

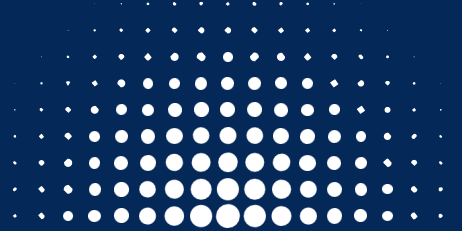
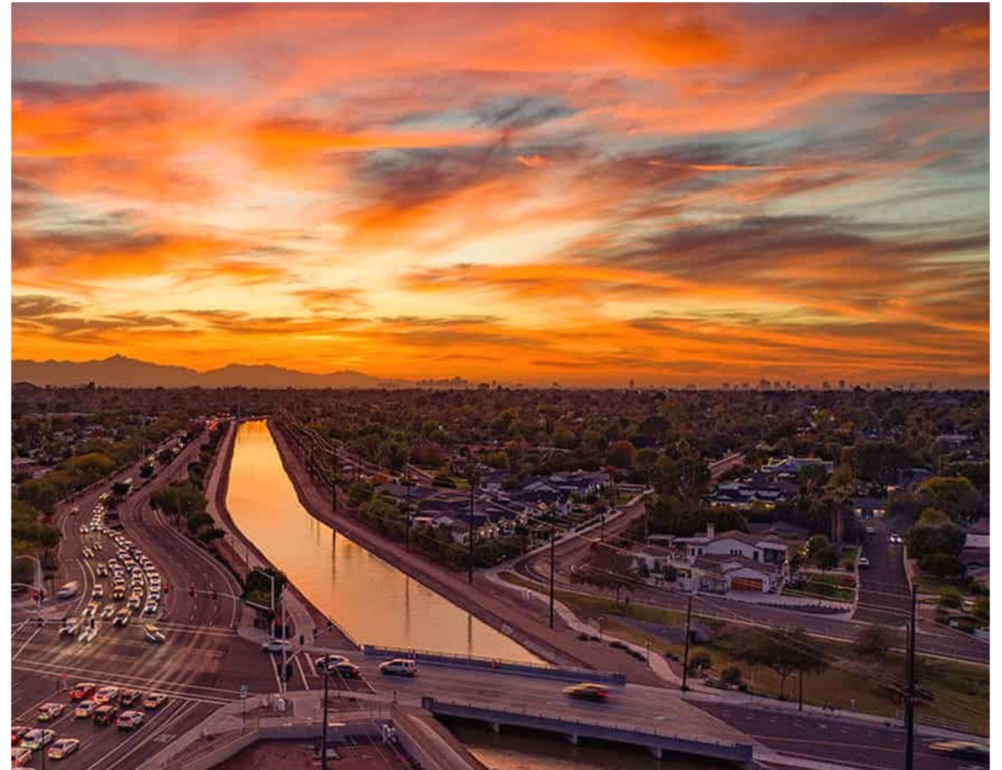


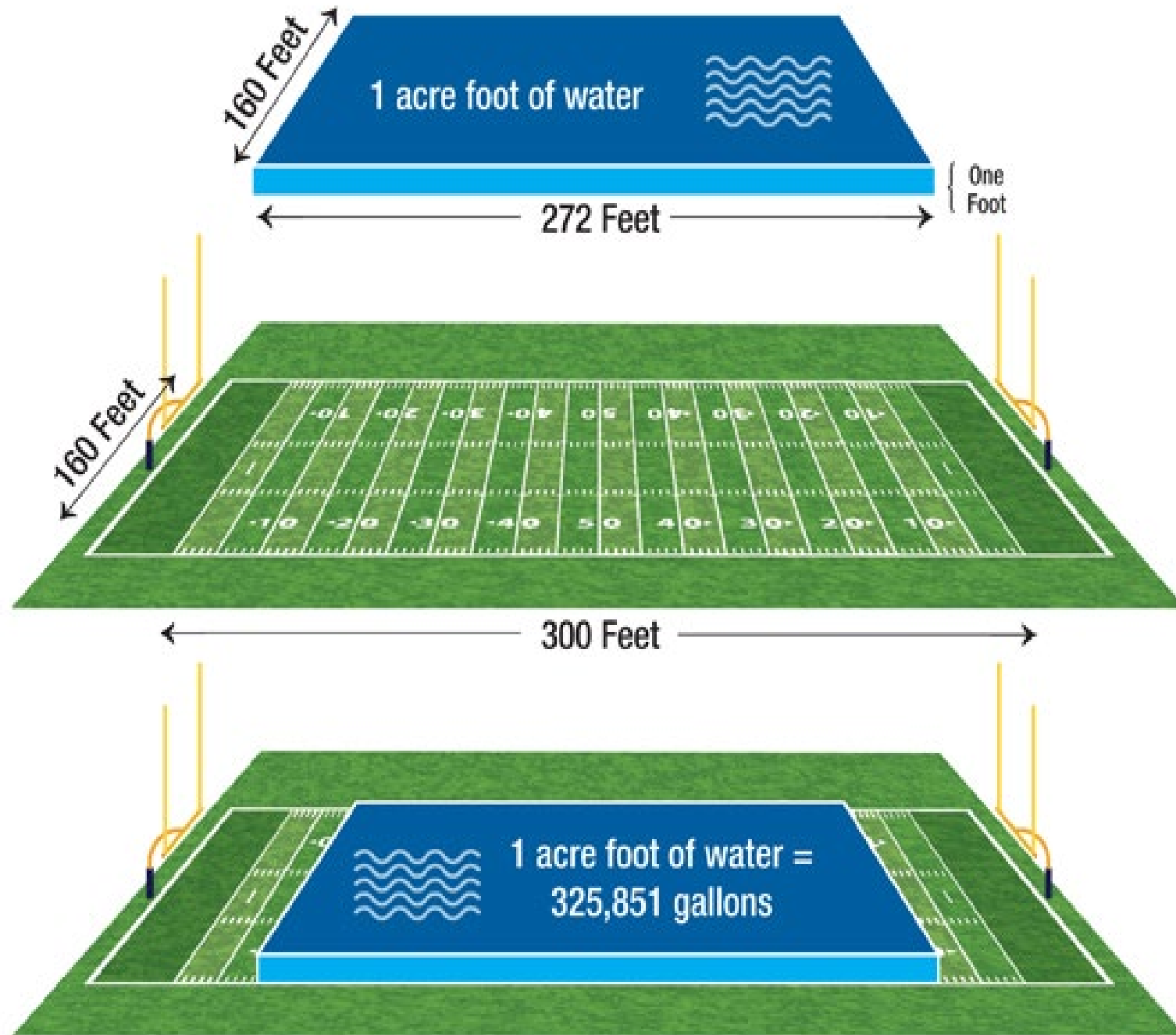
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MAYOR LISA BOROWSKY

A Community Conversation on
Scottsdale and the Colorado River





Prior Appropriation

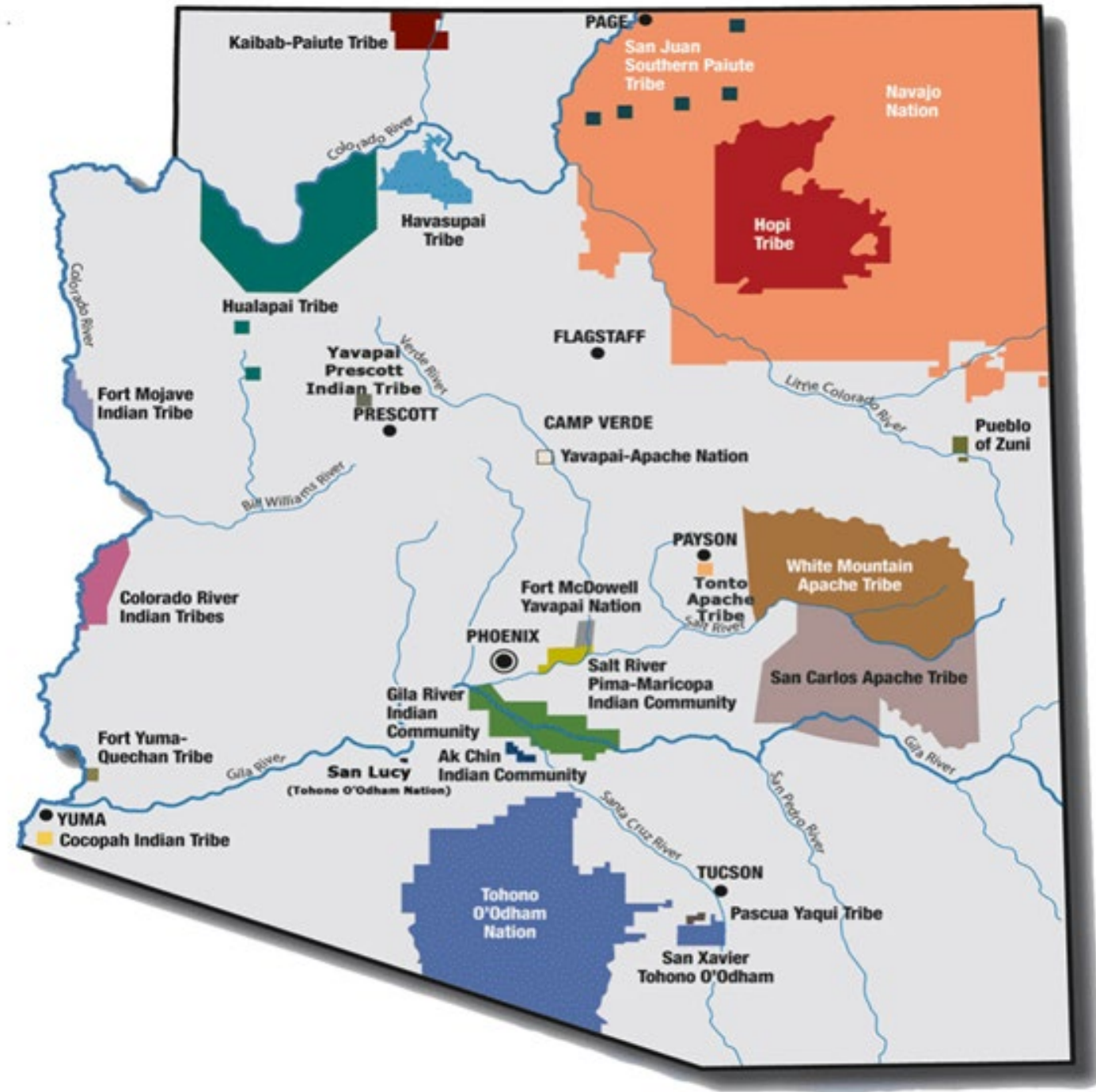
JUNIOR USER 1970 water right

First-in-time, First-in-right
Beneficial Use Without Waste
Forfeiture – use it, or lose it
Why? Mining & Homesteading

SENIOR USER
1910 water right

Native American Tribes & Water Rights in Arizona

- The *Winters* Doctrine
- Quantifying Water Rights
- Water Rights Adjudications & Water Rights Settlements



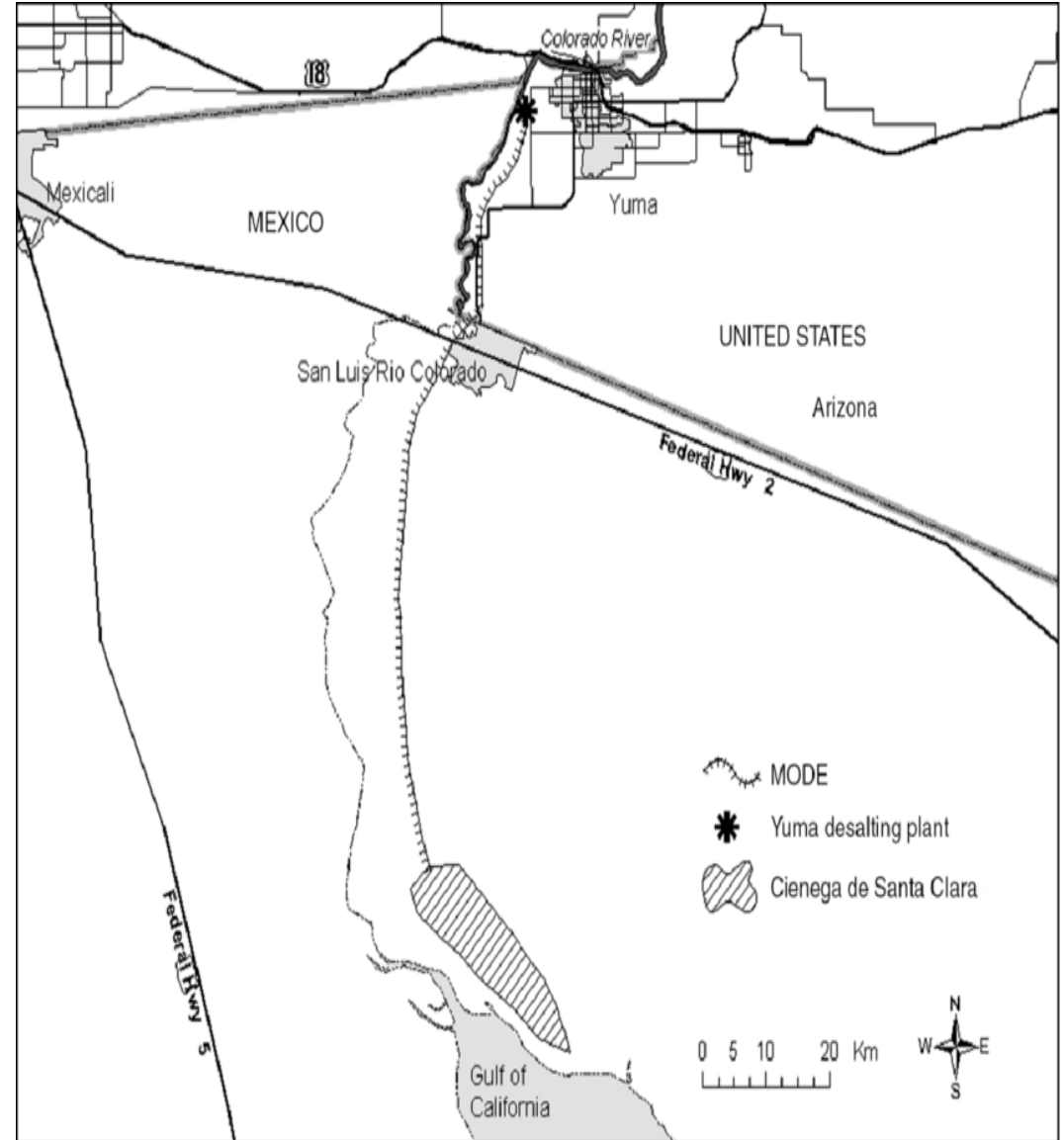
The Law of the River

- 1922 Colorado River Compact
- 1928 Boulder Canyon Project Act
- 1944 U.S./Mexico Rivers Treaty
- THE STRUCTURAL DEFICIT
- 1948 Upper Basin Compact
- 1956 Colorado River Storage Project Act
- 1963 *Arizona v. California*
- 1968 Colorado River Basin Project Act
- 1970 Long Range Operating Criteria
- 2005 Quantification Settlement Agreement
- 2007 Shortage Sharing Guidelines (expires end of 2026)
- 2019 Drought Contingency Plan (expires end of 2026)
- 2020 500+ Plan (expires end of 2026)



Mexico Hydro-Diplomacy

- The Harmon Doctrine
- The 1922 Compact's Role
- 1944 Rivers Treaty & IBWC
- The “National Obligation” & the 1968 CRBPA
- 1974 Salinity Control Act
- Minutes to the 1944 Treaty



Lake Mead 2007 Shortage Sharing Guidelines

Jan 1st elevation	Arizona reduction	Nevada reduction	Mexico reduction
1075'	320,000 AF	13,000 AF	50,000 AF
1050'	400,000 AF	17,000 AF	70,000 AF
1025'	480,000 AF	20,000 AF	125,000 AF

No reductions to California under Guidelines
In Minute 319 & 323, Mexico agreed to voluntary reductions



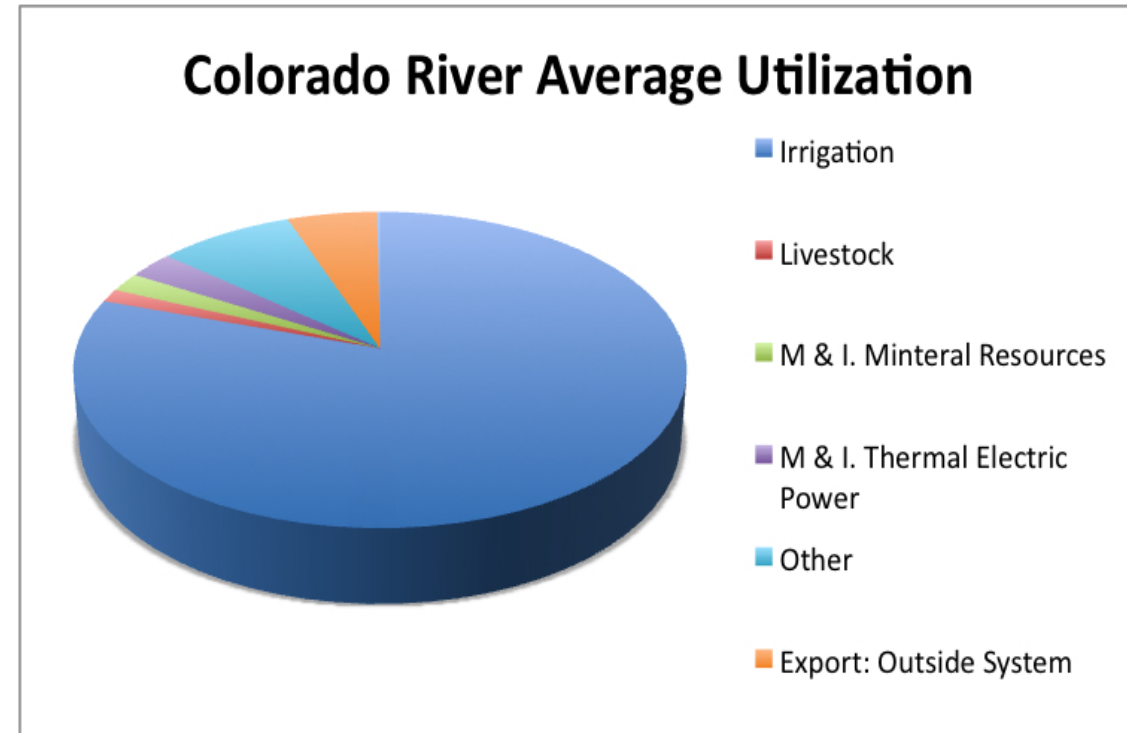
LBDCP Water Use Reductions

Lake Mead Elevation	AZ [2007]	AZ [Plan]	AZ TOTAL	NV [2007]	NV [Plan]	NV TOTAL	CA [2007]	CA [Plan]	CA TOTAL	BOR	TOTAL
1090-1075	0	192K	192K	0	8K	8K	0	0	0	100k	300k
1075-1050	320K	192K	512K	13K	8K	21K	0	0	0	100k	633k
1050-1045	400K	192K	592K	17K	8K	25K	0	0	0	100k	717k
1045-1040	400K	240K	640K	17K	10K	27K	0	200K	200K	100k	967k
1040-1035	400K	240K	640K	17K	10K	27K	0	250K	250K	100k	1,017k
1035-1030	400K	240K	640K	17K	10K	27K	0	300K	300K	100k	1,067k
1030-1025	400K	240K	640K	17K	10K	27K	0	350K	350K	100k	1,117k
<1025	480K	240K	720K	20K	10K	30K	0	350K	350K	100k	1,200k

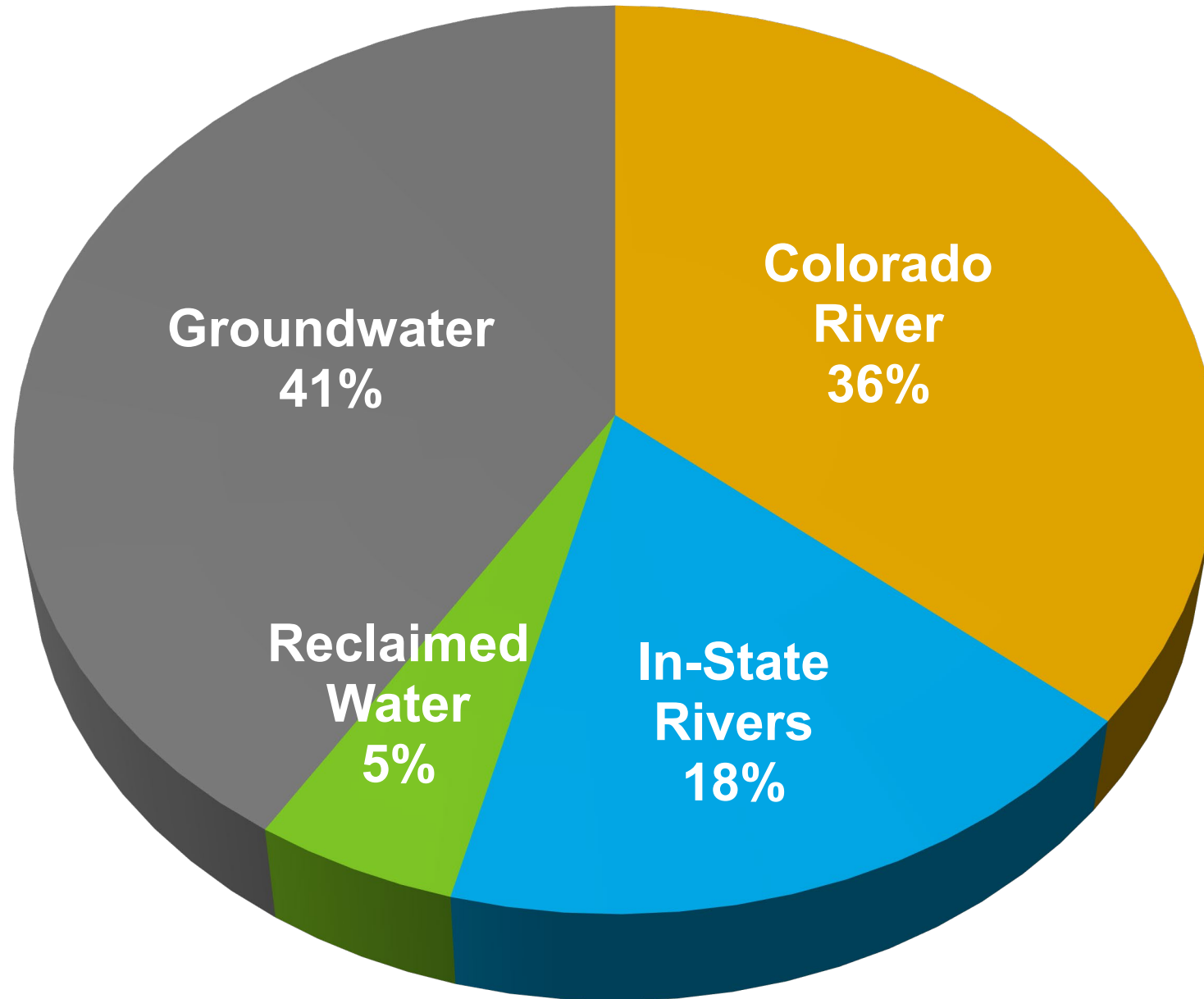


Using the Colorado River

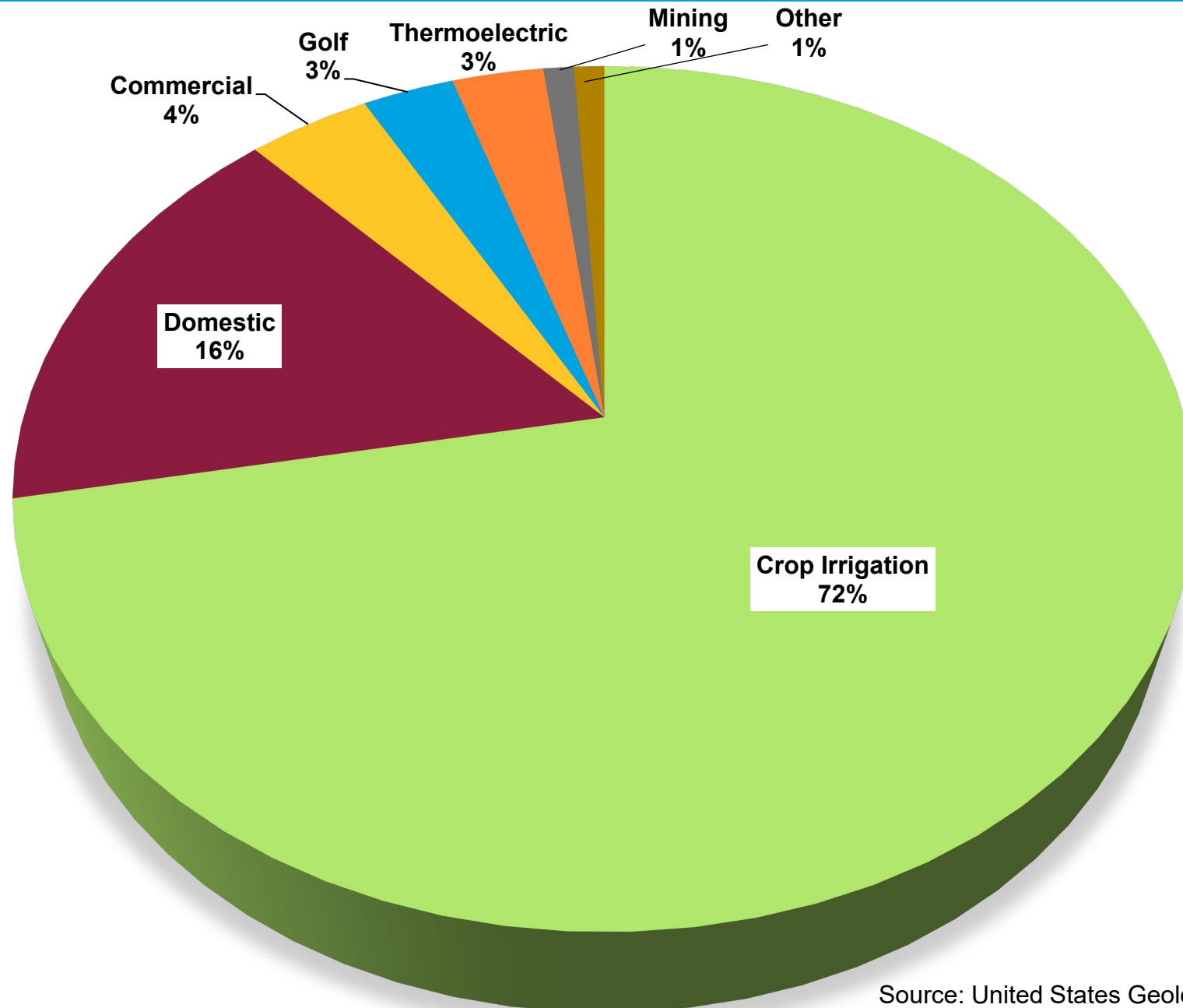
- Colorado River Use by Sector
 - Over 75% used by irrigated agriculture (about half for alfalfa)
 - Applied to 15% of U.S. farmland
 - Provides 90% of winter vegetables
- Average Water Consumption in the Colorado River Basin (in approximate acre-feet per year)
 - Golf Courses: 138,000 af/y
 - Power Plants: 162,000 af/y
 - Alfalfa: 1.5 maf/y



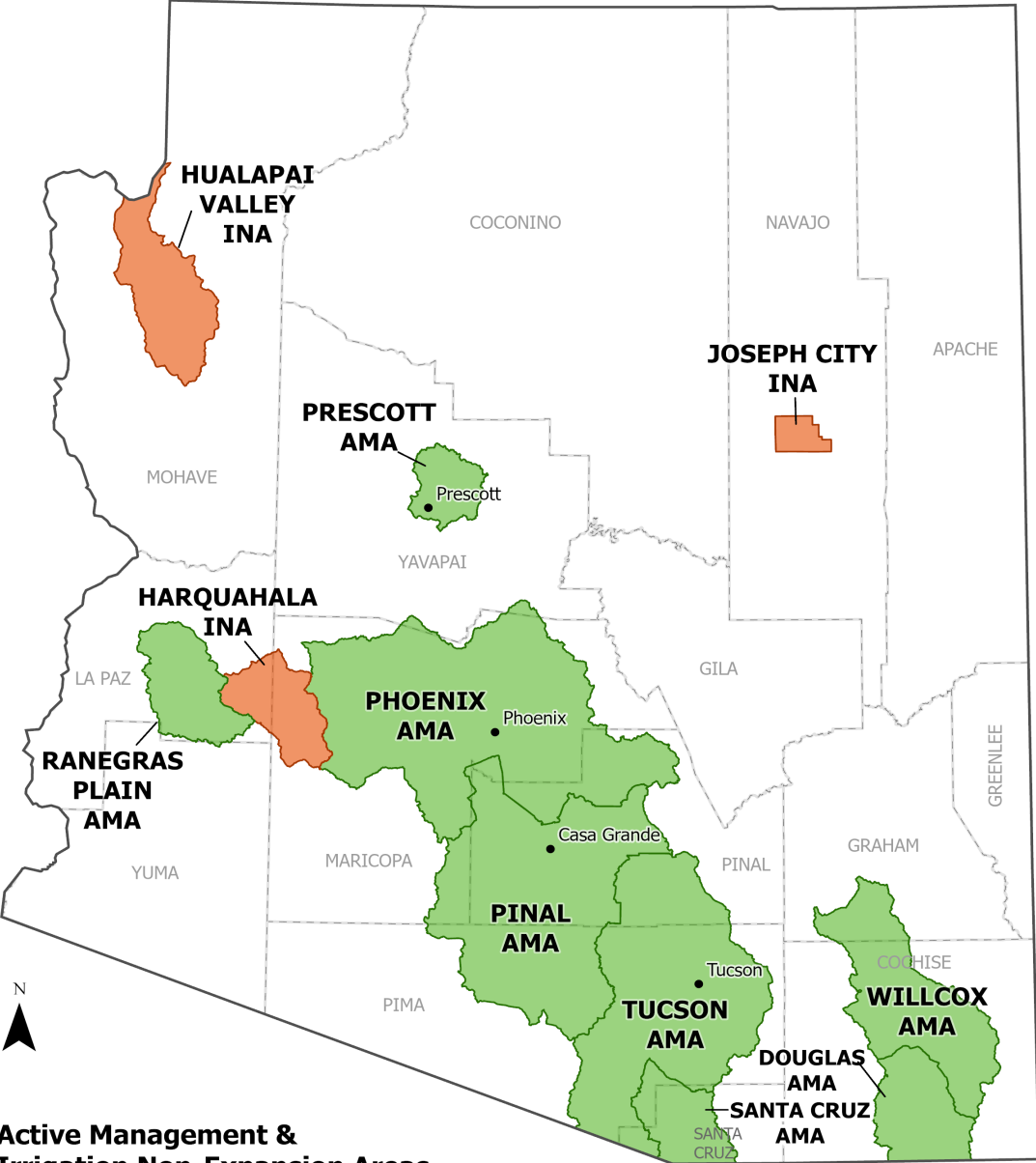
Arizona's Sources of Water



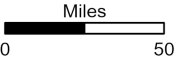
Water Use in Arizona



Scottsdale is in the Phoenix Active Management Area.

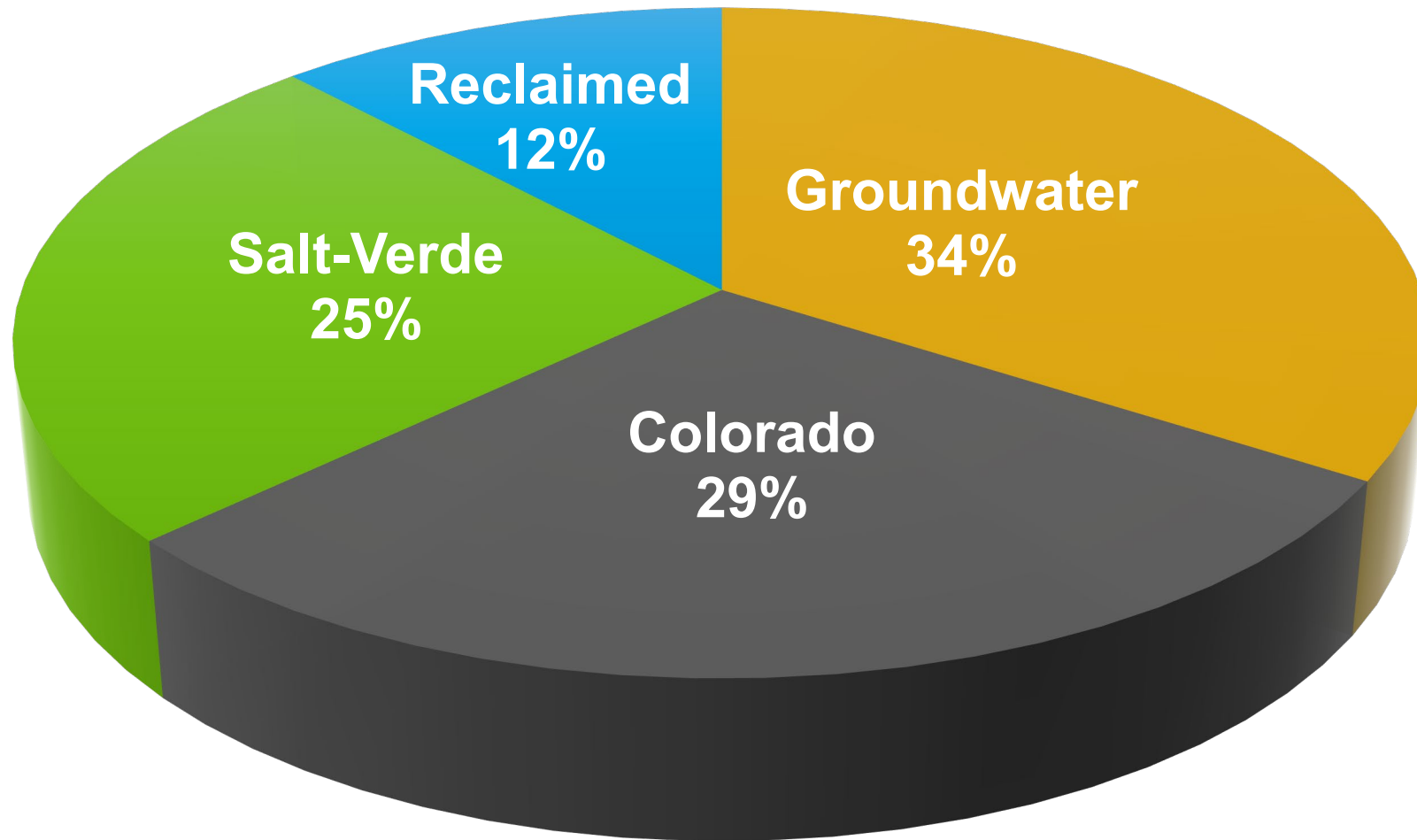


Active Management & Irrigation Non-Expansion Areas

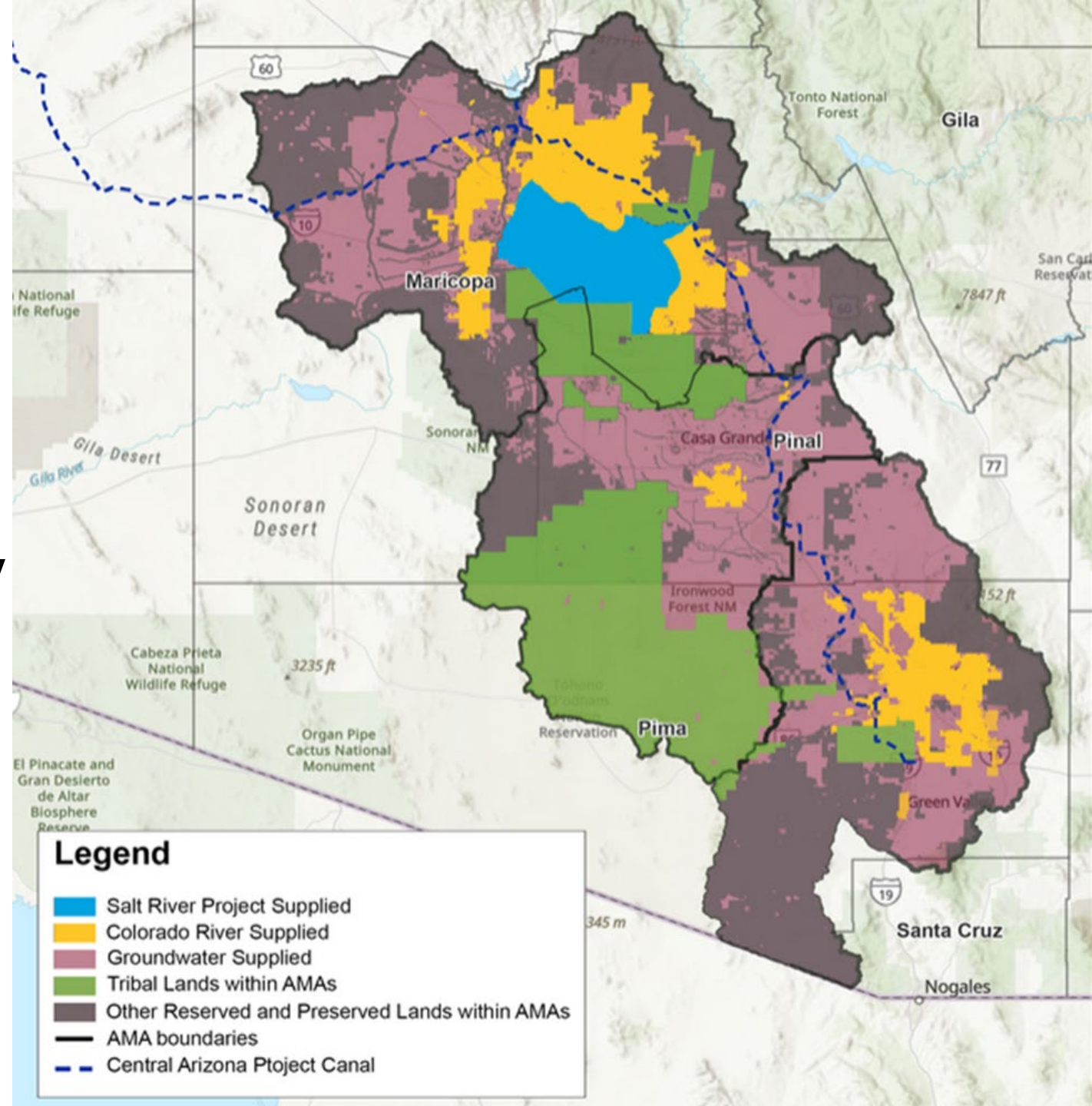


- Active Management Areas
- Irrigation Non-Expansion Areas

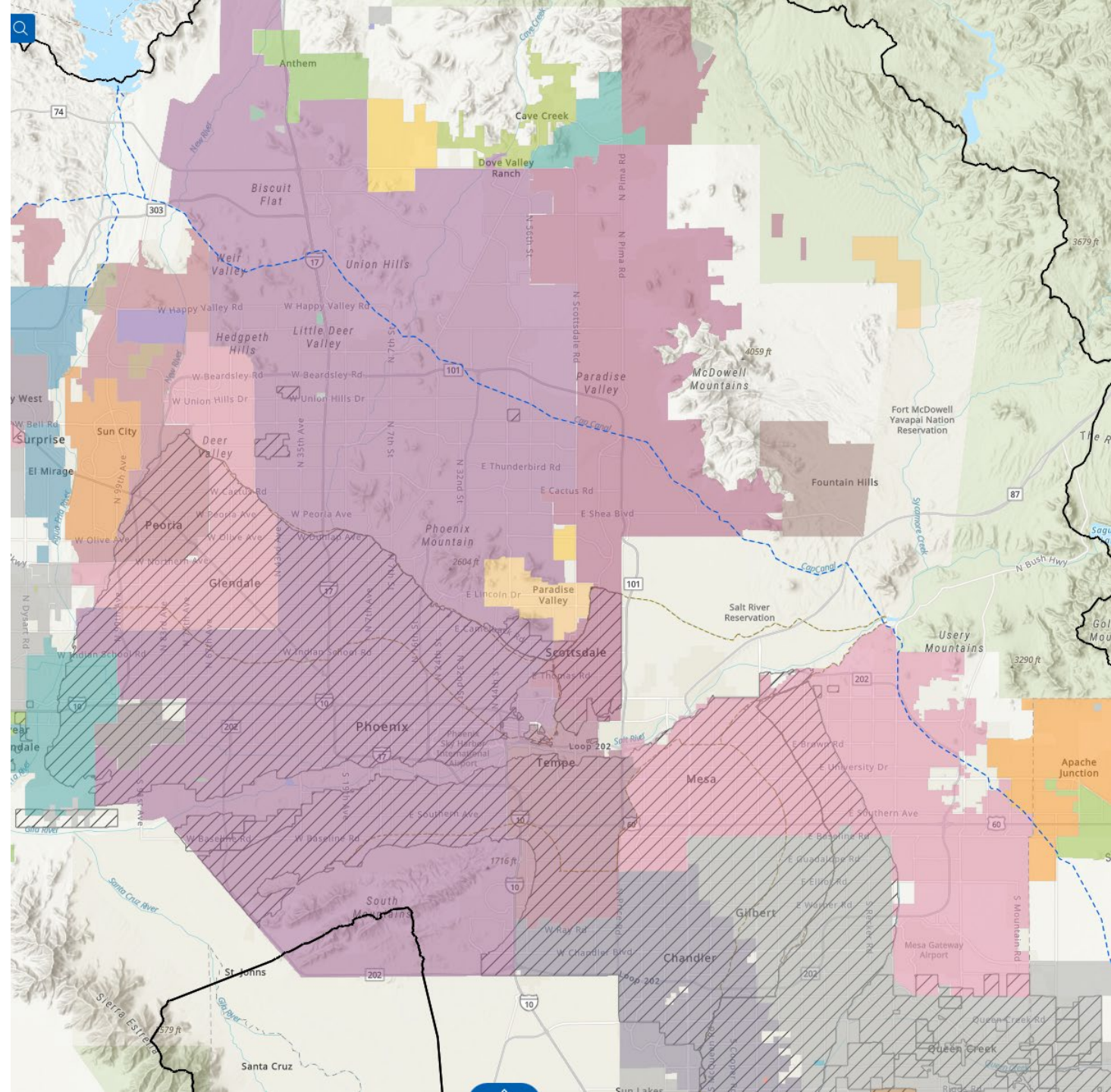
Phoenix AMA Sources of Water



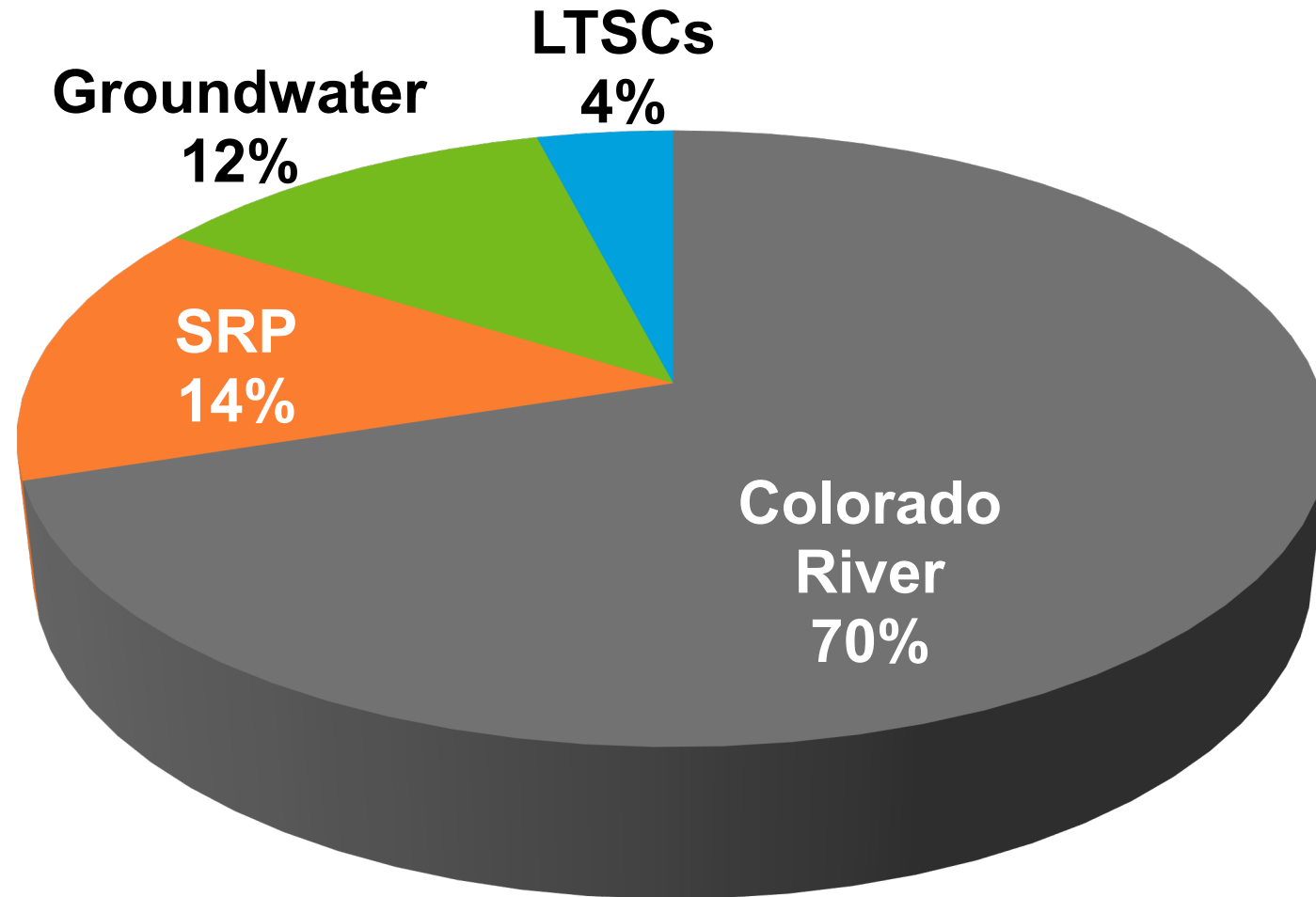
Water supply portfolios vary from community to community.



**Most of
Scottsdale is
outside the
SRP water
service area.**



Scottsdale Tap Water Sources*



*Based on 2022 Annual Report data

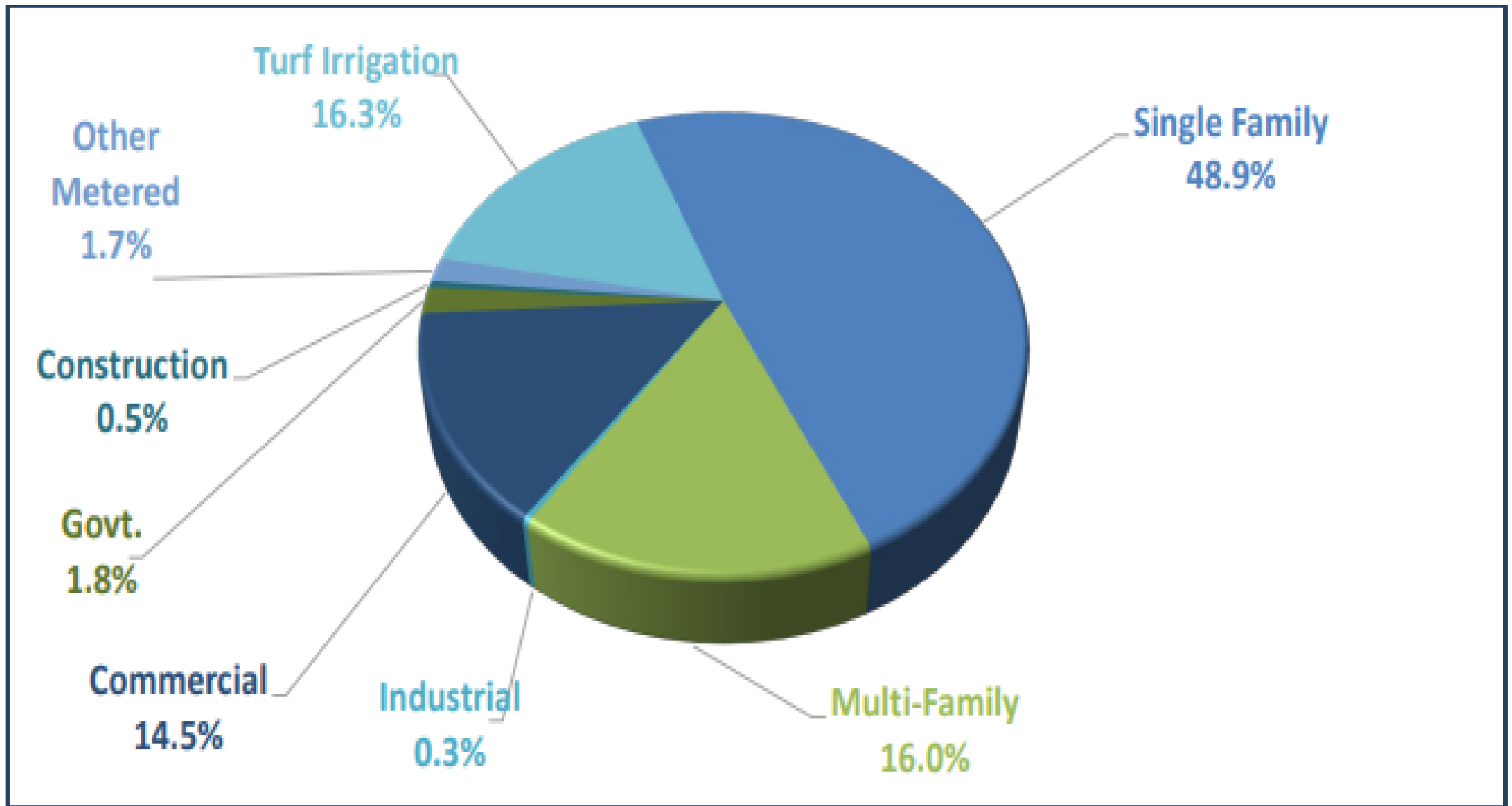
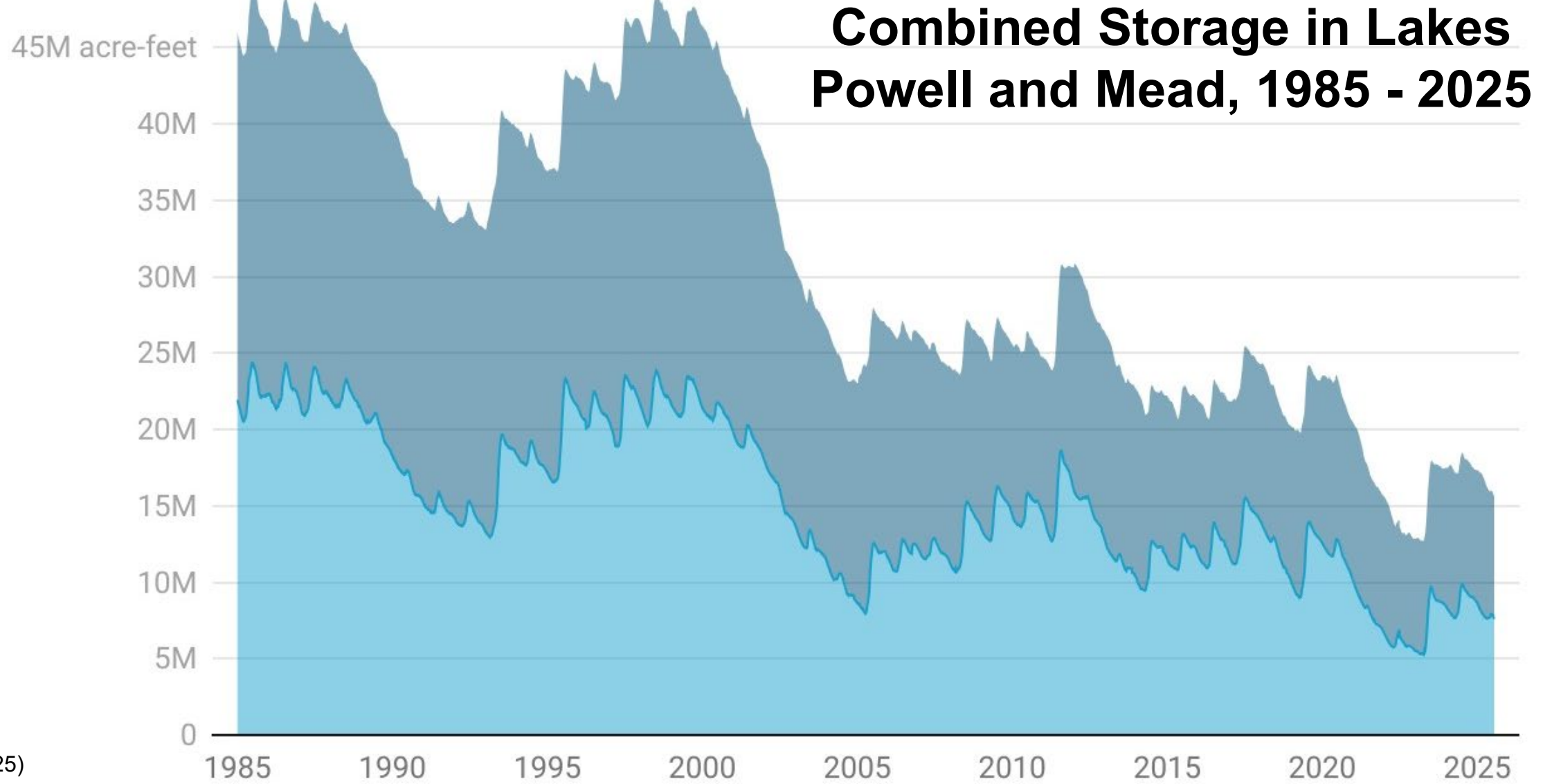
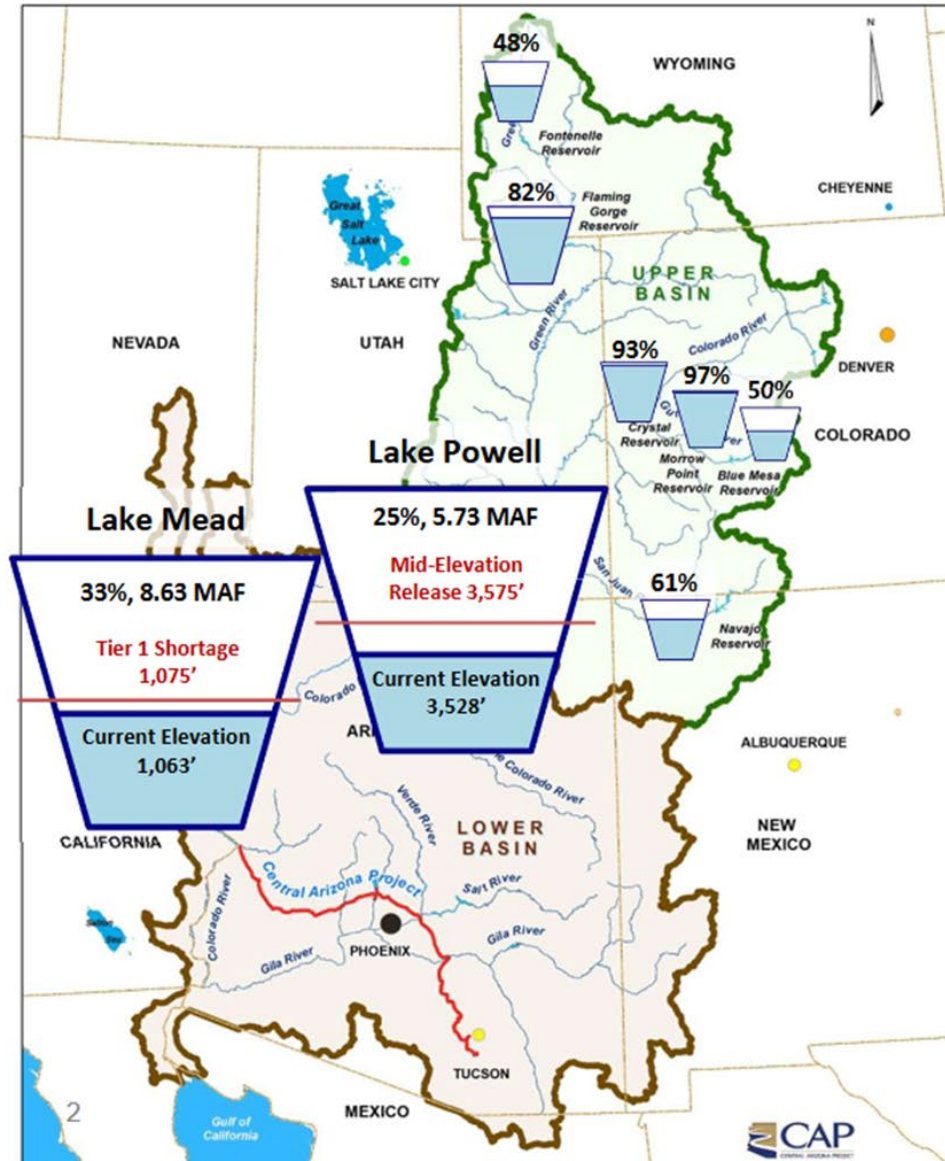


FIGURE 5 - 2019 DEMAND CLASSIFICATION PROFILE

Colorado River Shortage – Historic Trend



Colorado River Shortage – Current Condition



Colorado River Water Supply Report

System Contents: 21.33 MAF

As of March 29, 2026

Last Year System Contents: 23.86 MAF

Reservoir Capacities (MAF)			
Reservoir	Current	Change*	Maximum
Lake Mead	8.63	- 0.27	26.12
Lake Powell	5.73	- 0.16	23.31
Flaming Gorge Reservoir	3.01	0.00	3.67
Fontenelle Reservoir	0.16	+ 0.01	0.33
Navajo Reservoir	1.01	+ 0.02	1.65
Blue Mesa Reservoir	0.42	0.00	0.82
Morrow Point Reservoir	0.11	0.00	0.12
Crystal Reservoir	0.02	0.00	0.02

* Change from previous month

Colorado River Status Update

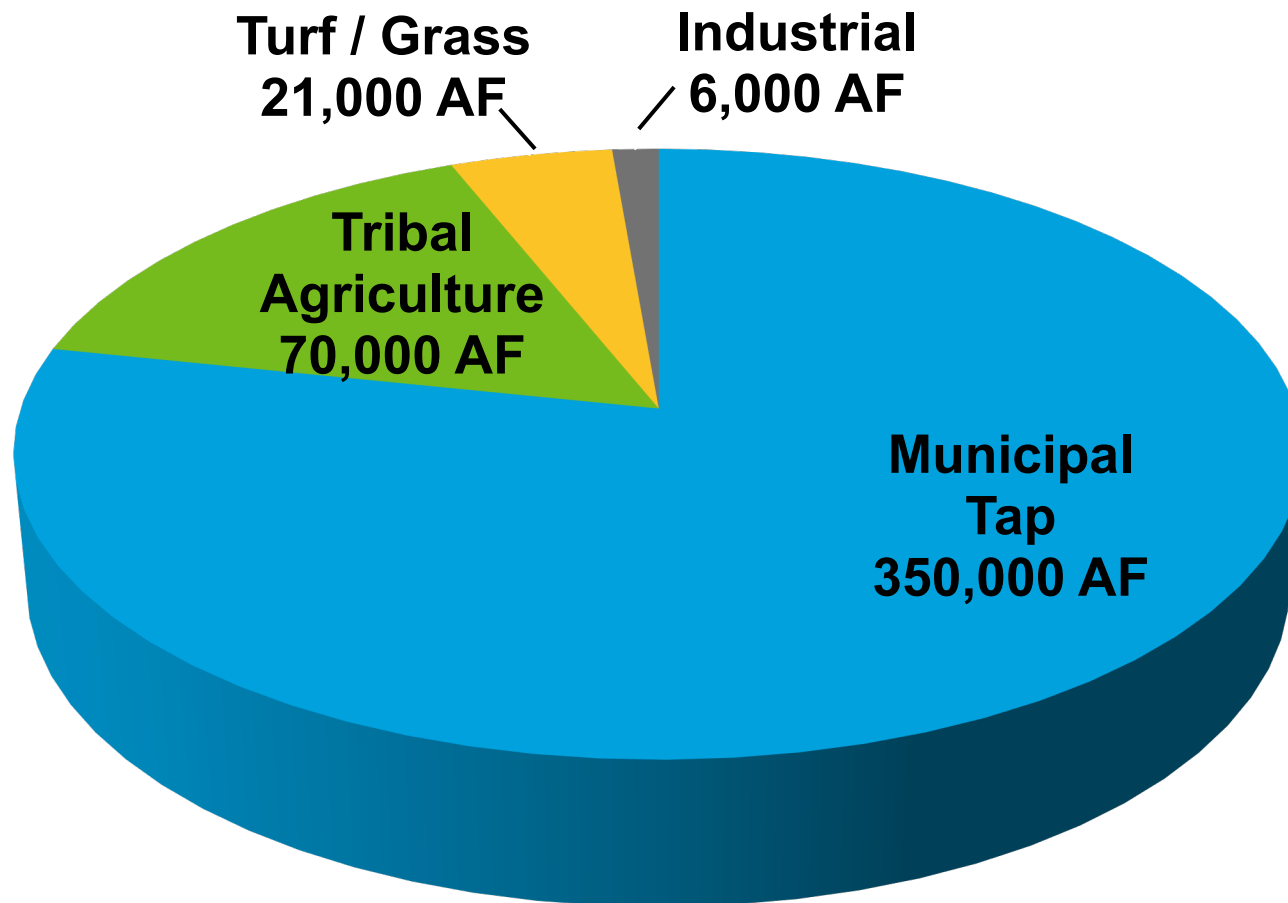
- Shortage sharing rules all expire at the end of this year.
- Negotiations for a new shortage sharing regime between the Basin states have failed.
- The sticking points – Upper Basin says no delivery obligation and will not take mandatory cuts.
- Federal government's Draft Environmental Impact Statement proposals were all devastating to Arizona.
- The Federal Government authorized an emergency release of water from Flaming Gorge Reservoir to prop up levels in Lake Powell, and reduced deliveries from Lake Powell to Lake Mead.
- Lower Basin has a two-year proposal that includes a 27% cut to Arizona's Colorado River supplies on top of the cuts already absorbed.
- Federal government has a preliminary proposal of a 10-year program (with two-year management windows) with cuts based on "priority", and no mandatory reductions in the Upper Basin.





Colorado River Shortage

Direct Uses of Colorado River Water in CAP Service Area



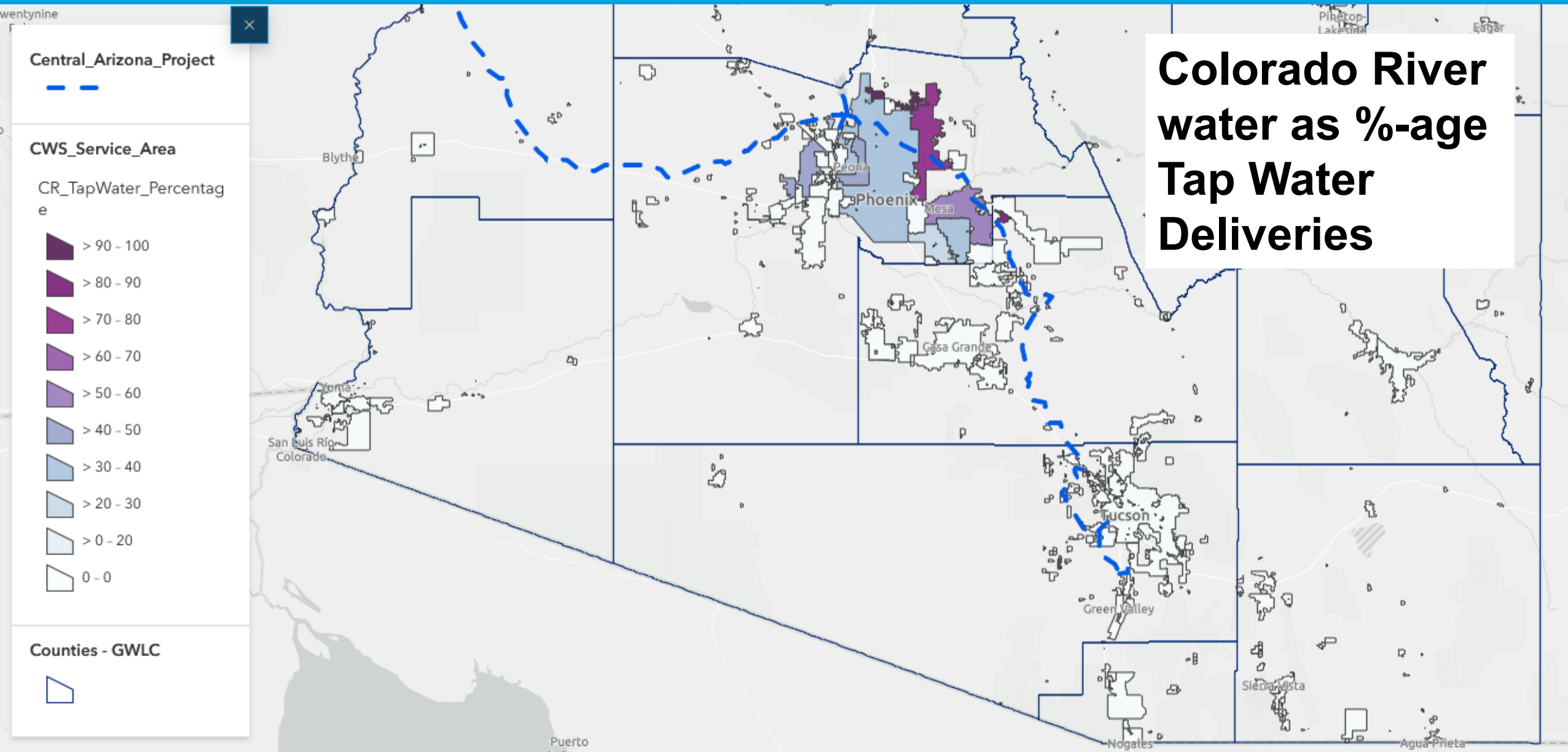
Colorado River Shortage



“ Reclamation also plans to reduce the Lake Powell to Lake Mead release from 7.48 maf to 6 maf. . . . At this time, there is no ask by Reclamation for reductions in the lower basin and Mexico that would exceed 1.5 maf in calendar year 2027. Reductions at that level would translate to an **expected reduction in the State of Arizona of 760,000 af**

. . . .

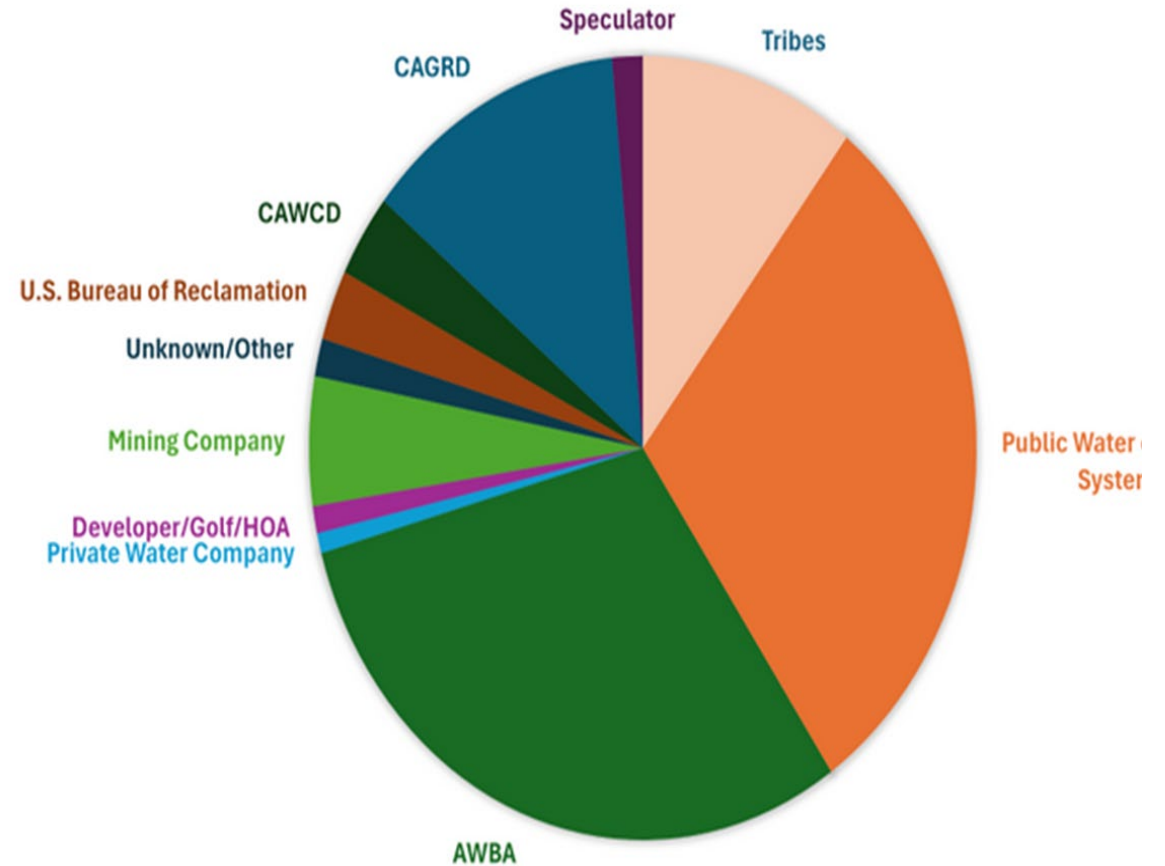
Colorado River Shortage – Direct Impacts



NEAR TERM

- Recovery of LTSCs and Groundwater Pumping
- Tribal Leases
- Better Data & Models
- Incentives for Conservation
- Ag-to-Urban: Temporary Fallowing or Permanent Buy-and-Dry
- Two-Year Deal on Shortage Sharing
- San Diego Desalination Water Exchange
- Litigation

Ownership of LTSCs in Phoenix, Pinal, & Tucson AMAs



Scottsdale's LTSCs
277,690 AF

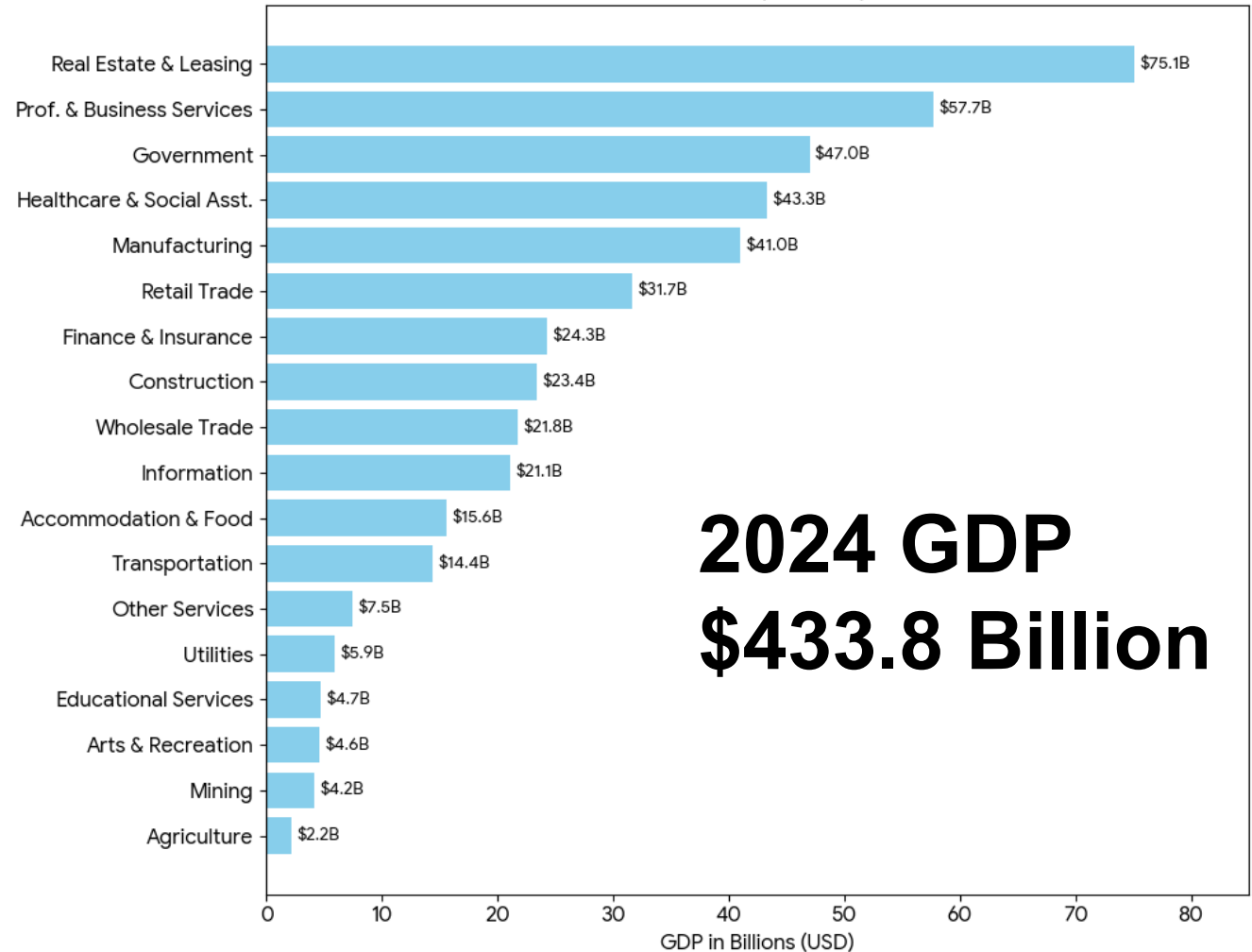
What's next: Water demands may evolve.

Water Productivity by Sector*

- Municipal = \$251,000
- Industrial = \$110,000
- Agriculture = \$430

*approximate GDP produced per acre-foot of water demand

Arizona GDP Contribution by Industry (2024 Estimates)



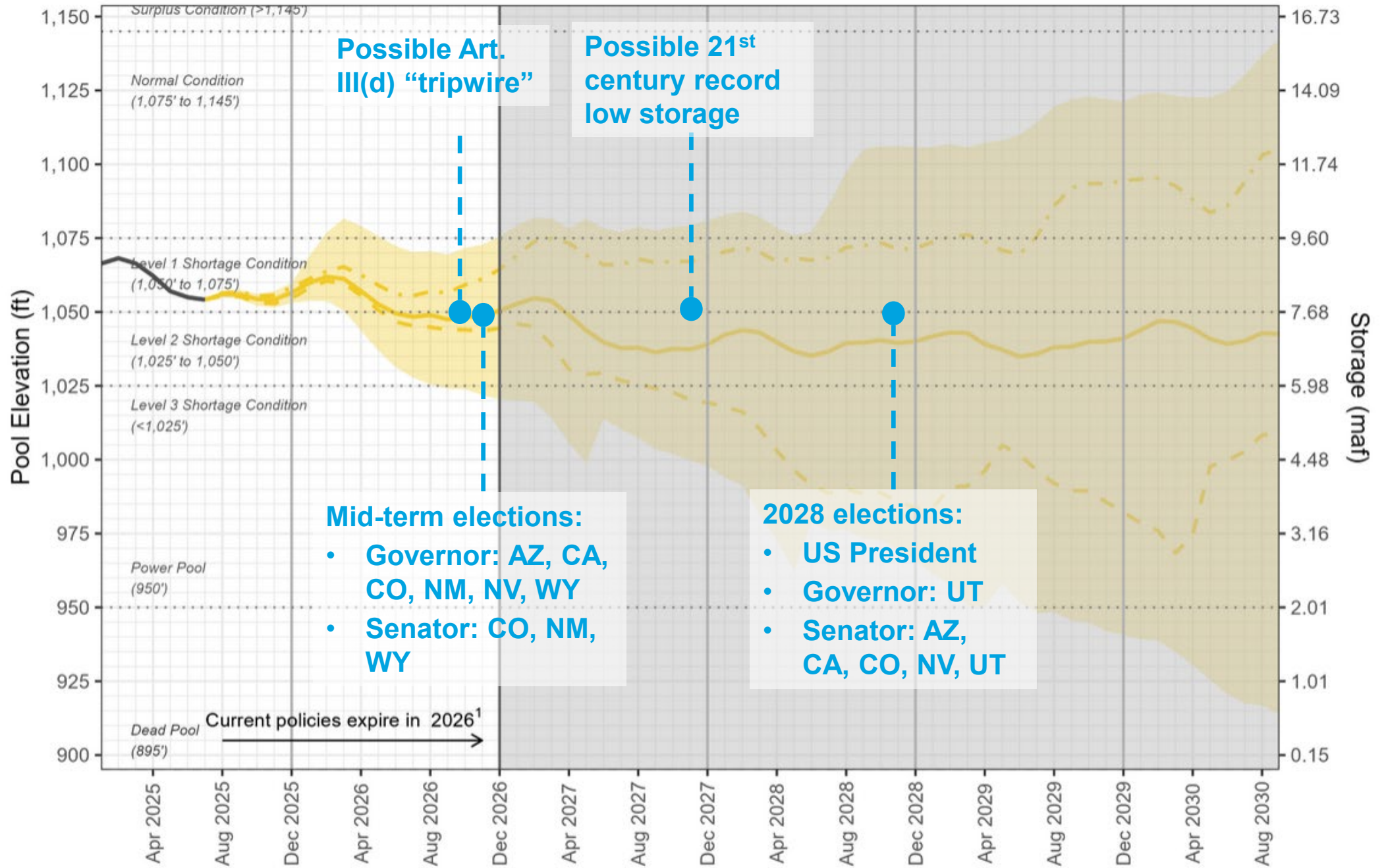
INTERMEDIATE TERM

- Advanced Water Purification
- Water from Roosevelt Modification
- Expand Bartlet Dam
 - Between 75K & 325K AF added storage
- Groundwater Transport Basins
- Finalize Tribal Water Settlements
 - Navajo/Hopi/San Juan Southern Paiute
 - Yavapai Apache
- Forestry Management
- Litigation



Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations

August 2025 CRMMS-ESP Projection



LONG TERM

- New Crops
- Advanced Irrigation Methods
- Bulk Water Transports
- Atmospheric Water
- Desalination
- Litigation
- What do we want to be when we grow up?



What's next: New supplies in development



WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF ARIZONA

“ WIFA Advances Water Importation Projects

November 19, 2025

Today, the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona advances four water importation proposals into a study phase to bring new, reliable water into the State.

- **Gulf of California Desal & Binational Conveyance (MX)**
- **Northern Gulf of California Desal (MX & CO)**
- **South Bay Potable Water Reuse (So Cal)**
- **California Groundwater Storage & Recover (MX)**



SUMMARY

- Our problem in a nutshell – 19th Century laws, 20th Century infrastructure, 21st Century population, economy, & climate.
- We are not running out of water. We are running out of cheap water.
- We are a (often dysfunctional) family, but we have found ways to thrive together.
- What can you do?
 - Reduce outdoor water use at the household level
 - Quickly identify and address leaks
 - Concern is an asset; panic is a liability. Be concerned. Don't panic.
 - The choice to live in the desert is the choice to prioritize water policy. In the desert, it doesn't matter what other policies you get right if you get water policy wrong. So we all need to elevate water policy as a higher priority in the ways that we live, and in the ways that we vote.



TOWN HALL

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5.27.2026

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