

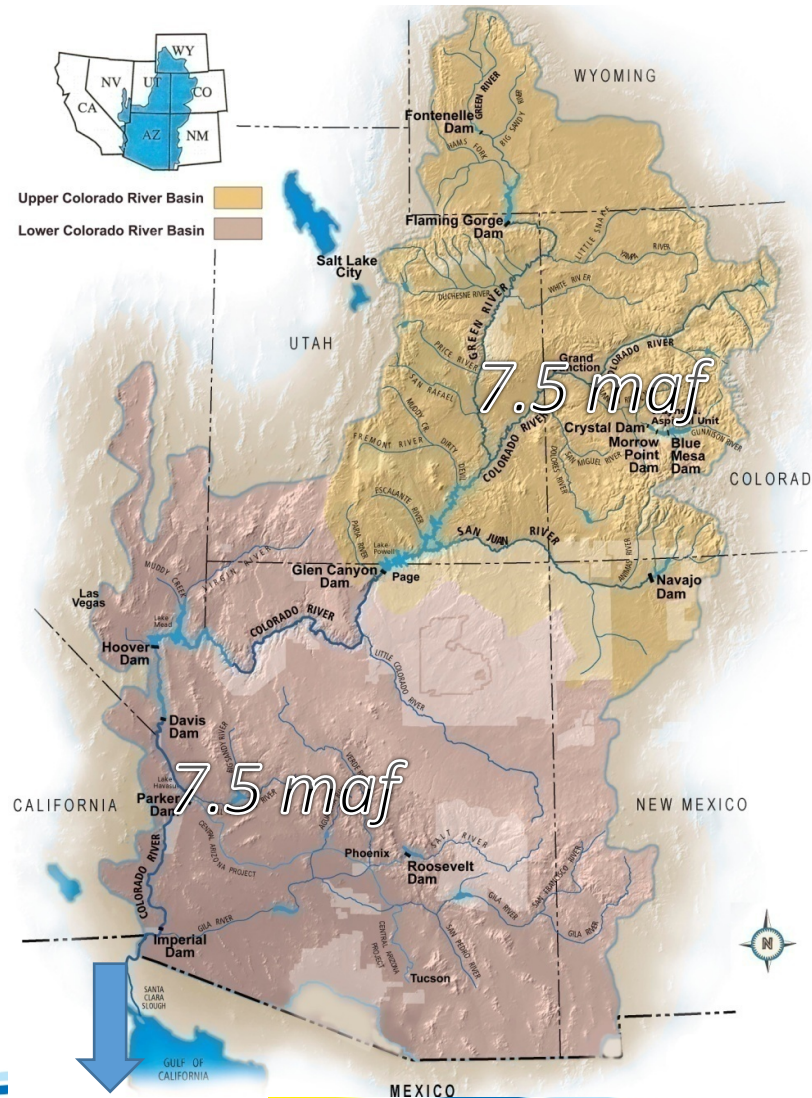
Colorado River Issues 2021 Update



Robert C. Cheng
Coachella Valley Water District

Water
COUNTS
ACADEMY

CR background



- ❑ Named “hardest working river in the West”
- ❑ Supplies 40 million users in 7 states and Mexico
- ❑ 15 million af (maf) within U.S. + 1.5 maf to Mexico
- ❑ CVWD formed in 1918 to obtain federal Colorado River water supply
- ❑ In drought conditions since 2000
- ❑ Reservoir storage dropped by 50% since start of drought



Yc 1.5 maf use

Working relationships

- ❑ Colorado River issues resolved collaboratively through stakeholders
 - ✓ *includes Federal government*
- ❑ CVWD has history of working cooperatively with other parties
 - ✓ *2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement*
 - ✓ *2007 Interim Guidelines (expires 2026)*
 - ✓ *Drought Contingency Plan (2019)*
 - ✓ *Renegotiations of 2007 Interim Guidelines (started)*

California



Basin States



Delivery of water to Mexico
(Minute 32x)



Your water is our promise

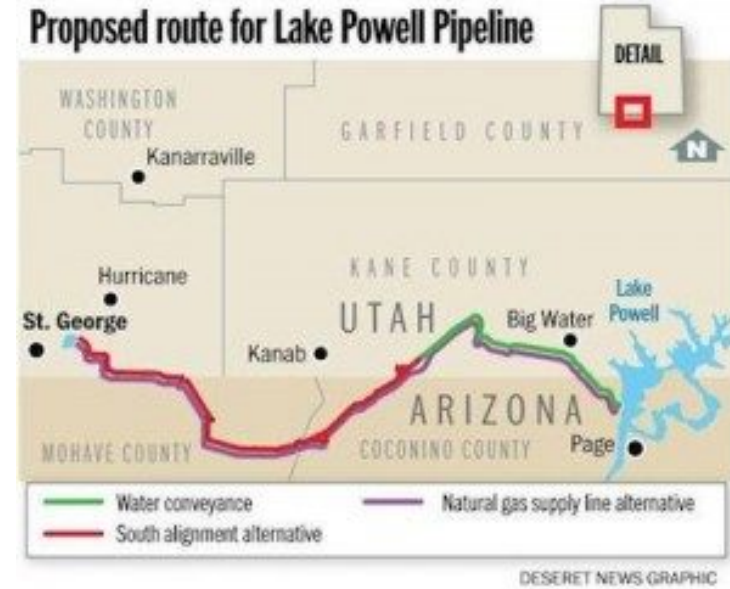
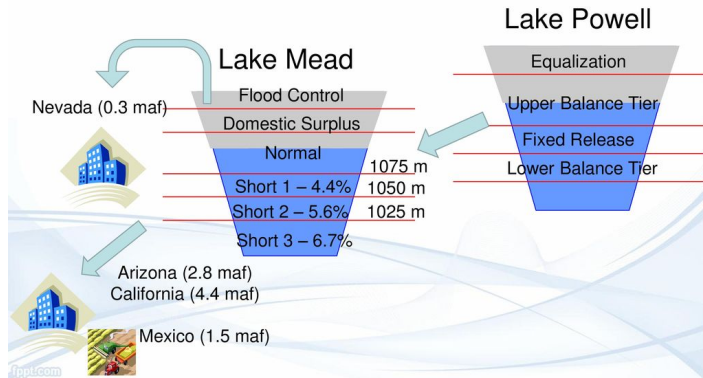
Importance of CR to Coachella Valley

- ❑ 80% of CVWD's imported water supply
 - ✓ *federal contracted supply of 330,000 af (taf)*
 - ✓ *added 123 taf through various negotiations*
 - ✓ *resulted in 453 taf (gross)*
 - ✓ *more than NV's annual supply*
- ❑ Among the highest priorities on the river
 - ✓ *reliable*
 - ✓ *takes Act of Congress to change rules*
- ❑ Good working relations with others on the river

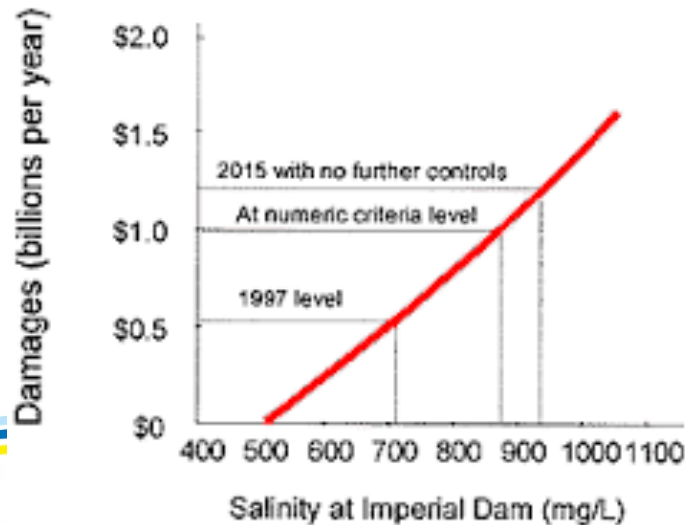


Issues under discussion

2007 - Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

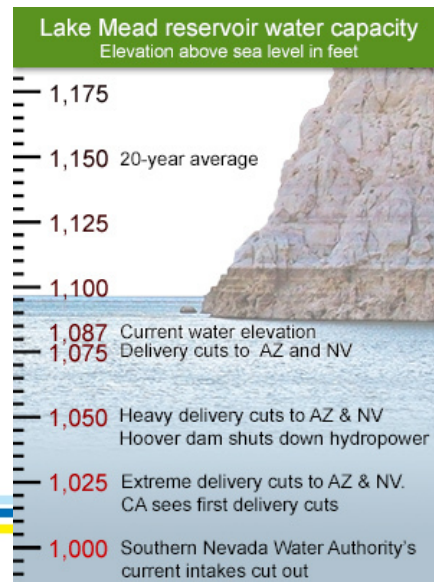
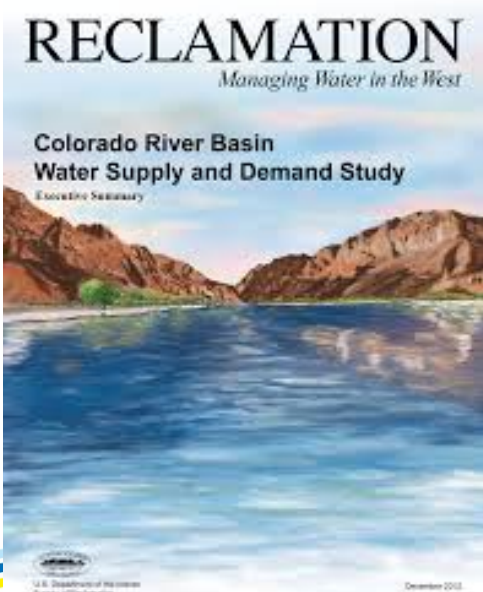
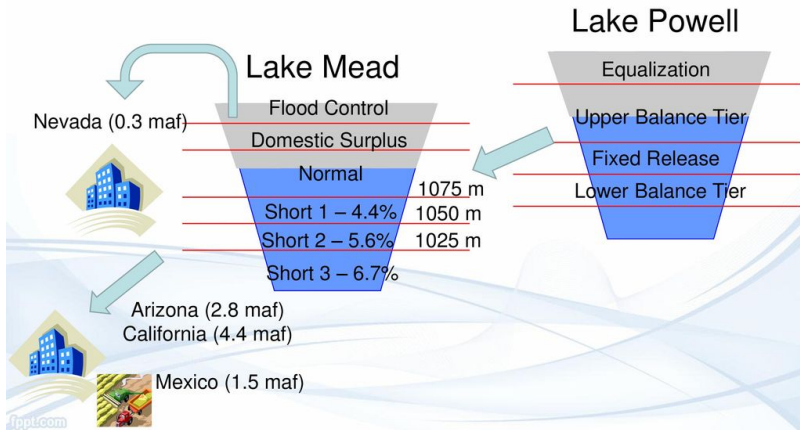


Damages vs Salinity



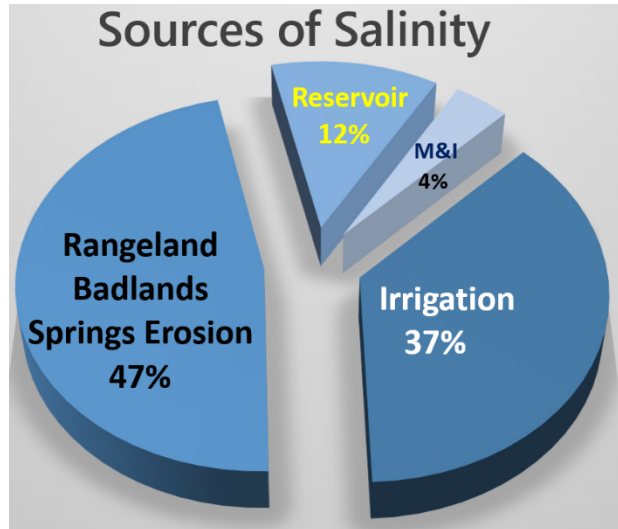
Renegotiations of Guidelines

2007 - Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

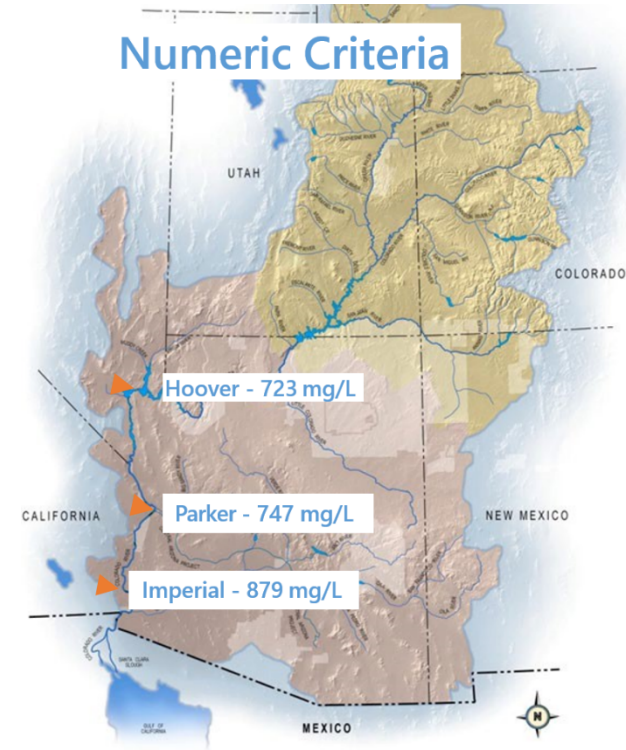


- ❑ 2007 Interim Guidelines
 - ✓ set of rules for CR water deliveries
 - ✓ expires in 2026
- ❑ Basin States cooperated to avoid mandatory delivery shortages
- ❑ Supply & demand not in balance
 - ✓ 15 maf allocated to 7 states
 - ✓ long term imbalance of 3.2 maf (USBR study)
- ❑ Other states seeking to fully use their contracted volumes (LPP)
- ❑ Adjustments or major revisions?

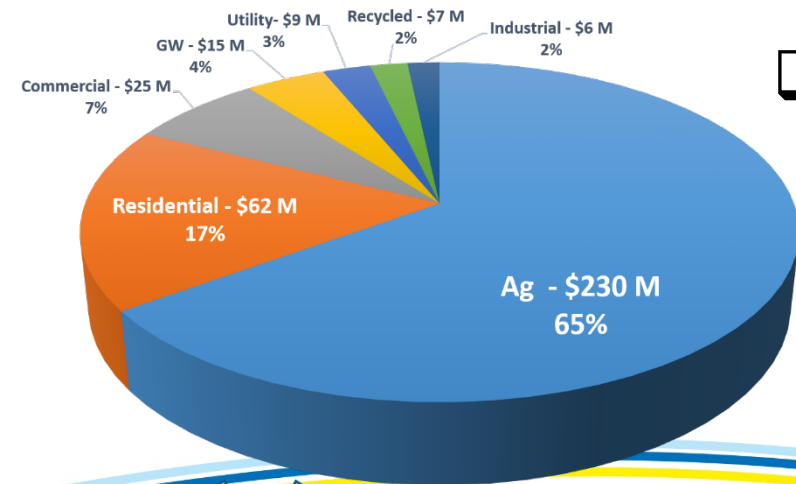
Salinity Control Program



- ❑ Program started in 1995 to limit salt in Colorado River
 - ✓ damages to all sectors
- ❑ 9 M tons/yr additional
 - ✓ control 1.66 M tons/yr (target)
 - ✓ offset human-based activities in Upper Basin



\$354 M/yr of damages in 2020

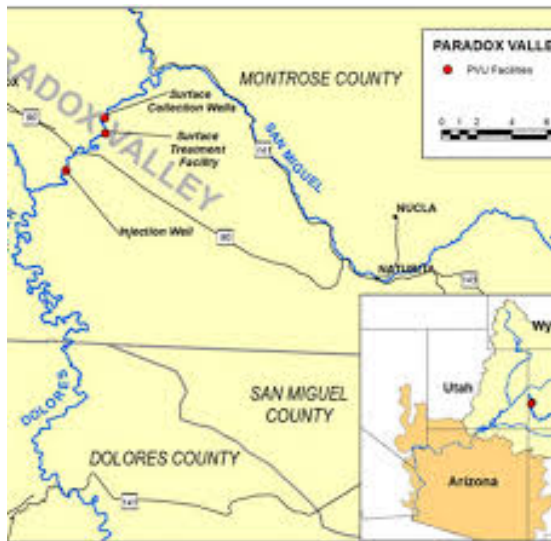


- ❑ WQ stds set (numeric criteria)
- ❑ Public Law 93-320 (1974)
 - ✓ CR Basin Salinity Control Act
 - ✓ Title I – Yuma Desalter (MX commitment)
 - ✓ Title II – 4 units upstream of Imperial Dam (inc. Paradox Valley Unit)

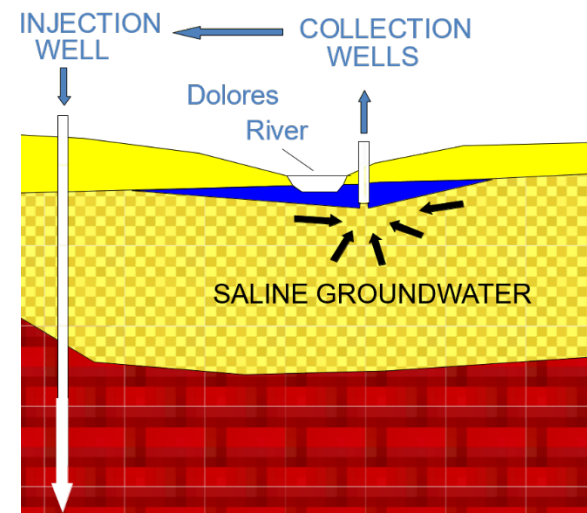
Title II Salinity Control Program Reclamation projects



Paradox Valley Unit



- ❑ Dolores River adds > 205 k tons/yr
- ❑ PVU diverts 250,000 mg/L waters for injection (seawater = 35,000 mg/L)
 - ✓ removes > 100 k tons/yr (~ 10% of total salt removed in program)
 - ✓ operational since 1996
 - ✓ linked to additional seismic events



- ❑ At end of service life
 - ✓ alternatives include evaporation ponds, zero liquid discharge, new well
- ❑ No action alternative selected
 - ✓ increase of 10 to 15 mg/L at Hoover Dam
 - ✓ \$24 M in salinity damages





Tribal lawsuit



Issue	Tribal Arguments	DWA/CVWD position	Court rulings
Water rights	Aboriginal	Claim barred by 1851 Act, court agreed	Reserved rights doctrine may extend to groundwater
	Reserved	Not necessary	
		<i>Tribe has confirmed surface water rights</i>	
	<i>CA law provides correlative GW rights to landowners</i>		
Pore space	Request for storage	Storage in underground basin is public common, no exclusive rights	Supplemental complaint filed for quantification
Water quality impacts	Treat CRW to specific std before recharge	Can't sue for WQ impacts, no injury shown	Dismissed for lack of standing



Questions?



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