

— COALITION FOR —

PROTECTING ARIZONA'S LIFELINE

FACT SHEET

Millions of Arizonans depend on the Colorado River and this supply is threatened due to drought, overallocation and the unwillingness of some to help protect its future.

We're doing our part, along with the other Lower Basin states (California and Nevada), to demonstrate strong and sustained commitments to protecting the long-term health of the Colorado River system. Arizona communities are water smart and share a history of collaboration to enhance the quality of life for future generations.

Central Arizona Project plays a vital role in Protecting Arizona's Lifeline -- enhancing the quality of life for the majority of people in Arizona and fostering a culture of responsible and smart water use.

Today we must come together to protect and defend Arizona's lifeline.

Our Proud History

- The Colorado River is a lifeline for more than 40 million people across the Southwest, including millions of Arizonans. It sustains our cities, economies, agriculture, tribal communities and natural environments.
- The Colorado River is shared by seven states – divided into two basins – and Mexico. The Upper Basin consists of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. The Lower Basin is made up of Arizona, California and Nevada.
- In 1973, construction of the CAP began and was completed in 1993 at a cost of more than \$4 billion. It was built by the Bureau of Reclamation and is now operated and maintained by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD).

What's at Stake

- The CAP is valuable, modern water infrastructure. It's a 336-mile-long system of aqueducts, tunnels, pumping plants and pipelines that brings Colorado River water to **Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties**. It is the **largest water delivery system** in the state.
- CAP delivers vital Colorado River water to the most populous regions of the state, where more than six million people, **80% of Arizona's population**, live. The supply also supports industry, tribal communities and municipalities.

- CAP delivers **more tribal water** than any other organization in the United States.
- CAP is also vital to **national security**, particularly defense and aerospace. CAP supports two major military bases, which play vital roles in national defense, training and operations in the western U.S. and abroad. Critical national defense contractors with significant operations in Arizona depend on reliable water supplies to maintain the safety of the United States.
- Arizona has developed responsibly over the past 35 years even as its population has surpassed seven million residents. Importantly, this growth occurred in compliance with some of the strongest water conservation and management laws in the country, requiring developments to prove a 100-year water supply for homes.

Any dramatic reduction or reallocation of Colorado River water that CAP delivers to its users

- would have significant negative implications for our **total quality of life, economy and the security of our country**.

Our Shared Commitment

- As a result of the ingenuity and responsible efforts across the state, today our cities **use less water** per capita and Arizona uses less total water than in the 1950s, despite significant population growth.
- The Lower Basin states – Arizona, California and Nevada – have consistently brought forward collaborative, science-based solutions to **proactively protect** the Colorado River system.
- Communities and businesses across the Lower Basin, including many in Arizona, have pioneered conservation programs, water reuse projects and efficient irrigation technologies to become models of **responsible and smart water management**.

Arizona's allocation of the Colorado River is **foundational** to our water planning, land use

- decisions, economic and national security viability. It's not just about today, **it's also about future generations**. And it always has been.

Sign our pledge and see the list of Arizona
Mayors who have done the same!

