

MINUTES OF MEETING
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, June 12, 2024

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (CRB or Board) was held on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at the San Diego County Water Authority, 4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123.

Board Members and Alternates Present:

Gloria Cordero (MWD)	David R. Pettijohn (LADWP)
Gina Dockstader (IID Alternate)	Jeanine Jones (DWR Designee)
Dana B. Fisher, Jr. (PVID)	Jim Madaffer, Vice Chairman (SDCWA)
John B. Hamby, Chairman (IID)	Peter Nelson (CVWD)
Eric Heidemann (SDCWA Alternate)	David Vigil (DFW Alternate)

Board Members and Alternates Absent:

David De Jesus (MWD Alternate)	Jordan Joaquin (Public Member)
Castulo Estrada (CVWD Alternate)	Delon Kwan (LADWP Alternate)
Christopher Hayes (DFW Designee)	Frank Ruiz (Public Member)
	Jack Seiler (PVID Alternate)

Others Present:

Steven Abbott	Ned Hyduke
Gary Arant	Neal Meyers
Nick Bahr	Yuanyuan Myint
Jaymie Bradford	Jessica Neuwerth
Kelly Cole-Walker	Meggan Quarles
Dennis Davis	Alex Rodriguez
JR Echard	Jason Rollo
David Edwards	Alexi Schnell
Sue Fisher	Tina Shields
Daniel Gaytan	Gary Tavetian
Christopher Harris	Joseph Vanderhorst

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hamby announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chairman Hamby invited members of the audience to address the Board on items on the agenda or matters related to the Board. Hearing none, he moved on to the next item on the agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:06 a.m.

Pursuant to Section 11126, subdivision (a)(1) of the Government Code, an Executive Session was held to address personnel issues.

REGULAR SESSION

The Board resumed the regular session at 11:04 a.m. No action was taken.

Executive Director Harris announced his retirement in November 2024 and thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director.

Member Pettijohn, Member Nelson, Member Cordero, Member Fisher, Member Jones, Chairman Hamby, and Vice Chairman Madaffer thanked Executive Director Harris for his service.

ADMINISTRATION

Consideration and Approval of Meeting Minutes of the April 10, 2024, Board Meeting

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the April 10, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Member Fisher moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Nelson. Member Vigil and Member Cordero abstained. By roll-call vote, this item was unanimously approved.

Consideration and adoption of the Board’s Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

Executive Director Harris provided an overview of the budget.

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the Board's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget. Vice Chairman Madaffer moved to approve the budget, seconded by Member Fisher. By roll-call vote, this item was unanimously approved.

Consideration and Adoption of 2024 Board Work Plan

Chairman Hamby stated the goal of the 2024 work plan was give the Board the direction for discussions throughout the year. He walked through the eight items in the 2024 work plan and asked for an update on the progress about the 2024 work plan at every remaining board meeting in 2024.

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the 2024 work plan. Member Cordero moved to approve the 2024 work plan, seconded by Vice Chairman Madaffer. By roll-call vote, this item was unanimously approved.

Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Overview

Mr. Gary Tavetian, the CRB counsel, provided an overview of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Bagley-Keene). The overview included but was not limited to 1) the purpose of Bagley-Keene, 2) the definition of meetings and remote meetings, 3) closed sessions, and 4) differences between Bagley-Keene and the Brown Act.

LOCAL AND STATE WATER SUPPLY AND OPERATIONS REPORTS

Member Jones, representing the Department of Water Resources (DWR), reported that the current cumulative statewide precipitation for the water year is a bit above average, with parts of Southern California experiencing 100% to 150% of average. She stated that last year's winter was exceptionally cold, adding that this winter has been warmer than average. She noted that temperatures in 2021 were the hottest of recent years.

Member Cordero, representing the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that MWD's combined reservoir storage as of June 1st is 87% of capacity. She added that the Colorado River Aqueduct will be on a seven-pump flow through September. She stated that the 2024 diversion target is 903,000 acre-feet (AF) and as of June 1st, 287,919 AF has been diverted.

Member Cordero reported that during the first third of the year, deliveries to its member agencies were 73% of the annual average. She added that the 2024 delivery target for Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District is 213,000 AF combined.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER SUPPLY AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Executive Director Harris reported that as of June 3rd, the water level at Lake Powell was 3,569.92 feet with 8.51 million-acre feet (MAF) of storage, or 37% of capacity. He reported that the water level at Lake Mead was 1,066.86 feet with 8.95 MAF of storage, or 34% of capacity. He reported that the total system storage was 24.80 MAF, or 42% of capacity, which is 1.26 MAF more than system storage at this time last year.

Executive Director Harris reported that as of May 16th, the WY-2024 forecasted unregulated inflow into Lake Powell was 7.79 MAF, or 81% of normal. He reported that the forecasted April to July inflow into Lake Powell is 5.1 MAF, or 80% of normal. He reported that observed inflow into Lake Powell for April was 81% of normal and the May inflow forecast was 72% of normal. He reported that WY-2024 precipitation to date is 100% of normal and the current Basin snowpack is 140% of normal.

Executive Director Harris reported on basin-wide precipitation conditions in April and May, stating that the Colorado River Basin is experiencing significant drying. He reported that precipitation in April was greatest in the southern portion of Arizona. He added that some portions of the Upper Basin experienced late spring snowfall or rain in May. He reported that there was virtually no precipitation in the Four Corners region.

Executive Director Harris reported on the May 2024 24-Month Study projections. He stated that the most probable end-of-December elevation for Lake Powell is 3,575 feet with a 7.48 MAF release for WY-2024. He reported that the 7.48 MAF release from Lake Powell will likely continue to lower Lake Mead's elevation. He added that the Lower Basin Plan, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)-funded conservation plan, along with additional system conservation, may keep Lake Mead from reaching critical elevation.

Executive Director Harris reported that through the end of May, the Brock and Senator Wash regulating reservoirs captured 42,057 AF and 35,942 AF respectively. He also reported that excess deliveries to Mexico were 16,019 AF, compared to 22,061 AF at this time last year. Lastly, Executive Director Harris reported that saline drainage bypass to the Cienga de Santa Clara is currently about 60,415 AF.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROGRAMS STAFF REPORT

Colorado River Salinity Control Program

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported on meetings held in Durango, Colorado the previous week. A work group meeting was held, followed by meetings of the Colorado River Basin Salinity

Control Forum (Forum) and Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council (Advisory Council).

Deputy Director Neuwerth provided an update on the status of the Paradox Valley Unit (PVU). PVU was previously turned off due to earthquakes in the vicinity and is now operating at approximately two-thirds capacity. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that starting in March, a swarm of earthquakes occurred near the well. The earthquakes have been small, less than magnitude 2.0, but it is clear from their locations that they are being caused by the pumping of saline brine.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that Reclamation has a relatively low risk tolerance for causing earthquakes in this area and is keeping a very close eye on the pumping. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that we will need to wait and see if the recent earthquakes were an aberration, such that things may have settled down, or if we may see larger earthquakes. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that PVU was shut down in response to a 4.8 magnitude quake. In response to a question from Chairman Hamby, Deputy Director Neuwerth noted that the injection well is 13,000 feet deep. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that the issue is that the injection zone seems to be saturated, and pressure is starting to build. Reclamation is monitoring the pressure at the bottom of the well, but earthquakes can occur without much warning.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the issue at PVU is ongoing, and an alternative to the existing well is being sought. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2020 was utilized to look at PVU alternatives. Reclamation chose the no-action alternative because none of the alternatives were very appealing. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that drilling a new well is very expensive, and evaporation ponds require a big footprint, and the evaporated salt must be properly disposed of. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that there are no great solutions, but that PVU continues to be a priority because it controls a lot of salt. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that the efforts at PVU are measurable, as compared to on-farm efforts where effects can only be estimated. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that it is a priority for California that PVU continues to operate.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that Reclamation issued a Request for Information to determine if local industry was interested in using the brine from Paradox Valley; however, there was limited interest.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the Advisory Council voted to recommend funding several Scientific Investigation Reports (SIRs), to be carried out by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). One of the recommended SIRs is an evaluation of groundwater flows in the Paradox Valley, to determine if some of the brine could potentially be intercepted in a different location so that it wouldn't reach the river.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that there was a hearing recently in the House regarding the Salinity Control Fix legislation. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that the legislation is on separate tracks in the House and in the Senate and may be included in the Farm Bill. The legislation would decrease the nonfederal cost share. Deputy Director Neuwerth explained that the Salinity Control Program is supported by federal and nonfederal cost shares, with the Lower Basin's nonfederal cost share coming from hydropower revenues in the Lower Basin Development Fund. However, hydropower has not been generating enough revenue for the fund to be solvent.

Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that the funding change will not provide a permanent fix as there are quite a few salinity funding issues that need to be addressed. Arizona is currently not paying into the program and the Upper Basin contributes only fifteen percent of the nonfederal cost share. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that there are broader fixes that need to happen, but this is a fix to stop the continued losses, for which there seems to be broad support.

Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that the Forum and Advisory Council will be meeting again in October.

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that Reclamation released a final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP). The SEIS was driven by the expansion of smallmouth bass below Glen Canyon Dam. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that nearly all the humpback chub in the world is located in the Grand Canyon, and when Lake Powell was low, smallmouth bass passed through the turbines and started reproducing below Glen Canyon Dam. The main goal of the modification to the LTEMP is to change the flow of the dam to use the bypass tubes to cool down the water temperature and, theoretically, keep the smallmouth bass from successfully spawning.

Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that the concern is that if smallmouth bass spread, they can threaten the native fish population, which could prompt burdensome restrictions on Glen Canyon Dam operations. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that some of the alternatives proposed for post-2026 include keeping Lake Powell above elevation 3,570' to keep the water temperature cool enough to disadvantage these fish. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that if we cannot control the smallmouth bass downstream, there is going to be a lot of pressure to change Glen Canyon Dam operations in a way that we might not like in order to control nonnative fish.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the hope is to conduct these experiments for a couple years. She stated that it will be relatively expensive, maybe \$30 million per experiment,

with a reduction in hydropower generation at Glen Canyon Dam, but that there is likely only a narrow window in which to prevent establishment of smallmouth bass.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that Reclamation is moving forward fast in the hopes that they can perform these experiments starting this summer. A SEIS Record of Decision is expected shortly.

Member Nelson stated that you could put a lot of fishermen on the river to help catch all of the fish for \$30 million. Deputy Director Neuwerth responded that the program has an incentive for anglers to remove brown trout.

Executive Director Harris noted that nonnative fish are the primary obstacle to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) native fish stocking program. Executive Director Harris stated that the program has stocked hundreds of thousands of native fish into the river and the fish are rarely recontacted, largely due to predation by nonnative fish. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that one of the goals of the LTEMP SEIS is to avoid scenarios where a similar stocking program may be needed to support native fish populations in Grand Canyon.

Executive Director Harris stated that his fear with the Glen Canyon and Grand Canyon reaches is that once the smallmouth bass become established, it will be almost impossible to get rid of them. Deputy Director Neuwerth agreed, stating that in a few years, it may be too late to successfully intervene. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that CRB has been pushing Reclamation to move quickly, and that Reclamation completed the SEIS in less than a year, an impressive feat.

Member Jones asked whether a temperature control device for Glen Canyon Dam had been considered, noting that Reclamation has retrofitted several of its canals with temperature control devices. Deputy Director Neuwerth confirmed that it had been considered, but the infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam would be extremely difficult and expensive to modify. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that Reclamation is continuing to look at temperature control devices, as well as installing a curtain above the dam that could control temperature and prevent fish passage.

MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

Member Pettijohn reported that LADWP is working to retrofit about nine parks in the San Fernando Valley to turn them into stormwater-capture parks, to recharge the San Fernando Valley groundwater basin. Member Pettijohn highlighted Valley Village Park, one of the nine parks. Member Pettijohn stated that Valley Village Park has a tributary area of about 453 acres

and based on calculations can capture on average about 136 AF/year of water, a large amount for a stormwater-capture project. Member Pettijohn stated that a 0.7-acre underground infiltration gallery will be built underneath this park. Member Pettijohn stated that LADWP received a WaterSMART grant that will help with the capital costs of the project. Member Pettijohn reported that LADWP recently received a \$30 WaterSMART grant to modify LADWP's Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant into an advanced water purification facility producing about 22,000 AF/year of indirect potable reuse-quality water. The water will be used to replenish the San Fernando Basin through the Hansen spreading grounds in the San Fernando Valley. Member Pettijohn stated that the project was expected to cost \$750 million, and that LADWP has secured about \$400 million in funding from outside sources for the project, in addition to the recent WaterSMART grant. Member Pettijohn stated that seventy percent of the design for the project is complete. LADWP will start construction in October of this year and the project is expected to begin producing water in early 2028.

Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID)

PVID General Manager Mr. Echard provided an overview of Palo Verde Irrigation District's (PVID) metering process. Mr. Echard explained that PVID staff measure flow in PVID's outfall drain twice a week, using a basket to cross the drain and drop a meter into the water, taking measurements every two feet horizontally and vertically within the channel. Mr. Echard noted that the flow in the outfall drain generally remains steady day-to-day.

Mr. Echard reported that PVID staff use a similar process to measure flow just below PVID's intake from the Palo Verde Diversion Dam, with metering occurring five days a week, Monday through Friday. Mr. Echard noted that flow at the intake changes much more regularly than flow in the outflow drain. Member Fisher added that the outfall drain represents return flow to the main stem of the river from the Palo Verde Irrigation District. For every acre-foot of water diverted by PVID, PVID returns, through the outfall drain, about six-tenths of an acre-foot of water. Member Fisher stated that PVID is quite efficient in its use of water and that the metering measurements are very important.

San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA)

Vice Chairman Madaffer reported about SDCWA's Innovative Citizens Water Academy, noting that it is led by SDCWA's public affairs department and that they just finished their spring session. He further noted that the program started in 2015, that it was designed to increase awareness among civic and community leaders about where San Diego gets its water and how SDCWA manages it, and that about 800 people have participated in the program since it started.

Vice Chairman Madaffer reported that SDCWA's "Thanks for Planting Me!" program, which was started in 2023, received an Excellence in Public Information and Communications (EPIC) award from the California Association of Public Information Officials.

Vice Chairman Madaffer reported that SDCWA just started a project to upgrade their historic First Aqueduct, which connects San Diego to the Colorado River Aqueduct. He provided a brief history of the aqueduct, noting that it was constructed in the early 1940s, starting with a push from the federal government to bring imported water to San Diego to support the region's role in WWII. Vice Chairman Madaffer noted that in August the Board will tour San Vicente Dam, the terminus for the First Aqueduct. Vice Chairman Madaffer also noted that today eleven of SDCWA's twenty-three member agencies are served by that First Aqueduct. He further noted that the aqueduct renovation project will be ongoing through 2026, that it is probably one of the most extensive renovation efforts in SDCWA's eighty-year history, and that the investment in infrastructure is very important for SDCWA to avoid major pipeline damage.

Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

IID Water Manager Ms. Tina Shields reported that through May, IID has saved a total of 7.7 million acre-feet of water under the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA). Ms. Shields reported that IID has met all its conservation efforts this year, conserving in excess of half a million acre-feet of water.

Ms. Shields reported that in 2023, IID added 106,000 acre-feet of water to Lake Mead as part of the SEIS Lower Basin Plan, and that IID will contribute more to the coming years, once IID and Reclamation complete the contracting process for the 2024-2026 conservation program.

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)

Member Nelson showed a video of CVWD's Mid-Canal Storage Project and described the project, first noting that the Coachella Canal is completely lined from Drop 2 through CVWD as a result of the QSA. He noted that a 4.9-mile section of the lined canal goes through an impermeable clay section of the ground, where the ground regularly swells and shrinks due to changes in soil moisture. He indicated that CVWD has had many lining panels popping off and cracking in this section of the canal as a result. Member Nelson then explained that CVWD has spent four million dollars repairing these panels, and that they are jointly managed by CVWD, SDCWA, and the San Luis Rey River Indian Water Authority.

Member Nelson continued, explaining that because of these expenses, the managing agencies decided to put the water back into the original canal, make improvements to the lined section, and use it to increase storage. He noted that this storage operates much like Brock Reservoir for storing excess deliveries, and that drawing down water from the new storage has

no adverse effects on the panels. Member Nelson finally noted that the project will store about 728 Aft of water, and that they just completed it with a 7.5-million-dollar loan from Reclamation that will be paid back by the three managing agencies.

California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Member Jones showed several numbers related to DWR monitoring and data networks, including stream/staff gauges, groundwater wells, water quality stations, snow courses/sensors, and weather stations. She noted that California Senate Bill 19 directs DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board to prioritize stream gauge sites and identify new gauges. She indicated that there are currently about 1,000 stream or staff gauges in California that publicly report data, further noting that DWR owns or funds USGS to operate 250 of those.

Member Jones also highlighted the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS), DWR's network of weather stations, and that it generates data for both landscape and crop irrigation purposes. She indicated that CIMIS is very widely used and that some of the largest users are private companies that pull data from CIMIS and then turn that data into web applications that they sell to people, such as growers. She noted that if a farmer calls up an irrigation schedule on their phone, it is very likely the data supporting that is the evapotranspiration data from CIMIS. Member Jones also noted that DWR has satellite-based information, such as the land-subsidence monitoring data through interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) or the work DWR is starting with OpenET, whereby DWR purchases data and shares it with the public.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Member Vigil reported that CDFW's local Colorado River program staff have installed another wildlife drinker under the Water for Wildlife Drinker Enhancement grant. The program aims to replace small-game drinkers with big-game drinkers suitable for all wildlife. The newest installation, designated RB20, is located in the desert and is the third installation out of a planned total of eighteen. Member Vigil also mentioned that the grant is nearing its expiration. As a result, CDFW plans to request a no-cost time extension. The extension is necessary due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the related stay-at-home orders, which temporarily suspended operations. The grant had previously been extended to allow an additional three years for project completion.

Member Vigil then reported on Palo Verde Ecological Reserve (PVER) Expansion #5, the Gabrych property, noting that CDFW toured the property. At its May 23rd meeting, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) approved funding for the property acquisition. Member Vigil explained the breakdown of funding, with WCB to contribute eight million dollars, DWR two

million dollars, and the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCRMSCP) 25.5 million dollars for the 1,931-acre conservation area to be made available to the LCRMSCP.

Lastly, Member Vigil reported that CDFW's science institute has increased its interest in PVER and that they therefore put a Sentinel Site Network camera trap there and photographed mountain lion on May 19th. Member Vigil also noted that CDFW has been conducting some public outreach and posting signs in PVER to increase awareness and let people know that there are mountain lions in the area.

Member Nelson asked if the PVER Expansion #5 is a completed deal. Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the expansion is close to being finalized. The funds have been approved, but the official title transfer agreement has not yet been signed. She noted that the signing option remains valid through June. Mr. Vanderhorst, with MWD, noted that by his understanding the escrow closing date is July 5th, and that it is hoped that the state funding would be available by then. Executive Director Harris commented that this transfer is critical for post-2026 mitigation needs for California, helping California and the LCR MSCP meet its California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) obligations post-2026.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)

Member Cordero reported that two weeks ago, MWD was able to host Reclamation Commissioner Touton, where the Commissioner announced new federal funding for large scale water recycling projects, including 99 million dollars for Pure Water in Southern California. She noted that LADWP, the City of Ventura, and the Washington County Water Conservation District in Utah will also receive funding. She expressed appreciation for the funding. Member Cordero also noted others in attendance, including Congressman Napolitano, Congressman Barragan, State Water Resources Control Board Chair Esquivel, and representatives from the Central Arizona Project and the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Member Cordero reported that MWD Board Chair Ortega and General Manager Hagekhalil led a coalition of water, labor, business, and community-based organizations at a meeting in Sacramento with California state legislators and Governor Newsom administrative officials, where they advocated for funding for water infrastructure.

Member Cordero reported that MWD General Manager Hagekhalil recently testified before the U.S. Budget Committee in a hearing entitled "Drought, Dollars and Decisions", which focused on water scarcity in a changing climate.

Member Cordero reported that she was able to join MWD's board chair, a board member, and staff on a tour of the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) area. She noted that it was interesting to be there with Amelia Flores, CRIT's chair, to discuss additional possibilities for partnerships.

Member Cordero concluded by reporting that MWD has received several awards over the past month or so. One was from the United States Society on Dams, which highlighted MWD's accomplishments on public safety and emergency planning. Another was an EPIC award for MWD's Pure Water facility, which, she noted, was renamed Grace Napolitano.

Chairman Hamby commented on the member agency reports this month were diverse in showing the innovation and scale of what California does for water conservation including urban, agriculture, and environmental efforts. He suggested using CRWUA as the platform to communicate the California story.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River Operations

Executive Director Harris reported that a final Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for 2024 was awaiting final approvals. The report was significantly delayed this year because Reclamation was waiting for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Record of Decision (ROD) to be released, which would then allow for reduced releases from Glen Canyon Dam if necessary to protect elevation 3,500' in Lake Powell. Executive Director Harris reported that the AOP also includes actions under the newly signed Minute 330 between the United States and Mexico, and that Minute 330 will bring an additional 400,000 acre-feet of water into Lake Mead between now and 2026.

Executive Director Harris reported that the first consultation for the 2025 AOP was held the day prior, and a draft 2025 AOP is now available on Reclamation's website. Executive Director Harris reported that 2025 is projected to be very similar to 2024, with a 7.48 MAF release from Lake Powell and a Tier 1 shortage condition in Lake Mead.

Updated Consumptive Users and Losses Reports

Executive Director Harris reported that Reclamation has begun releasing new and updated Consumptive Uses and Losses reports, which provide data on basin-wide mainstream, and tributaries' uses. The last basin-wide Consumptive Uses and Losses report was issued in 2005. Executive Director Harris noted that Reclamation is implementing a more consistent methodology for calculating use across the Basin. Updated Lower Basin uses from 1971-2005 are now available on Reclamation's website, including interesting and interactive visualizations. Executive Director Harris noted that Reclamation is also evaluating the feasibility of calculating estimated natural flow for the Gila River and its contribution to the mainstream.

Post-2026 Process Update

Executive Director Harris reported that the Lower Basin principals continue to refine and develop additional details for the Lower Basin Alternative that was submitted to Reclamation in March, to be modeled in Reclamation's post-2026 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. Executive Director Harris noted that much of the remaining work is related to development of a storage and recovery program, similar to the Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) program under the 2007 Guidelines, and how to transition existing conserved water supplies to this new program. Executive Director Harris stated that California's priority is to maximize flexibility for its water users in the creation and use of conserved water supplies.

Washington, D.C. Report

Executive Director Harris reported that a thorough write-up on Washington D.C. updates was included in the June Executive Director's report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Hamby noted that a turf bill is being discussed in D.C., with staffers from Senator Hickenlooper reaching out to Senator Padilla's office on a potential bill that would authorize millions of dollars in funding for turf removal as part of the WaterSMART grants program.

Chairman Hamby thanked Member Cordero for an invitation to speak at the San Gabriel Valley Water Association, which includes various private and public water agencies in the San Gabriel area. Chairman Hamby also reported that he had joined the other Commissioners at a panel at the Getches-Wilkinson Center conference in Boulder the previous week. Chairman Hamby noted that Upper Basin seems to be striking a less aggressive tone in recent meetings and discussions. He stated that discussions with the Upper Basin and the Lower Basin would continue over the summer.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hamby adjourned the meeting at 12:24 p.m.