



# colorado river shortage

## 2022 FACT SHEET

### ARIZONA – STRONGER TOGETHER

In August 2021, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior declared the first-ever Tier 1 shortage for Colorado River operations. The shortage, which will begin in 2022, will result in a substantial cut to Arizona's share of the Colorado River. These Arizona reductions will be borne by Central Arizona Project (CAP) water users. The result will be less available Colorado River water for central Arizona agricultural users.

Given the recent intensification of the drought, it is likely there will be deeper levels of shortage in the next few years.

### YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Reductions will be determined by Arizona's priority system. The Tier 1 shortage reductions fall largely on central Arizona agricultural users.
- As impacts of the drought persist, additional reductions to CAP water users are likely to occur pursuant to the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). These reductions, referred to as Tier 2 and Tier 3, would include impacts to CAP water currently available to some central Arizona municipalities and tribes.
- The near record low runoff in the Colorado River in 2021 significantly reduced storage in Lake Powell. The impacts of the reduced storage will cascade to Lake Mead. Projections of future conditions have triggered provisions of the 2019 DCP designed to protect critical elevations in Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The Lake Mead provisions (aka "1030' consultations") include additional collective actions shared by Arizona, California and Nevada.
- If conditions worsen, ADWR and CAP will work collaboratively with Arizona stakeholders, the Basin States and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to develop and implement additional near-term actions and longer-term solutions.

### WHAT IS A COLORADO RIVER SHORTAGE?

A shortage means a reduction in the Colorado River supply available to Arizona.

In 2020 and 2021, the river operated in a "Tier Zero" status, requiring the State to forego 192,000 acre-feet of Arizona's 2.8-million acre-foot annual entitlement to Lake Mead. This reduction is coming entirely from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) system.

Reclamation has declared a Tier 1 shortage for 2022. This will require Arizona to further reduce uses to a total of 512,000 acre-feet, again borne almost entirely by the CAP system.

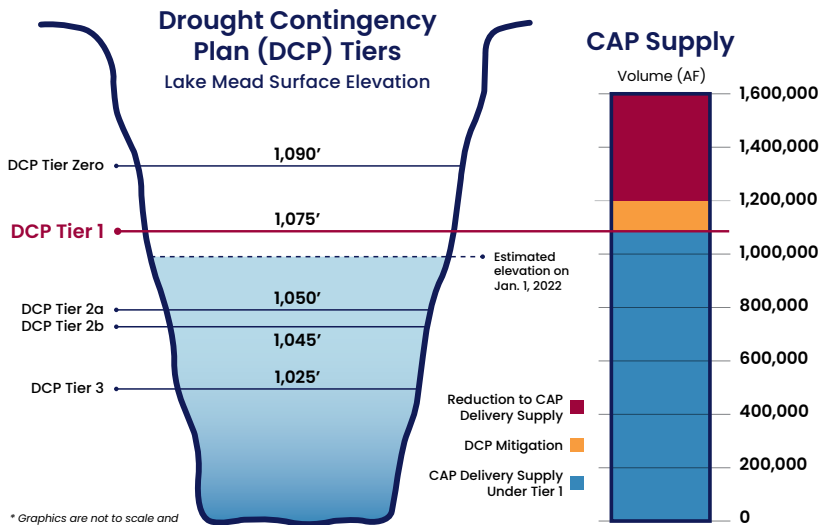
The Tier 1 reductions constitute about 30% of CAP's normal supply; about 18% of Arizona's Colorado River supply; and less than 8% of Arizona's total water use.

## WHO IS IMPACTED BY ARIZONA'S TIER 1 SHORTAGE IN 2022?

The shortage will result in a substantial cut to Arizona's share of the Colorado river, with reductions falling largely to central Arizona agricultural users. Water supplies for cities and tribes will not be affected in 2022.

The following infographic shows CAP reductions for 2022 in a Tier 1 Shortage:

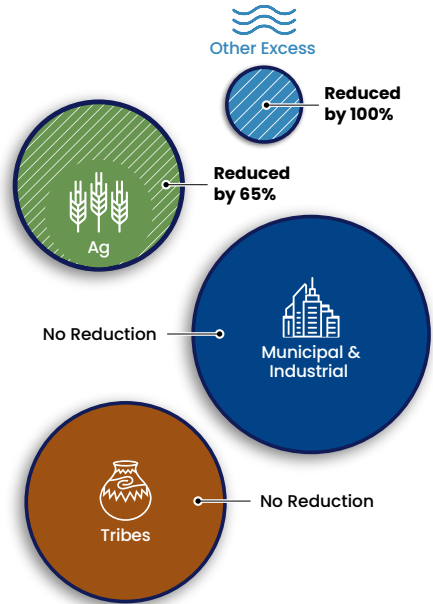
### Tier 1 Shortage: CAP Reductions



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

To learn more, please visit: [www.cap-az.com/colorado-river-shortage](http://www.cap-az.com/colorado-river-shortage)

### 2022 Reduction to CAP Users After DCP Mitigation



## HOW HAS THE DCP PREPARED ARIZONA FOR SHORTAGE?

Arizona's DCP Implementation Plan represents the best of Arizona water management: collaboration, cooperation and innovation.

Arizona's DCP Steering Committee included about 40 representatives of tribes, cities, agriculture, developers, environmental organizations and elected officials. This Committee worked collectively to share the risks and benefits of the DCP.

The 2019 Drought Contingency Plan put in place agreements that resulted in collective action by Arizona's water users to share resources and mitigate the impacts of shortage. Some committed to leave extra water in Lake Mead to reduce future risks, while others shared water with those most severely impacted by shortage. As the impact of poor hydrology continues, the DCP is adaptive to respond to worsening conditions, buying time to identify additional actions as needs dictate.

## LOWER COLORADO RIVER BASIN DCP CONTRIBUTIONS TO LAKE MEAD

### IN ACRE-FEET PER ELEVATION PER YEAR

- Tier Zero:** Less than 1,090'
- Tier 1:** Less than 1,075'
- Tier 2:** Less than 1,050'
- Tier 2b:** Less than 1,045'
- Tier 3:** Less than 1,025'

