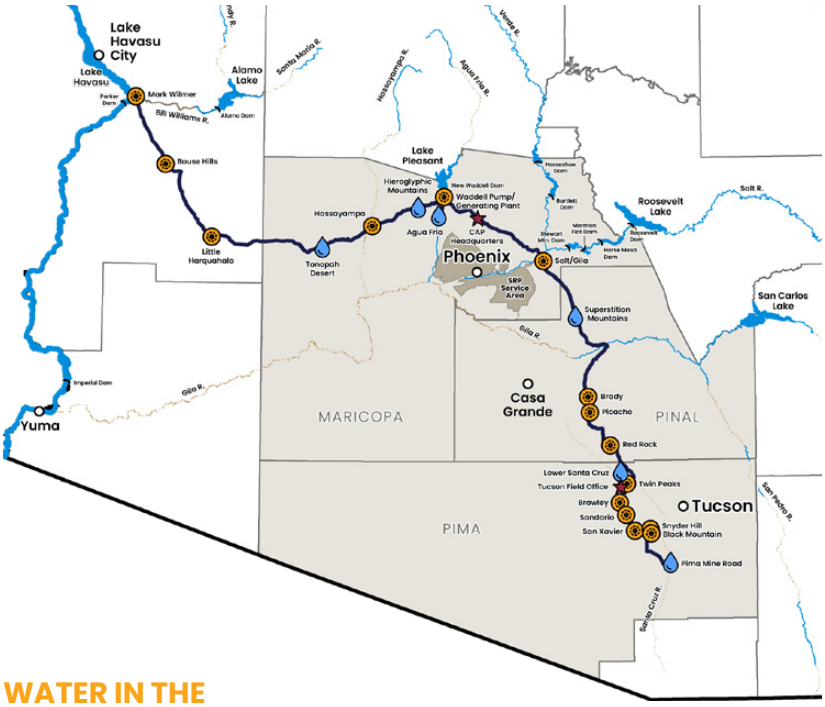
Central Arizona Project

FACT SHEET / APRIL 2026



CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT

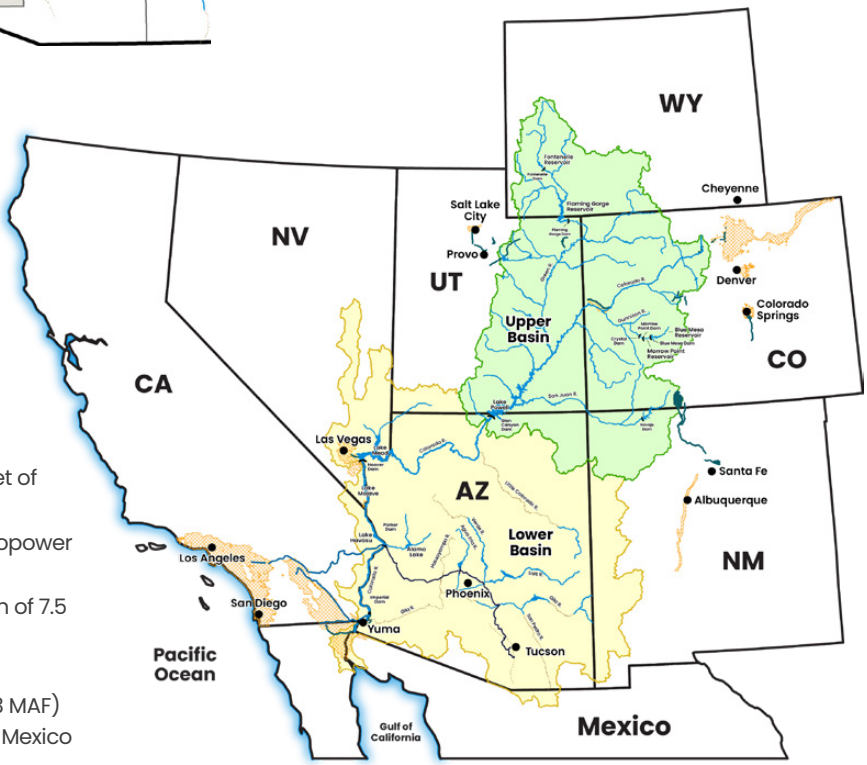
Central Arizona Project (CAP) is a 336-mile system that delivers Colorado River water to the most populated regions of central and southern Arizona.

- The aqueduct stretches from Lake Havasu to Tucson.
- It serves Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties, a region where more than 80% of the state's population resides.
- The system includes 4 tunnels, 10 siphons, 15 pumping plants, 39 radial gates, and more than 50 turnouts.
- Lake Pleasant serves as CAP's storage reservoir.
- Water deliveries began in 1985 and are allocated 54% municipal and 46% to tribal communities.

WATER IN THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN

The Colorado River is shared by seven states and Mexico, and is critical to the quality of life and economies of those regions.

- Colorado River water is used by municipalities, tribes and agriculture. It serves and supports:
  - » 40 million people, including those in Denver, Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Los Angeles and San Diego
  - » 30 Tribes
  - » Approximately 5 million acres of irrigated farmland
  - » National parks, wildlife refuges, recreation areas and monuments
- Upper and Lower Basin reservoirs have 60 million acre-feet of combined storage capacity.
- Dams at Lake Powell and Lake Mead generate clean hydropower for the Western power grid.
- Both the Upper and Lower Basin have an annual allocation of 7.5 million acre-feet (MAF).
- Lower basin allocations:
  - » **AZ** (2.8 MAF) » **CA** (4.4 MAF) » **NV** (0.3 MAF)
- An additional 1.5 MAF in annual flows is made available to Mexico under the 1944 U.S.-Mexico Treaty.



YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.

CentralArizonaProject.com

CAP
CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT

COLORADO RIVER CONDITIONS - MARCH 30, 2026

COLORADO RIVER WATER SUPPLY REPORT

System Contents*: 21.33 MAF

Last year system contents: 23.86 MAF

* System contents include Reservoirs Flaming Gorge, Fontenelle, Navajo, Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal, and Lakes Powell, Mead, Mohave and Havasu and is shown in million acre-feet (MAF).

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SNOW ACCUMULATION

For the overall Colorado River Basin above Lake Powell, the snow accumulation as of March 30, 2026 was 3.7 inches, which is 26% of the 30-year median for that date of 14.5 inches.

LAKE MEAD

August 2025 24-Month Study

Lake Mead is operating in a Tier 1 shortage for 2026.

https://www.cap-az.com/colorado-river-conditions-dashboard/

BOARD AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

CAP is governed by a 15-member popularly elected Board of Directors. CAWCD Board members are elected from Maricopa (10), Pima (4) and Pinal (1) counties, serve staggered six-year terms and are not compensated for their time. The Board regularly meets twice per month and adheres to all open meeting laws.

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https://www.cap-az.com/board/

WATER RATES

Water rates are published biennially as part of the integrated framework of CAP's financial planning processes. CAP rates are cost of service based, designed to cover the costs that are incurred for the activity (water delivery, federal repayment, CAGRD, etc.).

LEARN MORE

https://www.cap-az.com/finances-of-cap/

REPAYMENT

- CAP's repayment obligation is $1.646 billion, plus interest. Payments started in 1994 and are scheduled to be completed in 2045.
- CAP has three revenue sources to make this annual payment: 1) surplus revenues in the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund, 2) ad valorem property taxes, and 3) municipal and industrial capital charges. The CAWCD Board of Directors determines the combination of taxes and capital charges to be applied towards the payment each year.

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https://www.cap-az.com/finances-of-cap/

TAXES

- The CAWCD tax is levied on property owners in Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties.
- The CAWCD tax rate currently is 10-cents per $100 of assessed valuation.
- CAWCD also collects 4-cents per $100 of assessed valuation which can be used by the Arizona Water Banking Authority to store water underground and purchase long-term storage credits, as well as for any CAP operations, maintenance or repayment costs.

LEARN MORE

https://www.cap-az.com/finances-of-cap/property-taxes/

POWER

- Water is heavy, and pumping it across the state takes a lot of energy.
- To manage its power needs, CAP has developed a diversified power portfolio that has both long-term and market purchases and includes multiple energy sources such as solar and hydropower.
- CAP's annual cost for energy can range between $60-80 million, depending on pumping volumes and market prices.

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https://www.cap-az.com/water/cap-system/power-operations/

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