



Pima County Board of Supervisors

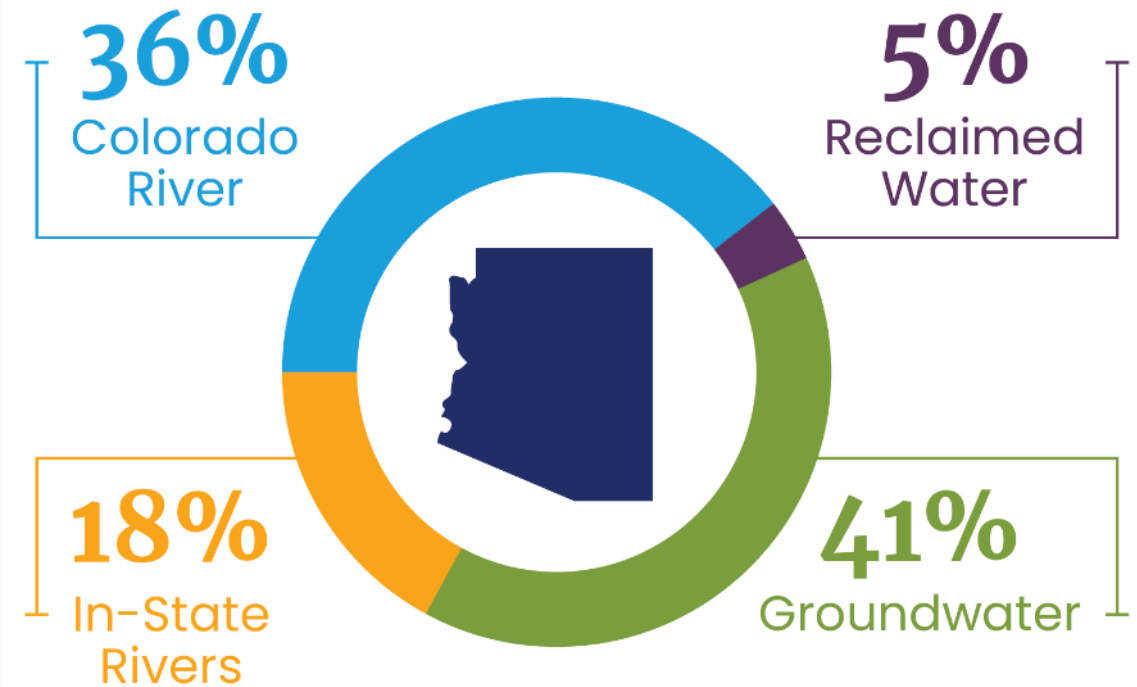
Karen Cesare

CAWCD Board Secretary

Nov. 18, 2025

YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.

Arizona Water Sources



Colorado River Basin

- Supplies water to 40 million people
- Provides water to Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Diego and Tucson
- Includes 30 Tribes (22 in Arizona)
- Irrigates ~5 million acres of farmland
- Includes large reservoirs that can store up to 60 million acre-feet of water
- Generates clean hydropower for the Western power grid
- Supports National Parks, wildlife refuges, recreation areas and monuments





CAP is foundational to Arizona

1922 - Colorado River Compact

First agreement to legally connect the Colorado River Basin states

Designated 7.5 maf to the Upper Basin and 7.5 maf mainstem water to the Lower Basin

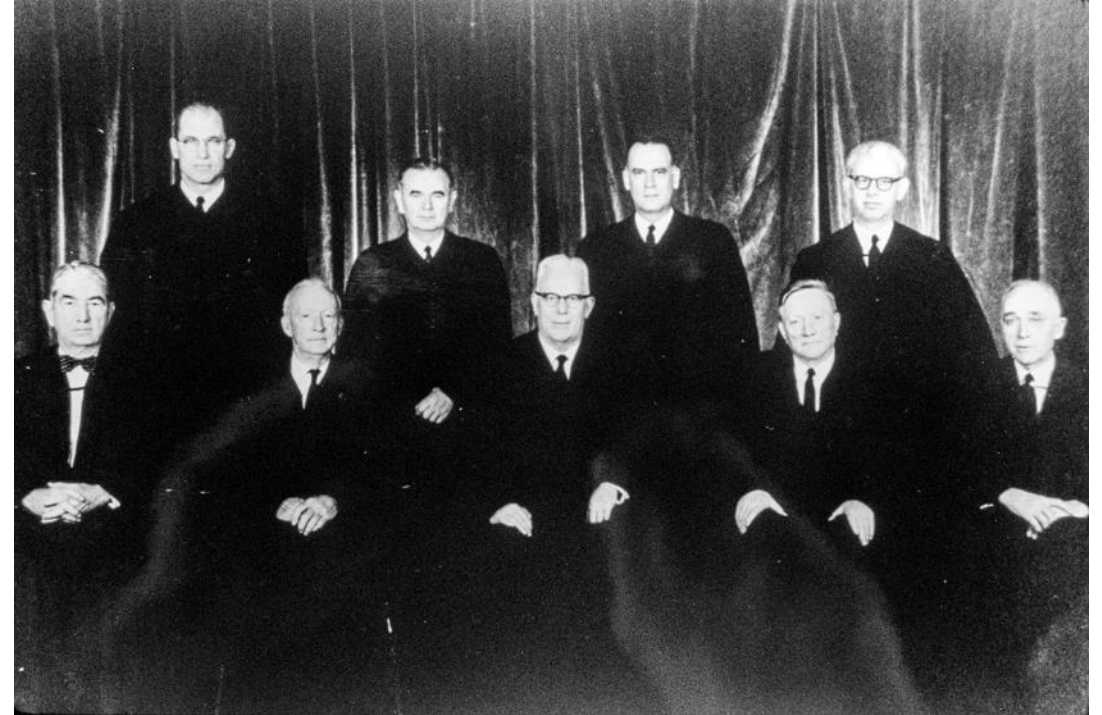
Creates obligation for the Upper Basin to send at least 75 maf to the Lower Basin for any period of 10 consecutive years

Obligation to Mexico shared equally between basins



1952-1964: Arizona vs. California

- After more than a decade of deliberation, the U.S. Supreme Court's opinion favored Arizona, affirming the state's allocation of 2.8 million acre-foot of mainstream Colorado River water
- Decision effectively established the U.S. Secretary of the Interior as the Lower Basin "water master"



1968: Colorado River Basin Project Act

- Signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on Sept. 30, 1968
- Authorized construction of Central Arizona Project





CAP's 20-Year Construction

- **1973:** Bureau of Reclamation begins construction of CAP
- **1985:** First CAP water delivery – Harquahala Valley Irrigation District
- **1993:** Construction is complete, costing roughly \$4 billion, \$1.65 billion of which must be repaid to the federal government





CAP connects Arizona communities



Today's Central Arizona Project – an Engineering Marvel

336-mile aqueduct stretching from
Lake Havasu to Tucson:

- 15 pumping plants -- lift water nearly 3,000 feet
- 10 siphons, 4 tunnels
- More than 50 turnouts that deliver the water
- Lake Pleasant storage reservoir/New Waddell Dam and Waddell Pump Generating Plant

CAP is committed to caring for this valuable infrastructure, ensuring reliability 24/7/365.



CAP Service Area

- More than **80% of Arizona's population** (6 million+ people)
- **3 Counties**
 - Maricopa
 - Pinal
 - Pima
- **11 tribal nations**

CAP delivers more tribal water than any other organization in the United States.





CAP Contracts

CAP's valuable infrastructure is necessary to communities across the state, providing connections among water supplies and systems.

In Pima County, there are ten entities currently using their annual CAP Water allocations:

- **Flowing Wells**
- **Freeport-McMoran**
- **Marana**
- **Metro Water**
- **Oro Valley**
- **Pascua Yaqui Tribe**
- **Tohono O'odham Nation**
- **Spanish Trail Water Co**
- **Tucson**
- **Vail Water Co**



CAP supply is allocated by contract:

54% to municipal/industrial

46% to tribes

CAWCD Governance

- CAWCD is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors
- Each Board member is elected from CAP's three-county service area and serves a staggered, unpaid six-year term
 - **10 from Maricopa County**
 - **4 from Pima County**
 - **1 from Pinal County**





CAP provides water security for Arizona

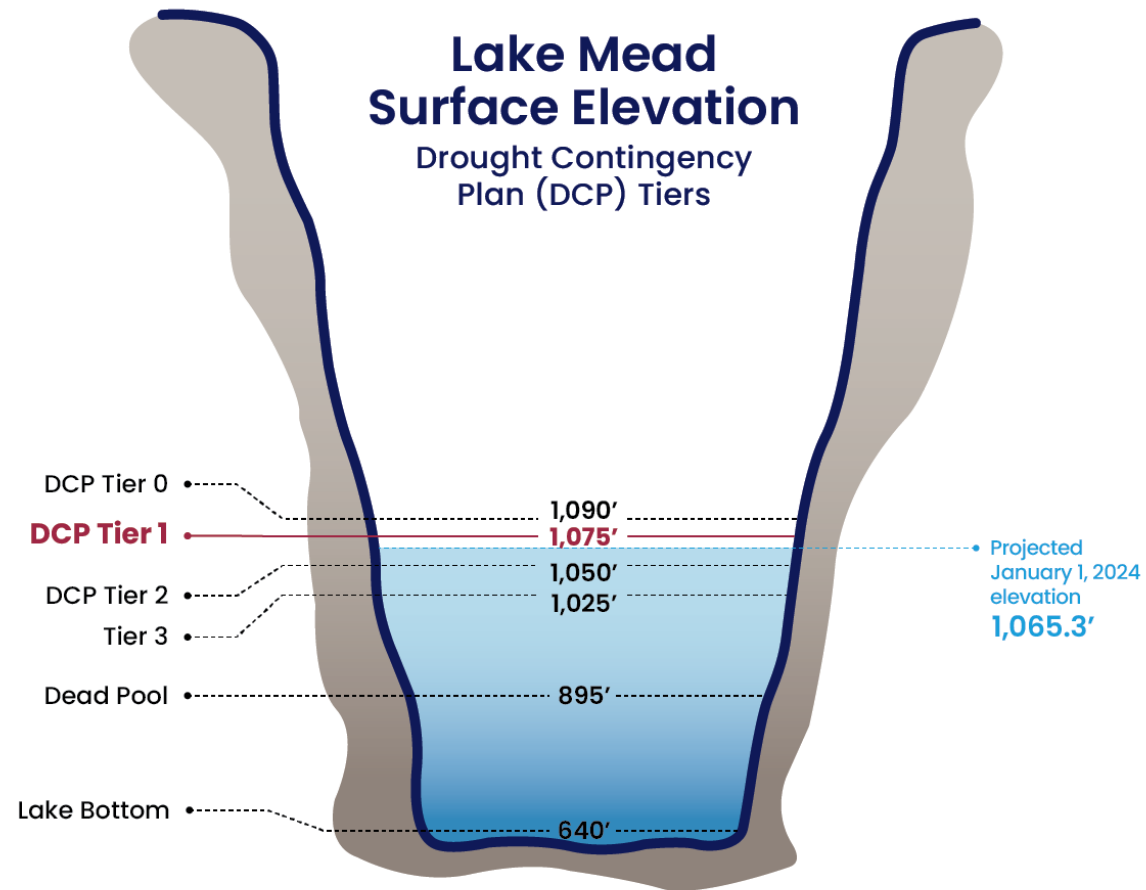
25 years of Colorado River drought



Snowpack vs. Runoff (% of average)		
	Snowpack	Runoff
2020	105%	61%
2021	86%	37%
2022	90%	63%
2023	161%	140%
2024	114%	83%

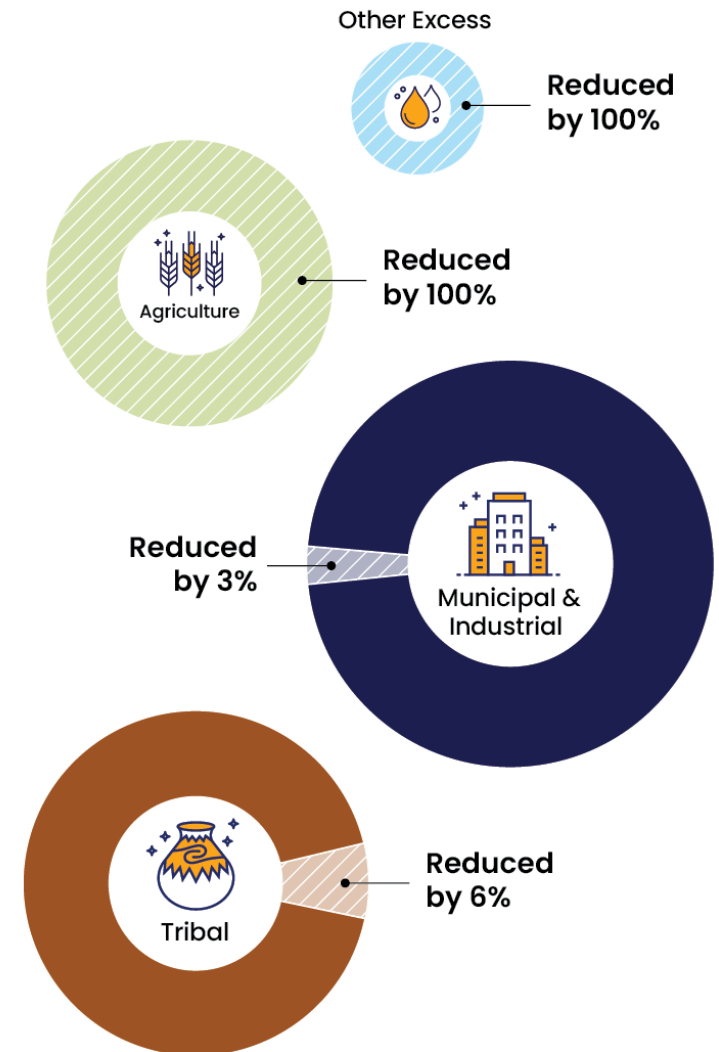
2025 Tier 1 Shortage

CAP Delivery System under Tier 1



**Graphics are not to scale and serve only as a representation.*

2025 Reductions to CAP Contract Categories





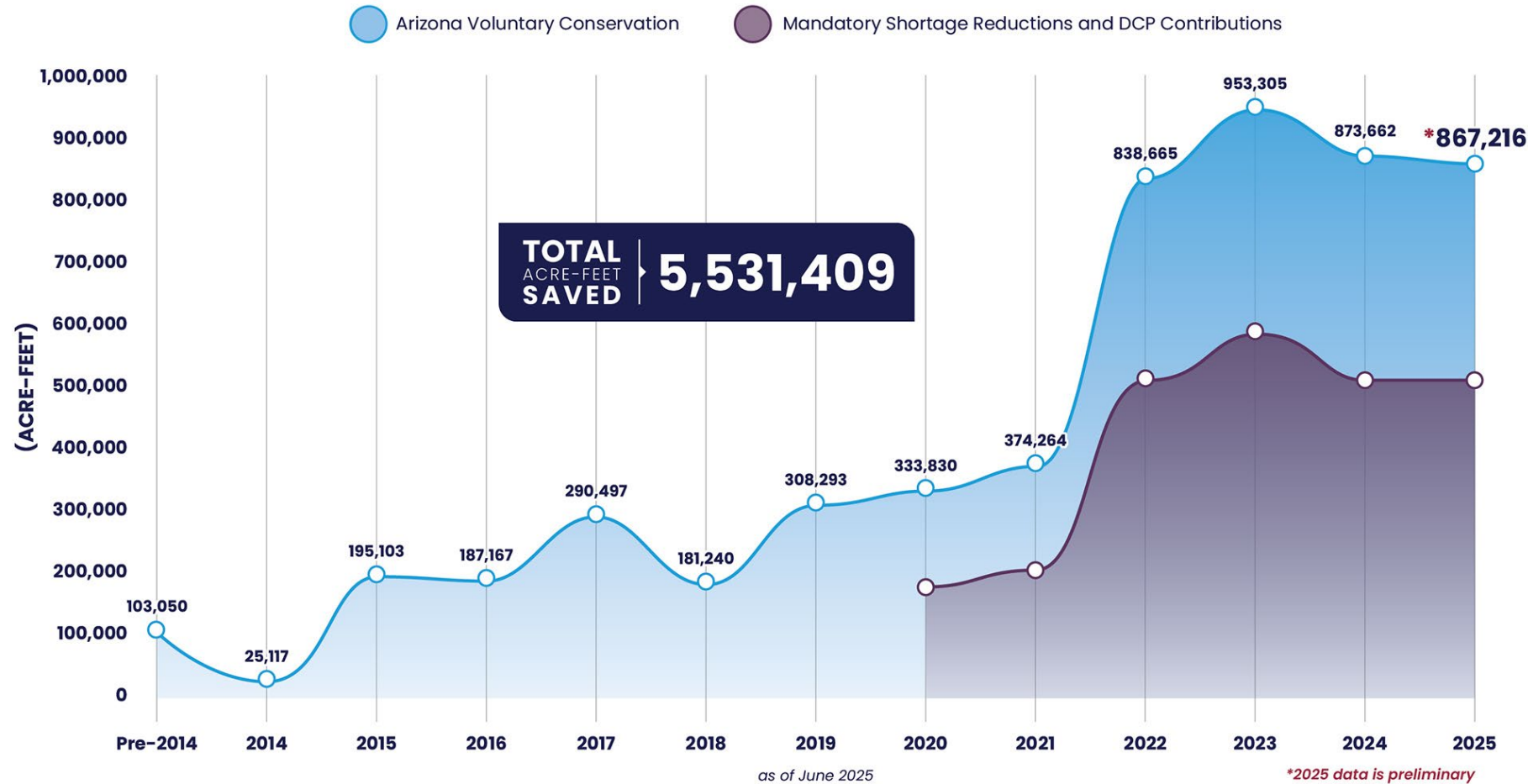
Colorado River Operations through 2026

2007 Interim Guidelines

- Established a shortage framework for the Lower Basin based on elevations in Lake Mead
- Incentivized storage of water in Lake Mead
- Coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead
- 20-year term – 2007-2026 (**2019 Drought Contingency Plan** was an overlay due to declining reservoirs)



Large-scale conservation



- Arizona will have conserved more than 5.5 million acre-feet through the end of this year

Post-2026 Colorado River Operations

- Bureau of Reclamation initiated a National Environmental Policy Act process in June 2023
- The Lower Basin states agree that future operations should:
 - Improve Colorado River reliability over a broad range of future conditions
 - Share the risks and benefits of the system within and between the basins
 - Improve predictability of reductions to stabilize Lake Mead
- Additional work with stakeholders, water users, and Upper Basin interests is needed to reach consensus



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Scoping Report for Post-2026 Colorado River Reservoir Operations

Upper and Lower Colorado Basin Regions



U.S. Department of the Interior

October 2023



— COALITION FOR —
PROTECTING
ARIZONA'S
LIFELINE





Coalition for Protecting Arizona's Lifeline

Mayors from across Arizona have come together to form the [Coalition for Protecting Arizona's Lifeline -- advocating and uniting Arizona](#) in support of the Colorado River and Central Arizona Project's role in water delivery.

Apache Junction Avondale Buckeye Carefree
Casa Grande Cave Creek Chandler Coolidge El Mirage
Eloy Florence Fountain Hills Gilbert Glendale
Goodyear Litchfield Park Marana Mesa Oro Valley
Phoenix Queen Creek Sahuarita Scottsdale Surprise
Tempe Tucson Youngtown



Why Now

- CAP delivers vital Colorado River water to the most populous regions of the state where **more than six million people, 80% of Arizona's population** reside.
- CAP water also provides a foundation for most of Arizona's industry, tribal communities, and municipalities.
- Any dramatic reduction or reallocation of Colorado River water that CAP delivers to its users would have significant **negative implications** for our total quality of life, economy and the security of our country.



Arizona is a Water Leader

The Coalition highlights Arizona's role as a leader in water stewardship and advocates for solutions that protect our state.

- Arizona communities have led with:
 - Water reuse projects
 - Efficient irrigation and conservation
 - Collaborative agreements
- Arizona has grown responsibly while using less water today per capita than in decades past.
- These efforts have positioned Arizona as a national model of smart water management and proactive planning.



Join Our Efforts

Your voice matters.

- By joining the coalition, you're helping protect Arizona's future, national defense efforts, environment, and strong business climate.
- We invite you to sign our pledge of support to be part of this effort to protect our water supplies.
- Visit www.ProtectingArizonasLifeline.org.





What's next?

YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.

Long-Term Solutions and Partnerships

- **Negotiations** – Maintaining fair share of Colorado River supply
- **Augmentation** – Finding new water supplies
- **Conservation Efficiency** – Helping users with conservation efforts
- **Reuse** – Supporting studies about recycled water
- **Recovery** – Recovering water stored underground





CAP Water Education Center

- New accessible space to be built on the CAP Headquarters campus to offer visitor experiences that explore CAP's:
 - History
 - Operations
 - Impact on Arizona
- Groundbreaking: May 2025



Stay Informed!

- Visit and subscribe to CAP's news site – [KnowYourWaterNews.com](https://www.knowyourwaternews.com)
- Enroll in CAP University (visit [CentralArizonaProject.com](https://www.centralarizonaproject.com) and search for upcoming dates)





Thank You!

YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.