

Status of the Colorado River and Lake Mead

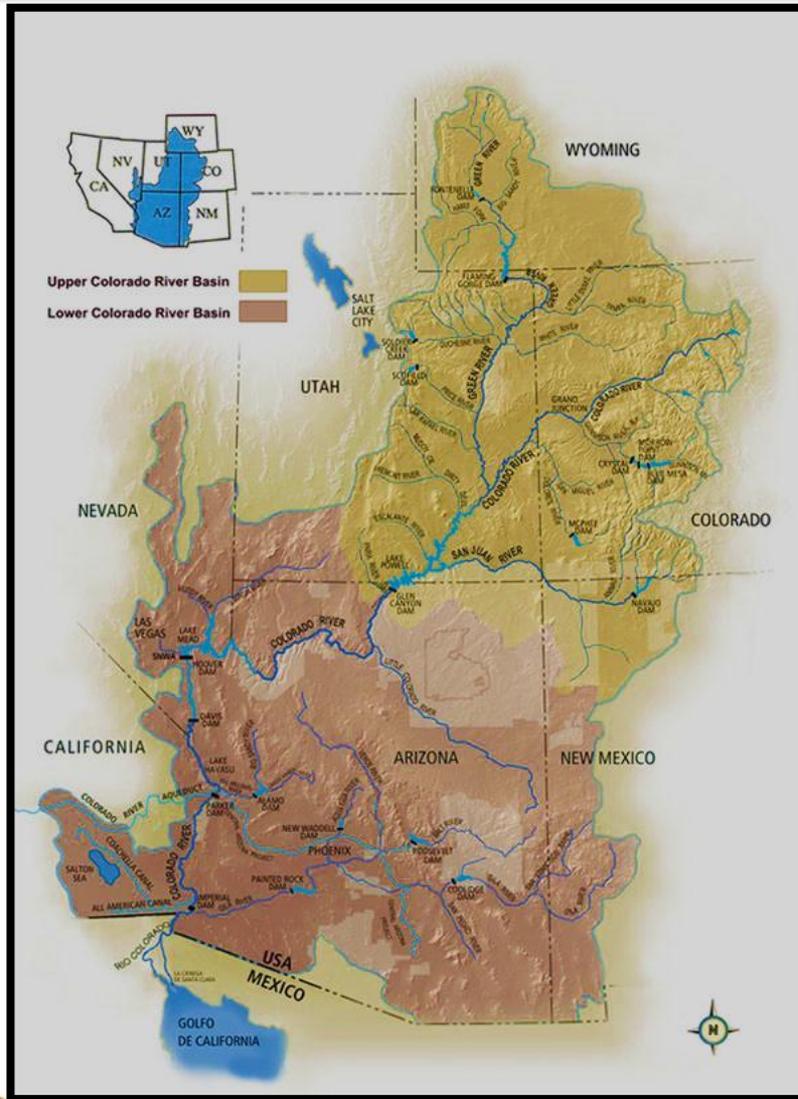
Pima County LDIG
September 9, 2015



YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.

Mitch Basefsky
CAP Communications
Pima/Pinal

The Colorado River



Seven Basin States & Mexico Annual Allocations

Upper Basin – 7.5 maf
Colorado, Wyoming,
Utah, New Mexico

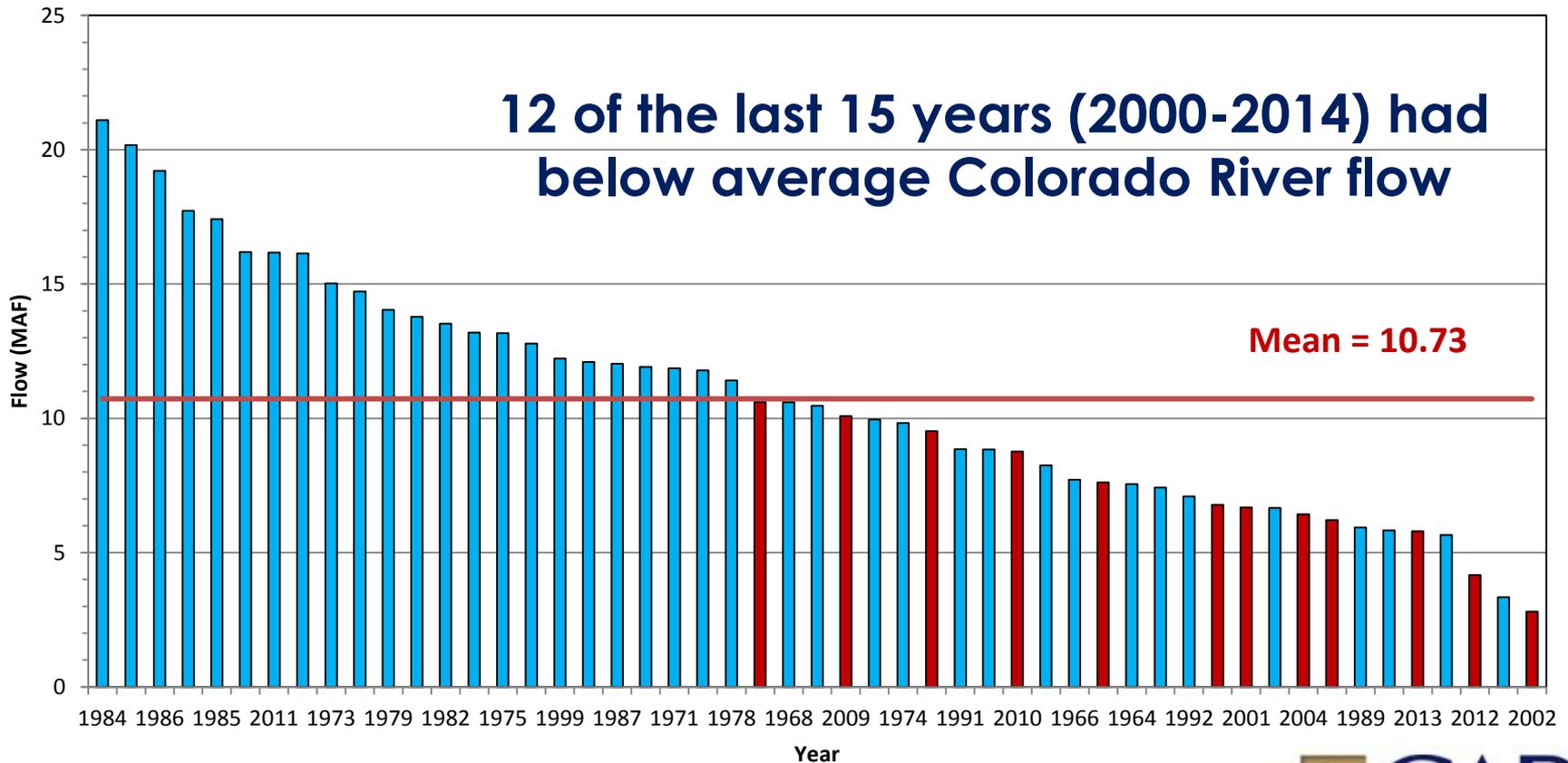
Lower Basin – 7.5 maf
Arizona, California,
Nevada

Mexico – 1.5 maf

**Mean Annual Flow - 15 maf
(1906 – 2000)**

Historical Colorado River Flow

Unregulated Colorado River Inflow
into Lake Powell (1964-2014)



Probability of Shortage (before “Miracle May”)

Year	Probability of Shortage	Probability of Tier 1 Shortage	Probability of Tier 2 Shortage	Probability of Tier 3 Shortage
2016	33%	33%	0%	0%
2017	75%	71%	4%	0%
2018	74%	45%	28%	1%
2019	70%	36%	24%	10%
2020	66%	29%	23%	14%

“Miracle May”

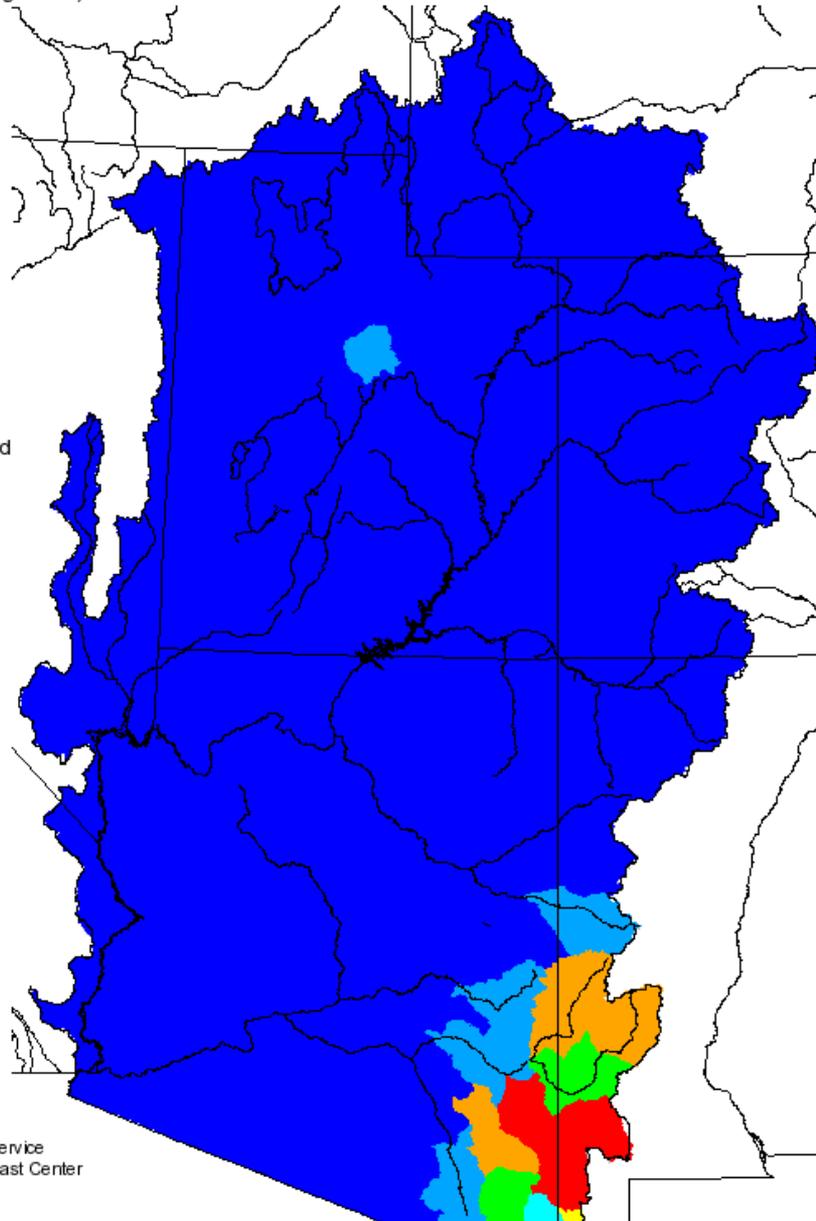
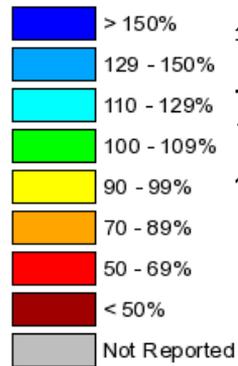
May 2015 precipitation in Upper Colorado River watershed was extraordinary

- **Many weather stations recorded 200 – 400 % of average precipitation**
- **Projected April – July inflows into Lake Powell increased from 2 MAF to 5.0 MAF**
- **June forecast for January 1, 2016 Lake Mead water elevation is now above 1,081', an increase of 5' from May forecast**
- **Usage/diversions dropped throughout basin**
- **Probability of 2016 shortage now negligible, improved outlook for 2017**

Monthly Precipitation for May 2015

(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)

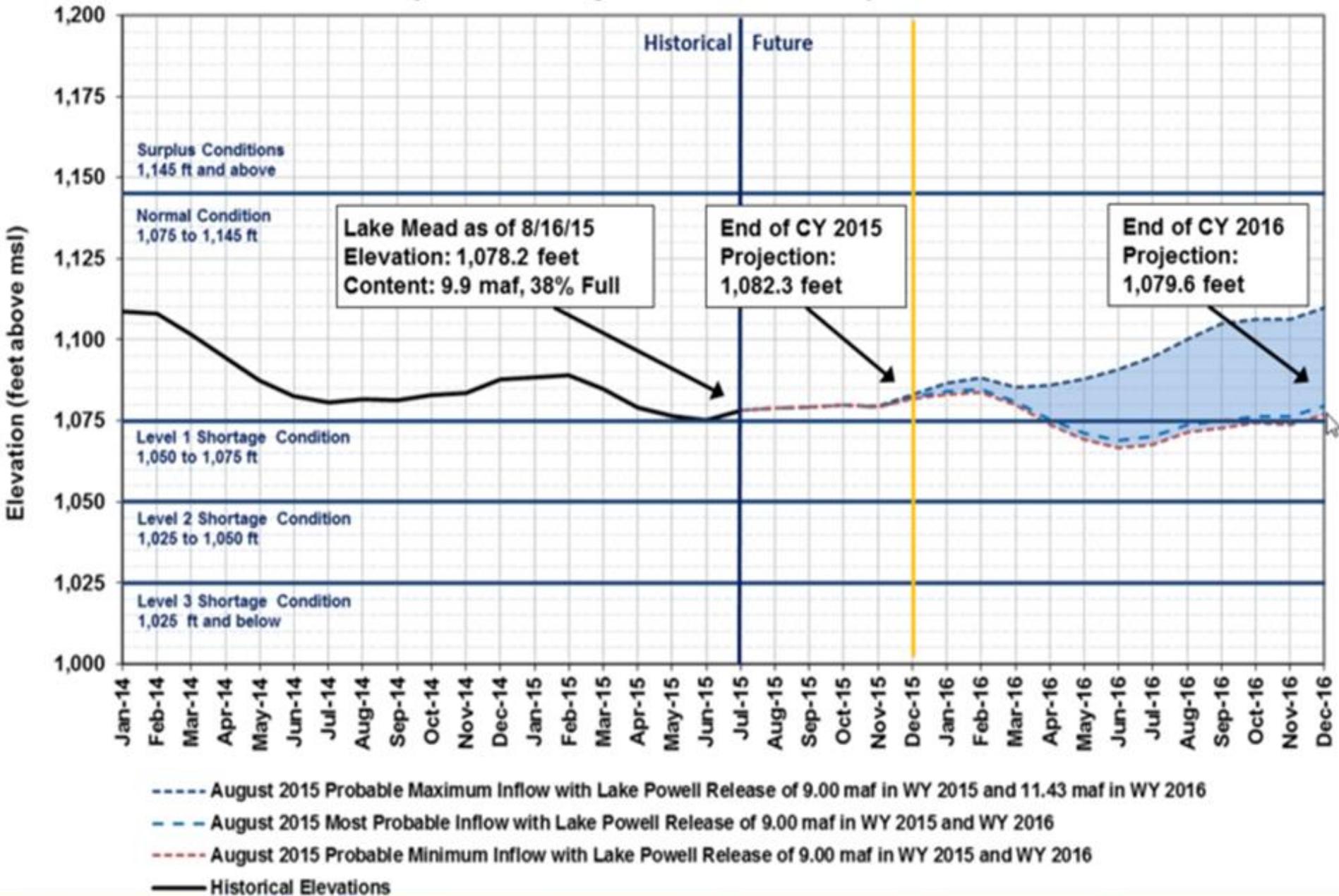
% Average



Prepared by
NOAA, National Weather Service
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah
www.cbafc.noaa.gov

Lake Mead End of Month Elevations

Projections from August 2015 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios

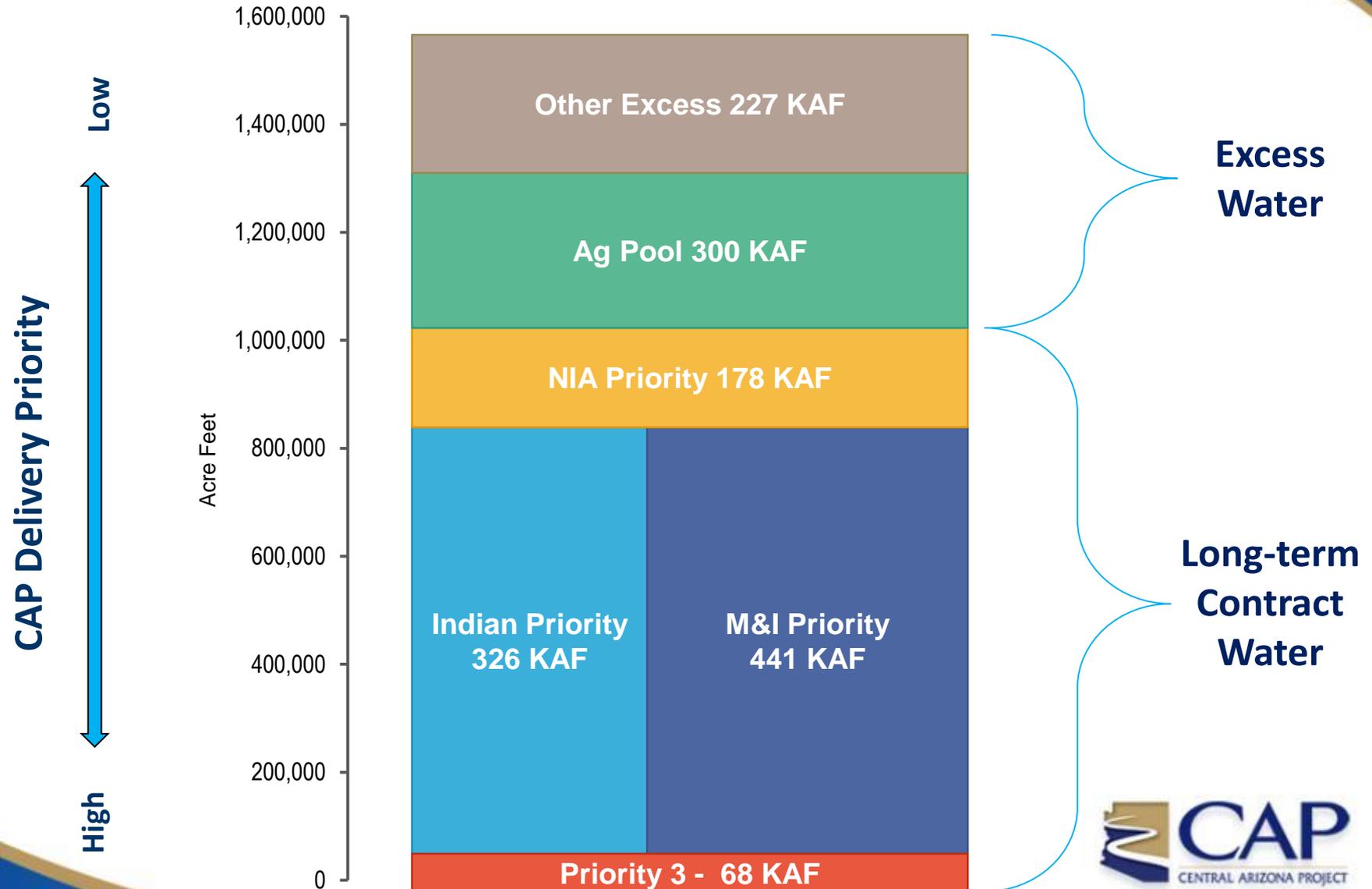


Probability of Shortage (after “Miracle May”)

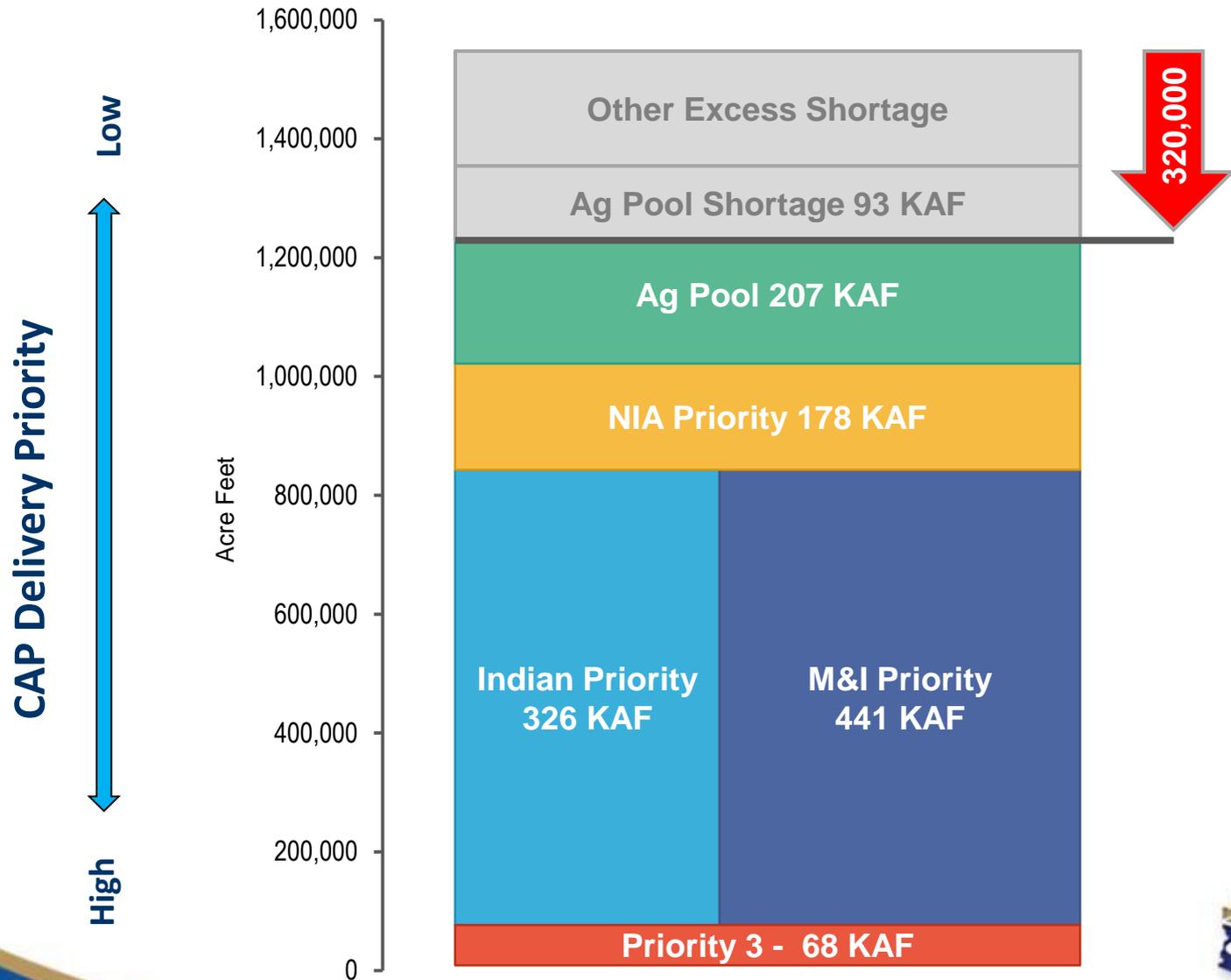
Year	Probability of Shortage	Probability of Tier 1 Shortage	Probability of Tier 2 Shortage	Probability of Tier 3 Shortage
2016	N%	0%	0%	0%
2017	18%	18%	0%	0%
2018	52%	42%	10%	0%
2019	65%	47%	14%	4%
2020	59%	35%	18%	7%

Source: BOR August 2015 24 month study

2017 Projected CAP Deliveries



2017 Projected Tier 1 Shortage Impact



CAP Shortage Management Programs

Storage and Recovery

- 3.4 MAF of underground storage for future recovery for CAP cities

Lake Mead Reservoir Protection

- Interstate plan targeting 740 KAF of new storage in Lake Mead
- CAP's share is 345 KAF by 2017

Innovative Conservation

- Interstate funding to conserve 75 KAF to protect Lake Mead/Powell
- Conservation research grant program

Augmentation

- Weather modification projects in the Upper Basin
- Local and binational desalination

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