



# Urban Water Institute Virtual Conference

## *The Art and Science of Managing the Colorado River*

February 17, 2022

**Ted Cooke**  
*General Manager*

**YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.**

# Central Arizona Project

- 336-mile aqueduct stretches from Lake Havasu to Tucson
  - 14 pumping plants lift water nearly 3,000 feet
  - 10 siphons, 4 tunnels
  - Lake Pleasant, New Waddell Dam and Waddell Pump Generating Plant
- Deliveries began in 1985
- Construction complete in 1993



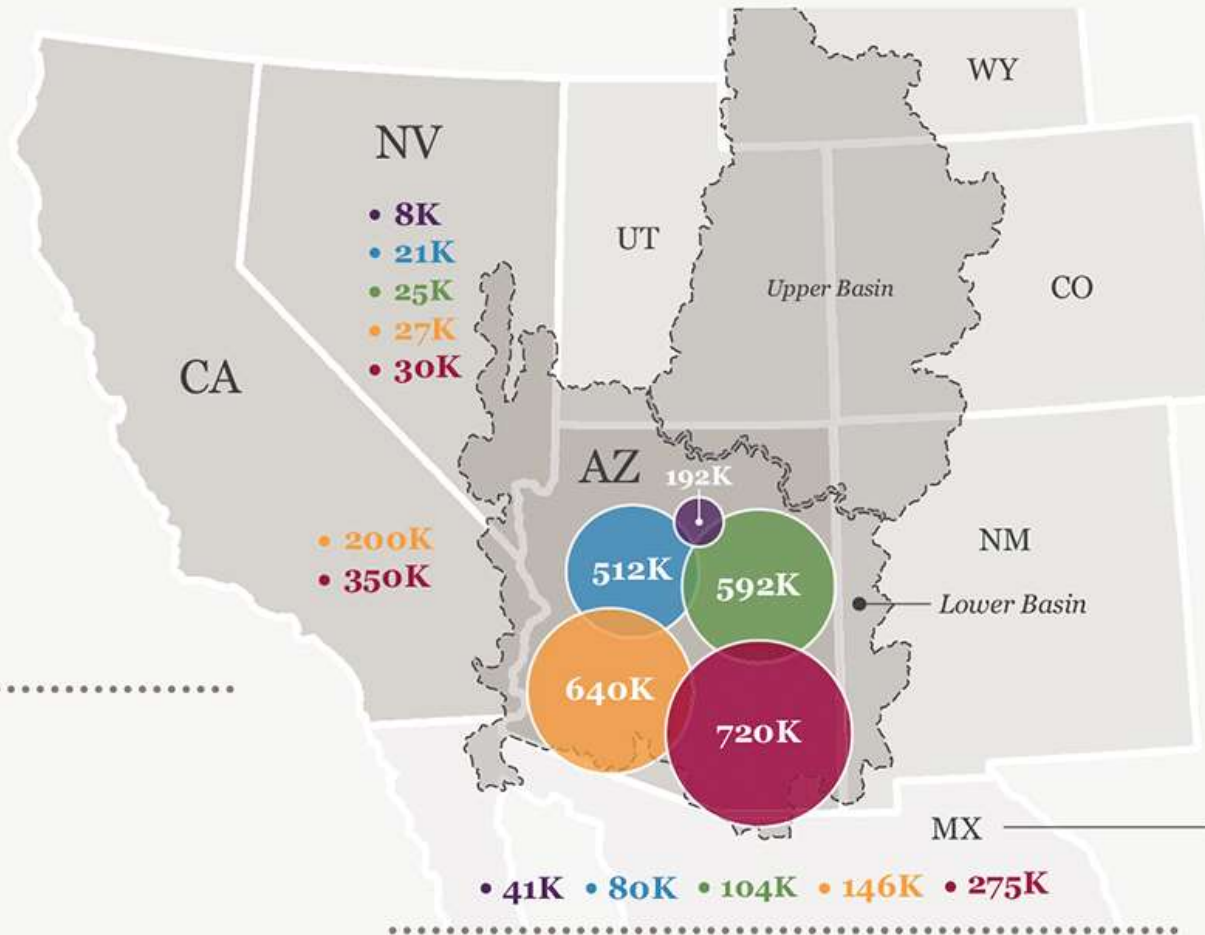
# Highlights of Recent Agreements

- 2007 Guidelines
  - Established common commitment for sharing water surplus and shortage
  - Created opportunities to conserve water in Lake Mead, including intentionally created surplus (ICS)
  - Formalized procedures for coordinated reservoir operations
  - Established elevation triggers for reservoir releases and shortage declaration
- Minute 323
  - Signed in 2017 expanding collaboration and sharing between Mexico and the U.S.
- Drought Contingency Plan
  - 7 states agreements (2019) to protect the Colorado River system through reductions and conservation
- 500+ Plan
  - Additional adaptive management response in the Lower Basin to poor hydrology in order to protect lower elevations

# Lower Basin DCP Contributions to Lake Mead

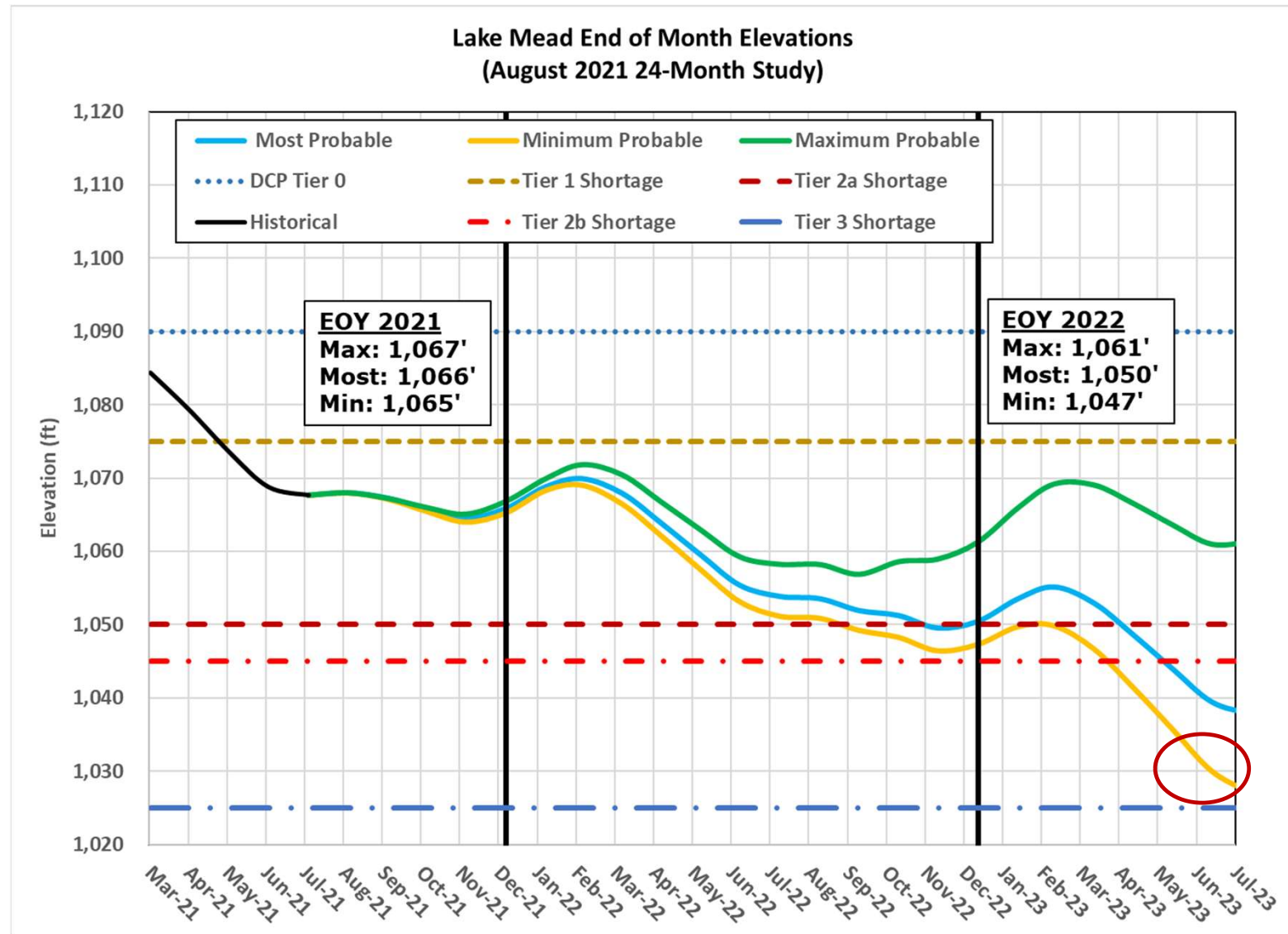
IN ACRE-FEET  
PER ELEVATION  
PER YEAR

- Less than 1,090'
- Less than 1,075'
- Less than 1,050'
- Less than 1,045'
- Less than 1,025'

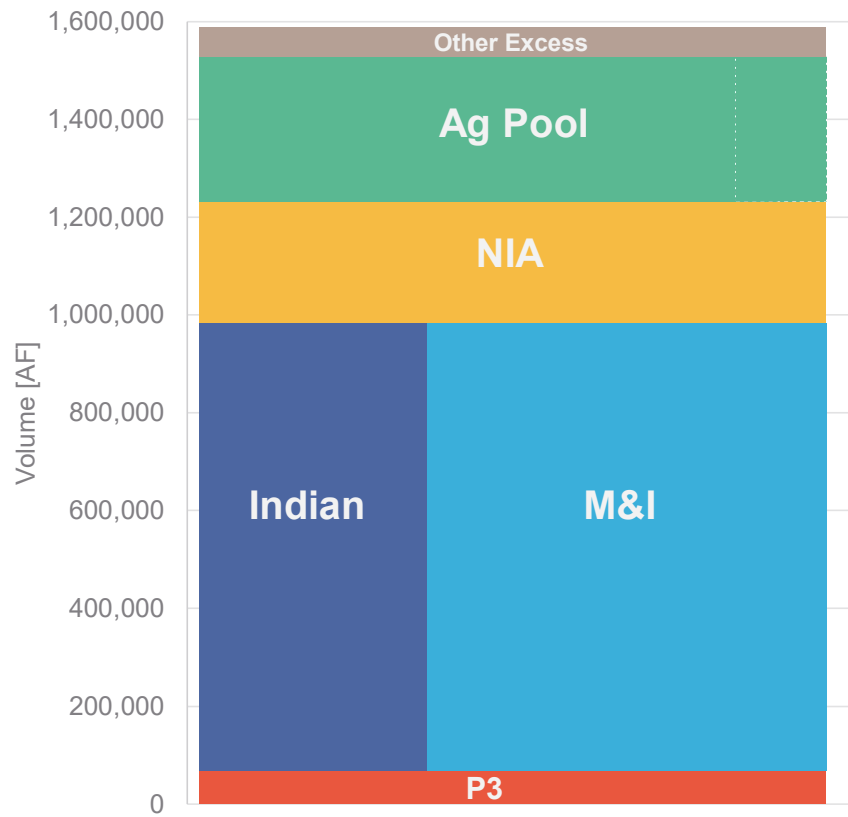


# Mead End of Month Elevations

- August 2021 24-Month Study
- Min Probable scenario shows Mead < 1,030' prompting "1,030 Consultation" per Exhibit 1 to LBDCP (Sec. V.B.2)



# CAP Priorities

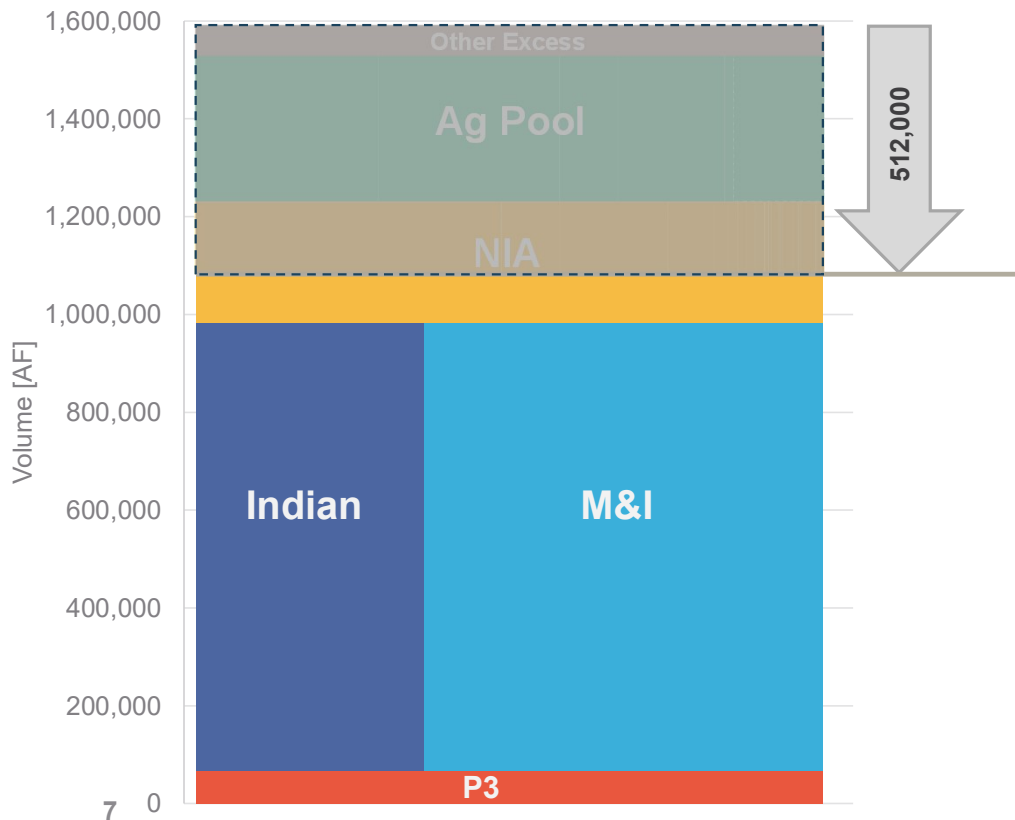


\* P5/6 reductions accounted for separately.

## From Highest to Lowest

- P3 – Third Priority – high priority mainstem water
- Indian/Tribal and M&I/Municipal & Industrial
- NIA – Non-Indian Agricultural Pool
- Ag Pool – Agricultural Pool
- Other Excess – water available after all other priorities are satisfied

# CAP Priorities – Tier 1 Shortage



\* P5/6 reductions accounted for separately.

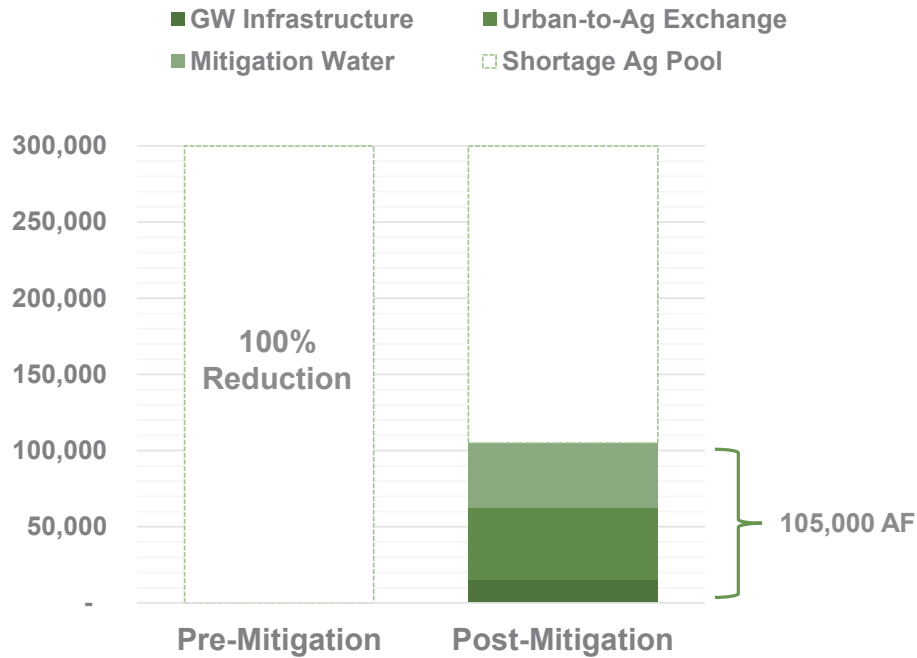
- 512,000 AF\* Reduction/Contribution
  - 320,000 AF per 2007 Guidelines
  - 192,000 AF per LBDCP
- Pre-Mitigation Impacts
  - 100% Reduction to Ag Pool
  - ~63% Reduction to NIA Pool
- Tier 2a Shortage – 592,000 AF
  - Virtually eliminates NIA Pool



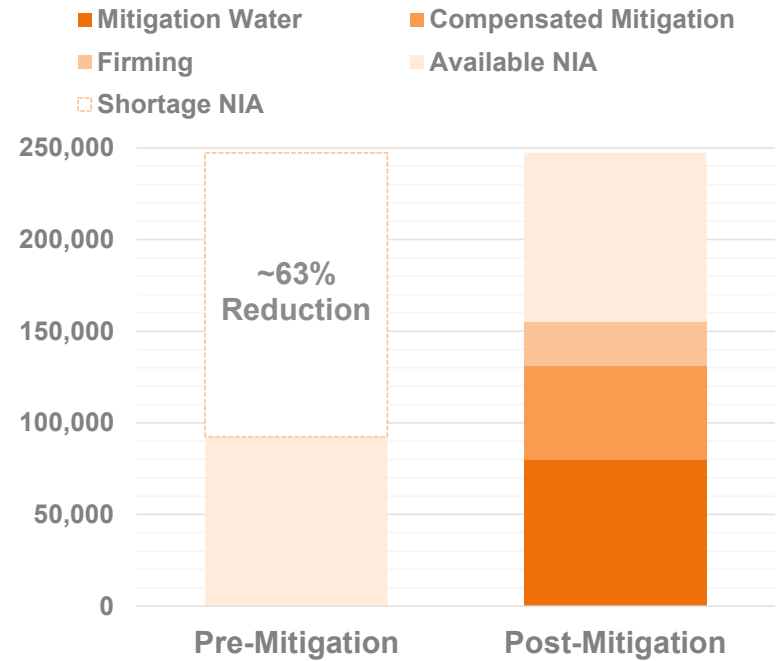
YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.

# 2022 AZ Drought Contingency Plan Mitigation

## Ag Mitigation



## NIA Mitigation



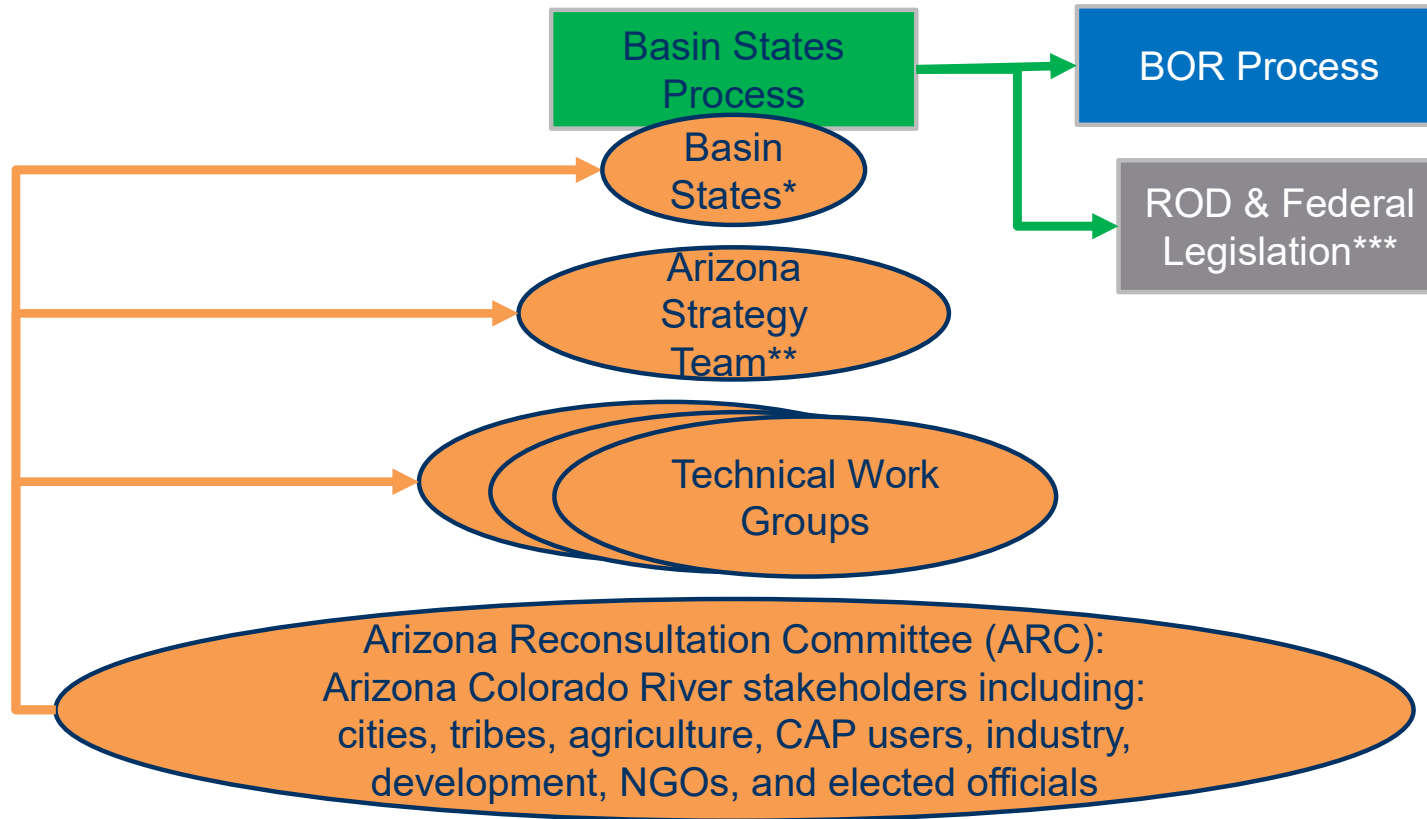


# Arizona Contributions to 500+ Plan

- Arizona's target of over 200 KAF in 2022 anticipates participation from both on-river and CAP water users
  - Includes both Tribal and non-tribal participants
    - 30 KAF on-river
    - 193 KAF from CAP water users
- All contributions will directly benefit Lake Mead, through system water or storage, including reduced release of intentionally created surplus (ICS)
- CAP and ADWR are providing funding, and have established guiding principles for Arizona's contributions
  - ▪ Voluntary ▪ Temporary ▪ Compensated



# Arizona Reconsultation Process

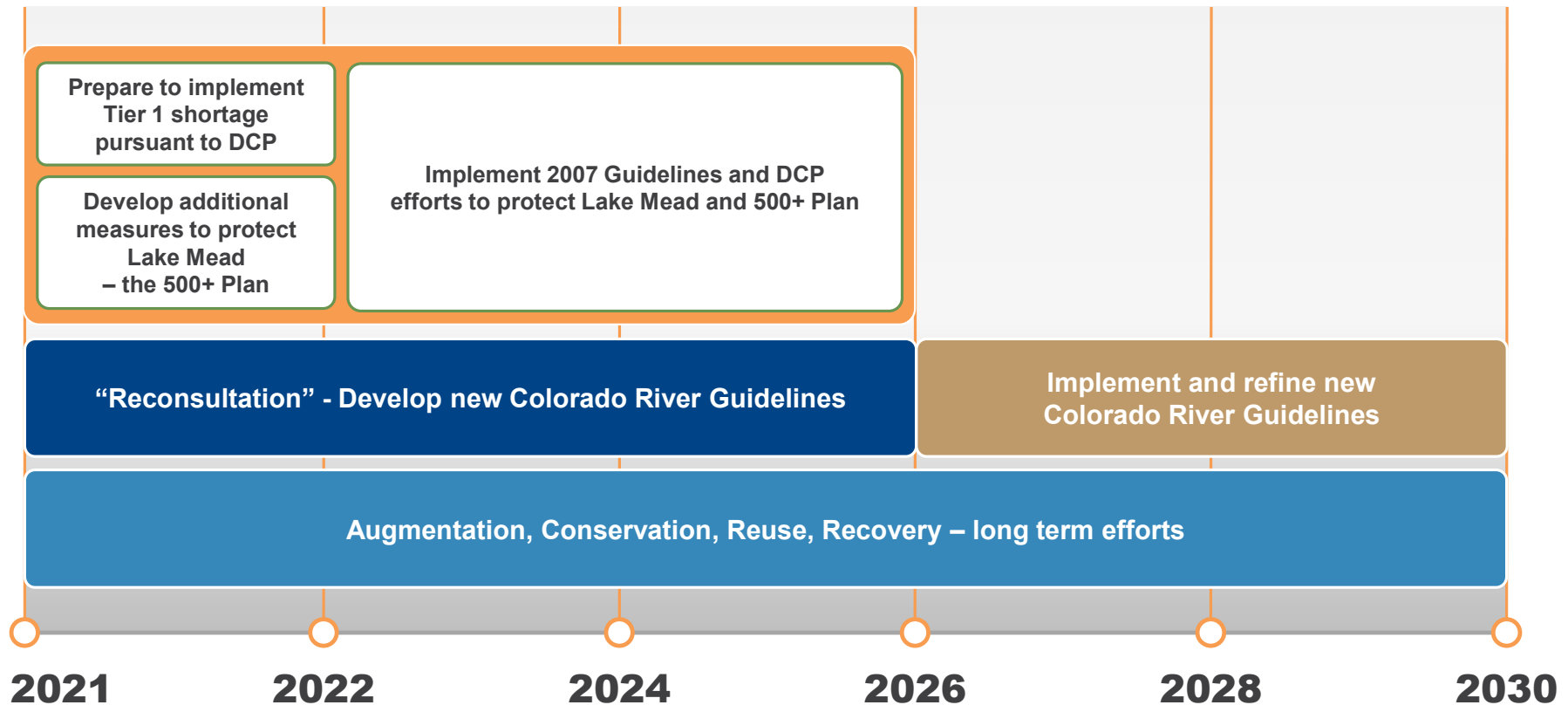


\*By invitation to support the co-Chairs

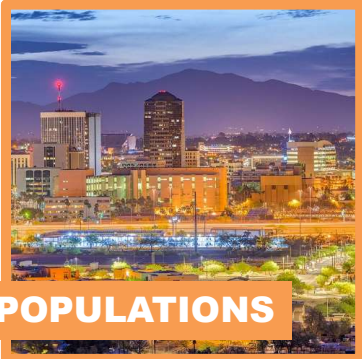
\*\*Requires confidentiality agreement for legal advice and negotiating strategies

\*\*\*Federal legislation if necessary

# Building A Resilient Colorado River System



# What's Next?



# Resources

- CAP's news site – [KnowYourWaterNews.com](http://KnowYourWaterNews.com)
- CAP's main website (with information on DCP and Arizona Reconsultation Committee) – [CentralArizonaProject.com](http://CentralArizonaProject.com)
- Other resources:
  - Arizona Department of Water Resources – [new.azwater.gov](http://new.azwater.gov)
  - US Bureau of Reclamation – [usbr.gov](http://usbr.gov)



## ARIZONA – STRONGER TOGETHER

We anticipate the following "Tier 1" shortage declaration on the Colorado River beginning in 2022. The shortage will result in a substantial curtailment of water rights of the tier, with reductions falling largely to senior senior agricultural users. Water supplies for cities, wildlife refuges and Tribal water users remain secure.

Please take time to prepare, but do not despair. We have long understood the need to protect the Colorado River. Together, we have taken planning for shortages, including the essential efforts to help craft the drought contingency plan for the Colorado River system in 2010.

As we face the prospect of a further and final future, we are confident that with our long history of successful collaborative planning, our shared stakeholders – agriculture, cities, Tribal, environmental and industry – we will continue to find innovative and effective solutions to sustain America's Colorado River supply.

## YOU SHOULD KNOW

- 1. Shortage is declared for a Colorado River shortage.
- 2. Shortage occurs from throughout the state without distinction to that it is not used benefits of the drought contingency plan (2010).
- 3. Together, these efforts reduce the pain of the water users' shortage while addressing state of future shortages.
- 4. We are taking steps and participating in joint efforts to make the best use of water during drought and the reality of a future and after future.

While we may have had water coming to Arizona from the Colorado River in 2022, Arizona's water managers and suppliers have been making decisions to prepare and we continue to work to ensure the river remains viable for generations to come.

## WHAT IS A COLORADO RIVER SHORTAGE?

A shortage occurs a reduction in the Colorado River supply (measured in acre-feet). In 2022 and 2023, the shortage is expected to be a "Tier 1" shortage, requiring the state to reduce 50% of its water rights. This reduction is coming primarily from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) contract. Based on the current hydrology, it is likely that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will announce a "Tier 1" shortage later in 2022. The shortage is expected to further reduce water to a total of 50,000 acre-feet (AF) from current supply by the CAP system.

The "Tier 1" reduction will result in about 70% of CAP's supply rights (about 80% of its water) to be curtailed. This means that the water rights of Arizona CAP water are



# Questions

February 4, 2022

**Ted Cooke**  
*General Manager*

**YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.**