

MINUTES OF MEETING
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, December 4, 2024

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (CRB or Board) was held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, Champagne I Room at Paris Las Vegas, 3655 S Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89109.

Board Members and Alternates Present:

Gloria Cordero (MWD)
Gina Dockstader (IID Alternate)
Dana B. Fisher, Jr. (PVID)
John B. Hamby, Chairman (IID)

Jim Madaffer, Vice Chairman (SDCWA)
Peter Nelson (CVWD)
David R. Pettijohn (LADWP)
Brad Robinson (PVID Alternate)

Board Members and Alternates Absent:

Michael Camacho (MWD Alternate)
Castulo Estrada (CVWD Alternate)
Christopher Hayes (DFW Designee)
Eric Heidemann (SDCWA Alternate)
Jordan Joaquin (Public Member)

Jeanine Jones (DWR Designee)
Delon Kwan (LADWP Alternate)
Frank Ruiz (Public Member)
David Vigil (DFW Alternate Designee)

Others Present:

Steve Abbott
Tracy Abundez
Desi Alvarez
Jessica Arm
Jamie Asbury
Nick Bahr
Don Barnett
Eric Bay
Anthony Bianco
J. Paul Blake
Vikki Dee Bradshaw
Venessa Brown

Russell Callejo
Sean Carlson
Clint Carney
Robert Cheng
Michael Cohen
Austin Corona
Jeremy Crutchfield
Dennis Davis
Robert Davis
Dan Denham
JR Echard
David Edwards

Karin Sol Eugenio
Ray Face
Jim Flint
Justina Gamboa-Arce
Victor Gardner
Gregg Garnett
Alyson Gould
Gary Gould
Krista Guerrero
Alex Hager
Alan Halaly
Mark Hartney
Matt Harmon
Alex Heide
Frank Hilliker
Steve Hirai
Joanna Hoff
Geoff Holbrook
Ned Hyduke
Destiny Johnson
Genevieve Johnson
David de Jesus
Steve Kasower
Eric Katz
Mel Katz
Rebecca Kimitch
Kyle Kramer
Eric Kuhn
Cynthia Kurtz
Joanne Yen Le
Mila Lee
Geneva Lofton
Andrew Madrigal
May Martin
Bo Mazzetti
Aaron Mead
Bryce McAteer
Tana McCoy
Gloria McGee
Dan McMillan

Brian McNeece
Marty Miller
Kim Mitchell
Bob Muir
Terry Murphy
Keylee Nelson
Jessica Neuwerth
Mark Olalde
Adan Ortega
Michael Pacheco
Cole Pihl
Jessica Pope
Mojgan Poursadighi
John Powell
Meggan Quarles
Joshua Randall
Shana Rapoport
David Rheinheimer
Kaitlyn Richard
Alex Rodriguez
Jason Rollo
Shanti Rosset
Eric Ruckdaschel
Brian Sadler
Noe Santos
Nick Serrano
Carrie Scott
Alexi Schnell
Abby Schneider
Tina Shields
Matt Smelser
Jeniffer Solis
Marisol Solis
Sally Spener
Meghan Thiemann
Jacqueline Tinetti
Sanjiv Thompson
Tanya Trujillo
Sara Tucker
Camille Touton

Deven Upadhyay
Joseph Vanderhorst
Frank Venegas
Jay Weiner
Meena Westford
Doug Wilson
Richard Williamson
Ben Winslow
Jennifer Yachnin
Stephanie Zehren
Jerry Zimmerman
Jo Zimmerman
Dee Zinke

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hamby announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:38 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.

RECOGNITION OF BUREAU OF RECLAMATION COMMISSIONER CAMILLE TOUTE

Consideration and Approval of Board Resolution Honoring Ms. Camille Touton for her Services as Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner

Chairman Hamby called Commissioner Camille Touton and stated that the Board would like to adopt a resolution to honor Commissioner Touton's services.

Acting Executive Director Neuwerth read the resolution to the Board and stated that Ms. Camille Touton was confirmed as Reclamation's 24th Commissioner in 2021, the most recent chapter in a career dedicated to public service that has stretched across multiple administrations. Acting Executive Director Neuwerth stated that Ms. Touton provided steady leadership as Commissioner during a period of exceptional upheaval across the Colorado River Basin, throughout which Ms. Touton took swift, confident action to protect critical Colorado River reservoir elevations through historic drought and the effects of climate change. Acting Executive Director Neuwerth stated that under Ms. Touton's guidance, an unprecedented partnership was established between the Bureau of Reclamation and the State of California in the management of the Salton Sea, including a historic investment of 250 million dollars in federal funding to support restoration of the sea, resulting in the acceleration and expansion of the Species Conservation Habitat, the sea's largest restoration project. Acting Executive Director Neuwerth stated that Ms. Touton championed the rapid and deliberative deployment of federal funding to implement conservation across the basin at a scale never before seen, enabling California to pursue conservation projects across every sector, which will generate more than 1.6-million-acre feet as part of the Lower Basin plan to add up to 3-million-acre feet to the Colorado system through 2026. Acting Executive Director Neuwerth stated that the Colorado River Board of California recognizes the honors of the many contributions of Ms. Camille Touton to the Colorado River Basin and the State of California during her tenure as Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner and wishes her all the best in her future endeavors.

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

Remarks from Board and California Agencies

Chairman Hamby stated that our individual agencies would like to make comments and presentations in honor of Commissioner Touton.

Member Nelson asked Robert Cheng, Assistant General Manager of the Coachella Valley Water District, to join him on the stage to honor Commissioner Touton. Member Nelson stated that Ms. Camille Touton was an incredible Commissioner and that CVWD had benefited greatly with long term loans to improve CVWD's operation capability. Mr. Cheng spoke of recognizing and thanking the Commissioner's service. Member Nelson presented a memento from CVWD.

Alex Cardenas, Chair of the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) Board, appreciated Commissioner Touton's leadership on behalf of 1,450 IID employees, 460,000 acres of farmland, and the Salton Sea. Mr. Cardenas highlighted the \$250 million dollars of federal funding for the Salton Sea to restore habitat and address public health. Mr. Cardenas stated that IID was grateful for Commissioner Touton's leadership that allowed IID to build elevation in Lake Mead and still preserve \$2.6 billion agriculture economy. Mr. Cardenas stated that one out of every six jobs in the Imperial Valley is agriculture related. Member Dockstader praised Commissioner Touton's leadership and presented IID's resolution. Mr. Cardenas presented Commissioner Touton with an IID gate bar.

Vice Chairman Madaffer welcomed staff from the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA): Nick Serrano, Chairman of SDCWA; Frank Hilliker, Vice Chair of SDCWA; Mel Katz, Board member of SDCWA; and Dan Denham, General Manager of SDCWA. Vice Chairman Madaffer thanked Commissioner Tuton for her support and service through a challenging period of drought and a changing climate. Vice Chairman Madaffer presented Commissioner Touton with a photo of the San Vicente Dam, which stores a lot of Colorado River water.

Member Fisher stated his appreciation for Commissioner Tuton and her staff. JR Echart, General Manager of Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID), spoke on behalf of PVID and presented PVID's resolution to Commissioner Tuton.

Member Cordero spoke on behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and thanked Commissioner Tuton for her extraordinary leadership through the worst drought in recorded history. Member Cordero welcomed Adan Ortega, Chair of MWD, and staff and presented a resolution and a gift to Commissioner Tuton.

Chairman Hamby followed up with additional recognition and thanked Commissioner Tuton for her service. All agencies staff and CRB staff took group photos with Commissioner Tuton.

Remarks from Commissioner Touton

Chairman Hamby invited Commissioner Tuton for remarks.

Commissioner Tuton expressed her gratitude for the partnerships formed during her time as Reclamation Commissioner. Commissioner Tuton stated that she was the only Commissioner whose entire tenure occurred in a shortage on the Colorado River. She thanked the Bureau of Reclamation and the team for all of their hard work. Commissioner Tuton stated that California has been an incredible partner for the Bureau of Reclamation and the conservation that California was contributing to the river was unprecedented.

OUR PIECE OF THE PUZZLE: CALIFORNIA CONSERVES 1.2 MAF

Acting Executive Director Neuwerth reported that in 2023 and 2024, California conserved approximately 1.2 MAF of water. California's Colorado River apportionment supports about 19 million people, half of the Colorado River Basin's population, as well as 600,000 acres of prime agricultural land, providing about \$2 trillion in economic output. Acting Executive Director Neuwerth reported that in October 2022, California committed to creating 1.6 MAF of conserved water by 2026. This commitment was integral to the Lower Basin Plan, which was finalized in 2023.

Acting Executive Director Neuwerth reported that through the Lower Basin Plan, Arizona, California, and Nevada agreed to create 3 MAF of conserved water to leave in Lake Mead through 2026, in addition to the existing commitments through the 2007 Interim Guidelines and Drought Contingency Plan. Mexico agreed to create 400,000 AF during the same time period, for a total commitment to save 3.4 MAF in Lake Mead over just four years.

Acting Executive Director Neuwerth noted that to live within its basic entitlement, California has a series of programs and transfers that move water within the state, which involve nearly all of the state's water users. To meet its goal of creating 1.6 MAF, California has reallocated some of the existing water transfers and added new large-scale transfers. Acting Executive Director Neuwerth reported that system conservation contracts have been executed by CVWD, Quechan Indian Tribe, Bard Water District in partnership with MWD, PVID in partnership with MWD, and IID.

Acting Executive Director Neuwerth also noted that California has created significant volumes of uncompensated conservation. In 2023, MWD left nearly 500,000 AF in Lake Mead,

and is on track to leave approximately 60,000 AF in Lake Mead in 2024. Acting Executive Director Neuwerth reported that through compensated and uncompensated conservation, California has met 1.2 MAF of its 1.6 MAF goal in just two years.

MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)

Member Cordero remarked on the achievements of the other agencies, noting that each agency has done its parts to save water, while working well together. She reported that MWD has contributed more than 500,000 AF of water to Lake Mead over the past two years. She noted that significant investments have been made in conservation and building local supplies. She explained that since 1990, MWD has invested \$1.6 billion in water conservation and local resource programs. She stated that the per person potable water use in Southern California has declined more than 45% over the last three decades, reaching its lowest level this year.

Member Cordero reported that in 2024, MWD continued its efforts to reduce outdoor water use through its turf replacement program, which provides a cash rebate to swap out grass for more water efficient landscaping. She stated that MWD has added an additional dollar to the program's base incentive rebate, which increases the rebate to \$4 per square foot. She stated that increased incentives are helping businesses and agencies comply with California's new law prohibiting businesses from using potable water to irrigate nonfunctional turf. She noted that MWD also has a \$100 rebate program for each tree that residents and businesses plant as part of its turf replacement program, adding that the program replaced more than 220 million square feet of grass with sustainable landscaping.

Member Cordero reported that in 2024, MWD continues to advance its Pure Water Southern California project to recycle cleaned wastewater and produce up to 155,000 AF of purified water every year. She stated that the program received a \$99.2 million federal grant in May and an additional \$26.2 million federal grant in November. She reported that MWD made a \$250 million commitment this year to fund four new local supply projects that focus on recycling, desalination and groundwater replenishment. She stated that the projects produce nearly 35,000 AF a year.

Member Cordero stated that MWD's investments are making a big difference on its reliance on the Colorado River. She stated that because of low demands, MWD did not need the water it regularly produces through a program with its agriculture partners, the Palo Verde Irrigation District, Bard Water District, and the Quechan Tribe. She stated that the water conserved was credited to the Colorado River system for the second consecutive year. She stated that low demands also allowed MWD to add more water to its ICS account in Lake Mead, stating

that an additional 60,000 AF was added this year on top of the 475,000 AF that was added in 2023. She stated that altogether, more than two-thirds of California's contributions that are being celebrated came directly from MWD and its programs.

Member Cordero stated that last fiscal year, MWD invested \$45 million in conservation programs, and this year MWD will invest \$55 million. She added that MWD hopes to partner with the federal government to further expand its turf replacement program with Bucket 2 funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and it is anticipating important progress on the Pure Water facility next year. She stated that MWD staff is in the process of drafting the project's Environmental Impact Report and expects that it will be available to the public next year. She stated that the first delivery of water is expected as early as 2033.

Member Cordero concluded that MWD will continue investing in opportunities that maintain or lower demand on the Colorado River for the immediate term and that it is trying to produce sustainable, long-term water savings. She added that MWD will also continue to find partners across Southern California and across the State.

Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Tina Shields, Water Manager of IID, recounted IID's accomplishments and its importance to California's farming industry. She reported that IID delivered 2.3 MAF of Colorado to industrial and agricultural and rural communities in 2024. She reported that Colorado River supports a \$3 billion agricultural industry and a local economy of \$5 billion. She stated that one in every six jobs in the Imperial Valley are directly related to agriculture, and with the multiplier effect, accounts for about 20,000 jobs. She reported that IID has been submitting applications for grants and supplemental funding to continue to improve and upgrade its system. She stated that through Reclamation, IID has been able to obtain funding from the Water Conservation Field Services program to start a pilot metering program for long-term metering of all of IID's water delivery dates. She stated that IID also received WaterSMART funding to fund a large reservoir that will store about 2,000 AF of water coming into the system. She added that IID has also received grant funding from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for agricultural producers to upgrade their systems and support conservation efforts, as well as fund flexibility through additional reservoirs.

Ms. Shields reported that IID conserves in excess of 660,000 AF annually, which was generated through system improvements and canal lining projects. She explained that the MWD water transfer agreement was developed from system improvements and conservation. She stated that for the water transfers to San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) were possible through IID implementing additional efficiencies. She stated that since the 2003 QSA was implemented, IID conservation efforts have exceeded 8.4 MAF.

Ms. Shields reported that IID's on-farm efficiency conservation program, started in 2014, funds field-level conservation improvements for growers. She stated that the program allows growers to use their water more efficiently. She stated that last year, conservation exceeded 215,000 AF solely from on-farm field and grower participation. She noted that current participation is down because IID is implementing a new program with federal funding of the System Conservation Implementation Agreement.

Ms. Shields reported that the 2024 deficit irrigation program did well and IID looks forward to implementing the program in 2025. She added that IID had to do a lot of work to get the environmental coverage and necessary NEPA and CEQA compliance to get the program started. She reported that on August 12, 2024, the IID Board approved the environmental application and permits necessary to implement the program, as well as the 2024 to 2026 Federal Conservation Agreement that funds these programs. She added that for the 2024 program, IID had to lock 1,800 irrigation gates for 60 days, noting that the growers complied and did not use water that they were supposed to. She stated that the next deficit irrigation program only encompassed 49 days because the program started late. She stated that the program included 154,000 acres of land with fields producing alfalfa, Bermuda and Klein grass. She reported that the program occurred during the summer months which are hot and have lower yields and 172,000 AF of water was saved. She noted that the water savings created were better than a full year of fallowing. She added that IID's conservation efforts will ramp up as it tries to fulfill the remaining obligations of the federal conservation agreement, adding that IID's total cumulative conservation is expected to exceed 9 MAF over the next two years. She stated that \$250 million in federal funding was secured by IID for the California Natural Resources Agency's Salton Sea Management Plan from Reclamation as a precondition for additional conservation associated with 2023-2026 System Conservation Implementation Agreements. She stated that the funding provides for the expansion of the Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat of 4,100 acres by an additional 750 acres.

Ms. Shields reported that the burrowing owl is a candidate for endangered species protections under the California Endangered Species Act. She explained that this will create a challenge as the owls live throughout their service area. She stated that IID will work to convince the State that the owl's presence in the Imperial County should not limit IID's conservation and farming activities, which are very supportive of the owl.

San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA)

Vice Chairman Madaffer recognized Member Heidemann.

Member Heidemann thanked the leadership that he has seen over the last twelve months for working tirelessly for the State of California.

Member Heidemann introduced Board members and staff from the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA): Nick Serrano, Board Chair; Frank Hilliker, Board Vice Chair; Mel Katz, Board Member and Past Chair; Marty Miller, Board Member; Dan McMillan, Board Member; Joel Scalzitti, Board Member; Dan Denham, General Manager; Jaymie Bradford, Assistant General Manager; David Edwards, our General Counsel; Meena Westford, Director of Strategic Initiatives; Mike Lee, Director of Public Affairs; Jeremy Crutchfield, Water Resources Manager; Meggan Quarles, Government Relations Manager; Mojgan Poursadighi; and Dennis Davis, Water Resource Specialist.

Vice Chairman Madaffer spoke about the partnerships among the California water agencies, the Quechan Tribe, and Reclamation that have made it possible to stabilize the river.

Vice Chairman Madaffer discussed the water portfolio in the San Diego region. Vice Chairman Madaffer discussed the Carlsbad Desalination Plant, which helps minimize the region's vulnerability to drought while reducing demands on the river. Vice Chairman Madaffer stated that in 2015, the SDCWA made a strategic investment to create that plant, which generates about 56,000 acre feet of drought-proof water to augment the SDCWA's portfolio well into the future.

Vice Chairman Madaffer stated that the plant could also help others achieve water reliability and serve as a tool to benefit the river. Vice Chairman Madaffer invited Arizona and Nevada to reach out if they want to buy desalinated water.

Vice Chairman Madaffer stated that the SDCWA approved an MOU earlier this year with the Moulton Niguel Water District to explore the potential transfer of some of the desalinated water as well. Vice Chairman Madaffer stated that SDCWA and Moulton Niguel Water District are in the middle of a three-year window during which the two agencies will discuss the potential transfer of supplies to Moulton Niguel Water District to support their efforts at creating water supply reliability.

Vice Chairman Madaffer stated that the SDCWA has also developed and invested in a suite of water use efficiency programs with partners, including the Metropolitan Water District, as well as offering major rebates for replacing unused lawns, lower water landscapes, high efficiency clothes washers and toilets, and water-saving irrigation systems, just to name a few.

Vice Chairman Madaffer stated that the SDCWA provides free resources, including landscape workshops offered both in person and virtually through its Water Smart Landscape Makeover Program.

Vice Chairman Madaffer stated that cumulatively, these actions have probably conserved more than a million acre feet of water in the San Diego region since 1990 and that regional water use is down by fifty percent over the last thirty years. Vice Chairman Madaffer stated that this all

underscores that conservation through water-smart living has become a way of life for San Diego County residents.

Vice Chairman Madaffer showed a slide that highlighted the work that the SDCWA's member agencies are doing in implementing projects that will provide new local water supplies, including the Sweetwater Brackish Groundwater Recovery Facility, Pure Water Oceanside, Escondido's Membrane Filtration Reverse Osmosis Facility, Pure Water San Diego, and the East County Advanced Water Purification System.

Vice Chairman Madaffer stated that the SDCWA is looking forward to more of these projects coming online, not only as a benefit to the San Diego region, but as an example of the kind of innovative, proactive actions that will help make the Colorado River more resilient by reducing demands.

Vice Chairman Madaffer thanked CRB for its partnership and the opportunity to provide the report.

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)

Member Nelson stated his appreciation for being part of the Colorado River Board of California.

Member Nelson introduced Directors from the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD): Anthony Bianco and Castulo Estrada. Member Nelson stated that the Directors are serving actively in the community to advance water stewardship and conservation in the Coachella Valley.

Member Nelson showed a slide with pictures of CVWD's conservation Bucket 1 Projects. Member Nelson stated that CVWD started leaving water in Lake Mead in 2022 under the 500+ Plan with just over 9,000 acre feet saved, and then moved on to a 2023 to 2025 program with 35,000 acre feet per year of replenishment facilities curtailment.

Member Nelson explained that the Coachella Valley receives Colorado River water and puts it into a banking project, infiltrates it through the ground, and then growers pump out of the groundwater basin in order to meet their crop demand needs. Member Nelson stated that CVWD has curtailed that program and is using previously stored water as well as a native aquifer to meet the demands of the crops. This enables CVWD to store water behind Lake Mead during this critically dry period of time to help to avoid critical lake levels at Lake Mead and Lake Powell.

Member Nelson stated that another CVWD Bucket 1 program is the Colorado River Agricultural Fallowing Programs. From 2024 to 2026 CVWD is enrolling growers to curtail water use through fallowing. Board Member Nelson stated that the program has had somewhat limited

success, but CVWD is continuing to press forward and is exploring a one-year extension on replenishment facilities curtailment to make up for some of the shortfall.

Member Nelson showed a slide with pictures of conservation in CVWD's Bucket 2 programs. The WRP 4 Project, which stands for Water Reclamation Plant, is in the middle of the Coachella Valley. The plant currently utilizes secondary treatment. Through a Bucket 2 conservation program contract with Reclamation, CVWD has completed negotiations and next week its Board will vote on adding tertiary treatment in order to serve water to the agricultural community in place of Colorado River water. Member Nelson stated that more than 30,000 acre feet of water could be stored behind Lake Mead as the project is developed.

Member Nelson discussed the water reliability project, which is almost finished. Member Nelson explained that through the project CVWD is taking some growers off of the Colorado River water that it replenishes in the ground and, as a source substitution, is providing the growers with Colorado River surface water. Member Nelsons stated that this avoids cost and losses in the system and is good for both the district and the river.

Member Nelson discussed the Mid-Canal Storage Project, a partnership between the SDCWA and the San Luis Band of Indians, which has received a low interest loan through Reclamation. Member Nelson stated that through the project CVWD has taken out problem-prone concrete paneling and running the water through part of the old canal. The 728 acre feet storage facility is providing operational flexibility and reducing excess flows to Mexico in wet times.

Member Nelson stated that the CVWD Board has approved participation in the Delta Conveyance Project, which would add flexibility and reliability from the State Water Project from the north in order to help manage Colorado River water supplies that come to the valley. Member Nelson reported that CVWD has dedicated a little over \$11 million to the project.

Member Nelson discussed the chromium 6 water quality issue in Coachella Valley. The State of California recently reduced the maximum contaminant level from 100 µg/L down to 10 µg/L. CVWD has a project on tap of \$550 million dollars to address the issue. Member Nelson added that CVWD is currently performing studies on alternative methodologies utilizing stannous chloride to potentially reduce the need for the \$550 million investment that the state is requiring.

Member Nelson reported that CVWD has received \$100 million in grants for affordable water and reliable sewer services in eastern Coachella Valley, which is comprised of disadvantaged communities.

Member Nelson reported that the CVWD Board supported Proposition 4 in the State of California. This proposition is allowing for funds to be expended for safe drinking water and for

Salton Sea projects. Member Nelson stated that he believes that \$170 million will go to the Salton Sea and support the state's obligation to mitigate dust in the area.

Member Nelson stated that CVWD has had a successful year and is proud to be partners and collaborators with all of CRB to store water behind Lake Mead and to effectively manage the river.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

Member Pettijohn commented that Los Angeles has a long history of conservation, noting that the City of Los Angeles has increased in population by 1 million people in the past 50 years while using less water during that period.

Member Pettijohn reported on several projects LADWP has been working on in 2024. First, he noted the Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) Pilot Project, stating that it will come online in January 2025 and that it is one of California's first DPR facilities. He summarized the project, indicating that it is a demonstration research project that will provide insight into the full-scale DPR project planned at LADWP's largest wastewater treatment facility, the Hyperion Water Treatment Plant.

Second, Member Pettijohn reported on LADWP's Groundwater Replenishment Project, noting that it will break ground this month (December). He reported that it will be one of the largest such projects in the state, cost \$740 million, produce 25 million gallons per day, and provide water to about 250,000 people in Los Angeles.

Finally, Member Pettijohn reported on customer filling stations that LADWP has around the City of Los Angeles to provide free recycled water for its customers. He noted that this program started in fall 2024 and that about 1,000 customers have used this service.

Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID)

PVID General Manager J.R. Echard summarized PVID's conservation activities in the past few years. Mr. Echard described a joint proposal between PVID and MWD for voluntary participation in Reclamation's Colorado Conservation and Efficiency Program to replace PVID's activities under the 500+ Plan, noting that it was approved on December 20th, 2023. Mr. Echard noted that this agreement was to increase system conservation from August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2026, and result in fallowing 25,947 acres of farmland. He noted that the agreement conserved 71,507 acre-feet in 2023 and that it is estimated to conserve 117,021 acre-feet in 2024, 117,021 acre-feet in 2025, and 79,830 acre-feet in 2026, for an estimated total of 385,379 acre-feet of water conserved. He noted that this is about 28% of PVID's average water use before fallowing. He further noted that if you include the 52,921 acre feet conserved from the 500+ Plan

in 2022, the total from 2022 through 2026 is estimated to be 438,300 acre feet that will stay in Lake Mead.

Mr. Echard also reported that PVID submitted a proposal for the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Bucket 2 funds for regulating reservoirs and on-farm conservation, noting that it was not approved but that they are continuing to try to find other partners for Bucket 2 proposals.

Bard Water District and Quechan Indian Tribe

Quechan Indian Tribe Water Technician Mr. Frank Venegas and Bard Water District (Bard) General Manager Nick Bahr presented via pre-recorded video on recent and ongoing water projects in the Quechan/Bard area.

Mr. Venegas noted that the Quechan Tribe is serviced by Bard and that they have been working together to make improvements to the water system.

Mr. Bahr commented on the rebuilding of Bard's five-gate structure, including increasing its capacity from about 160 cfs to 190 cfs. He also noted lining Bard's Mojave Canal to both decrease operations and maintenance costs and to increase capacity. Mr. Bahr noted that these improvements are to increase water supply reliability to tribal ranches that have been withdrawing directly from the Colorado River, which may not be as reliable in the future.

Mr. Venegas reported on the installation of new flow monitoring devices in the Bard system for both monitoring and helping control flow through gates. Mr. Venegas closed by noting the value of the Quechan-Bard partnership for longer term water system planning.

ADMINISTRATION

Chairman Hamby recognized Ms. Tanya Trujillo, former Executive Director of Colorado River Board of California.

Consideration and Approval of 2025 Board Meeting Schedule

Chairman Hamby presented the 2025 board meeting schedule and selected an option.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hamby adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.