

BOULDER CANYON PROJECT

AGREEMENT

REQUESTING APPORTIONMENT OF CALIFORNIA'S SHARE OF THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AMONG THE APPLICANTS IN THE STATE

August 18, 1931

THIS AGREEMENT, made the 18th day of August, 1931, by and between Palo Verde Irrigation District, Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley County Water District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, City of Los Angeles, City of San Diego and County of San Diego;

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS the Secretary of the Interior did, on November 5, 1930, request of the Division of Water Resources of California, a recommendation of the proper apportionments of the water of and from the Colorado River to which California may be entitled under the provisions of the Colorado River Compact, the Boulder Canyon Project Act and other applicable legislation and regulations, to the end that the same could be carried into each and all of the contracts between the United States and applicants for water contracts in California as a uniform clause; and

WHEREAS the parties hereto have fully considered their respective rights and requirements in cooperation with the other water users and applicants and the Division of Water Resources aforesaid;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto do expressly agree to the apportionments and priorities of water of and from the Colorado River for use in California as hereinafter fully set out and respectfully request the Division of Water Resources to, in all respects, recognize said apportionments and priorities in all matters relating to State authority and to recommend the provisions of Article I hereof to the Secretary of the Interior of the United States for insertion in any and all contracts for water made by him pursuant to the terms of the Boulder Canyon Project Act, and agree that in every water contract which any party may hereafter enter into with the United States, provisions in accordance with Article I shall be included therein if agreeable to the United States.

ARTICLE I.

The waters of the Colorado River available for use within the State of California under the Colorado River Compact and the Boulder Canyon Project Act shall be apportioned to the respective interests below named and in amounts and with priorities therein named and set forth, as follows:

SECTION 1. A first priority to Palo Verde Irrigation District for beneficial use exclusively upon lands in said District as it now exists and upon lands between said District and the Colorado River, aggregating (within and without said District) a gross area of 104,500 acres, such waters as may be required by said lands.

SECTION 2. A second priority to Yuma Project of United States Bureau of Reclamation for beneficial use upon not exceeding a gross area of 25,000 acres of land located in said project in California, such waters as may be required by said lands.

SECTION 3. A third priority (a) to Imperial Irrigation District and other lands under or that will be served from the All American Canal in Imperial and Coachella Valleys, and (b) to Palo Verde Irrigation District for use exclusively on 16,000 acres in that area known as the "Lower Palo Verde Mesa", adjacent to Palo Verde Irrigation District, for beneficial consumptive use, 3,850,000 acre feet of water per annum less the beneficial consumptive use under the priorities designated in Sections 1 and 2 above. The rights designated (a) and (b) in this section are equal in priority. The total beneficial consumptive use under priorities stated in Sections 1, 2 and 3 of this article shall not exceed 3,850,000 acre feet of water per annum.

SECTION 4. A fourth priority to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and/or the City of Los Angeles, for beneficial consumptive use, by themselves and/or others, on the Coastal Plain of Southern California, 550,000 acre feet of water per annum.

SECTION 5. A fifth priority, (a) to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and/or the City of Los Angeles, for beneficial consumptive use, by themselves and/or others, on the Coastal Plain of Southern California, 550,000 acre feet of water per annum and (b) to the City of San Diego and/or County of San Diego, for beneficial consumptive use, 112,000 acre feet of water per annum. The rights designated (a) and (b) in this section are equal in priority.

SECTION 6. A sixth priority (a) to Imperial Irrigation District and other lands under or that will be served from the All American Canal in Imperial and Coachella Valleys, and (b) to Palo Verde Irrigation District for use exclusively on 16,000 acres in that area known as the "Lower Palo Verde Mesa," adjacent to Palo Verde Irrigation District, for beneficial consumptive use, 300,000 acre feet of water per annum. The rights designated (a) and (b) in this section are equal in priority.

SECTION 7. A seventh priority of all remaining water available for use within California, for agricultural use in the Colorado River Basin in California, as said basin is designated on Map No. 23000 of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

SECTION 8. So far as the rights of the allottees named above are concerned, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and/or the City of Los Angeles shall have the exclusive right to withdraw and divert into its aqueduct any water in Boulder Canyon Reservoir accumulated to the individual credit of said District and/or said City (not exceeding at any one time 4,750,000 acre feet in the aggregate) by reason of reduced diversions by said District and/or said City; provided, that accumulations shall be subject to such conditions as to accumulation, retention, release and withdrawal as the Secretary of the Interior may from time to time prescribe in his discretion, and his determination thereof shall be final; provided further, that the United States of America reserves the right to make similar arrangements with users in other states without distinction in priority, and to determine the correlative relations between said District and/or said City and such users resulting therefrom.

SECTION 9. In addition, so far as the rights of the allottees named above are concerned, the City of San Diego and/or County of San Diego shall have the exclusive right to withdraw and divert into an aqueduct any water in Boulder Canyon Reservoir accumulated to the individual credit of said County and/or said County (not exceeding at any one time 250,000 acre feet in the aggregate) by reason of reduced diversions by said City and/or said County; provided, that accumulations shall be subject to such conditions as to accumulation, retention, release and withdrawal as the Secretary of the Interior may from time to time prescribe in his discretion, and his determination thereof shall be final; provided further, that the United States of America reserves the right to make similar arrangements with users in other states without distinction in priority, and to determine the correlative relations between the said City and/or said County and such users resulting therefrom.

SECTION 10. In no event shall the amounts allotted in this agreement to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and/or the City of Los Angeles be increased on account of inclusion of a supply for both said District and said City, and either or both may use said apportionments as may be agreed by and between said District and said City.

SECTION 11. In no event shall the amounts allotted in this agreement to the City of San Diego and/or to the County of San Diego be increased on account of inclusion of a supply for both said City and said County, and either or both may use said apportionments as may be agreed by and between said City and said County.

SECTION 12. The priorities hereinbefore set forth shall be in no wise affected by the relative dates of water contracts executed by the Secretary of the Interior with the various parties.

ARTICLE II.

That each and every party hereto who has heretofore filed an application or applications for a permit or permits to appropriate water from the Colorado River requests the Division of Water Resources to amend such application or applications as far as possible to bring it or them into conformity with the provisions of this agreement; and each and every party hereto who has heretofore filed a protest or protests against any such application or applications of other parties hereto does hereby request withdrawal of such protest or protests against such application or applications when so amended.

ARTICLE III.

That each and all of the parties to this agreement respectively request that the contract for delivery of water between The United States of America and The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California under date of April 24, 1930, be amended in conformity with Article I hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this agreement to be executed by their respective officers thereunto duly authorized, the day and year first above written. Executed in seven originals.

Recommended for Execution:

PALO VERDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT,
By ED J. WILLIAMS,
ARVIN B. SHAW, JR.

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT,
By MARK ROSE,
CHAS. L. CHILDERS,
M. P. DOWD.

COACHELLA VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT,
By THOS. C. YAGER.

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,
By W. B. MATTHEWS,
C. C. ELDER.

*People of the State of California v. U.S. Dept. of Interior
No. 12-55856 archived on June 12, 2014*

WATER CONTRACTS

CITY OF LOS ANGELES,
By W. W. HURLBUT,
C. A. DAVIS.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO,
By C. L. BYERS,
H. N. SAVAGE.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO,
By H. N. SAVAGE,
C. L. BYERS.