

DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

FAQs



COLORADO RIVER SHORTAGE AWARENESS

WHAT IS THE DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN?

DCP is the plan negotiated by the seven Colorado River Basin States to take less water from the Colorado River over the next seven years. The idea is that by taking less water now, the Basin States will reduce the likelihood that water levels in Lake Mead and Lake Powell decline to the point that drastic cutbacks are required.

HOW DOES IT IMPACT ARIZONA?

Under DCP, Arizona must use even less Colorado River water than previously planned in shortages on the River. Arizona bears the largest share of cuts because its Colorado River water delivered through the Central Arizona Project (CAP) is the lowest priority in the Basin.

WHAT'S THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN?

Arizona developed a plan for how water cutbacks required by DCP will be implemented within the state. The carefully crafted plan required months of difficult negotiations to determine how to help those who will face the greatest supply reductions under DCP. To ease or mitigate the impact of these reductions, particularly for Central Arizona agriculture, water users are provided alternative water supplies or funding. The alternative water supplies come from water previously stored underground and in Lake Mead. Arizona's internal priority system for the delivery of water in the CAP requires cutbacks to tribes and cities be mitigated before agricultural users receive any alternative water supplies.

WILL DCP PREVENT A SHORTAGE?

DCP will not prevent a shortage. However, it will significantly reduce the risk of far deeper shortages and greater uncertainty on the Colorado River. For these reasons, the AMWUA cities actively supported Arizona's participation in DCP.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER...

DCP REDUCES THE RISK OF SEVERE SHORTAGES ON THE COLORADO RIVER.

ARIZONA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN IS A HARD-FOUGHT COMPROMISE THAT PROTECTS THE STATE'S COLLECTIVE INTERESTS.

PROTECTING THE COLORADO RIVER IS VITAL TO ARIZONA'S ECONOMY, WAY OF LIFE AND LONG-TERM WATER FUTURE.
