

1945-2015

CRWUA

Colorado River Timeline

Celebrating 70 years

1869: John Wesley Powell begins journey that is first to navigate the Colorado River and Grand Canyon by boat

1889: International Boundary and Water Commission is created between U.S. and Mexico

1902: Congress passes the Newlands Act, which creates the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to help reclaim the arid West

1903: Salt River Valley Water Users Association is incorporated becoming the first multipurpose reclamation project authorized under the Newlands Act

1905-07: Colorado River breaks through its banks during high flows and floods Imperial Valley creating the Salton Sea

1911: Arizona's Theodore Roosevelt Dam completed

1912: Yuma Project begins using Colorado River water

1919: Grand Canyon National Park created

1919: Seven basin states organize League of the Southwest in Salt Lake City to promote Colorado River development

1921: Congress approves renaming the Grand River above its confluence with the Green River as the Colorado River

1921: Congress authorizes the seven basin states to negotiate and enter into an interstate compact providing for the equitable division and apportionment of the Colorado River



1922: The Fall-Davis Report submitted to Congress recommends construction of the All-American Canal in California and a dam at Boulder Canyon in Nevada

1922: Colorado River Compact signed in Santa Fe, New Mexico

1923: All states, except Arizona, ratify the Colorado River Compact

1928: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California formed to build the Colorado River Aqueduct to deliver Colorado River water to Southern California

1928: Boulder Canyon Project Act approves the 1922 Compact and authorizes construction of the All-American Canal and Boulder Dam (later renamed for President Herbert Hoover)

1929: California enacts the California Limitation Act, agreeing to limit its use of Colorado River water to 4.4 million acre feet per year



1935: President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicates Hoover Dam

1937: Congress approves Senate Document 80 authorizing construction of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project in Colorado

1938: The seven basin states organize the Committee of Fourteen, comprised of two representatives from each state, to address Colorado River issues

1940: Reclamation completes construction of the All-American Canal

1941: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California completes construction of the initial Colorado River Aqueduct facilities

1944: Mexican Treaty signed whereby the U.S. commits to deliver 1.5 million acre feet of Colorado River water annually to Mexico

1944: Arizona ratifies the Colorado River Compact

Jan. 13, 1945
The Colorado River Water Users Association formed at the Last Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada

1948: Upper Colorado River Basin Compact signed by Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming

1949: Upper Colorado River Commission established pursuant to the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact

1956: Colorado River Storage Project Act authorizes construction of Glen Canyon, Flaming Gorge, Navajo and Curecanti Storage Units

1962: San Juan-Chama Project completed in New Mexico

1963: U.S. Supreme Court decision in Arizona v. California

1963: Reclamation completes Glen Canyon Dam (Lake Powell)

1963: Navajo Reservoir completed in New Mexico

1964: U.S. Supreme Court original decree in Arizona v. California

1965: Western governors establish the Western States Water Council to avoid interstate conflict by developing regional solutions to water problems

1968: Colorado River Basin Project Act authorizes construction of the Central Arizona Project and six Upper Basin projects

1970: Secretary of the Interior adopts Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs

1971: Southern Nevada Water Project completes Intake 1 at Lake Mead

1973: U.S. and Mexico enter Minute 242 to the 1944 Treaty addressing salinity of water delivered to Mexico at Morelos Dam

1974: Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act authorizes salinity control projects above and below Imperial Dam, including the Yuma Desalination Plant

1975: Reclamation completes Westwide Study Report

1977: Lowest Colorado River natural flow since recordkeeping began in 1906

1984: Highest Colorado River natural flow since 1906

1988: Upper Colorado River Recovery Program authorized to protect endangered fish

1990: Fryingspan-Arkansas Project completed in Colorado

1991: Southern Nevada Water Authority formed

1992: Ten Tribes Colorado River Basin Partnership formed and formally join CRWUA. The ten tribes are: the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe; the Cocopah Indian Community; the Colorado River Indian Tribes; the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe; the Jicarilla Apache Tribe; the Navajo Nation; the Northern Ute Tribe; the Quechan Indian Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation; the Southern Ute Indian Tribe; and the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe.



1999: Secretary of the Interior adopts regulations for offstream storage and release of unused apportionment enabling interstate water banking in the Lower Basin

2000: Multiyear Colorado River drought begins

2000: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California dedicates Diamond Valley Lake, the largest storage reservoir in Southern California

2001: Arizona and Nevada Water Banking Agreement signed

2001: Secretary of the Interior adopts Interim Surplus Guidelines establishing criteria for declaring surpluses in the Lower Basin states

2002: Southern Nevada Water Authority completes Intake 2 at Lake Mead

2004: Arizona Water Settlements Act enacted

2005: Lower Basin Multi-Species Conservation Program Implementing Agreement signed to protect habitat between Hoover Dam and U. S. - Mexico boundary

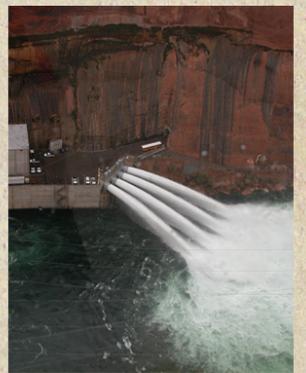
2006: U.S. Supreme Court enters its Consolidated Decree in Arizona v. California

2007: Secretary of the Interior adopts Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

2009: Imperial Irrigation District completes 23-mile concrete lined section of All-American Canal

2010: Magnitude 7.2 Easter Sunday earthquake damages Mexico irrigation systems prompting Minute 318 to the 1944 Treaty, allowing Mexico temporary water storage in Lake Mead

2012: U.S. and Mexico enter Minute 319 to the 1944 Treaty establishing criteria to share in water surpluses and shortages



2012: Glen Canyon Dam High Flow Experimental Flow Release

2012: Reclamation releases Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

2014: Environmental pulse flow and base flow, allowed by Minute 319 to the 1944 Treaty, are released through the Colorado River channel in Mexico to start new vegetation for wildlife habitat

