

# Central Arizona Project

## FACT SHEET / SEPTEMBER 2023



### 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 80% of the state's population resides.
- The system includes 4 tunnels, 10 siphons, 14 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 farmland irrigated
  - » National parks, wildlife refuges, recreation areas and monuments
- Upper and Lower Basin reservoirs have 60 million acre-feet of storage capacity.
- Dams at Lake Powell and Lake Mead generate clean hydropower for the Western power grid.
- Both the Upper and Lower Basin receive 7.5 million acre-feet of water annually.
- Lower basin allocations:
 

» AZ (2.8 MAF)	» NV (0.3 MAF)
» CA (4.4 MAF)	» Mexico (1.5 MAF)



## COLORADO RIVER CONDITIONS – on Aug. 28, 2023



### COLORADO RIVER WATER SUPPLY REPORT

**System Contents\*: 25.67 MAF**

Last year system contents: 20.13 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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<https://www.cap-az.com/colorado-river-conditions-dashboard/>



### SNOW ACCUMULATION

For the overall Colorado River Basin above Lake Powell, the snow accumulation to date is at 1.0 in., which is 517% of the 30-year median for this date of 0.2 in.



### LAKE MEAD

#### April 2023 24-Month Study

Lake Mead is operating in Tier 2a shortage condition in 2023.

Lake Mead will operate in Tier 1 shortage condition for 2024.

## 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, CAGR, etc.).



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### 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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### 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.

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### 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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