



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

September 30, 2025

Mr. Jeremy Dodds
Deputy Area Manager, Water Accounting and Verification
Boulder Canyon Operations Office
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
jdodds@usbr.gov

Dear Mr. Dodds:

Estimates of Metropolitan Monthly Diversions for Calendar Year 2026

This letter provides information on The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (Metropolitan): (1) best estimates of monthly diversion requirements for calendar year 2026, 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 2026.

Estimate of Metropolitan Diversions for Calendar Year 2026

Metropolitan's initial estimate of its diversions for calendar year 2026 totals 965,500 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 1.25 million acre-feet in calendar year 2026 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. Metropolitan may also develop additional water conservation programs or make interstate storage and release arrangements with Nevada or Arizona agencies, which could affect the amount of water available for diversion in 2026. Any such new arrangements would be followed by a revised estimate of 2026 diversions.

Metropolitan submitted a plan to create up to 450,000 AF of Extraordinary Conservation ICS in calendar year 2026. As the calendar year progresses, Metropolitan may decide to create this ICS or find it necessary to divert additional Colorado River water, including some of the water stored in Metropolitan's Lake Mead ICS account.

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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 Travis Moore at tmoore@mwdh2o.com.

Very truly yours,

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

Brandon Goshi
Manager, Water Resource Management Group

LYL:rh

Enclosures (2)

cc: Ms. Meena Westford
Director of Imported Water
San Diego County Water Authority
mwestford@sdcwa.org

Metropolitan's Initial Estimate of Colorado River Diversions for Calendar Year 2026

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 (2003 Allocation Agreement)	11,500
IID Transfer to SDCWA (Metropolitan Exchange with SDCWA)	200,000
Priority 1, 2, and 3b Use Below 420,000 Acre-feet ^{1,2}	18,000
Unused Priority 3a	0
Miscellaneous and Indian Present Perfected Rights Use	0
Lower Colorado Water Supply Project	9,000
Quechan System Conservation Implementation Agreement (SCIA) ³	-13,000
Total Supply Available for Consumptive Use	962,700
Return Flow Credit	2,800
Total Diversion	965,500

Month	Gross Diversion	Return Flow
January	62,460	280
February	0	220
March	67,040	270
April	68,410	290
May	89,060	190
June	103,420	190
July	124,670	230
August	124,670	230
September	114,330	220
October	71,250	220
November	68,940	220
December	71,250	240
Total (acre-feet)	965,500	2,800

¹ Estimated savings from the Metropolitan Funded Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) Forbearance and Following Program. A 50% following call was made for Program Year 2026-2027, and the value represents the estimated savings from the 50% call from August to December 2026. While the PVID System Conservation Implementation Agreement (SCIA) for the period of August to December 2026 has not yet been signed, once executed, water conserved under the PVID SCIA will be left in Lake Mead as system water and will not be available to Metropolitan. Water conserved under the PVID SCIA from January to July 2026 is contracted for system water and will be left in Lake Mead as system water and will not be available to Metropolitan.

²Water conserved under the Bard SCIA Amendment No. 1 will remain in Lake Mead as system conservation in 2026 and will not be available to Metropolitan.

³The amount of system conservation water created by the Quechan Tribe under the SCIA Amendment No. 1, which will remain in Lake Mead in 2026, in lieu of Metropolitan diverting such water.