

**Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**December 10, 2012**

**Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study**

**Synopsis**

This is an informational item regarding the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study, which is to be released officially December 11, 2012.

**Report**

The Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study was a collaborative effort of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the seven Basin States, and major stakeholders. The Basin Study was a three year effort to quantify the expected imbalances between the amount of Colorado River water available in the future compared with the demands on the river system. The Basin Study is to show that a 3.5 million acre-feet deficit could occur by 2060.

The Study does not identify a single solution but shows that to address the deficit, multiple solutions will be needed and those include starting now to look at how the water supply could be augmented. It is anticipated that the Study will generate a lot of discussion about conservation efforts; though, again, that should not be viewed as the sole answer.

The Arizona Department of Water Resources has been leading an effort to get information to the public and decision makers about the Study and to ensure that the Study's findings are not seen from a negative perspective. ADWR believes it is important that the press recognize that Arizona has a successful history of water management and that water resource managers are working to address future demands. ADWR organized a meeting with the Arizona Republic Editorial Board to discuss Arizona's water resource efforts and the call to action from the Study. The hour and a half meeting included ADWR, Central Arizona Project, Salt River Project, Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA), and Southern Arizona Water Users Association (SAWUA). Warren Tenney represented SAWUA at this meeting. It has been recommended to ADWR to do a similar meeting with the Arizona Daily Star Editorial Board.

Attached is a summary of the Basin Study and the draft opinion letter that the five water agencies are submitting to the press.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that Board members discuss with staff various aspects of the Basin Study. Since the Study will be in the media, it was important for the Board of Directors to have an understanding and awareness about the Study.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Stratton, P.E.  
General Manager