

# Status of the Colorado River

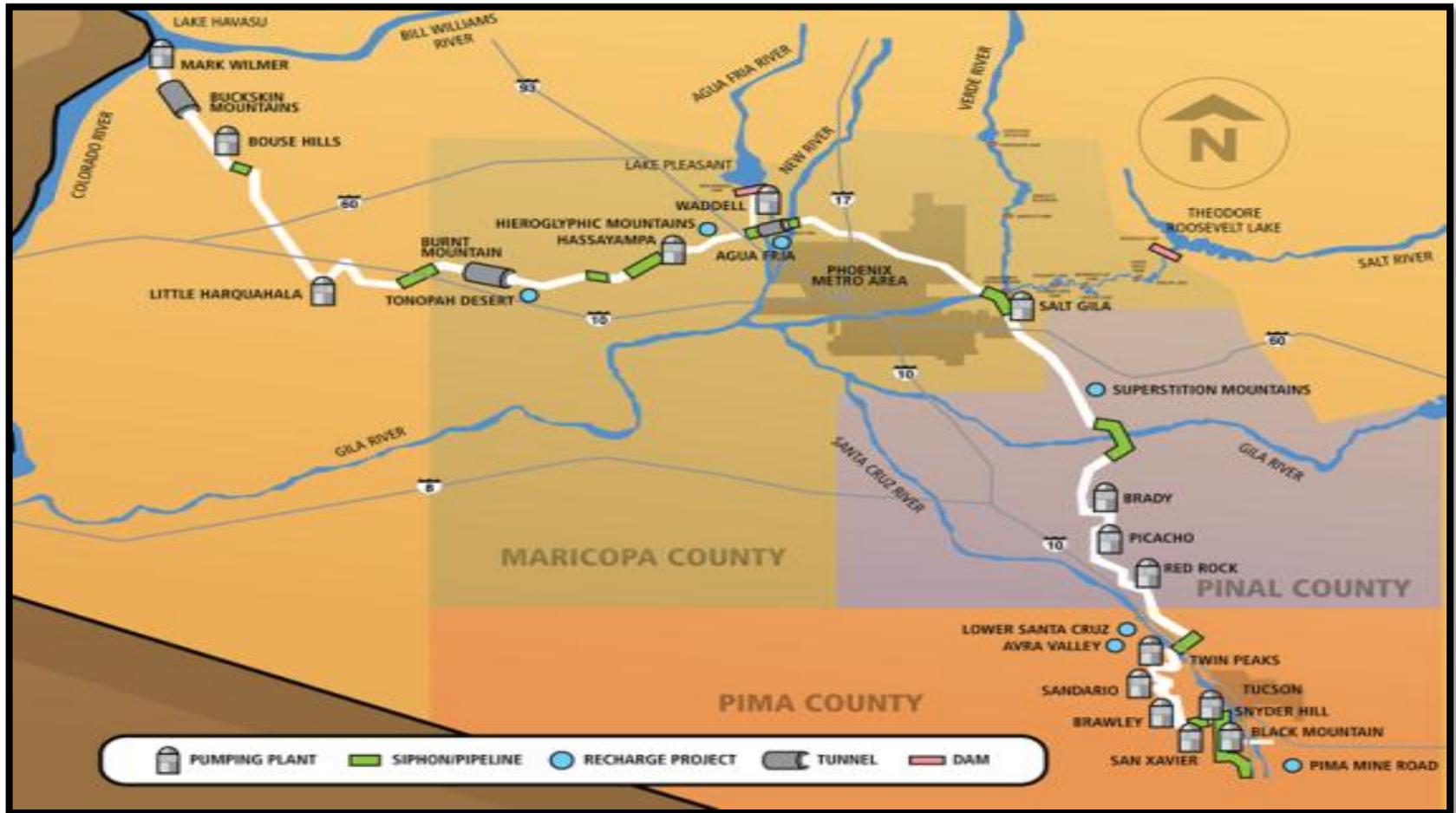
Pima LDIG  
September 12, 2012

Mitch Basefsky  
CAP Southern Arizona  
Communications



YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.

# What is the Central Arizona Project?



# What is the Status of the Colorado River?



April 1999

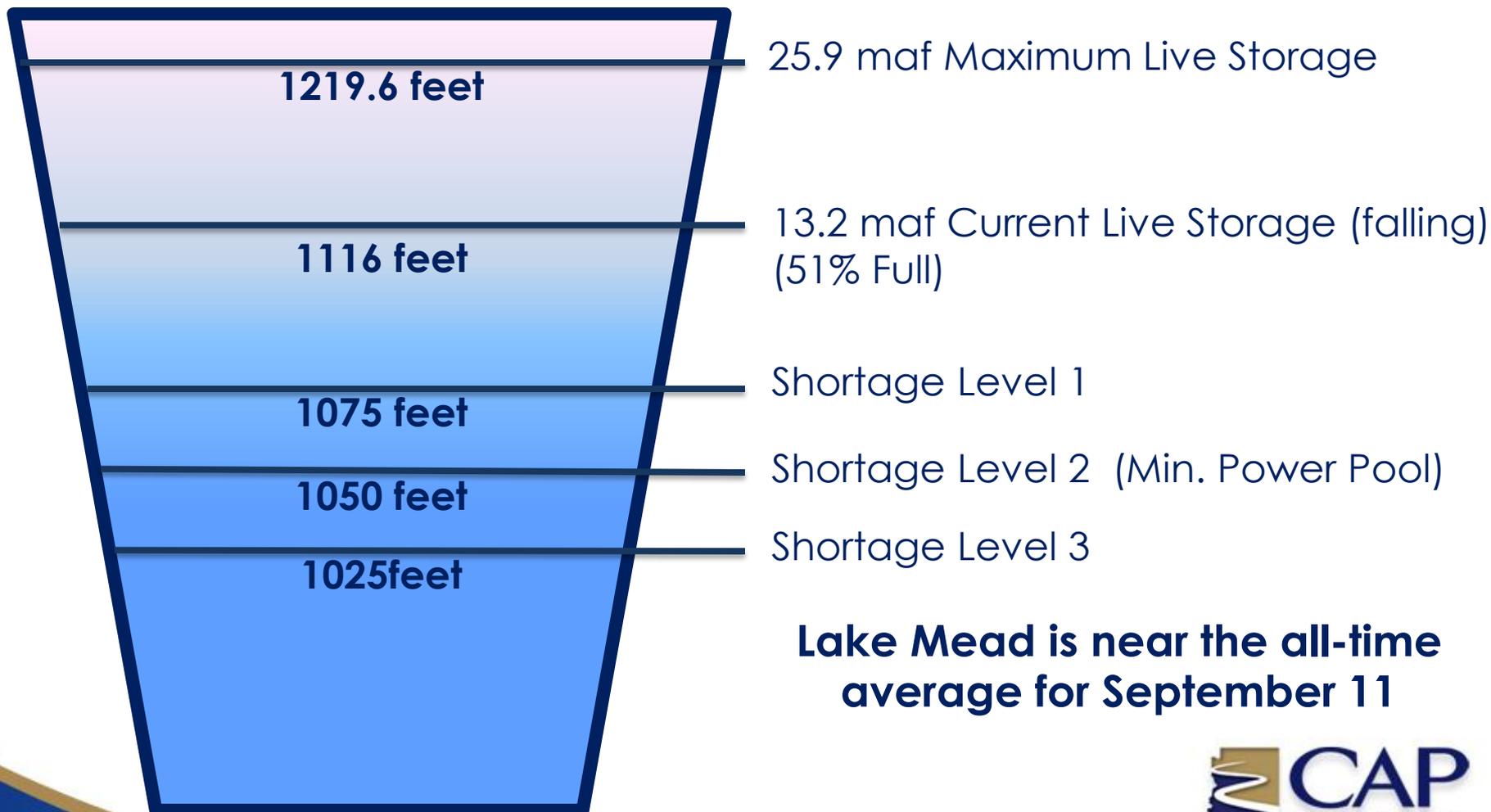


January 2012

**We had a reprieve in 2010 with from falling water levels in Lake Mead thanks to high snowfall in the watershed**

# What is the Status of the Colorado River?

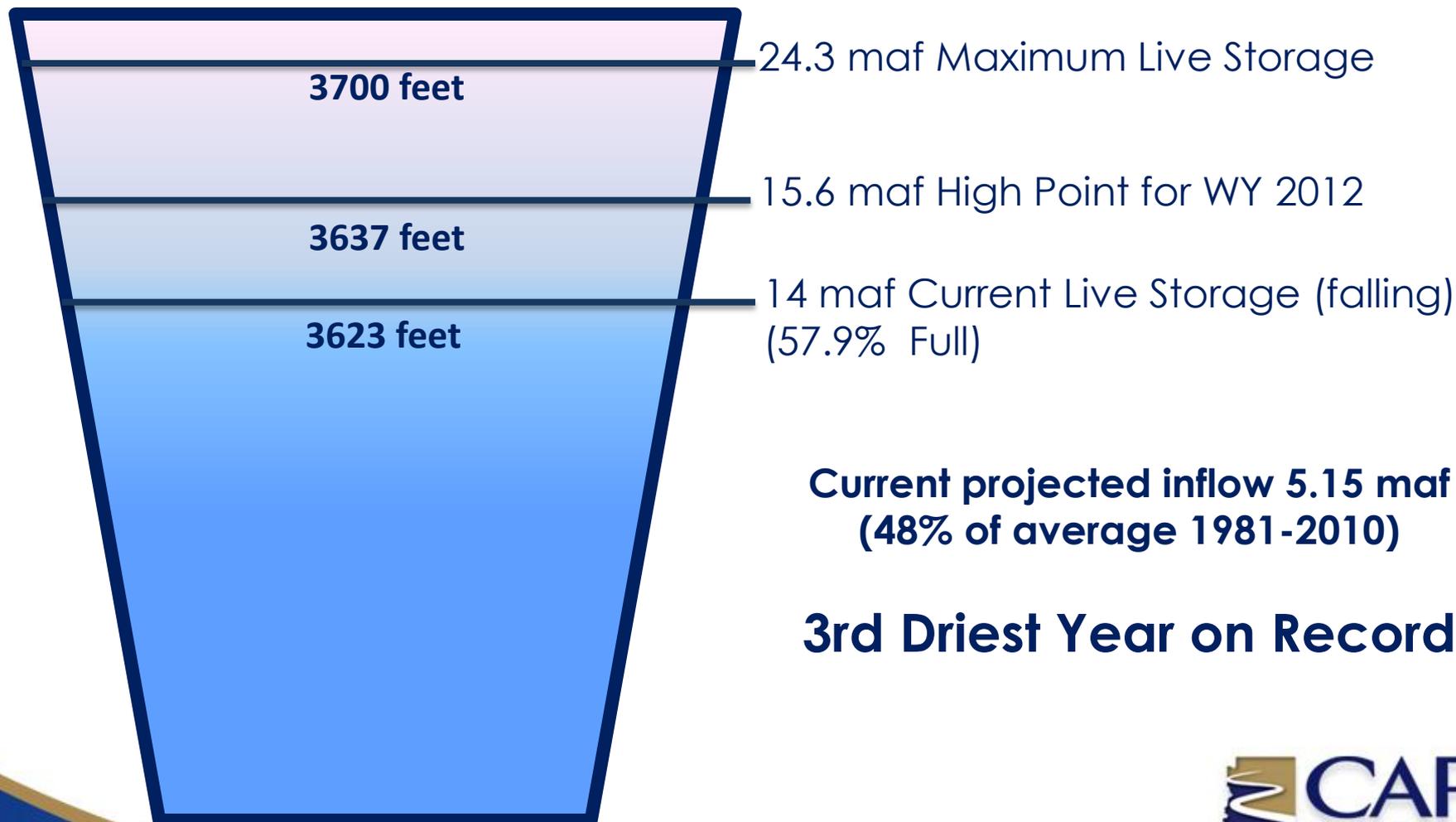
## Lake Mead Capacity and Current Conditions



**Lake Mead is near the all-time average for September 11**

# What is the Status of the Colorado River?

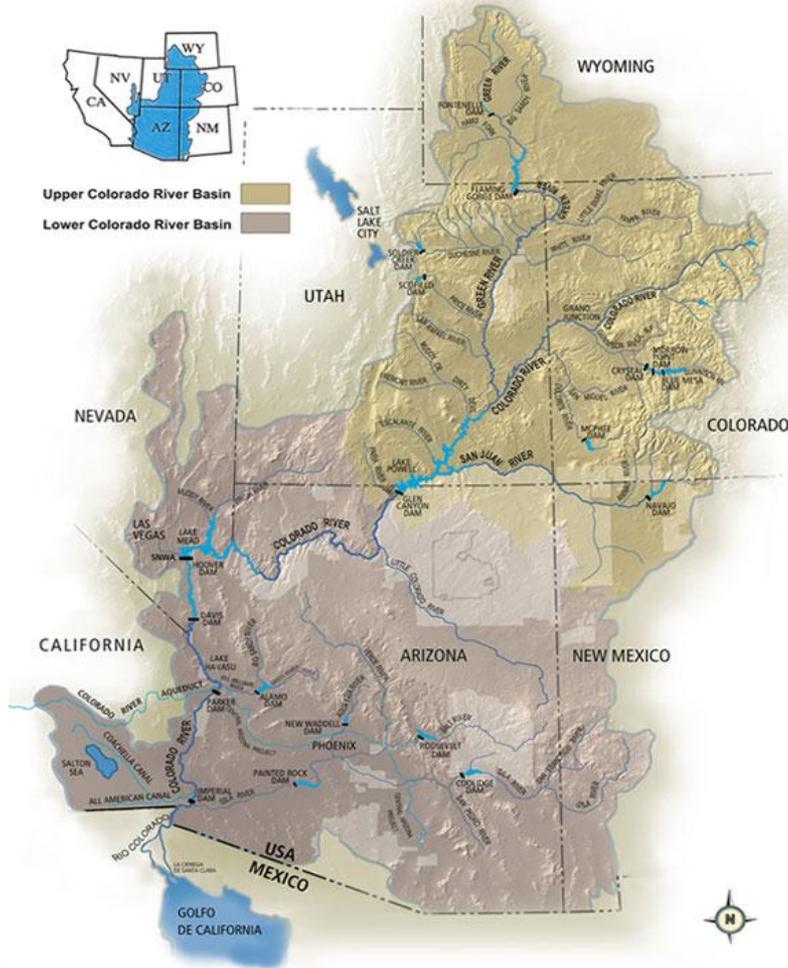
## Lake Powell Capacity and Current Conditions



**Current projected inflow 5.15 maf  
(48% of average 1981-2010)**

**3rd Driest Year on Record**

# Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study



Conducted by the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Colorado and Lower Colorado Regions

Began in January 2010

Estimated completion in November 2012

Will define current and future imbalances in water supply and demand over the next 50 years

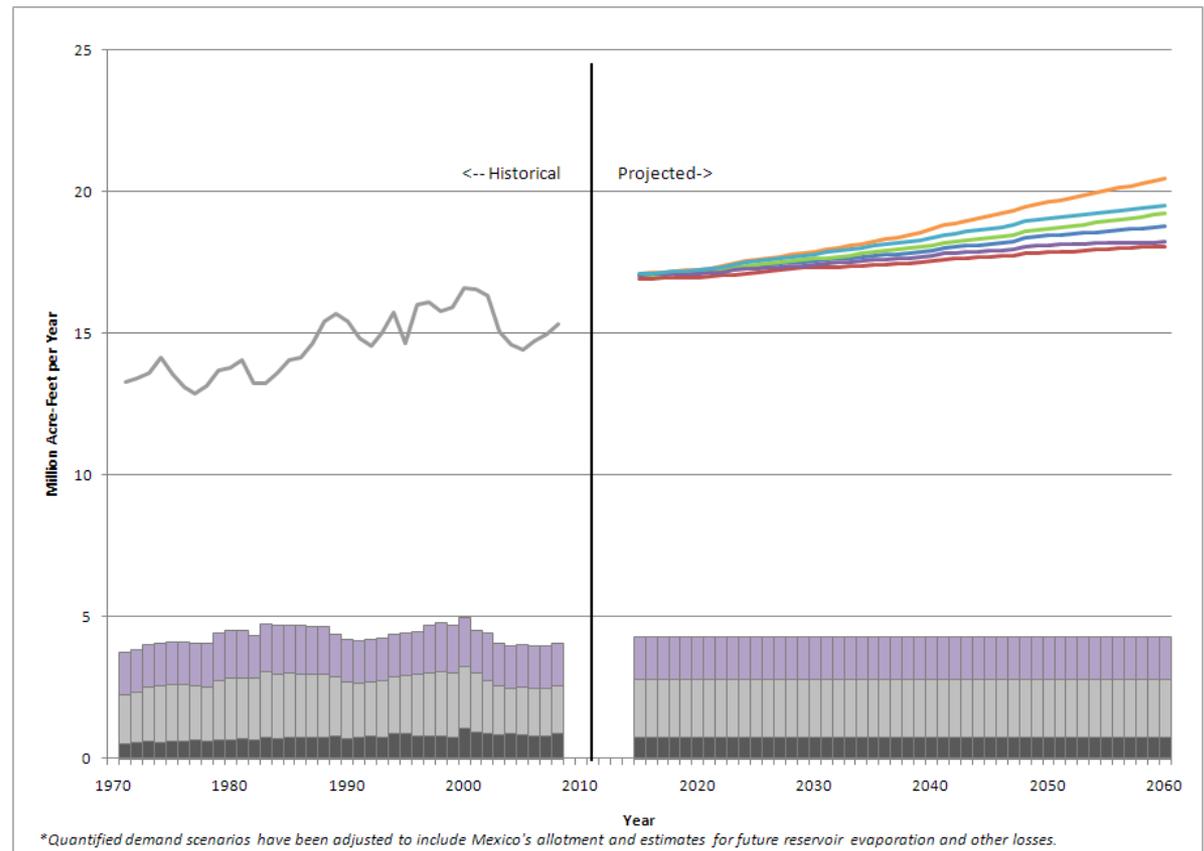
Examining several demand scenarios

Will develop and analyze adaptation and mitigation strategies to 'fill the gap'

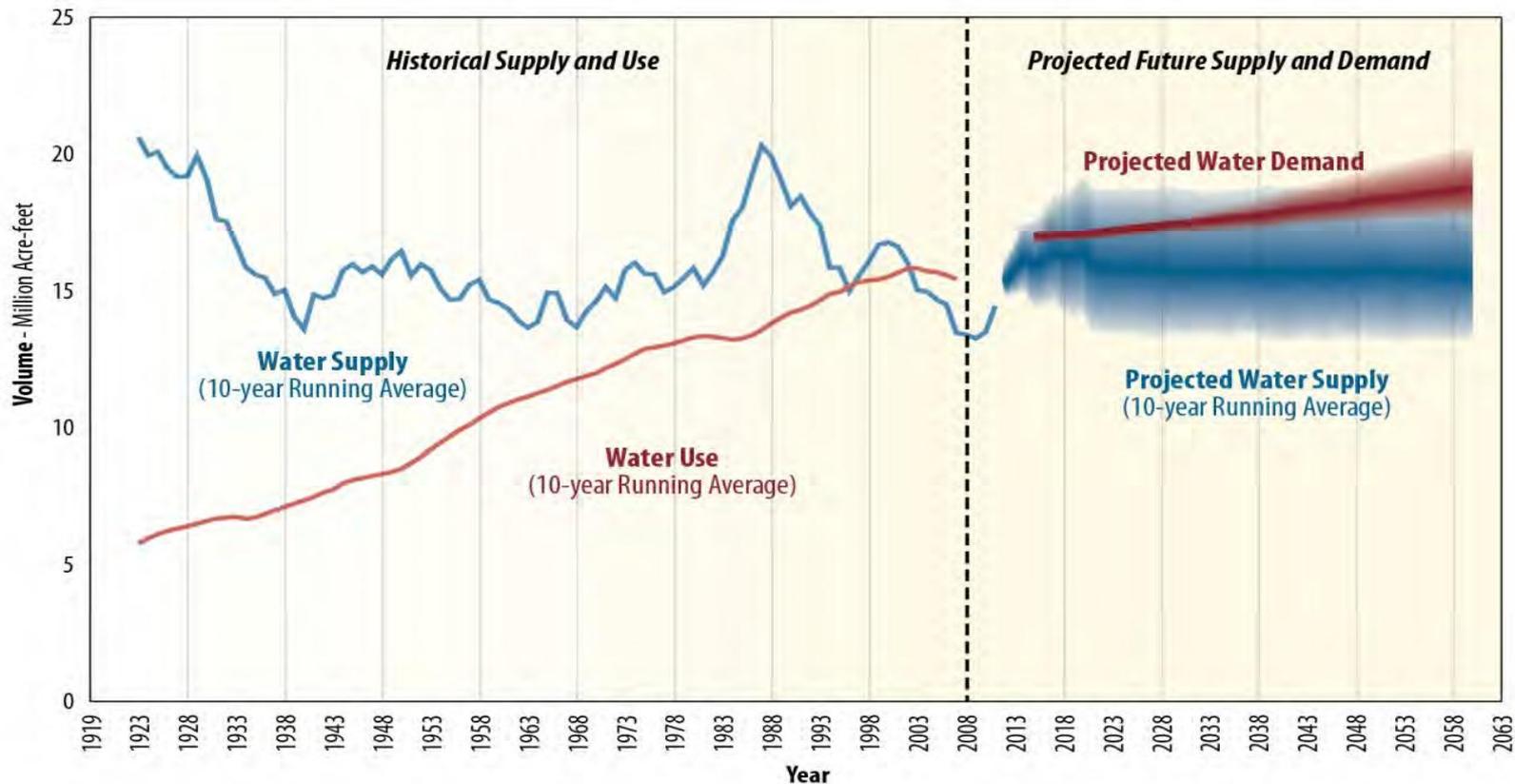
# Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

Projected annual demands range from 13.8 and 16.2 maf by 2060

Approximately a 20% spread between the Slow Growth and Rapid Growth demand scenarios



# Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study



**Average annual supply-demand imbalances by 2060 are approximately 3.5 million acre-feet (depending on the supply and demand scenario)**

# Options to Increase Water Supplies

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## Importation

- River imports to Front Range
- River imports to Green River
- Ocean imports to southern CA

## Desalination

- Pacific Ocean
- Gulf of California
- Brackish groundwater
- Yuma area
- Salton Sea drain water

## Reuse

- Municipal wastewater
- Gray water recycling
- Industrial wastewater recycling

## Local Supply

- Coal bed methane water
- Non-tributary groundwater
- Rainwater harvesting

## Watershed Management

- Brush management
- Forest management
- Dust mitigation
- Tamarisk control
- Weather modification

# Options to Decrease Water Demand

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## **M&I Conservation**

- Indoor residential
- Outdoor residential
- Commercial, industrial, & institutional
- Parks and golf courses

## **Agricultural Water Conservation**

- Conveyance system efficiency
- On-farm irrigation efficiency
- Improved irrigation management
- Controlled environment agriculture
- Reductions in consumptive use

## **Energy Water Use Efficiency**

- Demand management at thermoelectric power plants

## **System Evaporation Reduction**

- Covers for canals and lakes
- System reoperation for preferential storage

# Questions?

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