

# BJ ATKINS - AB 1234 REPORTS

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| ITEM NO.<br>13.5 |
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| Meeting Attended:       | <b>Attend CSDA Virtual Legislative Days - Legislative Briefing via Webinar</b>   |
| Date of Meeting:        | <b>May 18, 2020</b>  |
| Board Mtg. Presented:   | June 02, 2020 (or after)   |
| # Attendees & Location: | Undetermined but reported to be at least 100 via remote teleconference   |
| Points of Interest:     | Presented by the CSDA Staff from their individual remote locations<br>CSDA Senior Administrative and Legislative Committee support staff presented an update on a long list of current and proposed legislation in both state houses which impact special districts either directly or indirectly. |

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| Meeting Attended:       | <b>Attend CSDA Webinar "Navigating Legal Attacks, Legislative Shifts and Public Protests on Proposition 218 Rates &amp; Fees"</b>  |
| Date of Meeting:        | <b>May 29, 2020</b>  |
| Board Mtg. Presented:   | June 02, 2020 (or after)   |
| # Attendees & Location: | Part of Legislative Days agenda; provided via on demand webinar format   |
| Points of Interest:     | Presented by CSDA Senior Administrative Staff, selected subject matter experts and Attorneys<br>This is an almost 90-minute recorded webinar presentation which related specific examples of 218 litigation, legislative responses and how public protests are mounted and what must happen for success in any of these, plus why each might fail. |

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Lynne Plambeck  
AB1234 report  
May 27th

"Coping With Megadrought in the Colorado River Basin"  
Webinar produced by NOAA and NIDIS  
John Fleck, Presenter

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) program was authorized by Congress in 2006 and re-authorized in 2014 and 2019. It has an interagency mandate to coordinate and integrate drought research that builds upon existing federal, tribal, state, and local partnerships in support of creating a national drought early warning information system.

A Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) utilizes new and existing partner networks to optimize the expertise of a wide range of partners (see above) in order to make climate and drought science readily available, easily understandable and usable for decision makers; and to improve the capacity of stakeholders to better monitor, forecast, plan for and cope with the impacts of drought.

You can learn more about NIDIS at [www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov)

John Fleck is a former science journalist, who is focused on the problems of the Colorado River, an imperiled water source on which 40 million people in the United States and Mexico depend. As a Professor of Practice in Water Policy and Governance in the University of New Mexico Department of Economics and director of the University's Water Resources Program, he co-teaches classes in contemporary water policy issues, modeling, and technical communication for water managers. He first wrote about water in the 1980s as a beat reporter covering the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He is the author of the books *Water is for Fighting Over and Other Myths About Water in the West*, an exploration of solutions to the Colorado River Basin's water problems, and co-author of *Science Be Dammed: How Ignoring Inconvenient Science Drained the Colorado River*.



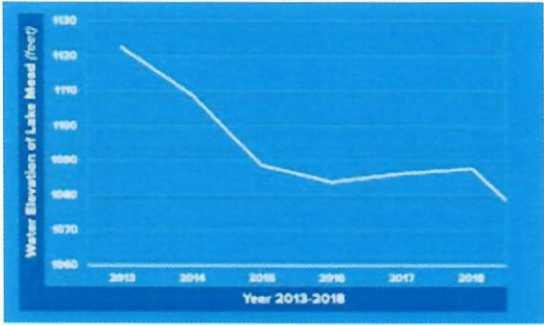
Approximately 40 million people depend on the Colorado River. The basin has 5+ million acres of irrigated farm land. The basin encompasses 2 nations, 9 states (7 in the US, 3 in Mexico) and 29 tribes.

The last two decades have been the driest since the 1500s. Last year the basin suffered from what the speaker termed a "sneaky" drought, since until March there had been a good snow pack and everyone thought it would be a normal year. But no further rain came after March and the dry soil absorbed much of the run off. This drought is not going to go away since we now live in a drying landscape.

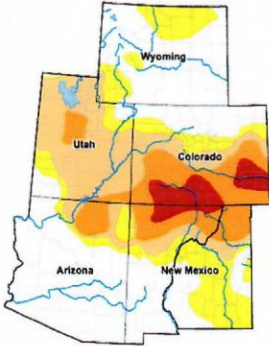
There is enough storage built on the Colorado River to store five times the river's flow. But it has been substantially depleted as one can see from the "bathtub" rings around Lake Mead. Because of the "irradiating" (drying out) landscape, the storage will most likely never be replenished. Water levels at Lake Mead and Lake Powell are dropping to dangerous levels, reflecting the Colorado River's worsening "structural deficit. We are in the initial stages of a mega drought.



This problem is exacerbated by the fact that the Colorado River agreement, formed decades ago, over-estimated the amount of water that can be supplied and now no one will be able to get their full allotment. Cities, including Los Angeles and the Metropolitan Water District have made good progress on water conservation. We still have more conservation that can occur, especially in the irrigated lands, but eventually we will all have to make major reductions. (Images from drought.gov)



drought .gov



(May 2020)