

Sorting through the news Colorado River update



*Robert C. Cheng
Coachella Valley Water District
January 30, 2024*

Water
COUNTS
ACADEMY

Discussion items

- State of Colorado River
- Colorado River Negotiations Update
- CVWD Conservation efforts
- CVWD Water Planning and Management

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Colorado River news - 2022

Officials fear ‘complete doomsday scenario’ for drought-stricken Colorado River

By Joshua Partlow
December 1, 2022 at 6:00 a.m. EST

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“We are not going to be afraid to litigate” to protect Colorado’s water rights, AG says

Attorney General Phil Weiser said era of lower basin states over-consuming Colorado River “is over”

ENVIRONMENT

California drought 2022: Two water districts eye hefty Colorado River cuts



Janet Wilson

Palm Springs Desert Sun

Published 2:21 p.m. PT Aug. 4, 2022 | Updated 12:32 p.m. PT Aug. 7, 2022

A Water War Is Brewing Over the Dwindling Colorado River

‘The brink of disaster’: 2023 is a critical year for the Colorado River as reservoirs sink toward ‘dead pool’

By Ella Nilsen and Rachel Ramirez, CNN

Published 7:26 AM EST, Fri December 30, 2022

UTAH THE WEST ENVIRONMENT

A southern Utah mayor’s water warning: ‘We are running out’

The mayor of Ivins says Washington County needs to address unfettered growth and its impact on drought

Feds will spend billions to boost drought-stricken Colorado River system

KUNC | By Alex Hager
Published September 23, 2022 at 6:16 PM MDT

California takes major step to cut back on use of Colorado River water

By MARIANNE GOODLAND marianne.goodland@coloradopolitics.com Oct 5, 2022 Updated Dec 29, 2022 0

Feds Will Cut States’ Access to Colorado River Water

STATELINE UPDATE | June 15, 2022 | By: Matt Vasilogambros | Read time: 2 min

THE
NATIONAL LAW REVIEW

U.S. Interior Department Initiates Actions to Protect Colorado River System, Reduce Deliveries

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

ENVIRONMENT

Growers brace to give up some Colorado River water

BY ALASTAIR BLAND
JANUARY 17, 2023

Twitter Facebook WhatsApp

EXTREME WEATHER | Published January 16, 2023 5:44pm EST

Scottsdale, Arizona, cuts off water to suburb in response to Colorado River drought

It's been over two weeks since the water supply was cut off from an unincorporated community outside of Scottsdale. However, the drought is a problem two-decades in the making.



Killing the Colorado

The Water Crisis in the West

Feds begin ‘expedited’ process to help save drought-stricken Colorado River



By Ella Nilsen, CNN

Updated 4:46 PM EDT, Fri October 28, 2022

Increasing pressures on Colorado River water in New Mexico

Colorado River cutbacks have led to several consecutive years when New Mexico entities have received far less water than expected.

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Colorado River news - 2023

2024: A make or break year for the Colorado River

Marianne Goodland marianne.goodland@coloradopolitics.com Dec 16, 2023 Updated Jan 9, 2024 0

Reclamation releases draft supplemental EIS for Colorado River Basin

hydroreviewcontentdirectors

4.12.2023

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California Responds to Reclamation's Draft SEIS

April 11, 2023

Contact: Lisa Lien-Mager — 916-407-6279 Lisa.Lien-Mager@resources.ca.gov

Jessica Neuwerth — 818-254-3200 jneuwerth@crb.ca.gov

Bureau of Reclamation publishes revised draft Colorado River Basin SEIS

The draft includes three key updates: the Lower Basin states' proposal as an action alternative, improved hydrology and more recent hydrologic data.

EDITED BY LUKE REYNOLDS NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Lake Mead to rise 10+ feet after feds agree to pay California water districts millions

FOX 5 LOCAL LAS VEGAS By Kim Passoth Published: Dec. 13, 2023 at 10:11 PM PST

California takes major step to cut back on use of Colorado River water

By MARIANNE GOODLAND marianne.goodland@coloradopolitics.com Oct 5, 2022 Updated Dec 29, 2022 0

Feds propose cutting Colorado River water to California, Nevada and Arizona by up to one-fourth

Draft proposal would spare Utah, other Upper Basin states from cuts

By Amy Joi O'Donoghue | Apr 11, 2023, 3:03pm PST

Lower Colorado River Basin states agree to conserve 3 million acre-feet of water

A breakthrough for water use by Colorado River Basin states, the agreement from Arizona, California and Nevada is followed by significant updates from the Department of the Interior.

May 23, 2023 WaterWorld

THE CONVERSATION

Colorado River states bought time with a 3-year water conservation deal – now they need to think bigger

Robert Glennon, Regents Professor Emeritus and Morris K. Udall Professor of Law & Public Policy Emeritus, University of Arizona

May 26, 2023 · 6 min read

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California offers up a 400,000 acre-foot cut to its Colorado River water

KUER 90.1 | By Associated Press Published October 5, 2022 at 3:46 PM MDT Updated October 6, 2022 at 6:24 AM MDT

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\$4B in federal funding going to conservation in the Colorado River Basin

KNAU News Talk - Arizona Public Radio | By KNAU STAFF Published October 12, 2022 at 1:53 PM MST

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COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMITS TO REDUCING DEMAND ON COLORADO RIVER

California Water News Daily November 27, 2022

Six states agree on a proposal for Colorado River cutbacks, California has a counter

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CA agencies agree to conserve a combined 643,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead

BY: JENIFFER SOLIS - DECEMBER 14, 2023 8:04 AM

Twitter | LinkedIn

Feds say water cuts to 3 states are enough to protect Colorado River – for now

BY: JENIFFER SOLIS - OCTOBER 26, 2023 6:38 AM

Twitter | LinkedIn | Facebook

KUNC | By Alex Hager Published January 31, 2023 at 7:22 PM MST

2024 Colorado River operations: Tier 1 shortage

1869 - 1871

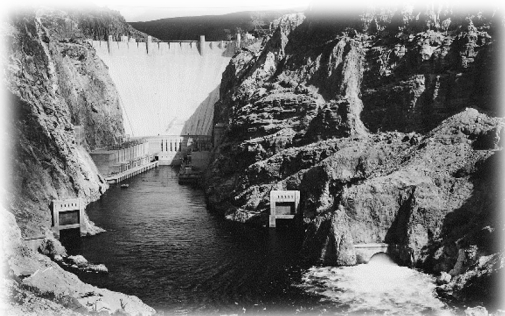


CR background

Colorado River Compact 1922



1928



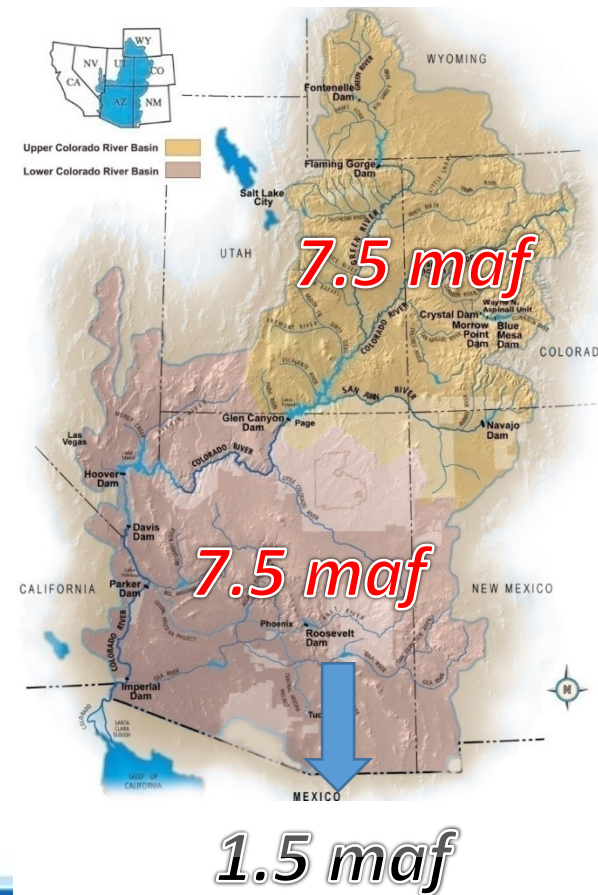
Boulder Canyon Project Act

2007

RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead Draft EIS

- ❑ “Hardest working river in the West”
- ❑ Supplies 40 M users in 7 states & Mexico
- ❑ 15 million af (maf) w/in U.S. & 1.5 maf to Mexico
- ❑ CVWD formed in 1918 to obtain federal Colorado River water supply
- ❑ ~80% of CVWD’s imported supply



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Working relationships

- ❑ Colorado River issues historically resolved collaboratively w/stakeholders
 - ✓ *includes Federal government*
- ❑ CVWD worked cooperatively with other parties
 - ✓ *2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement*
 - ✓ *2007 Interim Guidelines*
 - ✓ *2019 Drought Contingency Plan*
 - ✓ *Renegotiations of 2007 Interim Guidelines*

California



Basin States



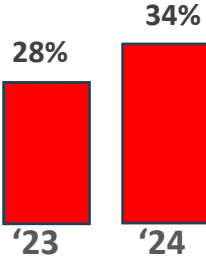
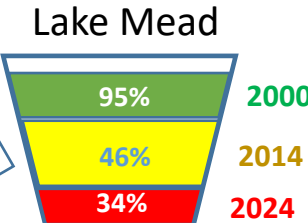
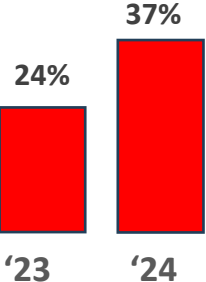
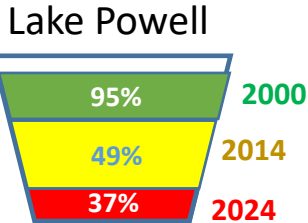
Delivery of water to Mexico
(Minute 32x)



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State of the River

Courtesy of Grist/Amelia Bates



Jan '24 total system storage
~43% (24.8 maf)

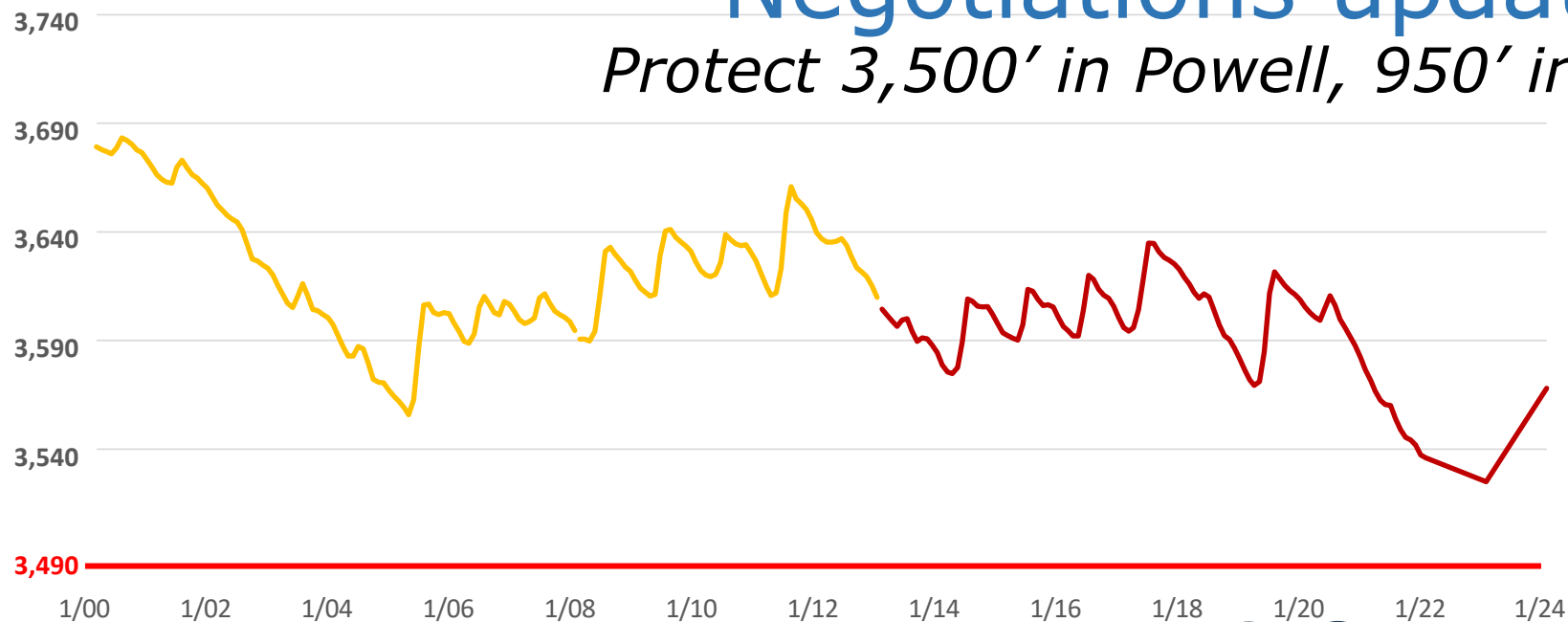


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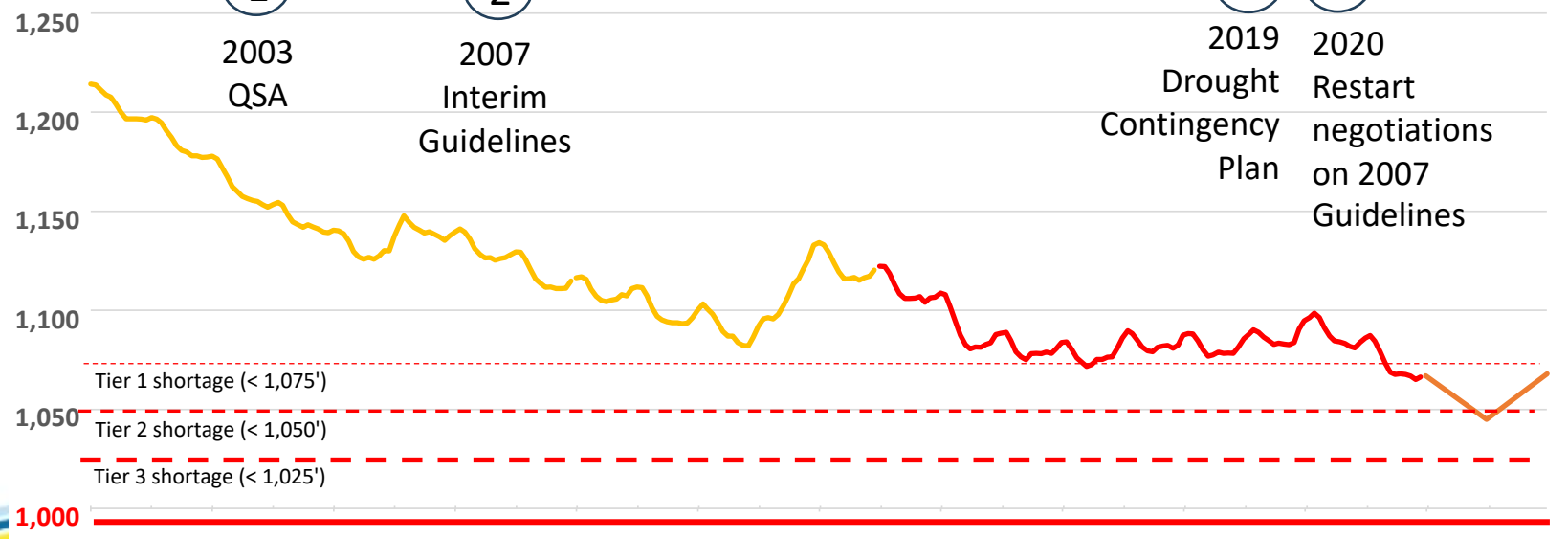
Negotiations update

Protect 3,500' in Powell, 950' in Mead


Lake Powell



Lake Mead



- **June 14, '22**

 - 2- 4 maf/yr additional reductions (2023-26)
- **Sept**

 - CA parties commit to addn'l 400 taf/yr
 - voluntary & compensated
- **Oct 12**

 - \$4 B for drought mitigation
 - Short-term actions open
- **Nov 18**


 - Protection elevations
 - ✓ 3,490' Lake Powell
 - ✓ 950' Lake Mead
- **Jan 31, '23**

 - 6-States Consensus
 - CA
- **April 11**

 - USBR alternatives, up to 4 maf/yr reductions
- **May 22**

Seven Basin States agree to the submission of a Lower Basin, consensus-based system conservation proposal to protect the Colorado River Basin

 - Alt proposal for addn'l 3 maf total (2023-26) selected
- **May 24**

 - Long-term actions opens
- **Jun 16**

 - NOI to prepare EIS for post-2026 CR ops (comments close 8/15)

CVWD's conservation efforts

□ Groundwater

- ✓ *landscape plan & irrigation design ordinance*
- ✓ *large landscape smart controllers rebate program*
- ✓ *turf rebate program*
- ✓ *tiered water rates*



□ Colorado River water

- ✓ *CVWD's ag among the most efficient in the US (<3.8 af/acre-yr)*
- ✓ *> 60% of customers invested in drip irrigation*
- ✓ *49-mile lining of Coachella Canal (saves 132 taf/yr)*
- ✓ *ag water delivery system losses ~5.8% (closed pipes & meters)*

Drought Penalty Chart

	Tier 1	Tier 2 up to 90%	Tier 2 above 90%	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5
Standard rate (per ccf*)	\$0.94	\$1.17	\$1.17	\$3.59	\$4.21	\$6.44
Drought Penalty (per ccf*)			+\$0.29	+\$1.80	+\$3.16	+\$6.44
Total per ccf* unit			-\$1.46	-\$5.39	-\$7.37	-\$12.88

DISCONTINUED



Conservation in response to Federal program

□ 2022

- ✓ 9,083 af conserved (500+ Plan)

□ 2023

- ✓ *short-term actions*
 - Replenishment Facilities Curtailment
 - up to 35 taf/yr for 3 years (up to 105 taf total)
 - Colorado River Ag Fallowing (*in negotiations*)
 - up to 10 taf/yr for 3 years (up to 30 taf total)
- ✓ *longer-term actions (proposal submitted 7/18)*
 - WRP 4 Expansion Project
 - Golf Course Conservation Program

Voluntary
Temporary
Compensated



CVWD water planning & management

- ❑ Actions intended to maintain groundwater balance
- ❑ 2020 Coachella Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan
- ❑ Investments in new system reliability projects
 - ✓ *Sites Reservoir Project*
 - ✓ *Delta Conveyance Project*
 - ✓ *Lake Perris Seepage Recovery Project*
- ❑ Wastewater recycling
- ❑ Continue conservation efforts
- ❑ Continue public educational seminars, workshops and classes



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Questions?

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

