provided the details of the MOU. The goal of the MOU is to create 740,000 AF of new storage in Lake Mead between 2014 and 2017. CAP committed to creating 345,000 AF, of which 145,000 AF would be system water that would remain in the Colorado River system and 200,000 AF would be created through Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (EC ICS) per the 2007 Interim Guidelines. MWD and SNWA have committed to creating 300,000 AF and 45,000 AF, respectively, and Reclamation has committed to creating 50,000 AF by conserving or reducing system losses over the 4-year period of the MOU.

Mr. Cullom explained the four components required in CAP's plan to create the 345,000 AF of reservoir protection volume. The first component is an agreement on land fallowing of about 1,200 acres with the Yuma-Mesa Irrigation and Drainage District in

the Yuma area between 2014 and 2016. This would be system water and CAP hopes that this effort to create 7,000 AF would be reflected in the 2014 Decree Accounting report. The next effort is to partner with nine irrigation districts within the CAP service area to reduce water delivery and create EC ICS. CAP will fund these districts to conserve and the districts have agreed to reduce their water use by 81,000 AF in 2015 and 80,000 AF in 2016. The next component involves a supply replacement to the City of Phoenix for 15,000 AF in 2015, and for the same volume with other CAP contractors in 2016, for a total volume of 30,000 AF of supply replacement EC ICS. Finally, CAP has an unquantified Colorado River contract that allows CAP to meet its long-term delivery requirements of 1.415 MAF of diversions, plus any unused water within Arizona's 2.8 MAF entitlement. Typically CAP diverts 1.6 MAF annually, but in 2014, CAP intentionally left 30,000 AF of "ILB.6" water in the system. CAP plans to leave almost 60,000 AF of this unused apportionment of water in 2015 and 44,000 AF in 2016. Mr. Cullom said that the loss is an opportunity cost because CAP could have diverted and sold the water to its customers.

Mr. Cullom described CAP's proposal to create ICS through two demand reduction programs – by reducing deliveries to the agricultural customers and by using local supplies. CAP is targeting a 2-year pilot project in 2015 and 2016. 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 81,000 AF of savings in 2015 and 80,000 AF in 2016. For the replacement supply component, municipal customers would be paid to replace a portion of their CAP supply with some other local supply for an estimated savings of 15,000 AF in both 2015 and 2016. ICS credits in Lake Mead are produced when CAP reduces its diversions from the Colorado River pursuant to the contracts with its customers to reduce delivery. Agricultural users have said they intend to fallow, deficit irrigate, or switch to local supplies (mainly groundwater) as a result of the reduced CAP delivery. The accounting in the Colorado River system is determined by CAP's reduction in diversion.

Mr. Cullom provided an example of CAP demand reduction in year 2015. In December 2014, Reclamation approved the CAP order of 1.6 MAF out of Arizona's total entitlement of 2.8 MAF. CAP has amended its order downward to 1.505 MAF to reflect the reductions of 80,000 AF in the Ag Pool and 15,000 AF in the municipal pool. CAP may divert more than 1.505 MAF if additional unused water becomes available, but would keep Arizona's total entitlement down to about 2.7 MAF in order to create the EC ICS. The total amount of ICS that Arizona may have at any time is 300,000 AF pursuant to the 2007 Interim Guidelines and CAP would be targeting a total volume of 200,000 AF over the 2-year pilot period.

Mr. Cullom showed a map of the nine irrigation districts that are participating with CAP to create ICS. Some districts such as the Maricopa-Stanfield and Central Arizona were recently visited by staff representing California agencies and others on the March CAP tour. Each of the irrigation districts has signed up to forgo 20,000 AF of its Ag pool, which is slightly more than 20% of normal allocation. The districts were required to commit a minimum of 20% reduction, not to exceed a maximum of 75%

reduction. One district (Roosevelt Water Conservation District) committed to the maximum reduction but most districts committed to reducing about 20% of its allocation.

Mr. Cullom reviewed the administrative steps required to approve CAP's proposal. Initial discussions began in November 2014 and CAP has held additional discussions with agencies including MWD and SNWA to refine the proposal. CAP also consulted with Reclamation on the ICS creation plan and Exhibit. CAP plans to submit a formal letter to forbearance signatory agencies on April 22. Mr. Cullom mentioned the benefits to all lower Colorado River contractors in assisting CAP to meet its commitments in the MOU. CAP's refined proposal would include keeping ICS in Lake Mead through 2019. This is consistent with other CAP commitments made such as when CAP would receive ICS from the pilot operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant, as well as when CAP would take ICS credits for funding Brock Reservoir. Mr. Cullom acknowledged CAP would suffer evaporation losses and would only request release for domestic purposes such as municipal and urban uses. Most importantly, the additional storage created in Lake Mead could help avoid a shortage declaration. Mr. Cullom reminded everyone that from Reclamation's April 24-month study webinar held this morning, the hydrology in the Lower Colorado River is at a tipping point, and relatively modest amount of storage or uses could trigger a shortage. The 24-month study did not take into account CAP's ICS program because it has not yet been approved, but CAP would continue to push hard for approval to help avoid a shortage declaration in August. Mr. Cullom concluded by saying that flexibility in the Lower Colorado River system would be impacted in a shortage and the additional water in Lake Mead would only benefit users.

Chairman Fisher asked where the replacement source for the 15,000 AF would come from. Mr. Cullom explained that water is diverted from Lake Havasu into the CAP canal that goes through Maricopa County and traverses under a siphon across the Salt River. There is an interconnection between the CAP canal and the Salt River Project (SRP) system, which serves 250,000 acres in the Central Salt River Valley. Around year 2000 to 2002 timeframe, the SRP system, which is principally served by Roosevelt Lake, was in a severe drought. Because CAP had excess water at that time, it delivered water to the SRP system. In exchange, SRP provided credit to CAP in the Roosevelt Lake when it had recovered from the drought. Now, the City of Phoenix has ordered 15,000 AF, but would take delivery from the SRP side of its service area. Instead of pumping water out of Lake Havasu and delivering it to Phoenix, CAP would now replace the supply with credits from Roosevelt Lake. This replacement supply water doesn't spill and isn't charged for evaporation losses.

Chairman Fisher asked whether the water stored underground is available for drought mitigation and asked about ownership of the stored water. Ms. Klobas replied that many entities own the 9 MAF amount of water that is stored underground. The ABWA stores about 3.4 MAF in cooperation with CAP, and the remaining volume is stored by CAP contractors. The City of Tucson is a good example of water that is stored and recovered annually by contractors. Other agencies are storing water in the SRP system. Some junior water users within the CAP service area will take the first reduction

and will not be protected by the AWBA under a shortage. Ms. Klobas said that the water that is stored underground is not a large buffer against shortage when considering it is intended to last more than 100 years.

In a response to a question from Mr. Cheng, Mr. Cullom explained that as districts reduce their allocations, they would make their own decisions whether to order more groundwater or cut back on farming operations. CAP will verify the reductions in water delivery and will provide the water budgets to each district at the end of the year. From this information, CAP is able to determine if districts used more groundwater or reduced acreage.

In response to a question from Board member Peterson, Mr. Cullom said that the the City of Phoenix reported it is using about two-thirds of its normal CAP contract amount of 100,000 AF. Of the 100,000 AF, 85,000 AF would be from the Colorado River and 15,000 AF would be replaced with a local resource. The proposed ICS that would be created from both a reduction in agricultural use and local resource replacement is almost 100,000 AF and would only be used for direct domestic delivery. Ms. Plourd asked if CAP was incentivizing growers to fallow and Mr. Cullom said that CAP does pay districts that voluntarily participate in the program. Board member Nelson asked about the incentives and Mr. Cullom replied that CAP pays a total of \$106/AF including incentives.

Executive Director Trujillo asked about the upcoming Arizona drought preparedness workshop. Ms. Klobas said that ADWR has worked closely with CAP on the proposed ICS plan and exhibit to ensure the overall program is consistent with Arizona law, the Law of the River, and the 2007 Interim Guidelines and forbearance agreements. Ms. Klobas encouraged California agencies to approve the program. The drought workshop will be held on April 22 at ADWR's office and will be available by webinar. The workshop would be primarily directed at CAP's customers.

Mr. Abbott asked if there was any documentation related to the nine districts that are reducing their allocations. Mr. Cullom explained that CAP has contracts with the districts that outline the plan for reduction in CAP water deliveries. But each district has its own method for implementing the reduction with its growers, and will reduce its use per the water budget in the CAP contracts that is provided at the end of December.

Chairman Fisher asked if the districts would be substituting the water reduction with local groundwater, and Mr. Cullom said that would depend on the district. Various districts have different situations and will take different approaches.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER REPORTS

Colorado River Basin Water Report

Ms. Trujillo reported that Board staff participated in the April 24-month Study webinar to get an update on water supply conditions. Reclamation reported that under the April most probable scenario, Lake Powell would release up to 9.0 MAF this year, up from the current release level of 8.23 MAF. There is a slight probability that release from Lake Powell may be less than 9.0 MAF this year as the inflow projections continue to decline.

Ms. Trujillo reported that the snowpack in the Basin peaked on March 9. As of April 5, Lake Powell is about 10.91 MAF, or 45 percent of capacity, and Lake Mead is about 10.35 MAF, elevation of 1,084 feet, or 40 percent of capacity. But as of April 14, water storage in Lake Mead is at elevation 1,082 feet, or 39 percent of capacity. Forecasted April through July runoff, as of April 2, is expected to be about 52 percent of average and forecasted unregulated inflow into Lake Powell for water year 2015 is 7.2 MAF, or about 66 percent of average.

State Water Report

Mr. Stuart reported that the location Governor Brown chose to announce the mandatory 25 percent reduction is typically under 5 or 6 feet of snow during an average year, but had virtually none exists this year. Since that announcement, about a foot of snow has fallen in the northern region of the Sierra but not enough to make much of an impact on the drought.

Mr. Stuart reported that precipitation at the L.A. Civic center was about 7.4 inches or about 50 percent of average. Other precipitation stations in southern California reported between 30 and 60 percent of average, with the exception of Blythe where precipitation is currently 101 percent of normal. Precipitation in the Northern Sierra was 31.7 inches out of a normal of 50 inches. Precipitation in the Central Sierra is about 13.7 inches where the average is 40.8 inches and the Southern Sierra is 10.9 inches where the average is 29.3 inches. The current snowpack is around 5 percent for the Sierra Mountain Range.

Mr. Stuart reported that the peak in Lake Oroville's storage for the year has probably been reached at about 1.8 MAF, or about 51 percent of capacity. Some good news is that San Luis Reservoir, south of the Delta, is at about 960,000 acre-feet, or 90 percent of capacity. Most of the State Water Project reservoirs are considerably below capacity.

Local Reports

Board Member Peterson commented that delivery of MWD's ICS water under shortage conditions should be negotiable. The Central Valley Project for the past two years has allocated zero percent for most of the contractors in the Central Valley. In addition, MWD went to 15 percent allocation (the most in over 20 years) and several water agencies are expected to face a shortage this year. MWD will be importing about 1.1 MAF from the Colorado River, but much of that is going for replenishment, not

consumptive use. Mr. Peterson added that a blanket mandate for 25 percent conservation does not make sense for areas such as Humboldt County where the reservoirs are full. He hopes that comment letters that many water agencies have sent to the State Water Board are read and considered.

Board Member Pettijohn reported that the Mammoth Pass snow level has never been lower than ten inches of water content around this time of the year. But it is now at about one inch of water equivalent, and sets a new historic low. The City of Los Angeles has been in Phase 2 mandatory water use restrictions since 2009, long before the current mandate of 25 percent. There is a long list of water use restrictions: currently residents can only water landscape for 8 minutes three times per week, and this is expected to be reduced to two times per week. That means that for a large part of the service area during the heat of summer, the homeowner's lawn is going to die. Los Angeles has been incentivizing the removal of turf for a few years and has removed about 15 million square feet. The City of Los Angeles currently offers \$3.75 per square foot of lawn removed, and has spent about \$300 million dollars in the last decade for water conservation efforts. The water conservation hardware purchased by the city (low-flow toilets, showerheads, aerators, low-flow sprinklers) has reduced water use by about 110,000 acre-feet per year. In 1970, the City of Los Angeles used 600,000 acre-feet of water. Today, about 45 years later and with an additional 1.1 million people living in Los Angeles, the water use is about 20,000 acre-feet less than it was in 1970. Being asked to conserve an additional 20 percent is going to be very difficult. The City of Los Angeles supported MWD's 15 percent water allocation, but it may be hard to meet.

UPDATE REGARDING THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT

Ms. Trujillo reported that over 40% of the State is in the most severe exceptional drought category. Governor Brown announced the State's first statewide mandatory water restriction, imposing a 25% average reduction in potable use through 2016. Ms. Trujillo stated that agencies across the State are trying to determine how to respond to the Governor's Order, including cities like Brawley within IID's service area. The Order also includes language about emergency barriers in the Delta, turf replacement requirements and incentives. Ms. Trujillo noted that several agencies have already successfully implemented turf replacement incentives programs, with MWD budgeting \$100 million for water conservation programs. Ms. Trujillo added that preceding the Governor's Order, the State approved \$1 billion in drought relief and infrastructure projects. Ms. Trujillo also reported that the Department of Water Resources released a report comparing the current drought to prior droughts.

Regarding the Governor's Order, Chairman Fisher asked Mr. Stuart if all cities were subject to mandatory reductions regardless of their water sources such as cities like Needles and Brawley. Mr. Stuart responded he believed that the State Water Board is trying to figure how to implement the mandate given its broad approach. Further, Mr. Stuart stated that interpretation of the Order may be applied to communities and agencies on individual basis, noting that some agencies have already invested a lot of money and

accomplished major reductions in their water use, while other agencies have not. Board member Nelson added that there is a tiered reduction target, with some district required to reduce water use by 10%, 20% and 35%, with an overall reduction of 25%, regardless of source of the water. Mr. Nelson added that outdoor landscape is the big target of the reduction order.

STAFF REPORTS REGARDING COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROGRAMS

Basin States Drought Contingency Program

Ms. Trujillo reported on the latest updates of the Lower Basin State's drought contingency planning process, stating that the CAP has presented an update of their ICS proposal. In addition, evaluation and selection of awards for Reclamation's pilot system conservation program is still underway.

Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

Ms. Trujillo reported that it is anticipated that Reclamation will release the Phase 1 report in late April or in May 2015. The report highlights opportunities and strategies for additional conservation for both the municipal and agricultural sectors, as well as provides opportunities to improve ecological and recreational resources in the Basin.

Implementation of Minute 319

Ms. Trujillo reported that a bi-national meeting is scheduled on May 14. Ms. Trujillo reminded the Board that the May Board meeting will be held on May 13 in San Diego to accommodate the bi-national meeting. The Basin States Principals meeting will be held during the afternoon of May 13, with a reception for the Mexican delegation and other Basin States representatives during the evening. Ms. Trujillo stated that goals of the bi-national meeting would be to provide an update on the implementation of Minute 319, which is half way through its implementation timeline, and to discuss the scope of future negotiations with Mexico.

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group and Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan EIS

Deputy Director Harris reported that DOI is getting closer to issuing a draft the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) EIS, with only three areas of continued negotiation. The Western Area Power Administration is still interested in increased flexibility to move water between months to optimize the generation of power. The Basin States are concerned about how to stay involved in the new adaptive management decision-making process and whether a decision-making body can be integrated into the existing program structure. Additionally, interest in generating robust science through the EIS process has led to recommendations that a science plan be included in the draft EIS.

Mr. Harris reported that a draft EIS for cooperating agencies is planned for release in June, and a public draft EIS is anticipated in July. The Department of the Interior hopes to have a final EIS and a Record of Decision by the end of the year.

Mr. Harris noted that the Technical Workgroup will meet on April 21-22 in Phoenix, AZ.

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Mr. Harris reported that the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) held its ten-year anniversary tour April 7-9, starting in Yuma and concluding in the Laughlin area. The tour included a trip to limitrophe and a boat ride into Topock Gorge. Mr. Harris thanked the Colorado River Authority for sponsoring the dinner on April 7 at Mayflower Park.

Ms. Trujillo thanked Mr. Harris for his work on the LCR MSCP, representing California as the Chair of the program, and for his efforts with the tour.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / NOTICES

Ms. Trujillo announced that Brent Rhees has been selected as the new Upper Basin Regional Director for Reclamation. The Basin States Technical Committee meeting is scheduled on April 28 in Las Vegas. Updates on the most recent hydrologic conditions and other technical updates will be reported at the meeting. An Arizona shortage preparedness workshop is scheduled on April 22. The next Board meeting will be hosted by the San Diego County Water Authority on May 13.