



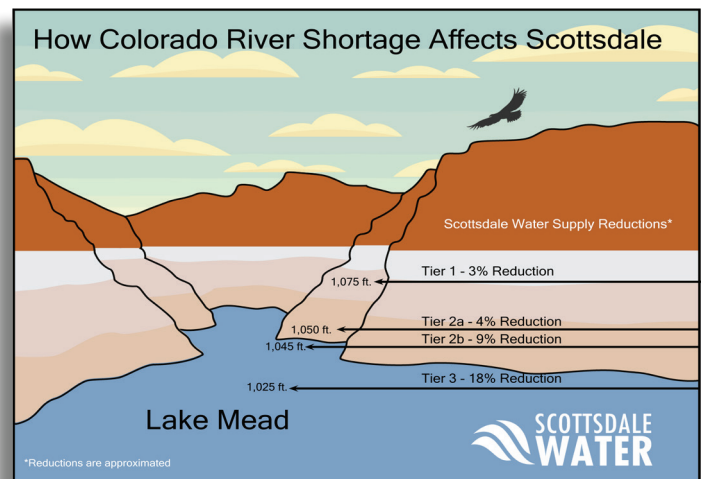
# Understanding the Colorado River Supply

## WHAT IS A TIER 1 SHORTAGE ON THE COLORADO RIVER?

- Arizona and six other western states, plus Mexico utilize the Colorado River as a water supply. Each has a specified amount of water it is entitled to use every year.
- When the elevation of Lake Mead falls to 1,075 feet or lower, the federal government declares a Tier 1 Shortage. This reduction is part of a broader plan to protect the overall health of the Colorado River system.
- In 2022, the Colorado River will be experiencing a Tier 1 Shortage, which means that Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico have all agreed to take less water from the River.

## WHY IS A TIER 1 SHORTAGE HAPPENING IN 2022?

- For the last two decades, the Colorado River Basin has been in a historic drought and experiencing a warmer climate, stressing the already over-allocated Colorado River.
- To prevent further depletion of Colorado River water supplies, the seven Basin States set operating guidelines to use less water when Lake Mead and Lake Powell drop to specific levels.
- These Colorado River operating guidelines were established in 2007 and updated again in 2019 by the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP).
- In 2021, Lake Mead's elevation fell below 1,075 feet.



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This decline in Lake Mead triggers a Tier 1 Shortage declaration for 2022, and therefore, less water will be delivered to Arizona from the Colorado River.

## HOW DOES A TIER 1 SHORTAGE IMPACT ARIZONA?

- For Arizona, a Tier 1 Shortage results in an estimated 30% reduction to Colorado River supplies delivered by the Central Arizona Project (CAP) to water users in Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties.
- CAP has a longstanding priority system that governs who receives Colorado River water in times of shortage. Central Arizona agricultural users have the lowest CAP priority, and therefore will face the brunt of the Tier 1 Shortage reductions.
- Municipalities (including Scottsdale) and tribes have the highest CAP priority and will face little or no water reductions in 2022.
- To help water users facing reductions during a Tier 1 Shortage, the Arizona Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) Implementation Plan was created in 2019 to provide alternate water supplies and funding.

## WHAT DOES THE 2022 TIER 1 SHORTAGE MEAN FOR SCOTTSDALE AND ITS RESIDENTS?

- A shortage on the Colorado River does not mean there will be a shortage at your tap.
- The Tier 1 Shortage will have no immediate impact to Scottsdale's ability to meet the water needs of its customers. Scottsdale will continue to receive its Colorado River supplies in a Tier 1 Shortage and access other water sources, including Salt & Verde River water, reclaimed water, and groundwater.
- Scottsdale planned decades in advance for this milestone, and a Colorado River shortage is just one of many scenarios that the division has prepared for.

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## WHAT HAPPENS IF CONDITIONS ON THE COLORADO RIVER GET WORSE?

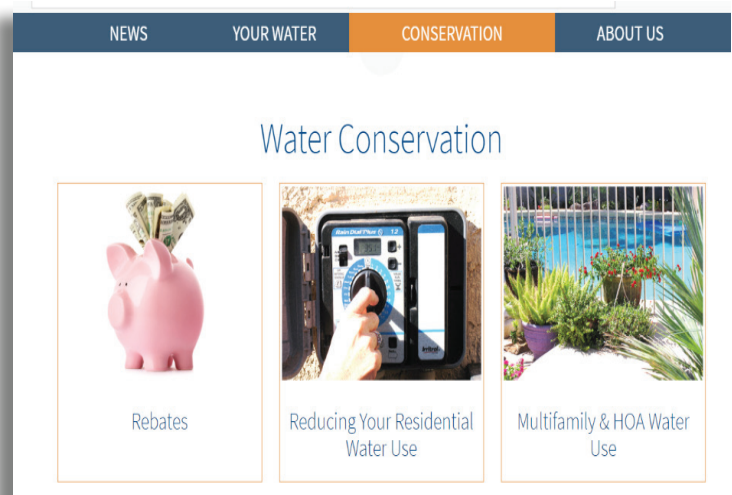
- Conditions on the Colorado River are not expected to get significantly better anytime soon. Scottsdale acknowledges this reality and continues to prepare for various scenarios, including deeper shortages on the Colorado River.
- Responding to the worsening Colorado River conditions is what the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) was designed for. When Lake Mead levels fall, western states and Mexico will continue to take less water to preserve the health of the Colorado River.
- Scottsdale supported and participated in the adoption of DCP in Arizona and is prepared for subsequent shortage reductions.
- For decades, Scottsdale has been investing in diverse and reliable water portfolios, funding infrastructure and technology improvements, instilling a conservation ethic, building drought and shortage preparedness plans, and storing water underground for times of need. We will continue to build upon these efforts into the future.

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## WHAT CAN INDIVIDUALS DO TO HELP?

- Scottsdale has robust and reliable water supplies, but we never have enough to waste. Water conservation safeguards our water resources now and for future generations.
- Being responsible with the water we have is up to each of us. We live in the desert, where water conservation needs to be a permanent lifestyle, not a short-term reaction to an ongoing challenge.
- The decades of planning and investing in water supplies and infrastructure have prepared Scottsdale to weather the current drought conditions and shortage reductions. Moving forward, we must continue to invest in our water systems to ensure we are always resilient.
- Scottsdale has numerous resources available to customers on ways to save water at [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov), search "Conservation."
- Scottsdale Water's Conservation team can be contacted at [WaterConservation@Scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:WaterConservation@Scottsdaleaz.gov).



To learn more, go to [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov), search "Colorado River."