DRAFT

MEETING OF THE
INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY

March 26, 2014, 4:00 p.m.

Colorado River Conference Rooms, Southern Nevada Water Authority
100 City Parkway, Seventh Floor, Las Vegas, Nevada

IRPAC Members Present	Tom Burns	April Mastroluca
	Thalia Dondero	Brian McAnallen
	Bob Ferraro	Bobbi Miracle
	John Guedry	Terry Murphy
	Joyce Haldeman	Phil Ralston
	Warren Hardy	David Scherer
	Katherine Jacobi	Danny Thompson
	Carol Jefferies	Virginia Valentine
IRPAC Members Absent	Yvanna Cancela	Otto Merida
	Garry Goett	John Restrepo
	Jennifer Lewis	
Staff Present:	John Entsminger	Ken Albright
	Phil Speight	Andy Belanger
	Julie Wilcox	Zane Marshall
	Dave Johnson	Katie Horn

PUBLIC COMMENT

For full public comment remarks, please visit www.snwa.com/apps/agenda/snwa/index.cfml

Ed Uehling said the documents he submitted at the September 4, 2013 meeting were not included with the meeting summary, and he asked that they be incorporated. He said he believes that supporting materials should be provided prior to the meeting. Mr. Uehling asked the committee to take no action on agenda item number three. He spoke about the committee's mission statement and the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) contract with Hobbs, Ong & Associates.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The SNWA's Integrated Resource Planning Advisory Committee (IRPAC) met on Wednesday, March 26, 2014. The meeting began at 4:11 p.m.

Approve the meeting summaries for September 4, 2013, and February 26, 2014. There being no comments or questions, the meeting summaries were approved by the committee.

Discuss the agreements and contracts that govern the Colorado River. John Entsminger, SNWA General Manager, said the Colorado River is shared by seven U.S. states and the country of Mexico. It is governed by the "Law of the River," which is a series of agreements that includes the 1922 Colorado River Compact (Compact), treaties, statutes and case law. He said people often ask why the Compact

is not amended to provide more water for Nevada. The answer, he said, is that amending the Compact is extremely complicated. The Compact was entered into under the Compact Laws of the United States Constitution, and it was ratified by seven state legislatures, seven state governors, Congress and the President. Amending it would require the same process. However, Mr. Entsminger said the Compact does not need to be amended in order to find new solutions to present-day issues.

Mr. Entsminger said that the U.S. Secretary of the Interior has regulatory control over the Colorado River, but does not own any of the water. Because of the Compact, the seven U.S. states own the water. This is contrary to Mexico, where the government owns Mexico's Colorado River water allocation.

Mr. Entsminger provided an overview of the 1922 Colorado River Compact, the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928, the Mexican Treaty of 1944 and the Upper Colorado River Compact of 1948.

In addition, Mr. Entsminger discussed the Supreme Court's decree in Arizona v. California (1964), which appointed the U.S. Secretary of the Interior as the Water Master for the Lower Basin; apportioned "extra" water between California (50 percent), Arizona (46 percent) and Nevada (4 percent); and allows the Water Master to apportion shortages and make reductions, as necessary.

Mr. Entsminger explained that the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 authorized construction of a number of projects, including the Central Arizona Project (CAP). He said the CAP can deliver 1.5 million acre-feet of water. A provision of this legislation says that California does not have to take a shortage until the CAP cannot deliver water or is shut off.

Mr. Entsminger said the next major advancement on the river were the Interim Surplus Guidelines of 2001. These guidelines were developed following a period of high-flow years. They outlined a framework to allow the Lower Basin States to share surplus Colorado River water and provided time for California to reduce its Colorado River use.

Mr. Entsminger explained that the SNWA's Resource Plan, which was adopted in 2002, showed that Nevada had sufficient water through 2017 as long as Lake Mead stayed above elevation 1,145 feet. By January 2003, Lake Mead's elevation dropped below elevation 1,145 and has not recovered since. Lake Mead is currently at elevation 1,105 feet.

Between 2004 and 2005, the Upper and Lower Basin States experienced significant disagreements, but the continued drought encouraged them to take a cooperative approach to basin management. The Basin States negotiated the 2007 Guidelines, which coordinated operations of the Lake Mead and Lake Powell; addressed shortage conditions; extended the Interim Surplus Guidelines to 2026; and provided the framework for Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS). In addition, the 2007 Guidelines revised return-flow credit methodology to allow for the accounting of additional future Nevada groundwater resources and identified provisions regarding Mexico.

Mr. Entsminger described the four types of ICS:

- Tributary Conservation – Allows Nevada to acquire rights in its tributaries and convey them to the Colorado River for storage and credit.

- Imported – Allows Nevada to convey non-Colorado River water to the river for credit.

- Extraordinary Conservation – Allows states to implement projects that conserve water through extraordinary measures to increase Lake Mead elevations.

- System Efficiency – Allows states to fund projects that conserve Colorado River water, such as Brock Reservoir and Yuma Desalting Plant.

John Guedry asked if there is an expiration date on ICS use. Mr. Entsminger said the Interim Surplus Guidelines expire in 2026. ICS water can be recovered through 2036. Additionally, the SNWA has a 50-year extension on its tributary conservation ICS and can use that water through 2086.

Mr. Entsminger explained that after the 2007 Interim Surplus Guidelines were implemented, the SNWA funded an Augmentation Study, which was completed with the cooperation of all seven states. The Augmentation Study provided highly-technical proposals that, although do not address legal, political or policy matters, are feasible from an engineering standpoint.

In 2009, the Seven Basin States and the Bureau of Reclamation initiated a Basin Study, which is a comprehensive look at future demands, risks to Basin resources (such as climate change) and opportunities for resolving the imbalance between supply and demand.

Mr. Entsminger then described the discussions between the United States and Mexico, which resulted in three Minutes completed in 2010. Mr. Entsminger explained that a "Minute" is an addendum between the two countries that interprets the operational provisions of the treaty without amending them.

- Minute 316 – Provides water for the Cienega de Santa Clara to replace losses from the Yuma Desalting Plant test run;

- Minute 317 – Established a bi-national consultative council and set the framework for future negotiations; and

- Minute 318 – Authorized reservoir storage mechanisms to allow storage of earthquake losses.

Mr. Entsminger said that in 2012, a five-year agreement known as Minute 319 was signed. Under Minute 319, Mexico agreed to take shortages at the exact same elevations as Nevada and Arizona. Minute 319 also allows Mexico to store water in U.S. reservoirs and allows for U.S. investments in Mexico.

Discuss the activities taken by the Colorado River Basin States in response to drought. Mr. Entsminger said the Basin States are reviewing models that use current hydrology and are taking proactive measures to protect critical reservoir elevations.

Receive an update on current drought conditions. Mr. Entsminger reported that over the last year, the drought improved in the Upper Basin, but not in the Lower Basin. February 2014 inflows into Lake Powell are at 84 percent of average and snow pack is at 113 percent of average. Upper Colorado River Basin snow accumulation is at 114 percent of median as of March 13, 2014. Mr. Entsminger said that April is an important month for snow accumulation and he discussed sublimation – a phenomenon where snow goes directly from a solid form to a gaseous form. He also restated that Lake Mead will drop an additional 19 feet by January 1, 2016, regardless of snow pack, because the Bureau of Reclamation has determined that it will only release 7.48 million acre-feet from Lake Powell this year.

Mr. Ralston asked if the committee can get a list of the various laws that affect the river and a summary of sources. Mr. Entsminger said that information will be provided.

Dave Ebersold, facilitator, welcomed new IRPAC member, John Guedry. He told the committee that they will be discussing attributes at the April 23 meeting, and he discussed a facility tour on May 21, 2014 at 3 p.m. He noted that future meeting topics will include:

- Existing and deferred facilities
- Water quality and emerging issues
- SNWA environmental efforts
- Asset management
- Conservation
- Current and long-term water resources
- Funding impacts

PUBLIC COMMENT
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Mr. Uehling said he hopes to receive resource and facility attributes before the April 23rd meeting, and he spoke about the cost of water.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.