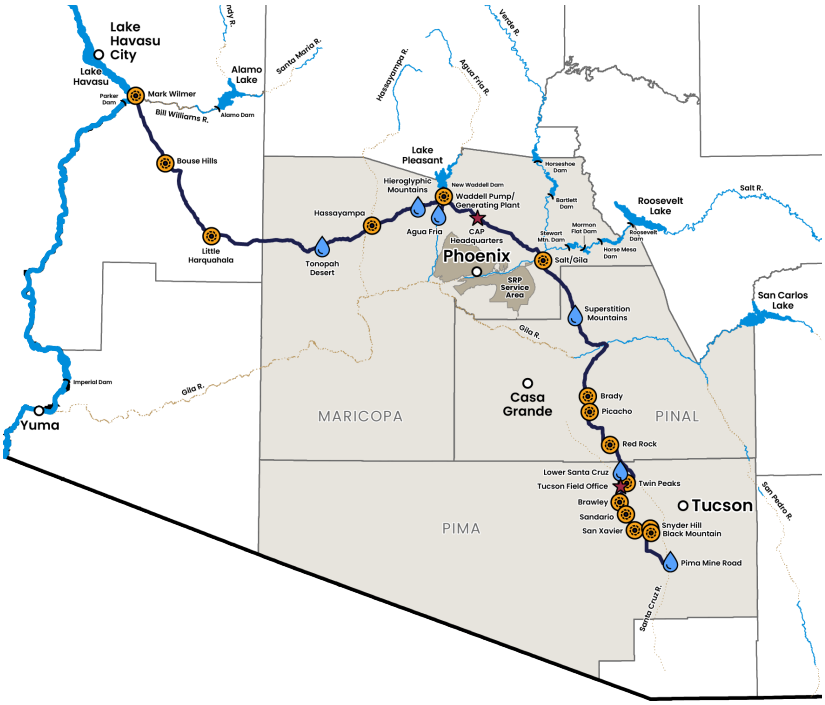
Central Arizona Project

FACT SHEET / AUGUST 2026



CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT

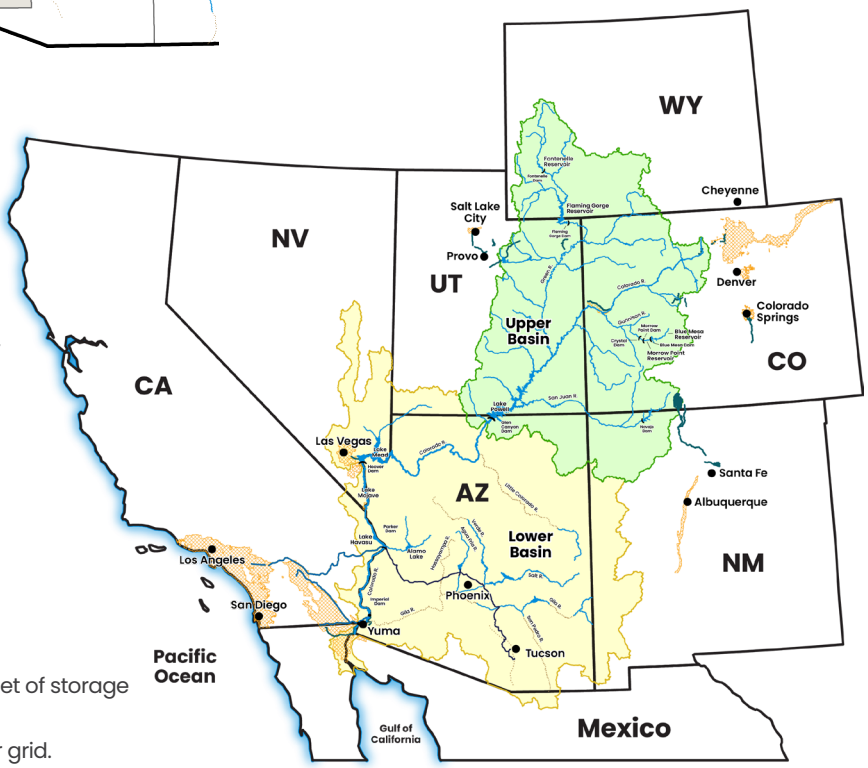
Central Arizona Project (CAP) is a 336-mile system that delivers Colorado River water to the most populated regions of central and southern Arizona.

- 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 the largest renewable water resource in the southwestern United States. Its supply is shared by seven Western states and Mexico. The Colorado River Basin is divided into two regions: the Upper Basin (Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico) and the Lower Basin (California, Arizona, and Nevada).

- Colorado River water is used by municipalities, tribes, industries and agriculture. It serves and supports:
  - Nearly $4 trillion in economic output that is key to the nation's economy
  - 43 million people, including 30 tribal communities
  - Ecological habitats such as wildlife refuges
  - National parks, recreation areas and monuments
  - Life for urban centers
- Upper and Lower Basin reservoirs have 60 million acre-feet of storage capacity.
- Dams generate clean hydropower for the Western power grid.



YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.

CentralArizonaProject.com

CAP
CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT

COLORADO RIVER CONDITIONS - JULY 19, 2026

COLORADO RIVER WATER SUPPLY REPORT

System Contents*: 19.13 MAF

Last year system contents: 23.06 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).

LEARN MORE

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

SNOW ACCUMULATION

For the overall Colorado River Basin above Lake Powell, the snow accumulation peaked on March 9, 2026 at 8.9 inches, which is 60% of the 30-year peak median of 14.8 inches.

LAKE MEAD

August 2026 24-Month Study

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

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.

LEARN MORE

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.

LEARN MORE

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.

LEARN MORE

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

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