

Colorado River Water Supply Report & Post-2026 Update

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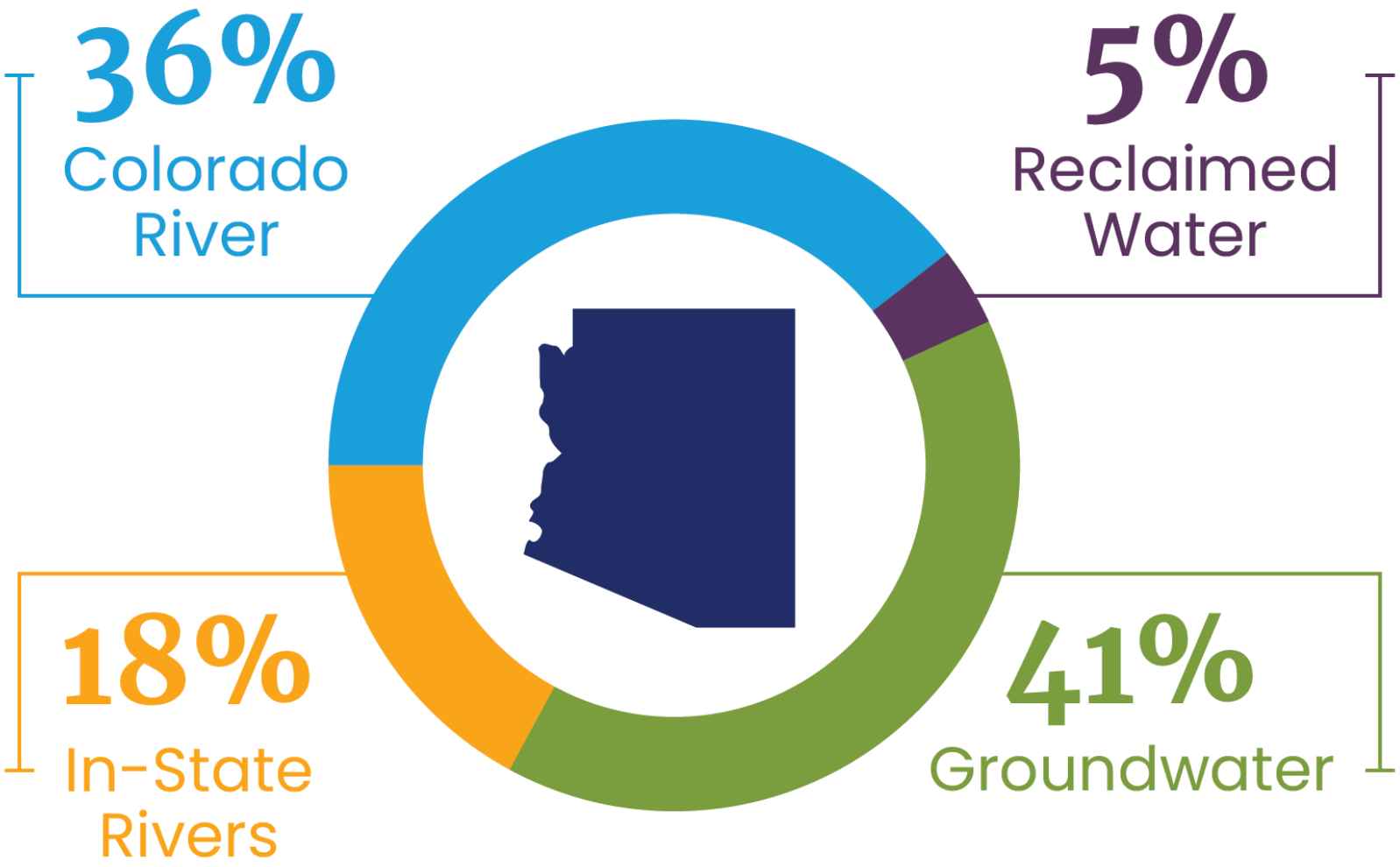
PAG Environmental Planning Advisory Committee

September 3, 2026

YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.

Arizona's Water Supply



Colorado River Allocation

Upper Basin States

Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming

Lower Basin States

Arizona, California, and Nevada

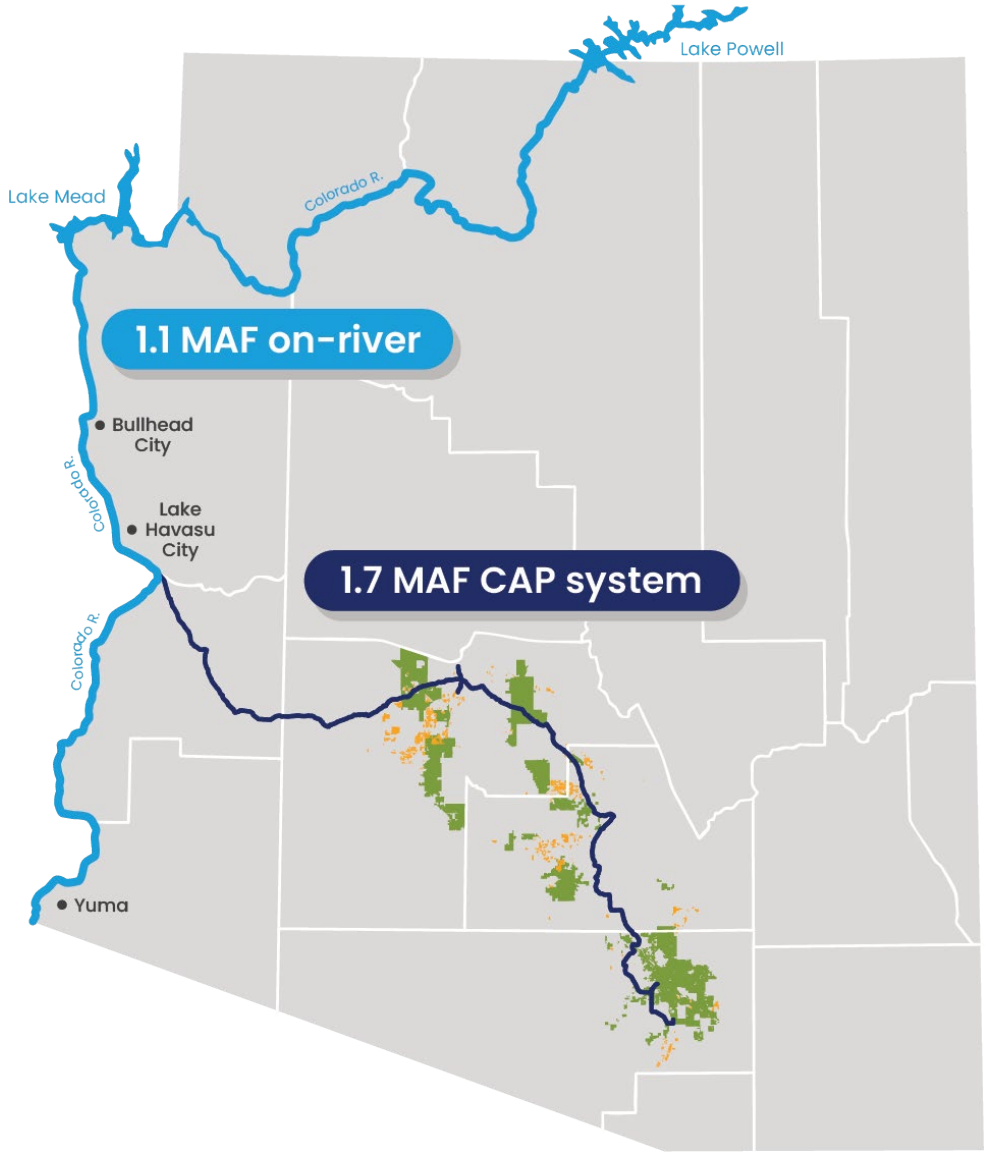
- 7.5 million acre-feet (MAF) annual allocation of Colorado River water for the Upper Basin, 7.5 MAF for the Lower Basin and 1.5 MAF for Mexico
- Lower Basin allocations
  - AZ (2.8 MAF)
  - CA (4.4 MAF)
  - NV (0.3 MAF)



CAP Service Area

- CAP is the canal that brings Colorado River water to central and southern Arizona
- More than **80% of Arizona's population** (6 million+ people)
- 3 Counties
  - Maricopa
  - Pinal
  - Pima
- 11 tribal nations

CAP delivers more tribal water than any other organization in the United States.



CAP CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT

Today's Central Arizona Project - an Engineering Marvel

336-mile aqueduct stretching from Lake Havasu to Tucson:

- 15 pumping plants -- lift water nearly 3,000 feet
- 10 siphons, 4 tunnels
- More than 50 turnouts that deliver the water
- Lake Pleasant storage reservoir/New Waddell Dam and Waddell Pump Generating Plant







CAP is committed to caring for this valuable infrastructure, ensuring reliability 24/7/365.

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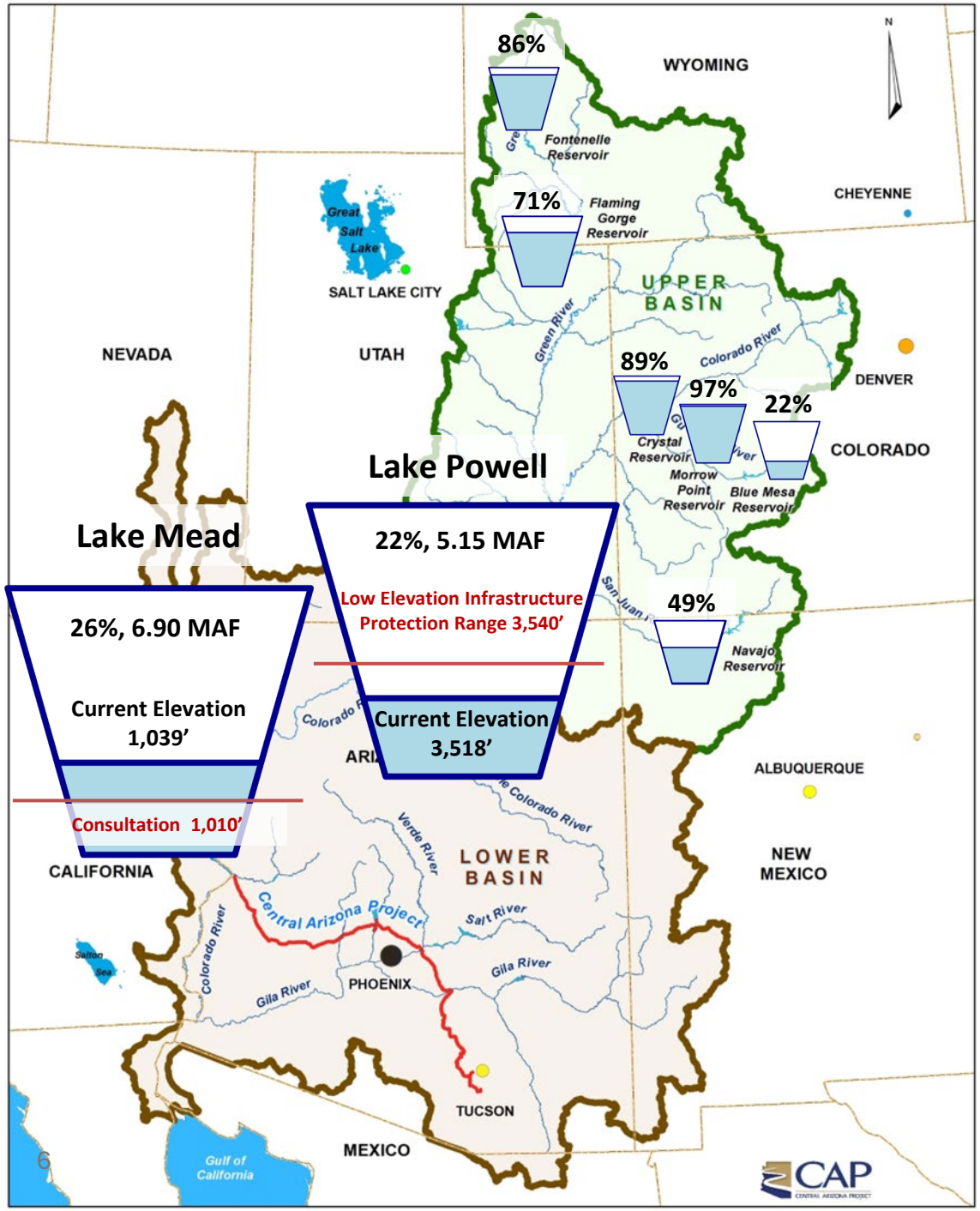

Colorado River Water Supply Report

System Contents: 18.32 MAF

As of August 30, 2026

Last Year System Contents: 22.18 MAF

Reservoir Capacities (MAF)			
Reservoir	**Current**	**Change***	**Maximum**
Lake Mead	6.90	-0.14	26.12
Lake Powell	5.15	-0.22	23.31
Flaming Gorge Reservoir	2.59	-0.07	3.67
Fontenelle Reservoir	0.29	0.00	0.33
Navajo Reservoir	0.81	-0.08	1.65
Blue Mesa Reservoir	0.18	-0.05	0.82
Morrow Point Reservoir	0.11	0.00	0.12
Crystal Reservoir	0.02	0.00	0.02

* Change from previous month

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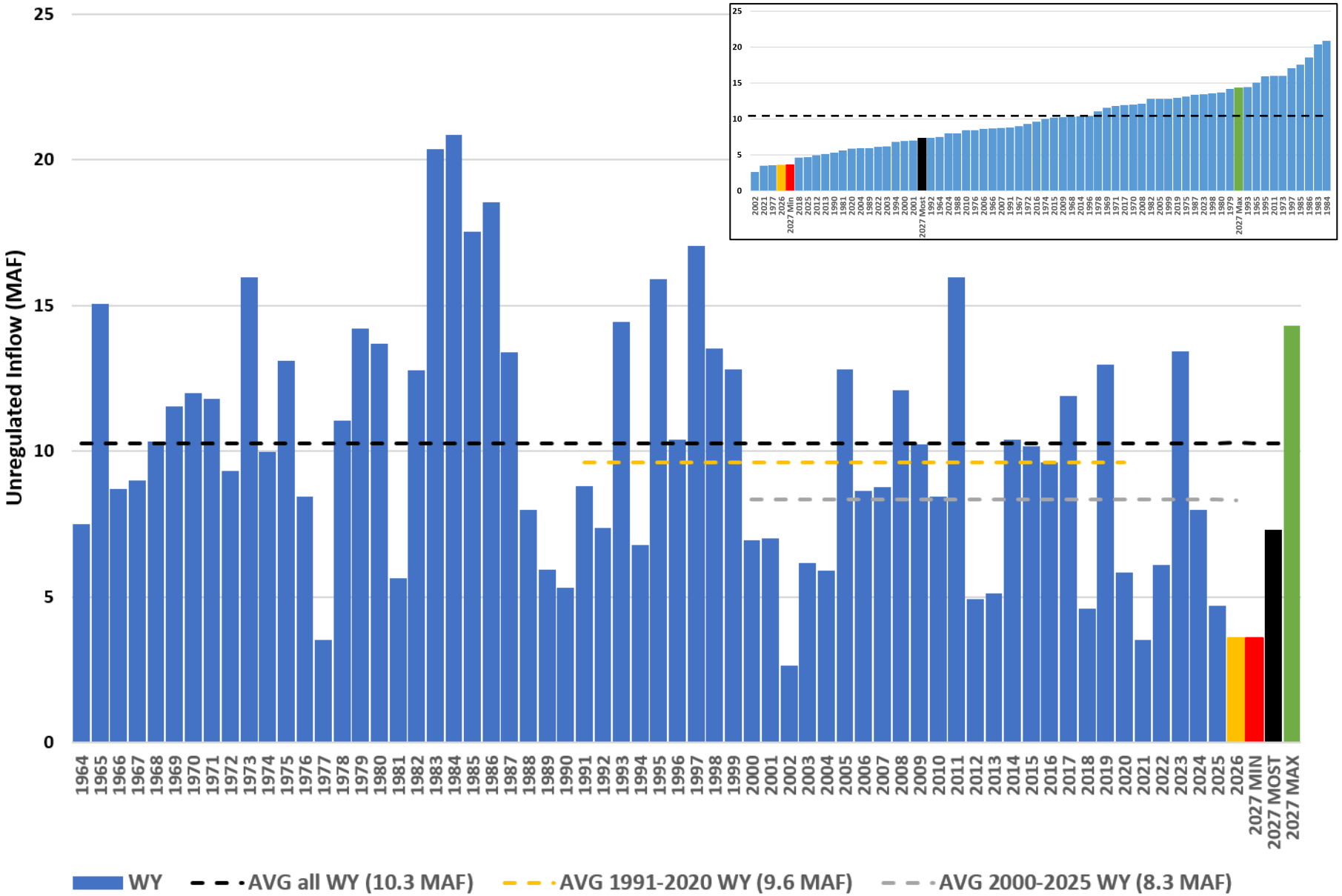
Unregulated Inflow to Lake Powell by Water Year (1964-2026)



Water Year 2026 Forecast[1] *(Aug 3)*
Aug Most Prob = 3.58 MAF (37%)

September 1, 2026 update
3.52 MAF (37%)
-69 KAF since last forecast

Water Year 2027 Forecast[1]
Aug Min Prob = 3.60 MAF (37%)
Aug Most Prob = 7.30 MAF (76%)
Aug Max Prob = 14.30 MAF (149%)

[1]Water Year statistics are based on the 30-year period of record from 1991-2020, Average 1991-2020 – 9.60 maf

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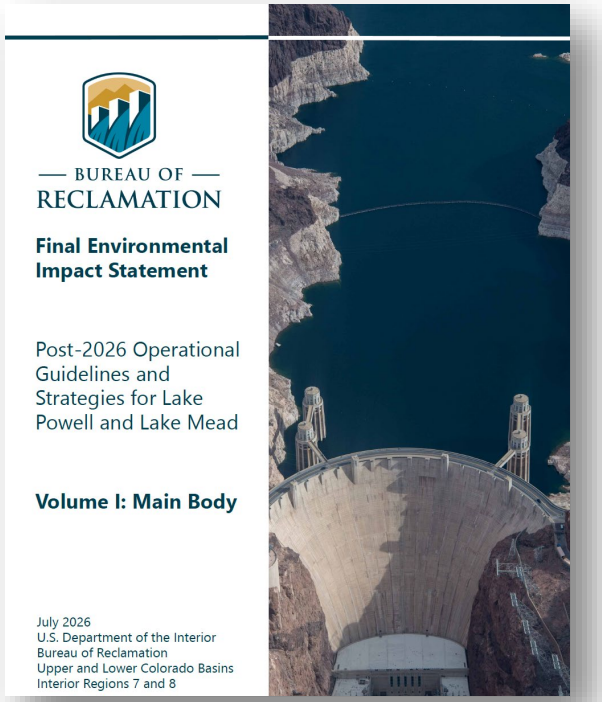
Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision

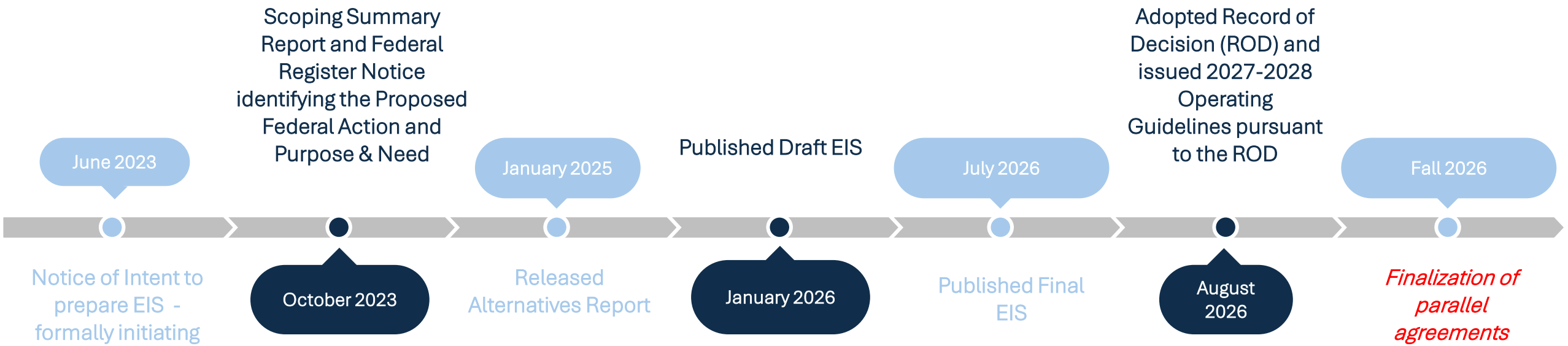


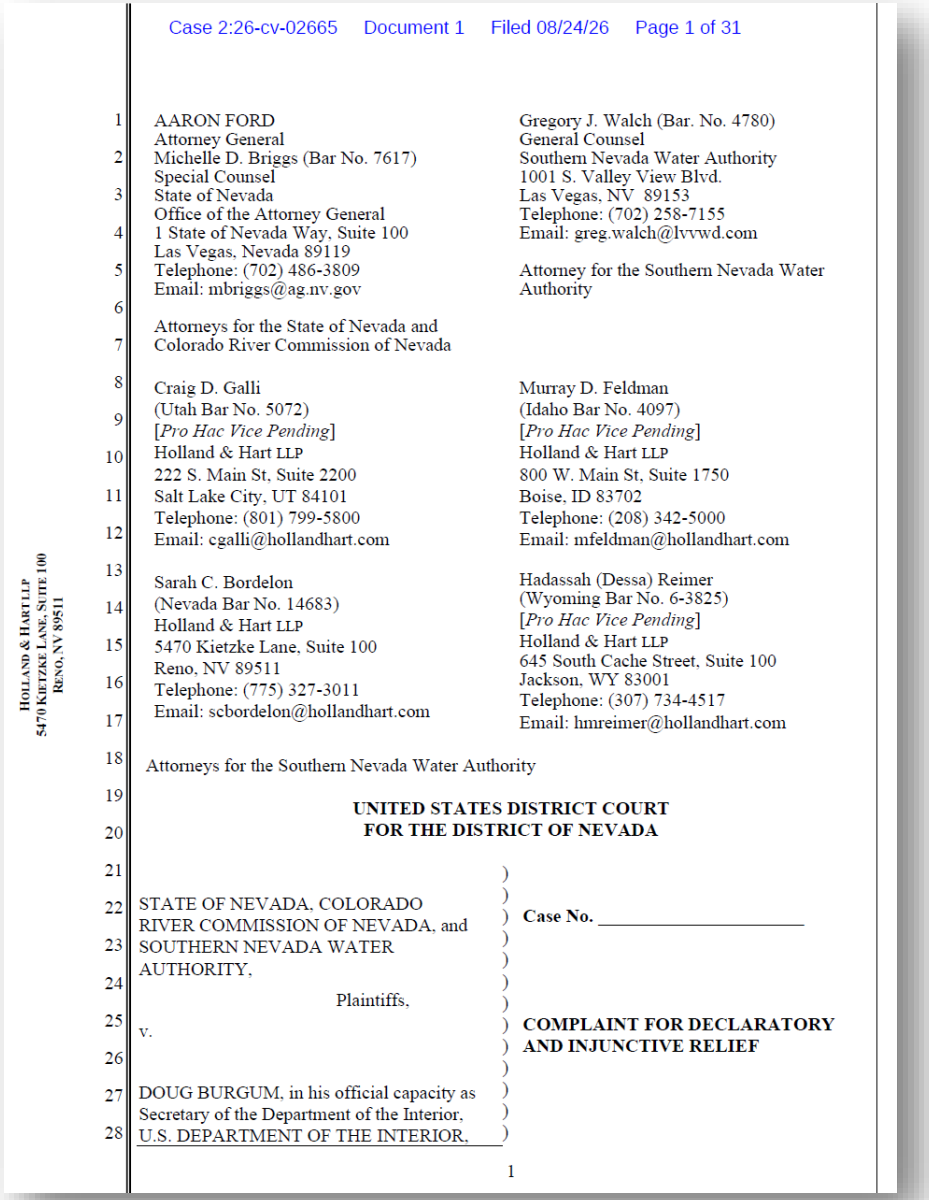
- Published on July 31, 2026
- Identified and analyzed the Preferred Alternative



- Published on August 21, 2026
- Adopts the decision framework based on the Preferred Alternative

Post-2026 Timeline





Case 2:26-cv-02665 Document 1 Filed 08/24/26 Page 1 of 31

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

STATE OF NEVADA, COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION OF NEVADA, and SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DOUG BURGUM, in his official capacity as Secretary of the Department of the Interior, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Case No. _____

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

1

Nevada Lawsuit

- Filed 8/24/2026
- Creates additional level of uncertainty

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Legal Disclaimer

- The Record of Decision for the post-2026 Decision Framework for Colorado River Guidelines issued by the Bureau of Reclamation includes fundamental legal flaws including a failure to comply with the Colorado River Compact and other key elements of the Law of the River.
- This presentation is for preliminary informational purposes only and does not include any formal legal opinion or the adoption of any legal position; nothing contained herein shall operate as, or be construed to be, a waiver or relinquishment of any rights, claims, defenses, remedies, or causes of action, all of which are expressly reserved by members of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District.

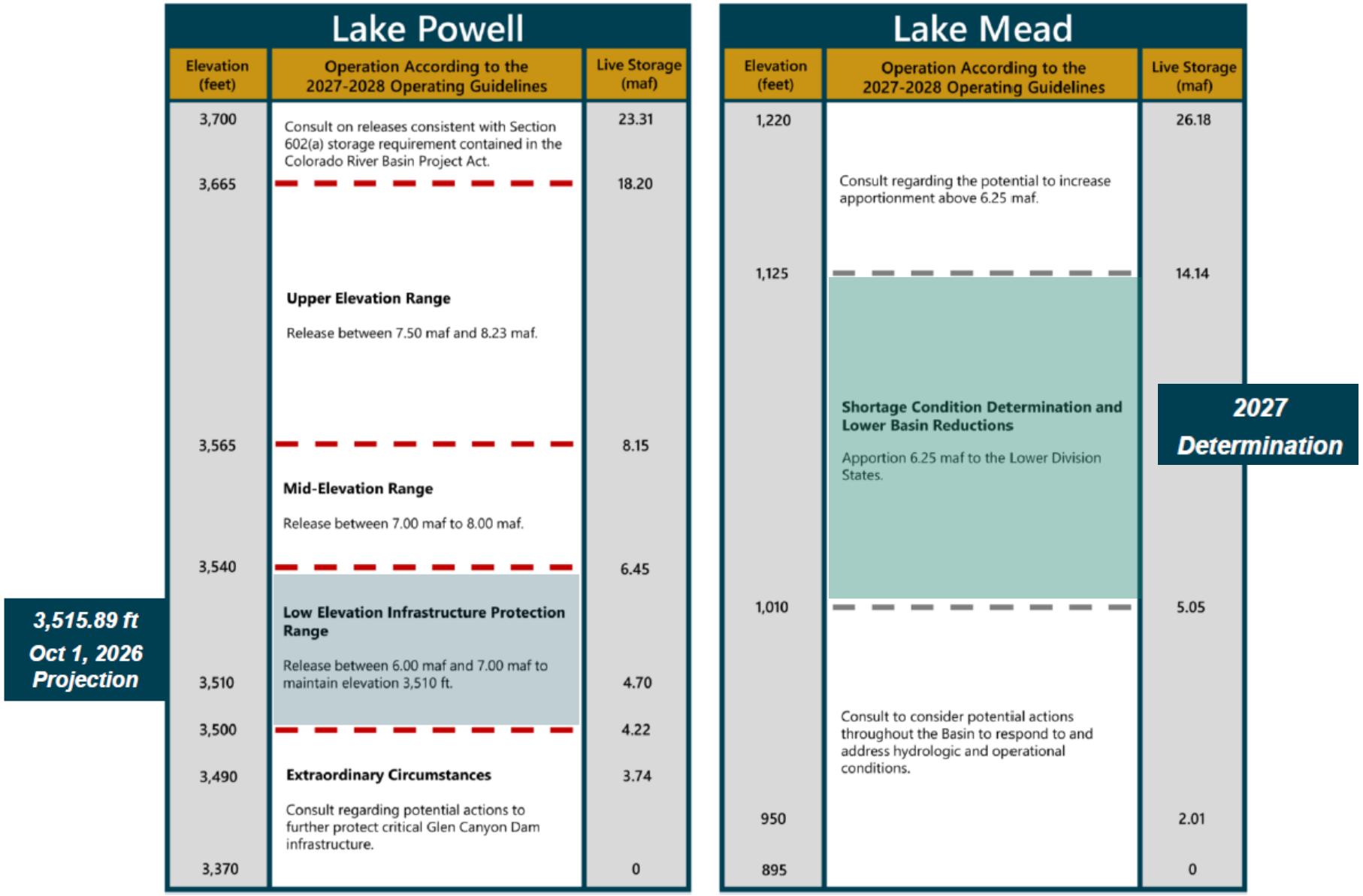
ROD Framework

- The ROD establishes a **10-year decision framework** that specifies operational principles, sideboards and a process to adopt new guidelines at **2-year intervals**
- Lower Basin Shortage Guidelines
  - Up to **3.0 MAF per year**, not including Mexico
  - Allocation based on federal interpretation of applicable law, including the Consolidated Decree. Deviation would occur only if water entitlement holders have reached voluntary arrangements
  - Consultation if projected Lake Mead elevation **< 1,010** ft to determine additional reductions in the Lower Basin
- "Coordinated" Reservoir Operations
  - **5.0 MAF to 12.0 MAF releases to** provide protection for critical infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam
  - Consultation if projected Lake Powell elevation **< 3,500** ft to determine potential additional actions

ROD Framework

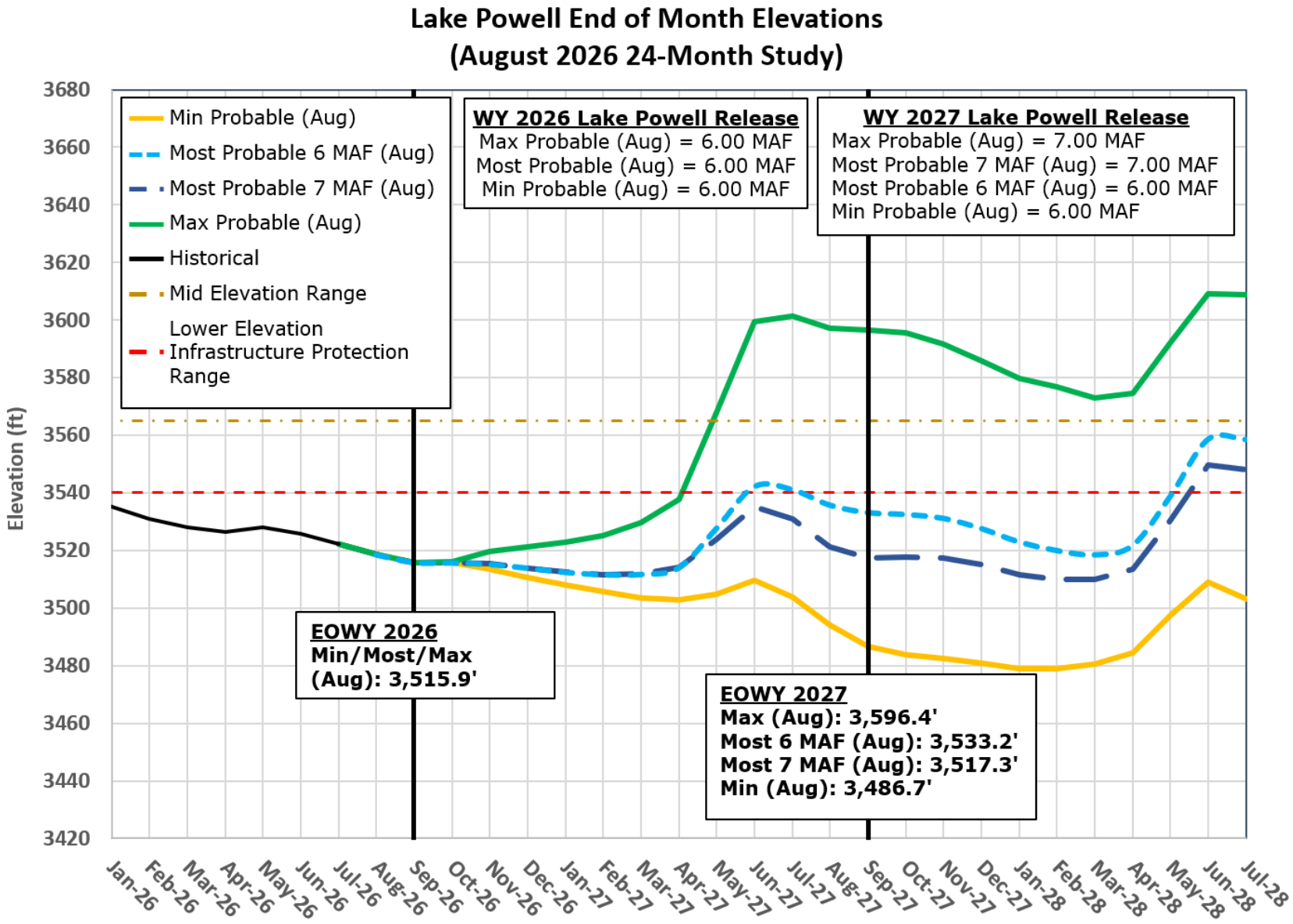
- Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water
  - Lake Powell storage: up to 3.0 MAF
  - Lake Mead storage: up to 8.0 MAF (support existing ICS, new ICS-type programs, conservation pools and exchange mechanisms)
- Additional Activities Above Lake Powell
  - Potential for “maximum” use of CRSP Upper Initial Units within their respective RODs to release additional water if needed to protect critical infrastructure
  - Voluntary Upper Basin contributions up to 200 KAF/year subject to hydrologic conditions
- Decision process for operational years 2029/2030 begins no later than October 2027

Operational Determination for 2027



Lake Powell August 2026 24-Month Study

- Operating in Low Elevation Infrastructure Protection Range, based on EOWY elevation
- Two (2) Most Probable Exhibit Runs will be run September through March



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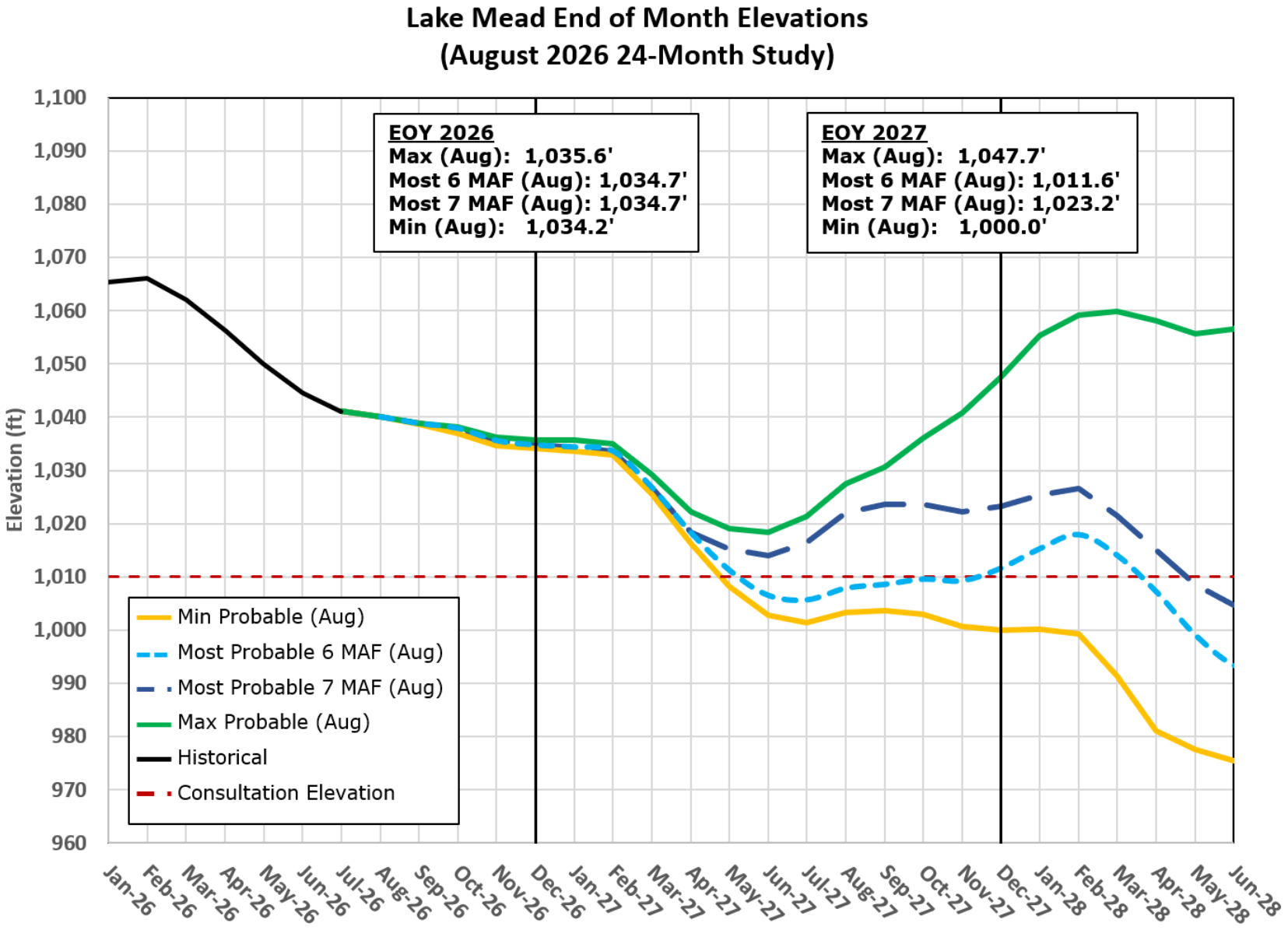
Lake Mead August 2026 24-Month Study

- Lake Mead is operating in a shortage condition with 1.25 MAF of Lower Basin reduction in CY 2027
- A shortage condition is also projected in CY 2028



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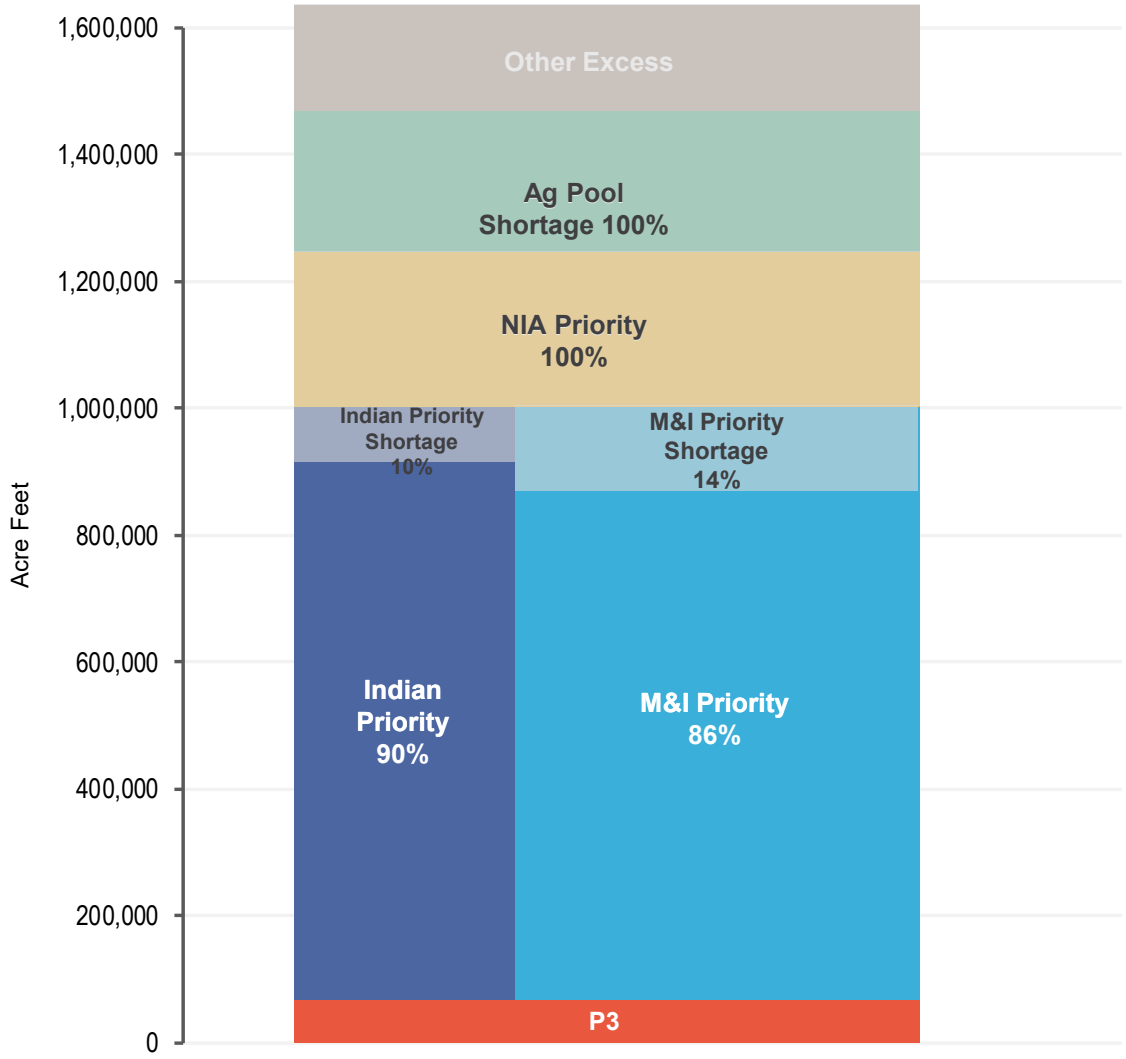
Lower Basin Reductions- Assuming LB Agreement

	Arizona	California	Nevada	Total Lower Division States
2027	760 KAF	440 KAF	50 KAF	1,250 KAF
2028	760 KAF	440 KAF	50 KAF	1,250 KAF
Total Reductions 2027-2028				2,500 KAF
Voluntary Conservation 2026-2027-2028	300 KAF	300 KAF	100 KAF	700 KAF[1]
Total Reductions and Conservation	1,820 KAF	1,180 KAF	200 KAF	3,200 KAF

[1]The Lower Division States anticipate working to a target of a cumulative contribution of 1 MAF if possible.

Impact of Lower Basin Reductions in 2027/2028*



- 760 KAF reduction to Arizona's Colorado River supply
- CAP is working to identify additional resources to reduce impacts
  - 20 KAFY from Yuma wells and 40 KAFY from Lake Pleasant
- The estimated cut to M&I Priority is 14% and Indian Priority is 10%

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700+ Plan

- Lower Basin commitment to additional conservation is termed the 700+ plan
- Arizona has committed to 300 KAF of the 700 KAF Lower Basin commitment, which is referenced as the 300+ plan
- CAWCD Board approved (July 2026) several Bucket 1A SCIAs for CAP Participating Subcontractors that will count towards the 300+ plan
- Several Arizona on-river contractors are participating towards the 300+ plan
- Concurrently, the Arizona Water Banking Authority policy will incentivize M&I Subcontractor participation in 2027 and 2028

Next Steps

- Lower Basin/US agreement to implement reduction-sharing and ICS
- AZ legislative authorization of the Lower Basin agreement
- AZ ICS framework agreement
- Signing of Minute 334 (Mexico/US)
- Other intra-state implementing agreements
  - CAWCD/US
  - Tribe(s)/US
  - And others

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Thank you!

For additional information and updates, visit:
www.cap-az.com or KnowYourWaterNews.com

ProtectingArizonasLifeline.com

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