



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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**METROPOLITAN PARTNERS WITH SOUTHERN NEVADA
WATER AUTHORITY ON AMENDED INTERSTATE AGREEMENT
Modified operational storage agreement with Southern Nevada Water Authority allows
Metropolitan to increase available supplies, reduce storage withdrawals in drought**

Southern California will have access to a portion of Nevada's Colorado River water in 2015 to boost available supplies and reduce draws on the Southland's water reserves in this record drought.

Under a groundbreaking interstate storage agreement authorized today by Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors, the district will pay the Southern Nevada Water Authority nearly \$45 million for access to 150,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water apportioned but not used by SNWA.

With the supply increase, Metropolitan this year will deliver a full Colorado River Aqueduct of 1.2 million acre-feet, the most in more than 10 years. Metropolitan will return the water when Nevada needs it, which is likely to be at least a decade from now.

Metropolitan General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger said today's actions carry on the long-standing spirit of cooperation the district has forged with Southern Nevada.

"The timing couldn't be better," Kightlinger said. "Not only will these additional Colorado River deliveries provide much-needed supplies this year, they also will allow us to keep more water in reserve should this drought continue."

In future years, upon Southern Nevada's request, Metropolitan will return up to 125,000 acre-feet, with SNWA reimbursing Metropolitan for the costs paid by the Southern California agency. (An acre-foot of water is nearly 326,000 gallons, about the amount used by two typical Southland households in a year.)

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In 2004, Metropolitan and Southern Nevada entered into a cooperative storage and interstate release agreement allowing water banking between MWD and SNWA. Since that initial agreement, the two large Western urban agencies have formed a cooperative, active partnership focusing on mutually beneficial programs.

“This latest program fashions an innovative way for the agencies to share water supply and cash flow, which serve the needs of both agencies today and into the future,” Kightlinger said.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving nearly 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.