



Glossary

2007 SHORTAGE SHARING GUIDELINES

In 2005, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior directed the Bureau of Reclamation to develop additional strategies for improving the coordinated management of Lakes Powell and Mead. This was called the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (known as the 2007 Shortage Sharing Guidelines). The purpose of the guidelines is to give the USBR guidance on how reductions to water users in the Lower Basin will be implemented under low reservoir conditions in Lake Mead and define how water releases from Lake Powell would be accomplished to move water from the Upper Basin to the Lower Basin. The result has become known as the 2007 Guidelines. These guidelines remain in effect through Dec. 31, 2025.

A

ACRE-FOOT (AF)

The volume of water that will cover an area of one acre of land to a depth of one foot; also equal to 43,560 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons. One acre-foot is enough water for three Arizona families for one year.

AQUEDUCT

An artificial (man-made) channel that is constructed to convey water from one location to another. This can include canals, pipelines, inverted siphons, reservoirs and tunnels.

AQUIFER

Layers of sand, soil, gravel and rock that store groundwater and willingly soak up any extra moisture sent its way.

ARIZONA v. CALIFORNIA DECREE:

Landmark Supreme Court decision that among other things confirmed Arizona's 2.8 MAF/yr entitlement from the mainstem of the Colorado River (excluding tributaries in the Lower Basin) and established the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's role as water master of the Lower Basin.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (ADWR, DWR)

The state agency, created in 1980 by the Groundwater Management Act, designated to implement state water legislation. ADWR's stated mission is to protect, conserve and enhance Arizona's water supplies, by confronting water management challenges in a bold, thoughtful and innovative manner.

ARIZONA RECONSULTATION COMMITTEE (ARC)

Arizona has reconvened the Arizona DCP Steering Committee, renaming it as the Arizona Reconsultation Committee. The 2007 Shortage Sharing Guidelines and DCP will expire on Dec. 31, 2025 and new operating rules will need to be put into place. ARC provides a venue for developing and sharing stakeholder perspectives to guide Arizona's guiding principles for the new operating rules to be developed.

ARIZONA WATER BANKING AUTHORITY (AWBA)

Established in 1996 to fully utilize the state's Colorado River entitlement and develop long-term storage credits for the state. "Banks" unused Colorado River water to be used in times of shortage to secure Arizona's water supplies.

ASSURED WATER SUPPLY (AWS)

A designation or certificate given to water providers or subdividers who can show they have enough water for the next 100 years.

B

"BIG R"

The R portion of the Fixed OM&R, which is a CAWCD rate component for major repairs and capital replacements that smooths costs over time.

BOR

(see U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)

BOULDER CANYON PROJECT ACT

Federal legislation authorizing construction of Boulder Canyon Dam (Hoover Dam) and related Lower Basin infrastructure, as well as authorizing the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to contract for Colorado River water deliveries (aka Sec. V Contracts).

C

CAP TRAIL

During construction of the CAP system, the USBR anticipated the development of trails alongside the aqueduct. The USBR acquired sufficient land and located the fence to allow for a 10 to 20 foot wide trail to be developed outside the security fence. In most cases this trail, called the CAP Trail, is on canal right and is developed by other parties such as cities or Homeowner's Associations.

CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANY (CAPTIVE)

A closely held insurance company whose insurance business is primarily supplied by and controlled by its owner(s).

CENTRAL ARIZONA GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT (CAGRD, GRD)

The Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District was created in the mid-1990s to help water providers and land owners comply with Arizona's groundwater laws. CAGRD plays an important role in Arizona's groundwater management by replenishing groundwater pumped by its members.

CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT (CAP)

Central Arizona Project is a 336-mile long system of aqueducts, tunnels, pumping plans and pipelines, which delivers Arizona's single largest resource for renewable water supplies. CAP is designed to bring roughly 1.5 million acre-feet of water from the Colorado River to Central and Southern Arizona every year. More than 80% of the state's population lives in Maricopa, Pinal, and Pima counties, where CAP water is delivered.

CENTRAL ARIZONA WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CAWCD)

Water conservation district established as a special taxing district for the purpose of contracting with the United States for the delivery of CAP water and repayment of associated CAP costs. Serves Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties and is governed by a publicly elected 15-member board.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROJECT ACT

Federal law that among other things authorized construction of the Central Arizona Project in 1968.

COLORADO RIVER COMPACT

Agreement among the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and the seven Basin States to allocate 7.5 MAF of Colorado River water to the Upper Basin and 7.5 MAF to the Lower Basin.

CONJUNCTIVE MANAGEMENT

In order to operate the Colorado River system efficiently and make optimal use of the available storage in these vital reservoirs, the operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead are coordinated.

COST CENTER

A department or group to which costs may be charged for accounting purposes.

D

DESALINATION

Specific treatment processes to remove salt from sea water or brackish (saline) water for use.

DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN (DCP)

The Drought Contingency Plan is a set of actions that are additive to the 2007 Shortage Sharing Guidelines. The DCP agreements extend across the Basin with components in the Upper and Lower Basin, plus Mexico through Minute 323. Agreements amongst Arizona water users grew out of the Arizona DCP Steering Committee process.

DWR

(See Arizona Department of Water Resources)

E

ENTERPRISE FUND

A fund established to account for operations financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, wherein the stated intent is that the costs of providing goods and services be financed from revenues recovered primarily through user fees.

F

FEDERAL REPAYMENT

The U.S. government constructed Central Arizona Project during a span of 20 years (1973-1993) at a cost of more than \$4 billion. The agreement from the beginning was that Arizona, through the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD), would repay the government for a portion (the non-federal share) of construction costs.

FIRMING (WATER BANKING)

The use of one supply to increase the reliability of another, including stored water used to meet anticipated future shortages on the Colorado River.

G

GFOA

Government Finance Officers Association

GRD

(see Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District)

GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT

(see Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District)

H

HYDROLOGY

The study of water on the earth surface, underground and in the atmosphere.

I

IRRIGATION DISTRICT (ID)

A political subdivision established as a special taxing district for either agricultural improvement or irrigation and conservation purposes. Irrigation districts often manage water deliveries on behalf of numerous farmers.

L

LITTLE R (OM&R)

Included in OM portion of the Fixed OM&R, which is a CAWCD rate component for repairs that are maintenance in nature and reconciled annually.

LONG-TERM STORAGE CREDIT

Water that is recharged and kept underground to be recovered at a later date. Accounting is managed by ADWR.

LOWER BASIN STATES

The Colorado River Basin was divided into the Upper Basin and Lower Basin in 1922. The Lower Basin states are California, Arizona and Nevada.

M

MAF

Million Acre-Foot (see acre-foot).

MINUTE

The U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty of 1944 is implemented through binational agreements called Minutes. The most recent Colorado River Minute is 323, which includes shortage sharing between the U.S. and Mexico and is in conjunction with the DCP.

MULTI SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM (MSCP)

The MSCP goal is to balance the Lower Basin use of Colorado River water resources with conservation of native species and their habitats. The program, operated in partnership with the USBR, as well as water users in Arizona, California, and Nevada, is creating opportunities for these species to persist and survive.

N

NAVAJO GENERATING STATION (NGS)

NGS was a coal-fired electrical generating station that supplied energy to pump water through the Central Arizona Project and served electric customers in Arizona, Nevada and California. It was decommissioned in 2019.

P

PRIORITY

The order in which Colorado River water and CAP water is delivered. The highest or senior priority water is delivered first and the lowest or junior priority water is delivered last. During periods of reductions, the lowest or junior priority users take reductions before more senior or higher priority users.

PUMPING PLANT

CAP facilities that lift water to a higher elevation so it can flow by gravity in the canal to the next plant. There are 14 pumping plants in the CAP system. The largest is the Mark Wilmer Pumping Plant on the Colorado River at Lake Havasu.

R

RECHARGE

The process of replenishing underground aquifers with water by putting water in basins so it can percolate through the soil. Direct recharge can be accomplished via surface basins, streambeds or injection wells. Indirect or in-lieu recharge occurs when another water supply, such as CAP water, is used instead of groundwater, thereby saving the groundwater for use at a later time.

RECOVER

To pump water that was recharged or stored in the aquifer at an earlier date.

RESERVOIR

A man-made body of water where water is stored for future use. The CAP system has three storage reservoirs: Lake Pleasant, Black Mountain Reservoir and Reach 1. The Lower Colorado River Basin reservoir is Lake Mead and the Upper Colorado River Basin reservoir is Lake Powell.

S

SHORTAGE

A reduction in the amount of Colorado River available to the Lower Basin based on projected water levels in Lake Mead at the end of the year.

SYSTEM USE AGREEMENT (SUA)

The System Use Agreement is the legal framework that allows the CAP canal to be used to transport water other than our normal Colorado River supplies (non-project water), a process referred to as Wheeling.

T

TUNNELS

The CAP system includes 4 tunnels that move water through mountainous terrain: Buckskin Mountain, Burnt Mountain, Agua Fria and Tucson tunnels.

TURNOUTS

Features of the CAP aqueduct where water is delivered from the aqueduct to a CAP water user. Each turnout includes a measuring device or meter that documents the amount of water delivered to each customer.

U

UPPER BASIN STATES

The Colorado River Basin was divided into the Upper Basin and Lower Basin in 1922. The Upper Basin states are Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Wyoming.

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (USBR, BOR, RECLAMATION)

A division of the federal government led by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Established in 1902, Reclamation is most notably known for water infrastructure in the Western United States.

U.S.-MEXICO WATER TREATY OF 1944

Binational treaty between the U.S. and Mexico, which among other things, allocated 1.5 MAF annually to Mexico from the Colorado River.

W

WATER BANKING

(see firming)

WHEELING

Using the canal to transport water other than our normal Colorado River supplies, referred to as non-project water.

WILDLIFE BRIDGES

Bridges along the aqueduct that were built to preserve the movement of wildlife from one side of the aqueduct to the other.