

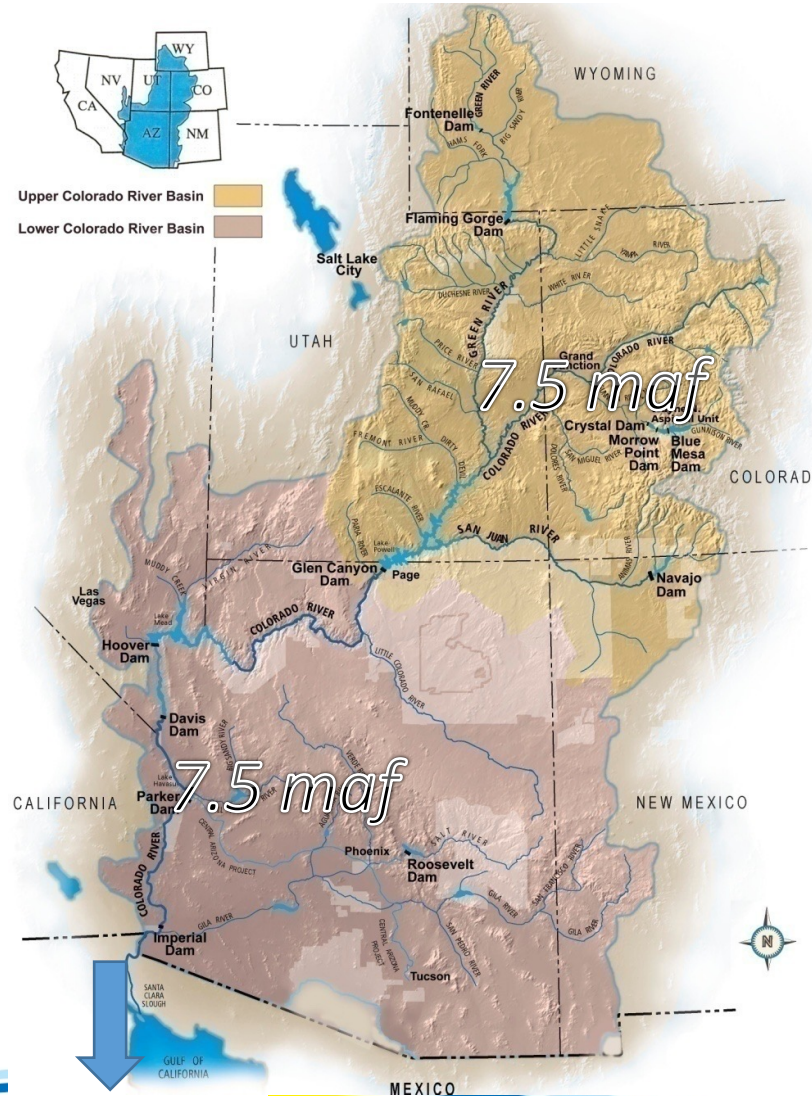
Colorado River Adaptive Management in Action



Robert C. Cheng
Coachella Valley Water District



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
- ❑ In drought conditions since 2000
- ❑ Reservoir storage has dropped by 50% since start of drought
- ❑ CVWD formed in 1918 to obtain federal Colorado River water supply



Yc 1.5 maf ise

Importance of CR to the 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



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*
 - ✓ *Drought Contingency Plan*
 - ✓ *Renegotiations of 2007 Interim Guidelines*

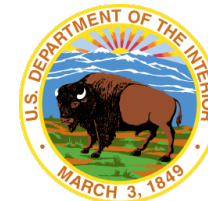
California



Basin States



Delivery of water to Mexico
(Minute 32x)



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Colorado River shortage

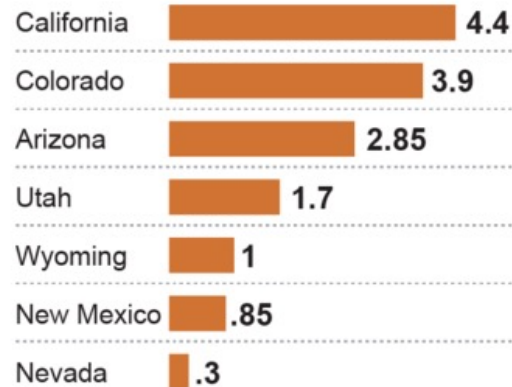
how did we get here?

The Colorado River Basin



Sources: USGS, Southern Nevada Water Authority

How the water is apportioned,
in millions of acre-feet per year

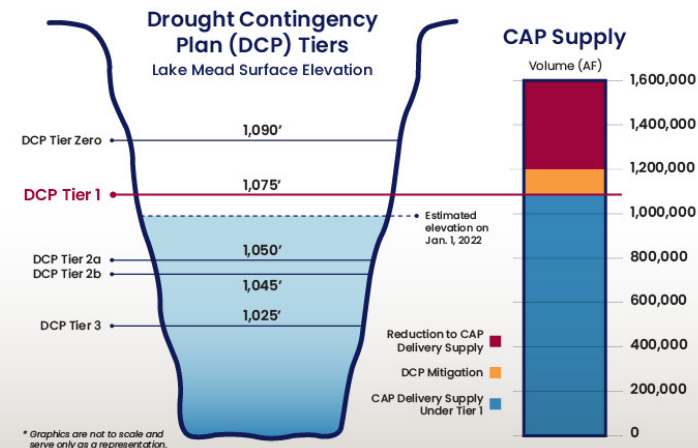


Lou Spirito / @latimesgraphics



Tier 1 Shortage:

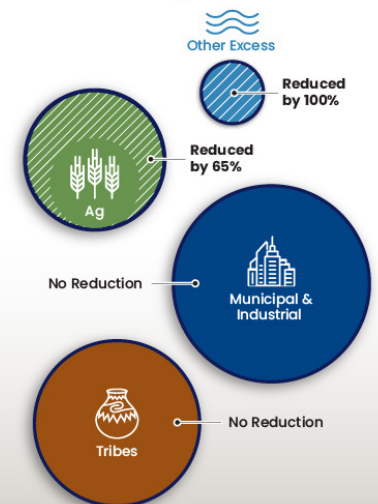
CAP Reductions



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

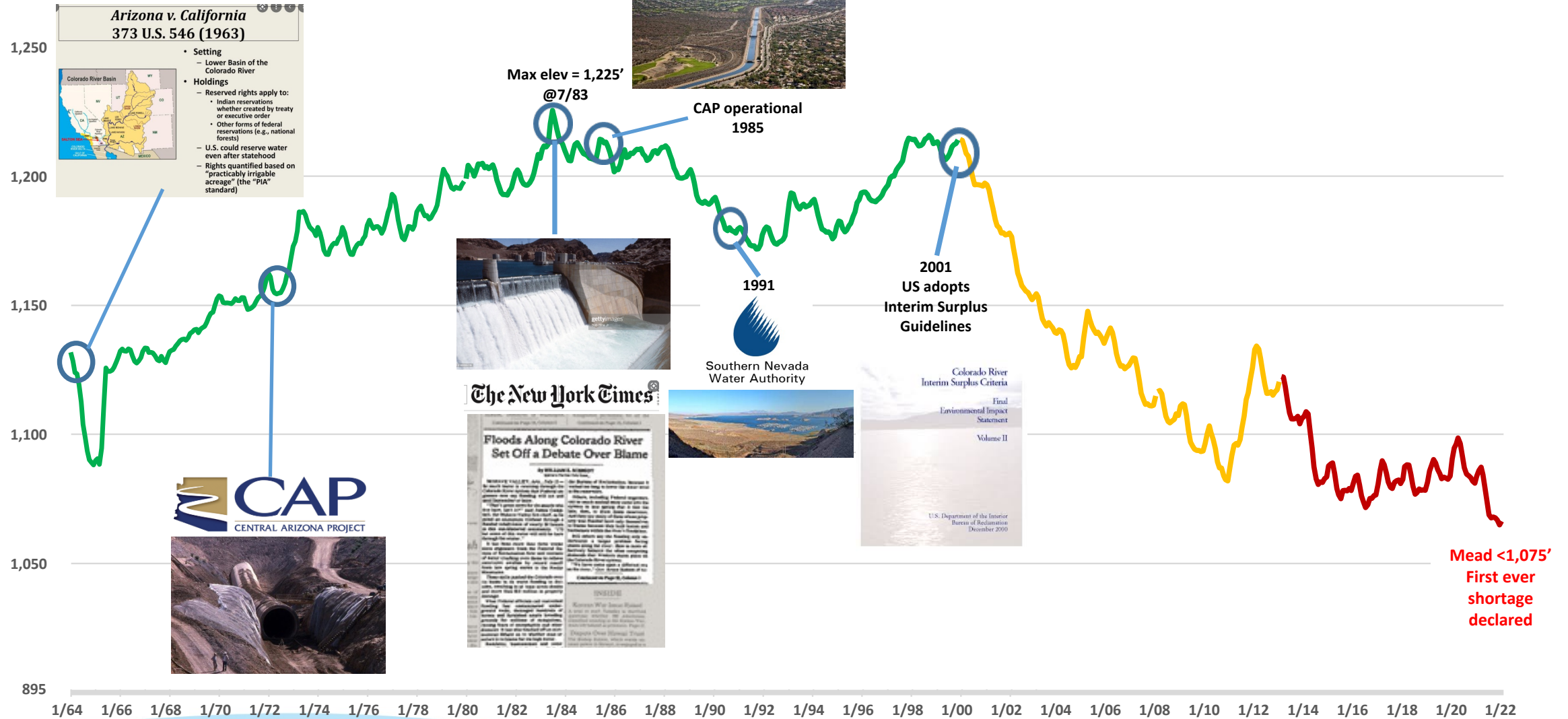
To learn more, please visit: www.cap-az.com/colorado-river-shortage

2022 Reduction to CAP Users After DCP Mitigation



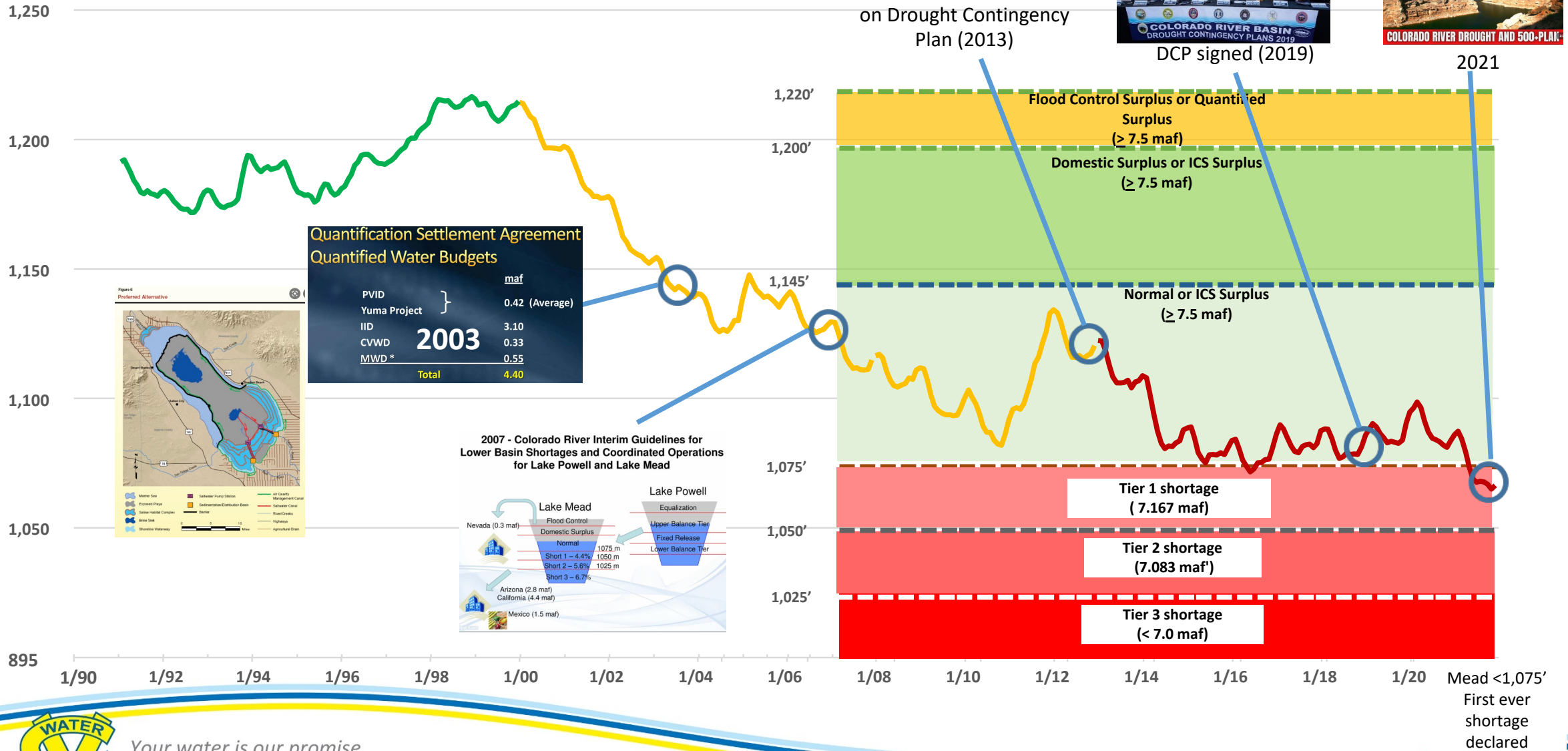
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Lower Basin water supply – Lake Mead



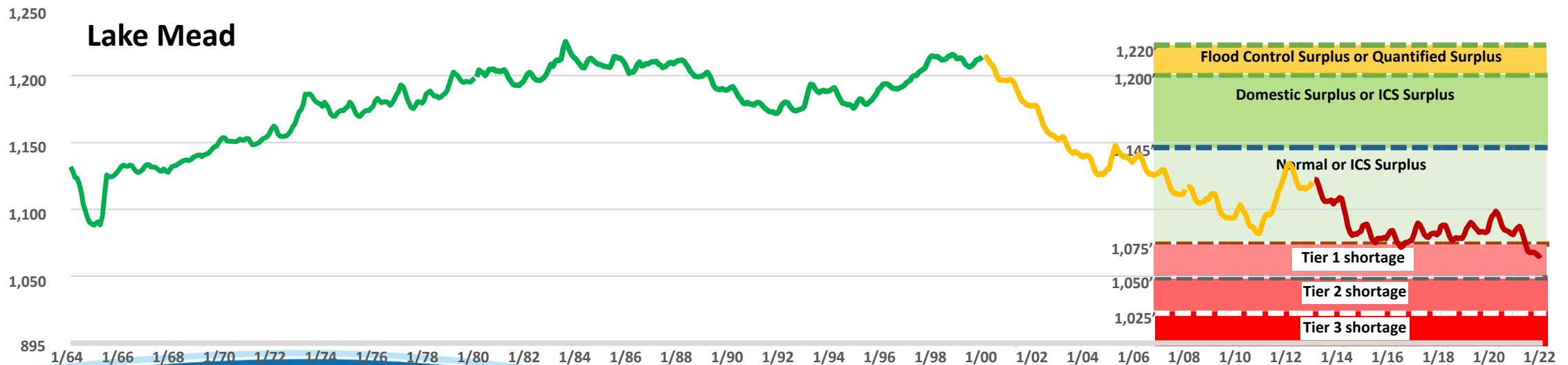
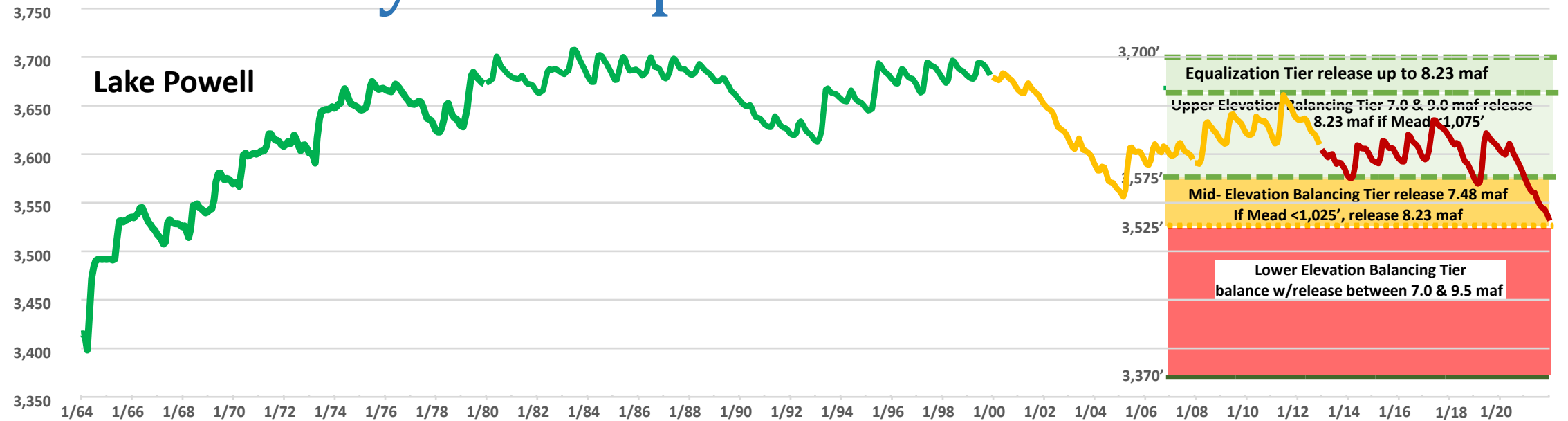
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Lake Mead since 1990



Your water is our promise

System operated as a whole



Your water is our promise



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



Final thoughts/next steps



- ☐ Issues on Colorado River are not new
- ☐ Parties adapt to changing conditions on river while respecting Priority system
- ☐ Issues resolved collaboratively
- ☐ Current/upcoming issues
 - ✓ 500+ *plan*
 - ✓ *Renegotiations of 2007 Interim Guidelines*

Questions?



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