## Central Arizona Project

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YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.

### CAP System

- Diverts ~1.6 MAF of Arizona's Colorado River entitlement
  - 336 mile aqueduct system
  - 15 pumping plants
  - 8 siphons, 3 tunnels
  - 2,900 ft. of lift
  - 2.8 million MWH/yr.



#### **CAP** Governance

- Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) was authorized in 1971
- CAWCD is not a State agency
- Governed by a 15-member Board, elected by county
  - 10 from Maricopa
  - 4 from Pima
  - 1 from Pinal
- 6-year terms
- No compensation





### CAP Budget & Funding

- Expenses
  - \$286 million (2016)
    - 40% for power
    - 20% for employees

#### Revenues

- Water service charges from sale of CAP water
- Property tax levied in Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties
- Sale of surplus power from the Navajo Generating Station







Physical "destination" of CAP water independent of user, priority, or rate type (2014)



#### Groundwater Overdraft



### Challenges for Ag



### Challenges for Ag

- In 1967, two UofA researchers—Young and Martin—challenged the conventional wisdom about Ag's willingness to pay for CAP water
- Their insights and warnings were later corroborated and amplified by others
  - Barr, Pingry, Kelso, Mack, Bush, Wilson, Ingram, Colby...



### Crisis Of Underuse

- By 1993, when the CAP was deemed "substantially complete", serious problems arose
  - Cost overruns by USBR
    - Lawsuits and acrimony
  - Underutilization of supply caused high O&M rates
  - Cost of water was pushing Ag districts towards bankruptcy



### Policies & Institutions

- Underground Water Storage, Savings and Replenishment Act (1994)
  - Consolidated & expanded role of recharge
- Assured Water Supply Rules (1995)
  - Requires new growth to offset pumping with recharge of renewable supplies
- Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (1993)
  - Mechanism for new subdivisions to comply with renewable supply requirement of AWS Rules
- Arizona Water Banking Authority (1996)
  - Recharges CAP water for shortage and other purposes



### **Recharge Facility Types**



Superstition Mountains Photo: CAP

#### <u>Underground Storage Facilities</u> (USF)

- "Direct" recharge
- Water is delivered to spreading basins, trenches, injection wells or natural channels



Drip Irrigation, MSIDD. Photo: Megdal

#### Groundwater Savings Facilities (GSF)

- "Indirect" or "in lieu" recharge
- Water is delivered to agricultural user that would have otherwise pumped groundwater













#### Non-Indian Ag Subcontracts

- CAP Ag subcontracts included "take-or-pay" provisions that were financially burdensome
- Some of the water was relinquished and allocated to Valley cities
- The remaining contracts were relinquished in exchange for debt relief, exemption from Reclamation Reform Act limitations, and a defined volume of affordable CAP water—the Agricultural Settlement Pool



### Agricultural Settlement Pool

- Compared with the original Ag contracts, the Ag Pool is:
- Lower priority
  - Part of "Excess" CAP supply
- Lower-cost
  - Energy only
- Limited duration
  - Through 2030, with step-downs





### Indian Agriculture

- The same action that created the Ag Pool the Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act resolved several long-standing native American water rights claims
- Funding was made available to expand onreservation tribal farming operations for Gila River Indian Community and the Tohono O'odham Nation







### **Colorado River Shortage**

- Almost all of the defined shortage reductions will fall to CAP, due to its junior priority
- Shortages will affect all customers due to higher rates
- Specific customer impacts depend on the priority of the CAP supply they hold



Historic Levels, with July 2016 to July 2018 Projection



#### Lake Mead Elevation

### CAP Priority Pools



### CAP Priority Pools



### **Drought Contingency**

- Additional reductions have been proposed in the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan
- The LBDCP is an "insurance policy" that provides more certainty and greater protection of Colorado River supplies
- Actions and reductions, in addition to the 2007 Guidelines, to "bend the curve" in the decline of Lake Mead
  - Earlier, deeper and more widely shared reductions



### CAP Priority Pools



### Shortage Management Efforts

#### Storage and Recovery

- 3.4 MAF of underground storage in partnership with AWBA

#### Lake Mead Reservoir Protection

- Interstate plan to leave 740 KAF in Lake Mead by end of 2017
- CAP's share is 345 KAF will be accomplished by end of 2016

#### **Innovative Conservation**

- Interstate funding to conserve >75 KAF in the Colorado River
- Conservation research grant program

#### **Augmentation**

- Weather modification projects in the Upper Basin
- Evaluation of local and binational desalination



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**12 Ag Participants** Tonopah IDD Roosevelt WCD Queen Creek IDD New Magma IDD Hohokam IDD Maricopa-Stanfield IDD Central Arizona IDD Kai Farms BKW Farms Salt River Project YMIDD (on-River)

**4 Cities** Glendale Peoria Phoenix Scottsdale **1 Tribe** Tohono O'odham



### Conclusions

- Looming shortage is the latest in a series of challenges that have faced the Central Arizona Project and its customers
- Arizona has a demonstrated track-record of addressing challenges in innovative and effective ways
  - Multiple strategies are being employed to manage shortage risks
- Irrigated agriculture will continue to be an important partner with CAP



# CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT

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