

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

January 12, 2015

ADMINISTRATION

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

A copy of the draft Board meeting minutes from the meeting held on December 10, 2014 has been emailed for your review.

Revision of the 2015 Colorado River Board meeting schedule

The schedule of meetings adopted on December 10, 2014, should be revised to clarify that the December Board meeting will occur on **December 16, 2015** in Las Vegas, Nevada to coincide with the annual meeting of the Colorado River Water Users Association meeting.

Adoption of a Resolution Honoring Ed Smith

After 14 years of service, PVID General Manager, Ed Smith, has announced his retirement effective January 30, 2015. Included in the Board packet is a draft Resolution noting some of Ed's contributions to the Colorado River system.

Adoption of a Resolution Honoring Larry Walkoviak

Also included in the packet is a draft Resolution honoring Larry Walkoviak, who retired as the Director of the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region in October 2014, concluding more than 32 years of service with BOR, including service as the Deputy Regional Director for the Lower Colorado Region.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER REPORT

As of January 5, 2015, the water level at Lake Mead was at 1,088 feet with 10.69 million acre-feet (maf) of storage, or 41% of capacity. At Lake Powell, the water level was at 3,597 feet with 11.48 maf of storage, or 47% of capacity. The unregulated inflow into Lake Powell for Water Year 2015 has been 10.07 million acre-feet (93% of normal). The total System storage as of January 4, 2015 was 29.59 maf, or 50% of capacity, which is 326 acre-feet higher than where the system was last year at this time. As of January 4, 2015, the Upper Colorado River Basin reservoirs other than Lake Powell ranged from 87% full (Flaming Gorge in Wyoming) to 64% full (Navajo in New Mexico).

NOAA's National Weather Service's monthly precipitation report for November 2014 shows that the majority of the Basin received below-average precipitation, but above-average

precipitation was reported in several areas in December 2014. The next update session from the Colorado River Basin Forecast Center is scheduled for February 5, 2015.

The final version of the 2015 Annual Operating Plan has been posted by Reclamation and is available here: <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/rsvrs/ops/aop/AOP15.pdf>. The plan confirms that Reclamation's most probable inflow scenario projects a water year 2015 release from Glen Canyon Dam of 9.0 million acre-feet. In the Lower Basin, the plan confirms that for 2015, Lower Basin water deliveries will be 7.5 million acre-feet, plus or minus any ICS deliveries or storage.

Based on Reclamation's January 2, 2015 provisional forecast for calendar-year 2014, it does not appear that there will be any overruns by any Lower Basin contractors, but the final water use accounting will not be completed until March 2015. Several approvals for revised diversion amounts were included in the Board packet materials, including MWD's plan to divert up to 65,000 af of Nevada's unused apportionment and approximately 338,500 af of previously stored ICS. Also included are several of the initial diversion requests for 2015.

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE

The first snow survey for the winter of 2015 projects a snow water equivalent statewide of 50 percent of the multi-year average for December 30.

Drought conditions within California have not improved and Governor Brown's January 17, 2014 and April 25, 2014 State of Emergency Proclamations continue to be in effect. The Department of Water Resources has continued to issue bi-weekly Drought Briefs to provide updates on current conditions, key action items and drought response activities.

The December 30, 2014 Drought Monitor map for California indicates that over 32% of the State continues to be in the "exceptional drought" category, which is the worst level of drought severity. Despite the benefit of recent rain events around the State, drought conditions are anticipated to continue for the foreseeable future. DWR anticipates that it will take precipitation of 150% of average to help California recover from the drought.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROGRAM REPORTS

Basin States Drought Contingency Planning Efforts

The Memorandum of Understanding for Pilot Drought Response Actions with the other Lower Basin States, the US and certain municipal water agencies (CAP, SNWA and MWD) was signed in December 2014. The Bureau of Reclamation has evaluated the initial round of proposals for funding through the Pilot System Water Conservation Program in the Lower Basin and specific criteria for the program are under development.

The Upper Basin States' Resolutions Regarding Development of an Emergency Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plan and Implementation of the 2014 System Conservation Pilot Program are included in the Board packet. The Commission has committed to coordinate with the funding parties to implement the System Conservation Program in the Upper Basin and the Upper Basin States expect to continue implementation of weather modification programs and planning for revised reservoir operations

Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

The Report documenting the progress of Phase 1 of the Basin Study's Next Steps process is still expected to be finalized in January of 2015.

Minute 319 Implementation

During presentations at the CRWUA conference in December, the Mexican Commissioner and the Deputy from CONAGUA reconfirmed Mexico's interest in fully implementing the provisions of Minute 319 and continuing progress toward negotiation of the next series of agreements. Additional information is expected from the Mexican delegation regarding the lining of an additional portion of the Canal Revolucion, repairs/improvements of Module 18, and making payments related to land that would be out of commission during construction of the pilot project canal lining project that is scheduled to be funded through Minute 319.

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

The next meeting of the Salinity Control Forum is scheduled for May 20-21, 2015 in Salt Lake City, Utah. California will be hosting the next workgroup meeting on February 17-19, 2015, which will highlight the impact of higher salinity levels on water recycling projects at the Eastern Municipal Water District.

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

On January 5, 2015, Secretary of the Department of the Interior Sally Jewell announced that she had designated Ms. Jennifer Gimbel to serve as the "Secretary's Designee" to the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. In her role as Secretary's Designee, Ms. Gimbel will chair the meetings of the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) and advise the Secretary of the effects of Glen Canyon Dam operations and management actions. A copy of Secretary Jewell's memorandum has been included in the Board folder.

The Glen Canyon Dam TWG is scheduled to meet in Phoenix, AZ, on January 20-21, 2015. The next meeting of the AMWG will be February 25-26 in Salt Lake City, UT. There will also be a one-day workshop in Salt Lake City to review the effects and results of the three consecutive High-Flow Experimental (HFE) releases that have been performed at Glen Canyon Dam since the adoption of the HFE Protocol in 2012.

Regarding the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan EIS, the co-lead agencies (Reclamation and National Park Service) and the Basin States have continued to work to develop a “hybrid” alternative that will be analyzed prior to the release of the first draft of the EIS, which is anticipated in February 2015. A draft Biological Assessment is expected from the Fish and Wildlife Service in the spring of 2015, and a draft Biological Opinion from the USFWS would be completed that summer.

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

As has been discussed at previous Board meetings and on the recent Colorado River Authority LCR MSCP tour, the tenth anniversary of the LCR MSCP will be recognized in April 2015. A two-and-one-half day tour has been scheduled for April 7-9, 2015, and will originate in Yuma, Arizona and conclude near Laughlin, Nevada. On April 7, Interior Secretary Jewell has been invited to a dedication ceremony at the new Laguna Conservation Area. Reclamation has indicated that it will be sending out formal invitations to the dedication ceremony in late-January.

The next MSCP workgroup call is scheduled for February 25, 2015.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

On December 17, the Senate confirmed Estevan Lopez as the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation and he has been sworn into office.

Tanya M. Trujillo
Executive Director