

Colorado River Citizens Forum
Yuma County Development Services, Aldrich Hall
Yuma, AZ 85364
July 30, 2019
Meeting Notes

Board Members in attendance:

Meghan Scott, Yuma County Agriculture Water Coalition
Matt Dessert, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
Tom Davis, Yuma County Water Users Association
Jim Buster, Southwest Resource Strategies
Phil Rosentrater, Salton Sea Authority
Brian McNeece, retired Professor
Frank Ruiz, Audubon Society
Mark William White, Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe
Roberta (Bobbi) Stevenson-McDermott, Yuma Natural Resource Conservation District Member, Arizona
Association of Conservation Districts Board Member

USIBWC Staff in attendance:

Anna Morales, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, Yuma, Arizona

28 Members of the public in attendance:

Welcoming and Introduction Remarks:

At 4:00PM Citizens Forum Co-Chair Meghna Scott convened the meeting by welcoming the group and provided a brief description of the meeting agenda items.

Board members and audience briefly introduced themselves.

Presentation One: Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan – An Arizona Perspective; Leslie Meyers, P.E, Phoenix Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation

Mrs. Meyers provided a brief overview of the Colorado River Basin, 2007 Interim Guidelines, 1944 U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty and Lake Powell/Mead operations.

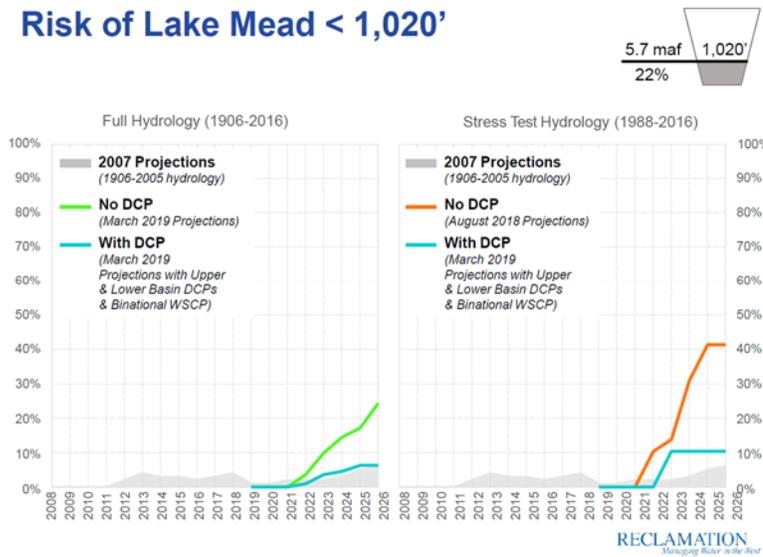
Because of the 20-year drought, the Department of Interior began discussions and negotiations for a Drought Contingency Plan (DCP).

Drought Contingency Plan:

- The plan has substantially the same criteria as the 2007 Interim Guidelines.
- Protects under certain elevations for system delivery
- Has a binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan Savings
- The states of Arizona, Nevada and California are contributing to the plan

- The U.S. will work to create or conserve 100,000-acre feet (AF) or more of Colorado River system water on an annual basis to contribute to conservation of water supplies in Lake Mead and other Colorado River reservoirs.
- The DCP significantly reduced the hydrology stress test at Lake Mead

Risk of Lake Mead < 1,020'



- Arizona has priorities in the system. Central Arizona Project (CAP) and Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) engaged in discussions. Steering Committee forms with over 40 members. The Committee met numerous times with the goal for Arizona water users to adopt the program.
- Mitigation Component – Key Terms (Excerpt from November 29, 2018 and January 8, 2019 Steering Committee meetings)
 - 2020 to 2022
 - o 100% mitigation on Non-Indian Agriculture (NIA) Pool (annual determination of volume)
 - o Fixed volume for CAP Agriculture, dependent on annual tier determination
 - 2023 to 2025
 - o No CAP Ag mitigation
 - o Municipal and Industrial (M&I) and Indian priority fully mitigated first
 - o NIA volume based on actual orders/operating conditions
 - o NIA 75% under Tier 1 and Tier 2a
 - o NIA 50% under T2b
 - 2026
 - o Zero Mitigation
 - No mitigation for any water user in Tier 3 or 2026, whichever occurs first
- Arizona Contributions
 - Wet Water
 - o 400 kaf CAP ICS
 - o 50 kaf CAP Lake Pleasant
 - o 50 kaf CAP-SRP Exchange
 - o 100 kaf USF-GSF

- Up to 30 kaf of CAP operational supplies
- Compensated Mitigation
 - \$60m payments for impacted NIA supplies in lieu of wet water delivery
- Monday for groundwater infrastructure development for Pinal Ag
 - 16.5 kaf in 2022, 70 kaf/yr beginning in 2023

Questions and Answer (Q&A):

Q: How does the model account power generation?

A: Below elevation 1025 ft, would have issues with power and the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP). Turbines have been implemented to run at lower elevations.

Presentation Two: Impacts and Potential Impacts of the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan on Yuma County Agriculture – Wade Noble, General Counsel, Wellton Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District, and Coordinator of Yuma County Agriculture Water Coalition

Mr. Noble provided an overview of Yuma County Agriculture, it’s entitlements and priorities.

Yuma County provides 85% of winter vegetables in the Unites States and Canada.

Entitlements and Priorities:

Entity	Contract Entitlements	Quantity (AF)	Priority
WMIDD	Consumptive use	278,000	3rd
YCWUA	Beneficial Use-Diversion Right	254,200	1st
YMIDD	Consumptive use	YMD Apportionment	3rd
YID	Consumptive use	YMD Apportionment	3rd
NGVIDD	Beneficial Use-Diversion Right		1st
	Consumptive use	YMD Apportionment	3rd
Unit B	Beneficial Use-Diversion Right	6,800	1st
City of Yuma	Consumptive use	48,522	3rd

Priority 1 – Satisfaction of Present Perfect Rights (PPRs). This user has right to use all water it can use for beneficial use.

Priority 2 – Satisfaction of federal reservations and reserved rights established or effective prior to September 30, 1968.

Priority 3 – Satisfaction of entitlements pursuant to contracts executed on or before September 30, 1968; Priority 2 and 3 are co-equal.

Priority 4 – Satisfaction of entitlements pursuant to Contracts and secretarial reservation in Arizona entered into or established after September 30, 1968 such as CAP.

Priority 5 – Satisfaction of entitlements to unused water. This is titled water to user but not used.

Priority 6 – Satisfaction of entitlements to surplus water. This is water beyond entitlement.

Voluntary Lower Basin DCP (LB DCP) Participation:

- LB DCP contributions are voluntarily

- Is designed to avert catastrophic depletions to Lake Mead
- Lake Mead's elevations will be sustained by contributions from the Lower Basin states as they have agreed to the DCP
- Lower Priority Entitlement holders are required to contribute to sustaining the river in shortage
- As Lake Mead elevations decline, Yuma County Ag entitlement holders will voluntarily contribute water to sustain the river.
- Table 1 of the DCP shows contribution volumes by state at different Lake Mead elevations. The country Mexico also contributes to sustaining the river. The table does not reference Ag Users.

Question & Answer (Q&A):

Q: Could you clarify on Mexico's cut backs (contributions)?

A: Minute 323 provides the various elevations with storage contributions in Lake Mead and funding projects in Mexico. Mexico came in voluntarily.

Q: If there were a catastrophic situation of elevation 1020 ft or less, anything Yuma County does would be voluntarily done by the Ag Users?

A: Yes, here are discussions of what could be done.

Q: There is a desalination plant being built on the coast, is there discussions on tapping into a desalination plant if there is an impact to the Colorado River?

A: There has been discussions however the chemical makeup of the desalination water is a concern to the Ag Users. Brine is an unwanted bi-product that is hard to get rid of or dispose of.

Public Comments:

None

Board Discussion and Future Agenda Items:

- Presentation by the Imperial Valley Health on the New River in Imperial Valley
- Presentation by IBWC on the New River

Next meeting October 24, 2019 in Calexico, CA

The meeting adjourned at 6:02pm.

*Meeting notes are tentative and summarize in draft the contents and discussion of Citizens Forum Meetings. While these notes are intended to provide a general overview of Citizens Forum Meetings, they may not necessarily be accurate or complete, and may not be representative of USIBWC policy or positions.