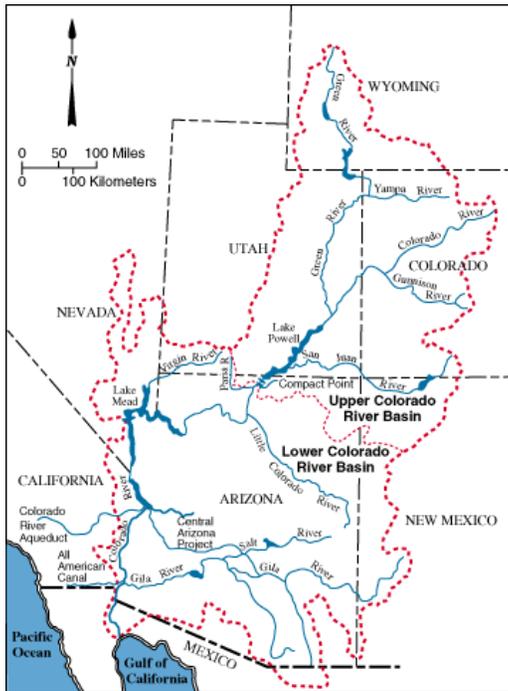


The Colorado River watershed, the source of Colorado River water delivered via the Central Arizona Project, is monitored by the Arizona Drought Monitoring Technical Committee (ADMTC), a branch of the Governor's Drought Task Force formed in 2003.



(Colorado River Basin map from U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation web page)

There is no indication that Stage Two Drought Status will be declared in the immediate future.

Tucson Water staff monitor regional and local conditions and annually recommend a drought response stage to the Water Director and the City Manager. The actual declaration is made by the Mayor and Council.

Planning for the future:

Tucson Water customers are also encouraged to take a look at the Utility's online water resource planning documents:

- ◆ Drought Preparedness and Response Plan
- ◆ 2010 Annual Drought Monitoring Report
- ◆ Water Plan: 2000 - 2050

Plans, reports, and more are available under Water Resources at the Utility's web site at www.tucsonaz.gov/water



DROUGHT RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS STAGES



Where We Are Now

How We Are Planning

Background

Tucson Water began delivering Colorado River water in 2001 as a means of conserving local groundwater supplies. Continued use of this surface water supply originating in the seven-state Colorado River watershed requires monitoring of climatic conditions in that region to prepare managing our water supplies in the event a shortage of water occurs. The City of Tucson Water Department has a drought response plan which includes a phased response to managing water use that is based on the impact the existing drought has on availability of Colorado River water supplies, local watershed drought status, and utility water distribution production capacity.

Stage 1

A Stage 1 Drought Response was declared in March 2007 in the Tucson water service area. During Stage 1 Drought Response, Colorado River supplies are not impacted. Stage 1 does not mandate or impose restrictions on Tucson Water customers. However, it does require the Utility and Tucson city government to analyze its own water use through water audits of City facilities, continue to promote conservation practices, and to

implement education programs specifically addressing the drought situation.

Stage 2

A principal trigger into declaration of Stage 2 Drought Response would be a Declaration of Shortage on Colorado River by the Secretary of Interior, the Federal authority responsible for managing water rights on the river. A Declaration of Shortage sets into place action to begin to restrict flows of water from the Colorado River to rightholders. Under a Shortage Management Plan, municipalities would be among the last of rightholders to have deliveries of water restricted in a process that could take up to five years from the date of Declaration of Shortage. Under Tucson Water's Stage 2 Drought Response, demand management programs would be enhanced, voluntary reductions of all water uses would be asked, and commercial facilities with high usage would perform water audits.

Stage 3

An actual reduction in Colorado River water deliveries to Tucson would trigger Stage 3 Drought Response. A cutback of Tucson's CAP water would

lead to mandatory customer reductions as conditions warrant, and intensify water waste monitoring and enforcement of drought response measures in place from earlier stages. A drought surcharge could be implemented to recover some of the costs of increased water efficiency programs due to drought conditions. Unlike many other communities, Tucson has a supply of groundwater that is readily available under Stage 3 reductions in CAP water deliveries.

Stage 4

Intensive monitoring of groundwater levels are a part of Stage 3 Drought Response. If monitoring indicates groundwater pumpage exceeding established limits, Stage 4 Drought Response would be initiated as well as implementation of the City's Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance. Stage 4 Drought Response eliminates or severely restricts all non-essential uses. Outdoor irrigation and vehicle washing can be banned, and no filling of new swimming pools, spas, and fountains can be mandated. All water customers would be affected in order to significantly reduce water demand.