FACT SHEET Drought Contingency Plan

Arizona Implementation

WHAT IS THE DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN (DCP)?

DCP is a set of agreements designed to protect the Colorado River system through voluntary reductions and increased conservation. The agreements were developed through a collaborative process amongst the federal government, states, water users and Mexico. The Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and Central Arizona Project (CAP) were the participants from Arizona.

There is an Upper Basin DCP involving: Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and the U.S.; a Lower Basin DCP involving Arizona, California, Nevada and the US; and a companion agreement which connects these two programs and links them to Mexico through a U.S.-Mexico agreement.

HOW WAS ARIZONA'S DCP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN **DEVELOPED**

In 2018 and early 2019, ADWR and CAP jointly led nearly 40 stakeholders through months of public and small group meetings. During this process, new arrangements, which form a package called the Arizona DCP Implementation

Plan, were negotiated. The package of agreements shares the burden of impacts from Colorado River reductions and the benefits of increased reliability for Arizona water users

HOW DOES DCP PROTECT ARIZONA'S WATER **SUPPLIES?**

With DCP and Arizona's water management framework, we are prepared to handle the effects of drought and Colorado River shortage. DCP does not prevent a Colorado River shortage, but thanks to Arizona's innovative water management programs, conservation and collaborative long-term planning, Arizona will continue to enjoy reliable water supplies.

WHEN DID DCP START?

The Drought Contingency Plan Authorization Act was signed into law on April 16, 2019. Reductions to Arizona's Colorado River supply under DCP began in 2020. The DCP agreements run through 2026. It is anticipated that new rules will be negotiated and put into effect after 2026.

WHY WAS DCP NECESSARY?

DCP addresses the changing hydrology in the Colorado River Basin. In 2007 when the current Guidelines were adopted, the risks from prolonged drought were understated. Additional measures were necessary to prevent the reservoirs from falling to critically low levels.

DCP is a "sharing of risks" and a "sharing of opportunity." For Arizona, DCP provides a greater certainty for reliable and secure water supplies now and in the future.

Risk of Lake Mead going below 1,025' by the year 2026

(from June 2018 BOR data, at the time of DCP discussions)





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YOU SHOULD KNOW...

- Colorado River reductions do not mean that Arizona is in a water crisis.
- Arizona leads the nation with rigorous water conservation and sustainability laws that protect Arizona water users.
- The DCP provides a plan for how Arizona cities, agricultural users, industries, tribes and others will share Colorado River water supplies while taking reductions.

WY NV • 8K UT • 21K Upper Basin 25K co **IN ACRE-FEET PER ELEVATION PER YEAR** • 30K CA Tier Zero: Less than 1,090' AZ Bureau of Reclamation Tier 1: Less than 1,075' NM 512K 350K 592K • 100K / year Tier 2: Less than 1,050' Lower Basin Tier 2b: Less than 1.045' 640K 720K Tier 3: Less than 1,025' Minute 323 Binational MX Water Scarcity • 41K • 80K • 104K • 146K • 275K Contingency Plan

LOWER BASIN DCP CONTRIBUTIONS TO LAKE MEAD

HOW HAS DCP PREPARED ARIZONA FOR A FUTURE WITH LESS COLORADO RIVER WATER?

Arizona's DCP Implementation Plan represents the best of Arizona water management: collaboration, cooperation and innovation.

Arizona's DCP Steering Committee included about 40 representatives of tribes, cities, agriculture, developers, environmental organizations and elected officials. This Committee worked collectively to share the risks and benefits of the DCP. The 2019 Drought Contingency Plan put in place agreements that resulted in collective action by Arizona's water users to share resources and mitigate the impacts of Colorado River reductions. Some committed to leave extra water in Lake Mead to reduce future risks, while others shared water with those most severely impacted. As the impact of poor hydrology continues, the DCP is adaptive to respond to worsening conditions, buying time to identify additional actions as needs dictate.



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