

### **Water Supply Conditions- September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

As Labor Day approaches, we are seeing 60 cubic foot per second (cfs) or less crossing the border from Colorado and MRGCD has exhausted its available storage water to augment base flows in the river. Total release from Cochiti is 300 cfs, which includes federal leased San Juan-Chama water to be bypassed to the river at MRGCD diversion dams. The weather cooled slightly this past week and widespread rainstorms on Wednesday brought some much-needed moisture into the system. The forecast for this week is calling for temperatures in the high 80's and up to 10% chances for rain this weekend that drop to zero for the rest of next week.

MRGCD has moved to meeting Prior and Paramount (P&P senior water rights) demand and distributing any additional water to non-pueblo irrigators, where possible. Without significant rain inflows non-Prior and Paramount irrigation will be very limited. If rainstorms materialize in the coming weeks, MRGCD will continue to take advantage of any additional inflows for distribution to irrigators, where possible.

Isleta and San Acacia dams have been set to bypass the federal leased San Juan-Chama water to the river to meet requirements under the 2016 biological opinion (federal law). Silvery Minnow rescue operations will resume if there is unique river channel drying. There has been no drying in the Albuquerque reach to date but there is potential for some drying if the inflows to the middle valley continue to recede.

Given the difficult water supply conditions and the need to minimize the New Mexico debt to Texas under the Rio Grande Compact, the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission requested the MRGCD Board of Directors (Board) consider ending irrigation season at the beginning of October. A special MRGCD Board meeting was held on August 20<sup>th</sup> and the Board voted to end irrigation Season on October 1<sup>st</sup> of 2021.

The bosque will remain open for low impact recreational use, but current restrictions remain in place so consult your local fire department to get the latest information in your area.

If you have any questions regarding these operations, please contact Anne Marken or Mike Hamman at 247-0234 or by email at [anne@mrgcd.us](mailto:anne@mrgcd.us) or [mikeh@mrgcd.us](mailto:mikeh@mrgcd.us).