



# The Art and Science of Managing the Colorado River

*Can the Colorado River Meet California's  
Future Water Supply Needs?*

Bill Hasencamp  
Urban Water Institute  
February 17, 2022

# Metropolitan Water District



Regional Water Wholesaler

5,200 Sq. Miles - 6 Counties

~19 Million People

26 Member Agencies

38 Member Board of Directors

~4 MAF Retail Demand

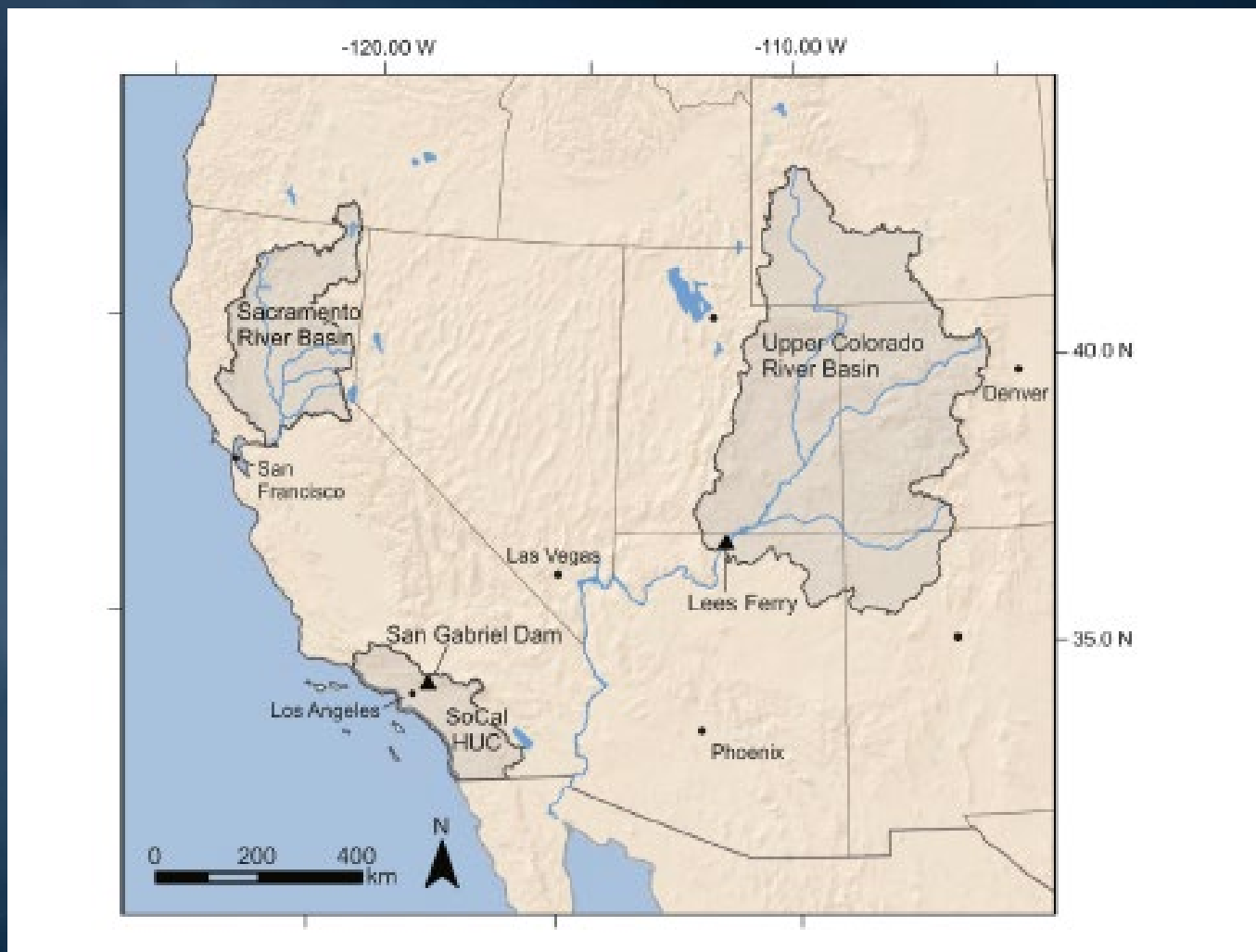
MWD  
Service  
Area

# *Our Service Area has More People than these 15 States Combined...*



- Wyoming
- Vermont
- Alaska
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Delaware
- Rhode Island
- Montana
- Maine
- New Hampshire
- Hawaii
- West Virginia
- Idaho
- Nebraska
- New Mexico

# Geographic Diversity of Water Supplies Resulted in Water Supply Reliability



# Millennium Megadrought Hitting Entire Western United States



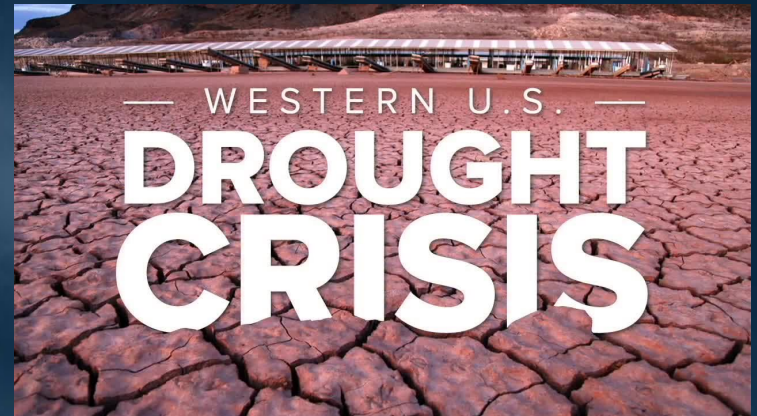
This Western megadrought is the worst in a millennium

LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

**TREE STUMPS** in the ghost town of St. Thomas, Nev., which resurfaced as Lake Mead's water receded.

## This Western megadrought is the worst in a millennium

Study says it's being driven by climate change



**NATION**

## The intense dry spell in the West is worst 'megadrought' in 1,200 years, new study says



**Doyle Rice**  
USA TODAY

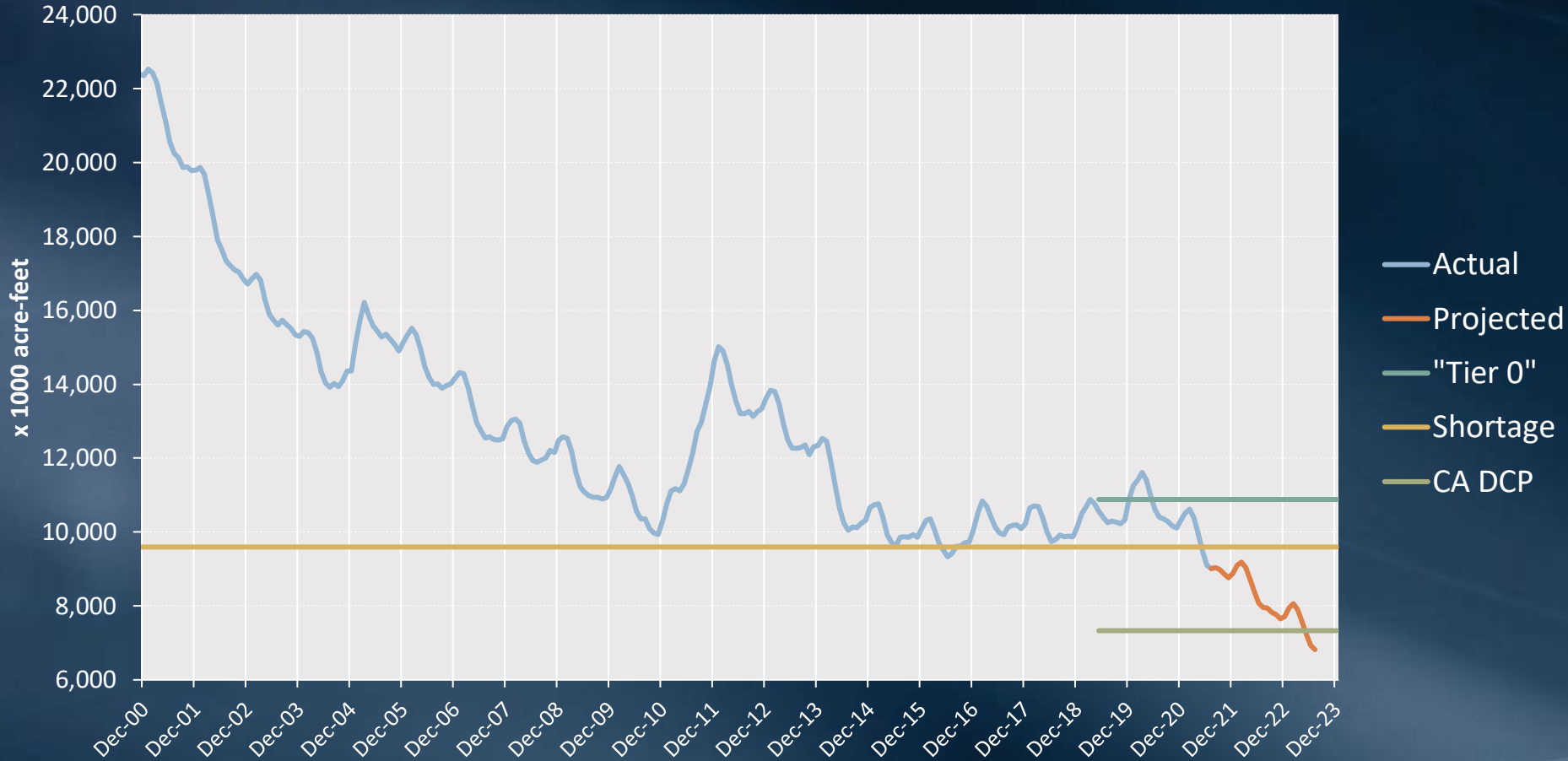
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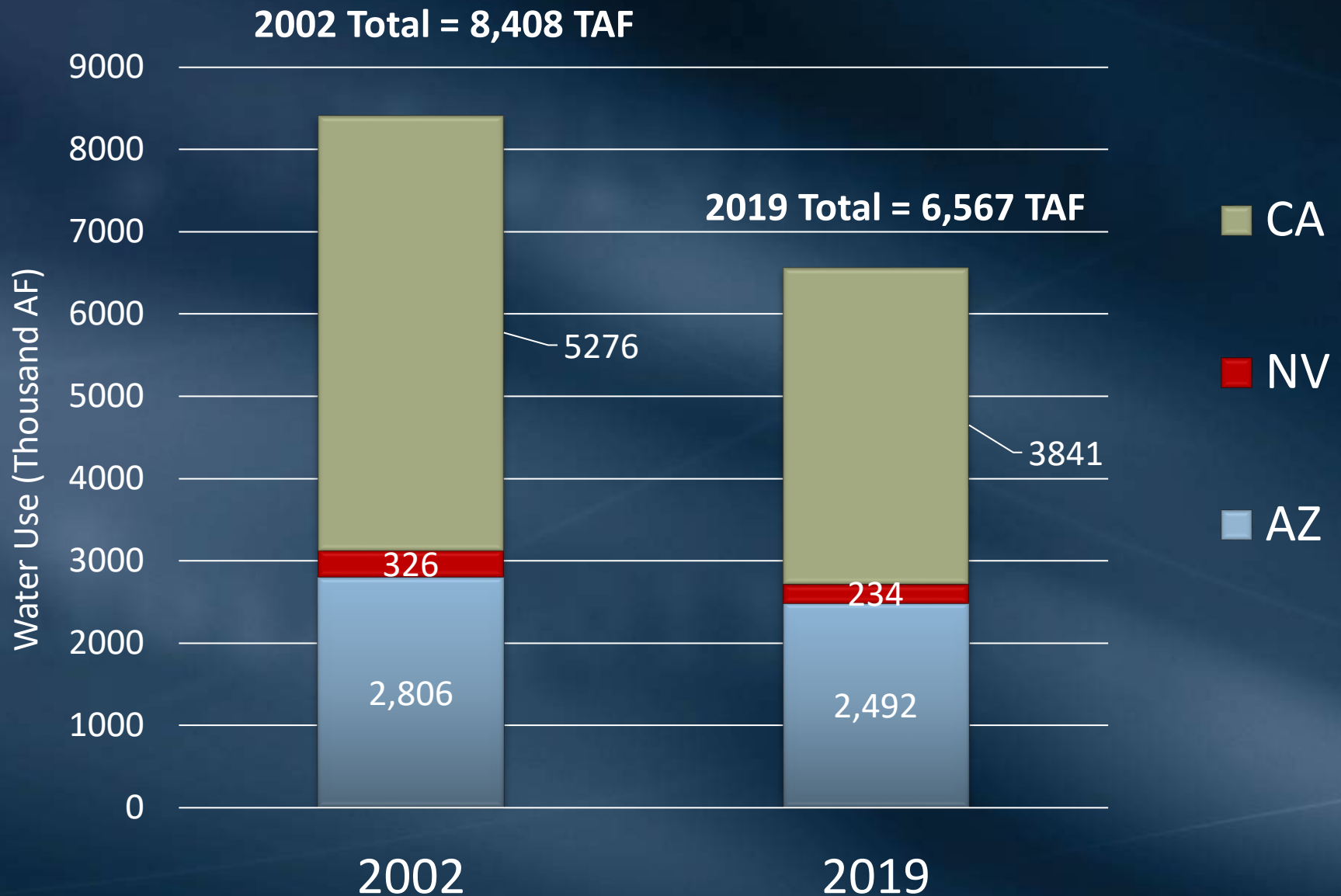
# Powell, Mead, Oroville all fell to Record Low Levels



# Lake Mead Storage 2000 - 2023

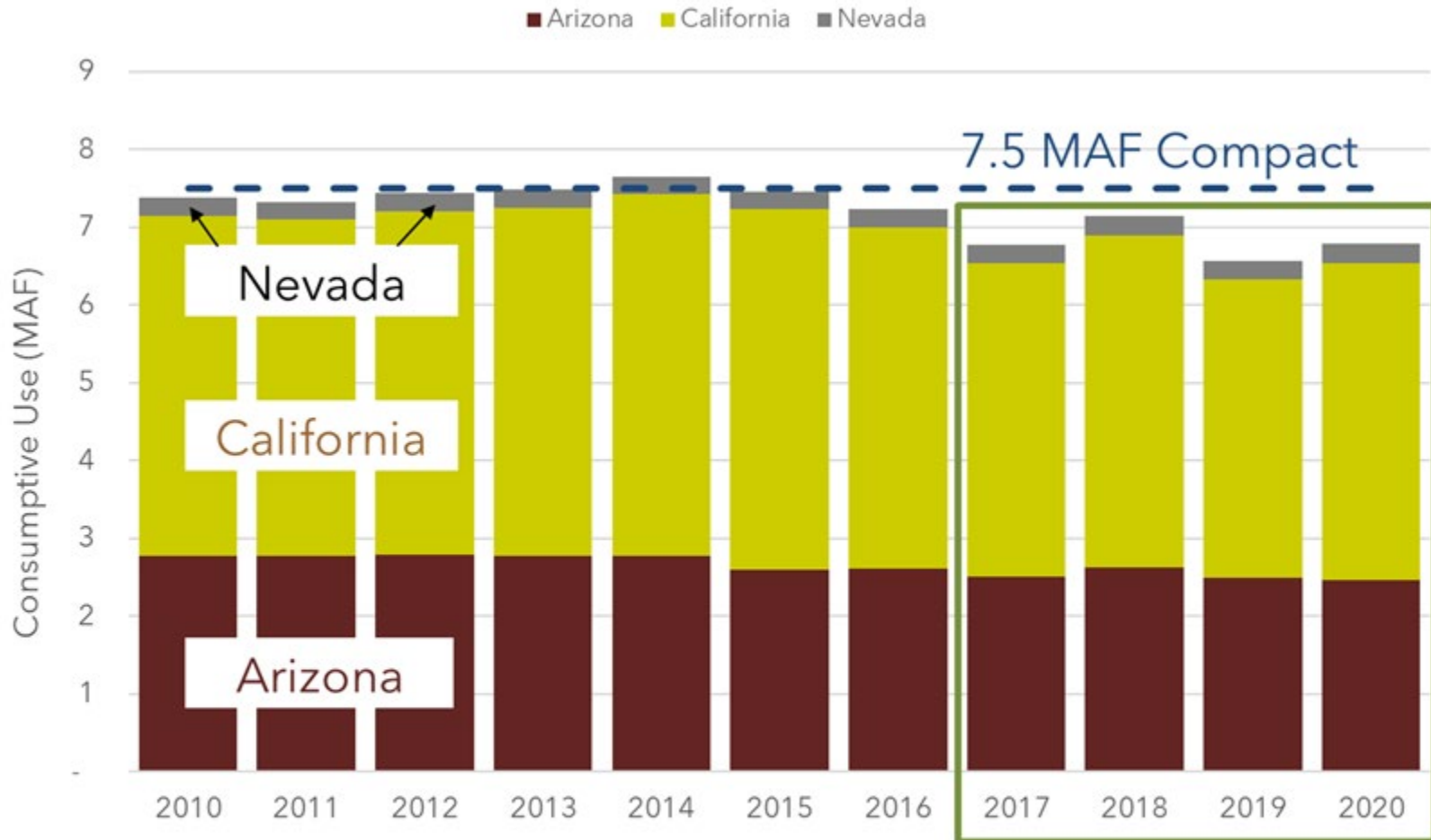


# Lower Basin's Success Story





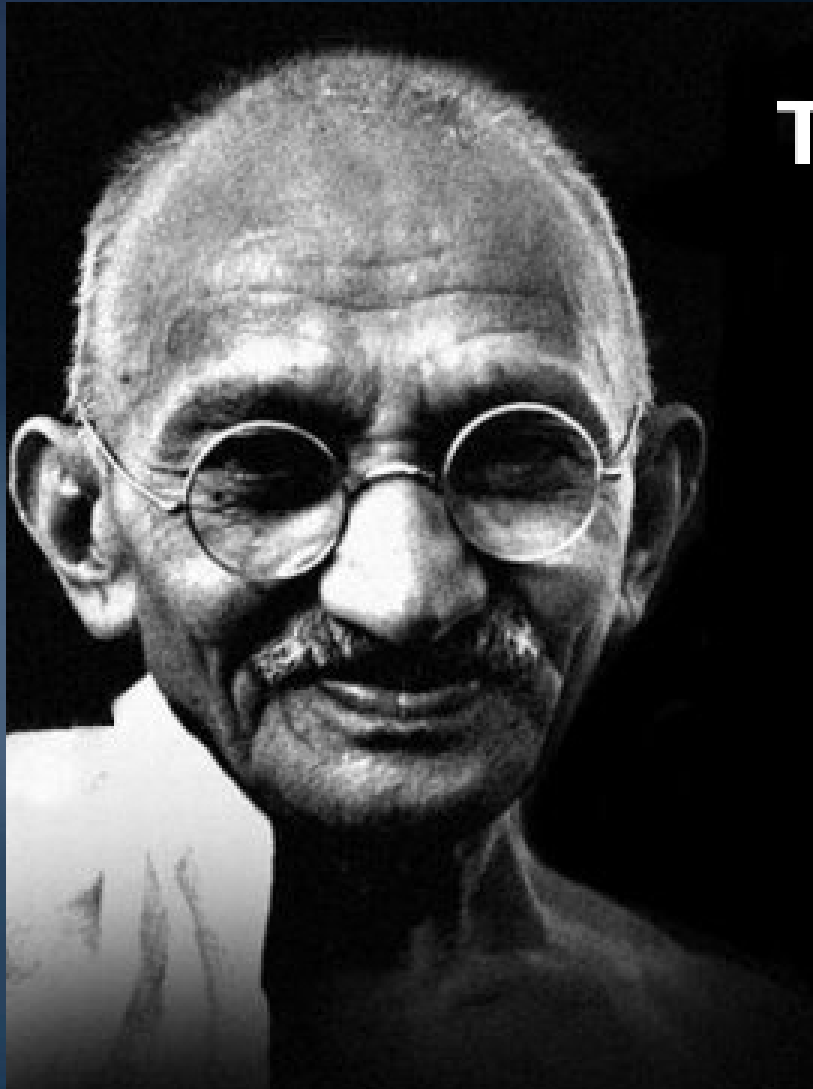
# Lower Basin Consumptive Use 2010 - 2020



On average, 682 TAF below  
the 7.5 MAF compact

# Keys to Success in Upcoming Colorado River Negotiations

- Continue Reducing Reliance on Colorado River
- Continue Collaboration with our Partners
- Seek New Innovations to Reduce Agricultural Water Demands
- Enhance Salinity Control Program
- Protect Hydropower Resources
- Mitigate Environmental Impacts
- Explore New Augmentation or System Efficiency Opportunities



**The future depends on  
what we do  
in the present**

~ Mahatma Gandhi ~

