



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

October 2, 2024

Mr. Jeremy Dodds
Group Manager, Water Accounting and Verification
Lower Colorado Regional Office
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
jdodds@usbr.gov

Dear Mr. Dodds:

Estimates of Metropolitan Monthly Diversions for Calendar Year 2025

This letter provides information on The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (Metropolitan): (1) best estimates of monthly diversion requirements for calendar year 2025, and (2) completion of a questionnaire as part of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) consultations under Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 417. This letter also addresses Metropolitan's proposed Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) plan for 2025.

Estimate of Metropolitan Diversions for Calendar Year 2025

Metropolitan's initial estimate of its diversions for calendar year 2025 totals 947,143 acre-feet (AF). Metropolitan's estimate of its available supply during the year and a projected monthly diversion schedule is tabulated in Enclosure 1, which also contains the details behind a number of components of Metropolitan's estimate of available supply.

Estimated available supply is based on a Shortage Condition determination and projected use of water by holders of present perfected rights and priorities 1 through 3 in California. Metropolitan has the capability to divert and beneficially use more than 1.25 million acre-feet in calendar year 2025 and may alter its current operational plans to augment its initial supply estimate. Metropolitan also plans to divert any unused California apportionment not incorporated in the tabulation of Enclosure 1 that becomes available during the year. However, Metropolitan has agreed to forbear a number of its programs under various System Conservation Implementation Agreements (SCIAs). These include the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) Groundwater Recharge SCIA, the CVWD Agricultural SCIA, the Palo Verde Irrigation District/Metropolitan SCIA, the Bard Water District/Metropolitan SCIA, the Quechan SCIA, and the Imperial Irrigation District SCIA.

Metropolitan submitted a plan to create up to 450,000 AF of Extraordinary Conservation ICS in calendar year 2025. As the calendar year progresses, Metropolitan may decide to create this ICS,

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or find it necessary to divert additional Colorado River water, including some of the water stored in Metropolitan's Lake Mead ICS account.

Part 417 Consultation Questionnaire

Metropolitan's responses to the Part 417 Consultation Questionnaire are contained in Enclosure 2.

If you have any questions regarding Metropolitan's estimate of diversions or the Part 417 Consultation Questionnaire responses, please contact Tom Ryan at tryan@mwdh2o.com.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Goshi'.

Brandon J. Goshi
Interim Manager, Water Resource Management

LYL:vsm

Enclosures (2)

cc: Ms. Alexi Schnell
Director of the Colorado River Program
San Diego County Water Authority
aschnell@sdewa.org

**Metropolitan's Initial Estimate of Diversions from the Colorado River for
Calendar Year 2025**

Water Budget Item	Amount (acre-feet)
Priority 4	550,000
Imperial Irrigation District (IID) - Metropolitan Water Conservation Program	105,000
Coachella Canal Lining Project (Metropolitan Exchange with San Diego County Water Authority [SDCWA])	21,500
Coachella Canal Lining Project (2003 Allocation Agreement)	4,500
All-American Canal Lining Project (Metropolitan Exchange with SDCWA)	56,200
All-American Canal Lining Project (Metropolitan Exchange with USBR)	11,500
IID Transfer to SDCWA (Metropolitan Exchange with SDCWA)	200,000
Priority 1, 2, and 3b Use Below 420,000 Acre-feet ¹	0
Unused Priority 3a ²	0
Miscellaneous and Indian Present Perfected Rights Use	0
Lower Colorado Water Supply Project	9,000
Quechan System Conservation Implementation Agreement (SCIA)	-13,000
Total Consumptive Use	944,700
Return Flow Credit	2,443
Total Diversion	947,143

Month	Gross Diversion	Return Flow
January	99,442	215
February	54,283	170
March	10,041	210
April	94,425	222
May	103,098	204
June	99,789	194
July	103,098	211
August	101,598	194
September	103,098	194
October	61,947	197
November	57,216	213
December	59,108	219
Total (acre-feet)	947,143	2,443

¹ Water conserved under the PVID Forbearance and Fallowing Program, Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program, and Quechan Diversion Forbearance Program will be contracted for system water under Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding in 2025. Such contracted water will be left in Lake Mead as system water.

² Water conserved under two Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) SCIA's and one IID SCIA will be contracted for system water under IRA funding in 2025. Such contracted water will be left in Lake Mead as system water.

Details of Metropolitan's Tabulation of Estimated Available Supply for Calendar Year 2025

Allocation of Water from the Coachella Canal Lining Project

The "Interim Determination by the Secretary of the Interior of the Quantity of Water Conserved by the Coachella Canal Lining Project and the Amount of Water Available for Allocation" (Determination), made on January 31, 2008, concluded that 30,850 acre-feet (AF) will be conserved from the Coachella Canal Lining Project beginning in 2009 through the term of the Allocation Agreement. The Determination provides that the volume of water available for allocation shall be the quantity conserved minus the volume of water taken from the Coachella Canal that is used for Project mitigation.

Of the amount available for allocation, 4,500 AF is assumed to be available for the benefit of the San Luis Rey Settlement Parties in 2024. 21,500 AF is available for allocation to the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). The remaining supply of 4,850 AF is assumed to be taken from the Coachella Canal for Project environmental mitigation.

Allocation of Water from the All-American Canal Lining Project

The "Interim Determination by the Secretary of the Interior of the Quantity of Water Conserved by the All-American Canal Lining Project and the Amount of Water Available for Allocation," made on December 4, 2009, confirmed that the amount of water available for allocation is 67,700 AF per year unless reduced by uncontrollable force or Colorado River shortage conditions. Of the amount available for allocation, 11,500 AF is assumed to be available for the benefit of the San Luis Rey Settlement Parties in 2024. The remaining supply of 56,200 AF is available for allocation to SDCWA.

Unused Priority 1, 2, and 3b

Metropolitan's estimate of available supply assumes that priority 1, 2, and 3b use would be below 420,000 AF with the amount influenced by the Palo Verde Irrigation District/Metropolitan Forbearance and Fallowing Program and the agricultural conservation in the Yuma Project Reservation Division. Water conserved under the PVID Forbearance and Fallowing Program, the Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program, and the Quechan Diversion Forbearance Program totaling approximately 135,721 AF will be contracted for system water under Inflation Reduction Act funding in 2025. Such contracted water will be left in Lake Mead as system water.

Therefore, Metropolitan estimates that the volume of priority 1, 2, and 3b use below 420,000 AF that will be available to Metropolitan will be zero AF. Metropolitan understands that its supply is impacted by actual use under priorities 1, 2, and 3b pursuant to the October 10, 2003, *Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement*.

Unused Priority 3a

Metropolitan's estimate of available supply does not include unused Priority 3a water that may become available. Unused Priority 3a will not include any water from two CVWD SCIAAs and one

IID SCIA. Metropolitan's water order assumes forbearance of any water generated under those SCIAAs.

Miscellaneous and Indian Present Perfected Rights Use

Conserved water under the Quechan System Conservation Implementation Agreement will be contracted for system water under Inflation Reduction Act funding in 2025. Such contracted water will be left in Lake Mead as system water. This is expected to influence the supply impacts to Metropolitan from this category. For this water order, Metropolitan estimates that the supply impact from Miscellaneous and Indian Present Perfected Rights to Metropolitan will be zero AF. Metropolitan understands that its supply is impacted by actual use pursuant to the October 10, 2003, *Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement*.

Lower Colorado Water Supply Project

Reclamation's Yuma Area Office estimates that 10,000 AF of water will be available from the four Lower Colorado Water Supply Project (LCWSP) wells. Deducting the amount of water used by others, Metropolitan estimates that approximately 9,000 AF of the yield of the LCWSP will be available to Metropolitan.