CRWUA

COLORADO RIVER WATER USERS ASSOCIATION

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

COLORADO RIVER BASIN

BACKGROUND

The Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization providing a forum for exchanging ideas and perspectives on Colorado River use and management with the intent of developing and advocating common objectives, initiatives and solutions.

MISSION & RESOLUTIONS

CRWUA is an organization made up of nearly 1,000 members from throughout the upper (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming) and lower (Arizona, California and Nevada) basins and serves as an annual forum for openly discussing important issues on the river. The cooperative efforts that emerge from these meetings reflect the successful history of CRWUA members working together to create solutions for Colorado River challenges. CRWUA annually updates and adopts a comprehensive set of resolutions addressing the major issues affecting the sharing, use and further development of the Colorado River Basin's water supply. Resolutions can be viewed at CRWUA.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear friends,

2025 was tumultuous for the river and for us. As the drought continues, and water levels decline, committed voices offer various paths forward, but agreement between stakeholders can seem as elusive as the water itself. We will find a way forward; long-term partners always do, but the path ahead may require us to evolve. As we approach a time of change, let's reflect on a few things that we know will stay the same.

First, we will always be connected by the river - as sister states, tribal nations, the Federal Government, and partners. We will continue to work together, with respect, expertise, and professional esteem. We will meet every challenge, every time.

Second, we will continue to care fiercely and deeply about the health of the Colorado River – the people, cultures, ecosystems, and economies that depend on the water. The same landscape that challenged our tribal nations and pioneer ancestors now demands the very best from us. The American West – a place of inspiration and legend – will always be dry. Even in the best years, our mountains, deserts, and waterways call for wisdom, conservation, and careful stewardship.

Third – and I may be biased – but those who have devoted their lives to water are among the best people on earth. We will continue to trust our people and our partners to be responsible, steady, efficient problem solvers. The work ahead will ask the very best of our vision, work, and subject matter expertise. I know our people are up to the task.

Finally, the Colorado River Water Users Association will continue to play a leading role as a forum for frank discussion, solutions, and friendship. The river may vary from one season to the next but our partnerships and problem-solving expertise will remain constant. I invite all of us to keep walking forward as partners and friends.

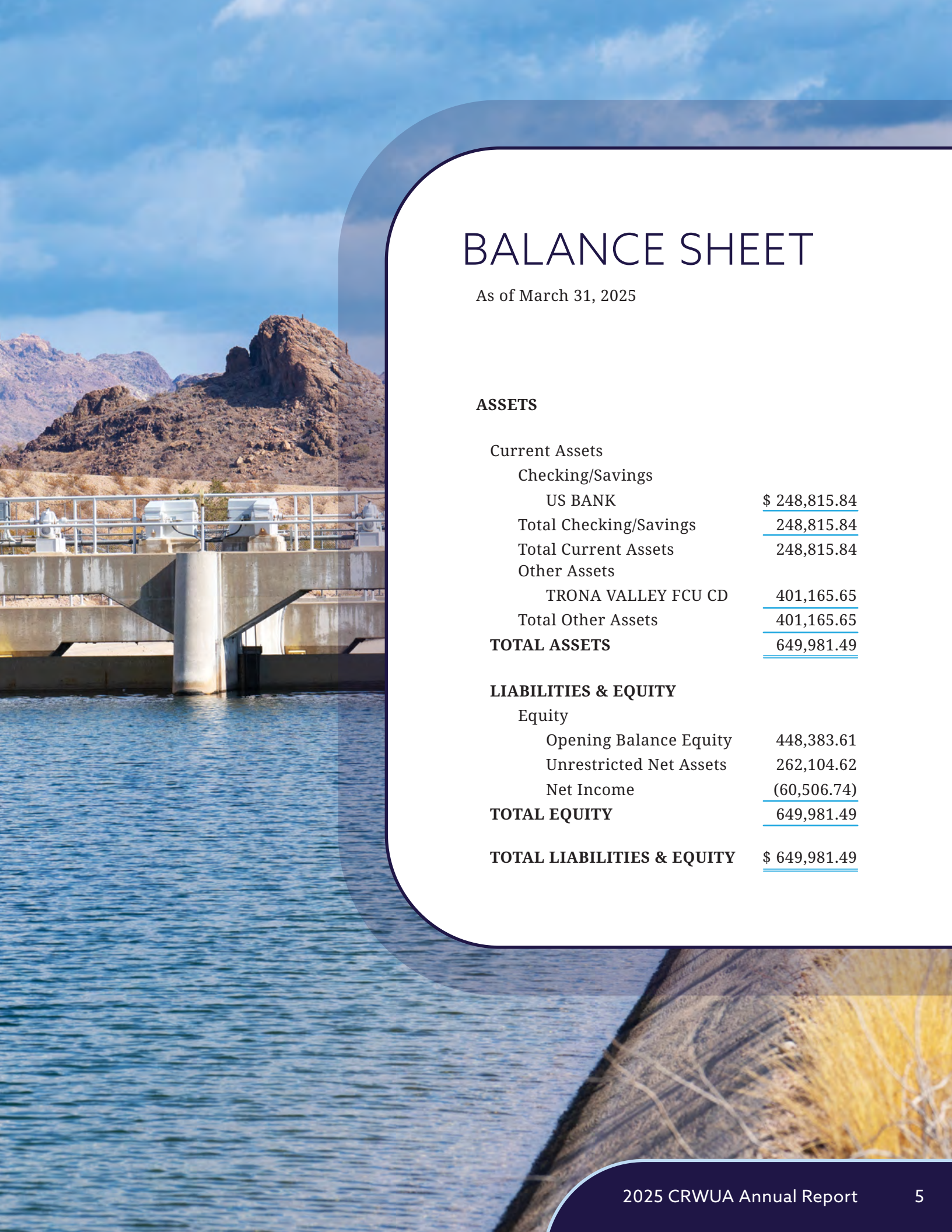
With gratitude and respect,

Gene Shawcroft
CRWUA President

PROFIT & LOSS

April 2024 through March 2025

ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE	
INCOME	
Interest Income	$ 17,675.06
Program Income	
Conference Registrations	658,560.00
Exhibits - Conference	51,300.00
Membership Dues	40,190.00
Sponsorship	53,600.00
Total Program Income	803,650.00
Total Income	**821,325.06**
EXPENSE	
Contract Services	
Admin Fees	39,133.82
Total Contract Services	39,133.82
Travel and Meetings	
Conference, Convention, Meeting	780,782.56
Exhibits Committee	16,303.82
Program Committee	17,102.32
Public Affairs Committee	28,509.28
Total Travel and Meetings	842,697.98
Total Expense	**881,831.80**
Net Income	**$ (60,506.74)**



BALANCE SHEET

As of March 31, 2025

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
US BANK	$ 248,815.84
Total Checking/Savings	248,815.84
Total Current Assets	248,815.84
Other Assets	
TRONA VALLEY FCU CD	401,165.65
Total Other Assets	401,165.65
TOTAL ASSETS	649,981.49
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	448,383.61
Unrestricted Net Assets	262,104.62
Net Income	(60,506.74)
TOTAL EQUITY	649,981.49
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	$ 649,981.49

OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

President:
Gene Shawcroft

Vice President:
Keith Burron

Secretary-Treasurer:
Lisa Anderson

Asst. Secretary-Treasurer:
Mitch Bishop

TRUSTEES

ARIZONA
Brenda Burman
Elston Grubaugh
Leslie Meyers

COLORADO
Jim Broderick
Stanley Cazier
Steve Wolff

NEW MEXICO
Aaron Chavez
Steve Lanier
Aaron Lee

UTAH
William Merkley
Zach Renstrom
Gene Shawcroft

CALIFORNIA
Bart Fisher
Glen Peterson
John Powell

NEVADA
Priscilla Howell
Sara Price
Greg Walch

TEN TRIBES PARTNERSHIP
Crystal Tulley-Cordova
Rosa Long
Daryl Vigil

WYOMING
Keith Burron
Aaron Reichl
Bryan Seppie

COMMITTEES

AUDIT
Andy Belanger, Nevada
Richard Mathey, Wyoming

BUDGET
Chair – Bryan Seppie, Wyoming
Andy Belanger, Nevada
Jay Burnham, New Mexico
John Powell, California
Leslie Meyers, Arizona

EXHIBITS
Chair – Greg Gould, Nevada
Kevin Bergschneider, Colorado
Mark Davidson, Wyoming

HOUSING & ARRANGEMENTS
Chair – Katie Horn, Nevada
Aaron Chavez, New Mexico

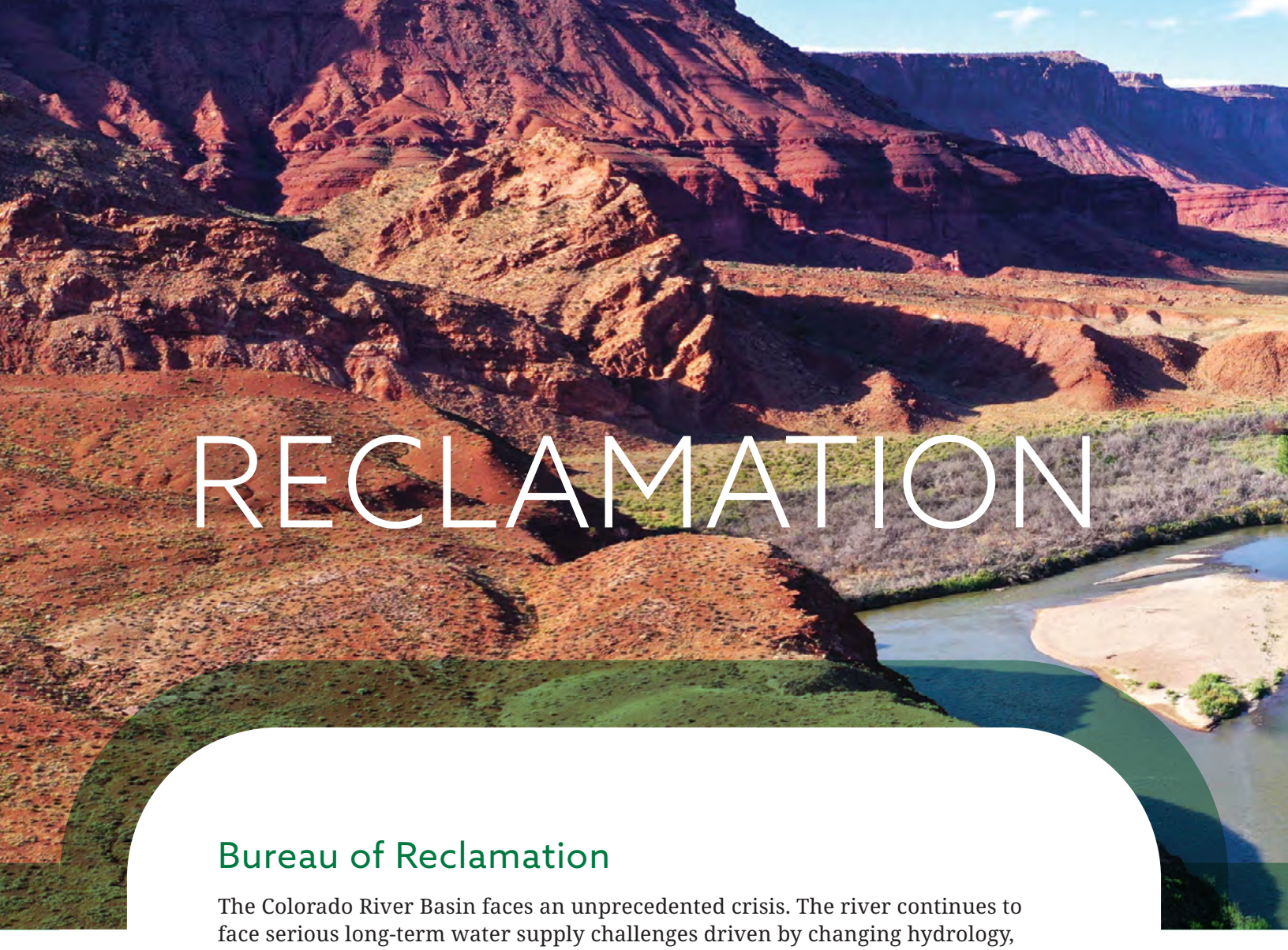
NOMINATIONS
Chair – Leslie Meyers, Arizona
Andy Belanger, Nevada
Stanley Cazier, Colorado

PROGRAM
Chair – Bart Leeflang, Utah
Lisa Anderson, Utah
Mitch Basefsky, Arizona
Mitch Bishop, Nevada
Doug Bonamici, Ten Tribes Partnership
Jordan Bunker, Nevada
Keith Burron, Wyoming
Ric Cantrell, Utah
Fernando Castro, California
Aaron Chavez, New Mexico
Edalin Koziol, Colorado
Steve Lanier, New Mexico
Amy Moyer, Colorado
Annalise Porter, Nevada
Seth Shanahan, Nevada
Tony Staffaroni, Arizona
Frank Strong, Wyoming
Crystal Tulley-Cordova, Ten Tribes Partnership
Kirin Vicenti, Ten Tribes Partnership
Meena Westford, California

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Chair – Crystal Thompson, Arizona
Teresa Brevik, New Mexico
Becki Bryant, Bureau of Reclamation
Lindsay DeFrates, Colorado
Scott Huntley, Nevada
Rebecca Kimitch, California
Patty Likens, Arizona
Bob Muir, California
Karry Rathje, Utah
Bryan Seppie, Wyoming
Jeff Stahla, Colorado
Zach Stevens, Ten Tribes Partnership

RESOLUTIONS
Chair – Wade Noble, Arizona
Vice Chair – John Morris, California
Secretary – Maryann Warner, Arizona
Steven Anderson, Nevada
Nathan Bracken, Utah
Laura Chartrand, Colorado
Aaron Chavez, New Mexico
Morgan Drake, Utah
Sandra Fabritz, Arizona
Charlie Ferrantelli, Wyoming
Jeff Gray, Arizona
Jared Hansen, Utah
Gary Hathorn, New Mexico
Zack Heim, Arizona
Laura Lamdin, California
Craig McGinnis, Arizona
Lee Miller, Colorado
Jessica Newland, Arizona
Zach Renstrom, Utah

Meghan Scott, Arizona
Liz Taylor, New Mexico
Frank Venegas, Ten Tribes Partnership
Marti Whitmore, Colorado
Dwight Witherspoon, Ten Tribes Partnership
Lisa Yellow Eagle, Ten Tribes Partnership



RECLAMATION

Bureau of Reclamation

The Colorado River Basin faces an unprecedented crisis. The river continues to face serious long-term water supply challenges driven by changing hydrology, increased demand and aging infrastructure. Water use has brought this critical water source to historic lows, endangering agricultural production, urban water supplies, and hydropower generation. Recognizing the urgency, the Bureau of Reclamation, working with the seven basin states, tribal nations, the country of Mexico, water managers, agricultural producers and other partners, took action to protect the Colorado River system and the communities that depend on it. This collaborative approach resulted in agreements on near-term water management operations through 2026, providing short-term stability for the system, which materialized as a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the 2007 Interim Guidelines, and a new Minute (Minute 330) with Mexico.

Those near-term operating guidelines – as an overlay to the 2007 Interim Guidelines, 2019 Drought Contingency Plans, and Minute 323 to the 1944 Treaty with Mexico – provide additional strategies to reduce the risk of reaching critical elevations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. These temporary tools, available through 2026, include conserving at least 3 million acre-feet of water in the Lower Basin and the potential to reduce annual releases from Lake Powell. Under the Drought Contingency Plan, Upper Basin drought response operations could also include providing additional water to Lake Powell from upstream reservoirs to protect critical infrastructure.

However, the need for long-term solutions remains. Reclamation continues to engage with all basin partners to develop a durable agreement that will guide operations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead beginning in operations year 2027 (Oct. 1, 2026). Reaching consensus amongst the seven Colorado River Basin states is a complex but essential task as this future agreement will determine water availability for municipal, industrial, and agricultural use. Reclamation remains fully committed to achieving this goal.

With a legacy of 123 years of cooperative achievement, Reclamation is well-positioned to build on past successes. Reclamation continues to work closely with tribes and partners across the Colorado River Basin to support communities and develop long-term drought response strategies. This includes consultation with tribes while maintaining Reclamation's responsibility for system operations, ensuring that all perspectives are heard and considered. As part of this effort, Reclamation has awarded federal funding to promote drought resilience and emphasizes exploring tools such as increased water management flexibilities and efficiencies, as well as new water sources, like water recycling to help communities diversify their water supplies and improve their ability to withstand future shortages. These forward-looking tools align with the administration's focus on strengthening American infrastructure, promoting innovation and reducing long-term costs for water users.

The states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming—through the Upper Colorado River Commission—are deploying federal funding to enhance water infrastructure across the Upper Colorado River Basin. This includes modernizing irrigation systems to improve efficiency, reduce water losses, and cut salinity loading in the Colorado River. Other efforts include installing new and upgraded flow meters and eddy covariance towers, replacing outdated systems for real-time monitoring, and supporting sustainable agricultural practices. Over the next two years, the Upper Basin states plan to build on this momentum by installing an additional eddy covariance tower, 32 stream gauges and five weather stations, as well as approximately 2,000 diversion measurements and expanded evaporation studies.

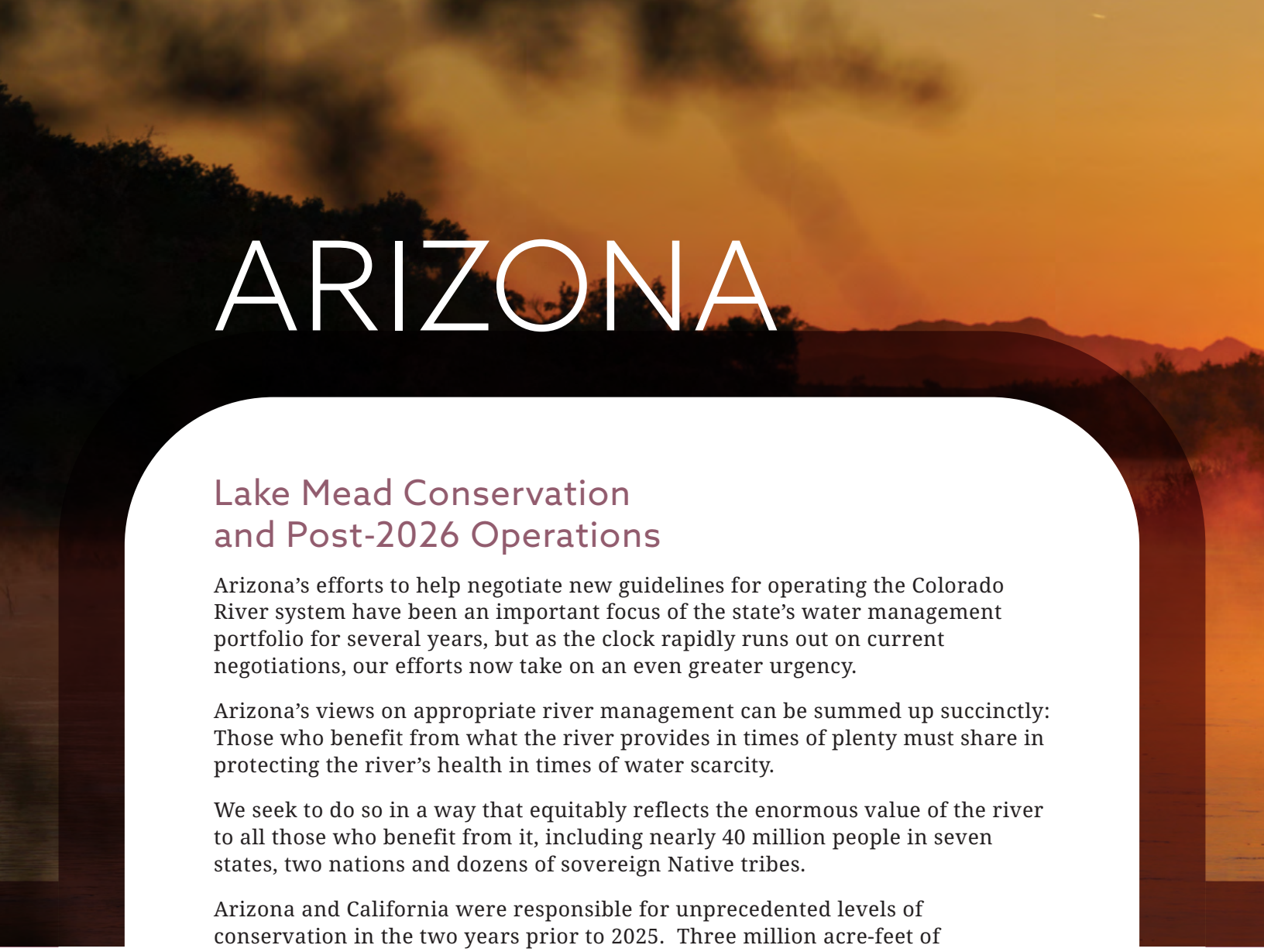
In the Lower Basin, extension of 18 short-term agreements with tribal, municipal and agricultural water users will result in additional water savings through 2026, totaling approximately 321,000 acre-feet in Lake Mead storage, the equivalent of approximately five feet in reservoir elevation. The extension of these agreements provides tribes, cities and farmers with funding for water savings during the development of Post-2026 Colorado River Operating Guidelines and bolsters Lake Mead's elevation for continued water delivery and hydropower production to benefit the Colorado River System and its users. The agreements are part of the more than three million acre-feet of system conservation commitments made by the Lower Basin states – Arizona, California, and Nevada.

Reclamation has also been working with water entitlement holders in the Lower Colorado River Basin to implement water conservation agreements for additional projects that will put the Colorado River Basin on a path to a more resilient water future.

These efforts align with ongoing collaboration among the Department of the Interior, Reclamation, basin states, and tribes to develop Post-2026 Operating Guidelines. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement for these guidelines is expected around the end of the calendar year.

Looking ahead, Reclamation will continue to apply the best available science to ensure that future operating guidelines are resilient and adaptable to the ongoing impacts of drought.

As we look forward to the celebration of America's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we are also preparing to implement a collaborative operating agreement for sustainable Colorado River operations into the future. Managing a shared watershed requires joint commitment to sustainable practices and innovation. All voices will be heard as Reclamation helps to lead the collaborative effort to enhance water security across the Colorado River Basin. Under the leadership of Secretary Doug Burgum, Reclamation remains focused on protecting hydropower generation, supporting agricultural and tribal communities, strengthening Western economies and ensuring dependable water supplies as we enter the next chapter of America's history.



ARIZONA

Lake Mead Conservation and Post-2026 Operations

Arizona's efforts to help negotiate new guidelines for operating the Colorado River system have been an important focus of the state's water management portfolio for several years, but as the clock rapidly runs out on current negotiations, our efforts now take on an even greater urgency.

Arizona's views on appropriate river management can be summed up succinctly: Those who benefit from what the river provides in times of plenty must share in protecting the river's health in times of water scarcity.

We seek to do so in a way that equitably reflects the enormous value of the river to all those who benefit from it, including nearly 40 million people in seven states, two nations and dozens of sovereign Native tribes.

Arizona and California were responsible for unprecedented levels of conservation in the two years prior to 2025. Three million acre-feet of conservation – one-half of which occurred during 2023 and 2024 – is being accomplished by verified, physical reductions in use. The conservation has been accomplished through voluntary, compensated reductions.

In all, Arizona and California have delivered on their commitments by conserving unprecedented volumes to support the Colorado River system. This effort is a continuation of Arizona's commitment to conserve, which has produced 4.6 million acre-feet of additional water for the Colorado River since 2014.

Tribal Water Settlements

In March, members of Arizona's Congressional delegation from both sides of the aisle led the way in reintroducing legislation to ratify and fund the historic Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement.

The Tribal water-rights legislation was originally introduced in Congress in 2024 to ratify and fund the settlement agreement entered into between the State of Arizona, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and numerous other Arizona parties.

Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs signed the settlement agreement on Nov. 19, 2024.

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP)

The 50-year MSCP turned 20 years old in 2025. Reclamation manages the program, which aims to create more than 8,300 acres of new habitat within the Lower Colorado River floodplain. Already, species have reappeared, including Summer Tanager, Northern Mexican Gartersnake and Yellow-Billed Cuckoo. CAP celebrated the anniversary by publishing an oral history, interviewing representatives from the Lower Basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada, as well as Reclamation.

Water Quality Guidance Document

In September, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board approved Reclamation's edits to a Water Quality Guidance Document to introduce Non-Project Water (non-Colorado River water) directly into the CAP canal. This revised version establishes uniform water quality standards under CAP's System Use Agreement and paves the way for future flexibility in the uses of the CAP canal.

Yuma Agriculture

Yuma agriculture is important to Arizona and America, with a multibillion-dollar annual economy that employs the region and supplies the majority of the nation's winter vegetables. Nowhere else in the country can substitute for Yuma's winter vegetables.

Yuma farmers have no source of water other than the Colorado River. Yuma wants to see a post-2026 plan for the river that protects the system's water delivery and power generation, rebuilds the contents of the system and maintains the priority system as the starting rule for deliveries in the Lower Basin.

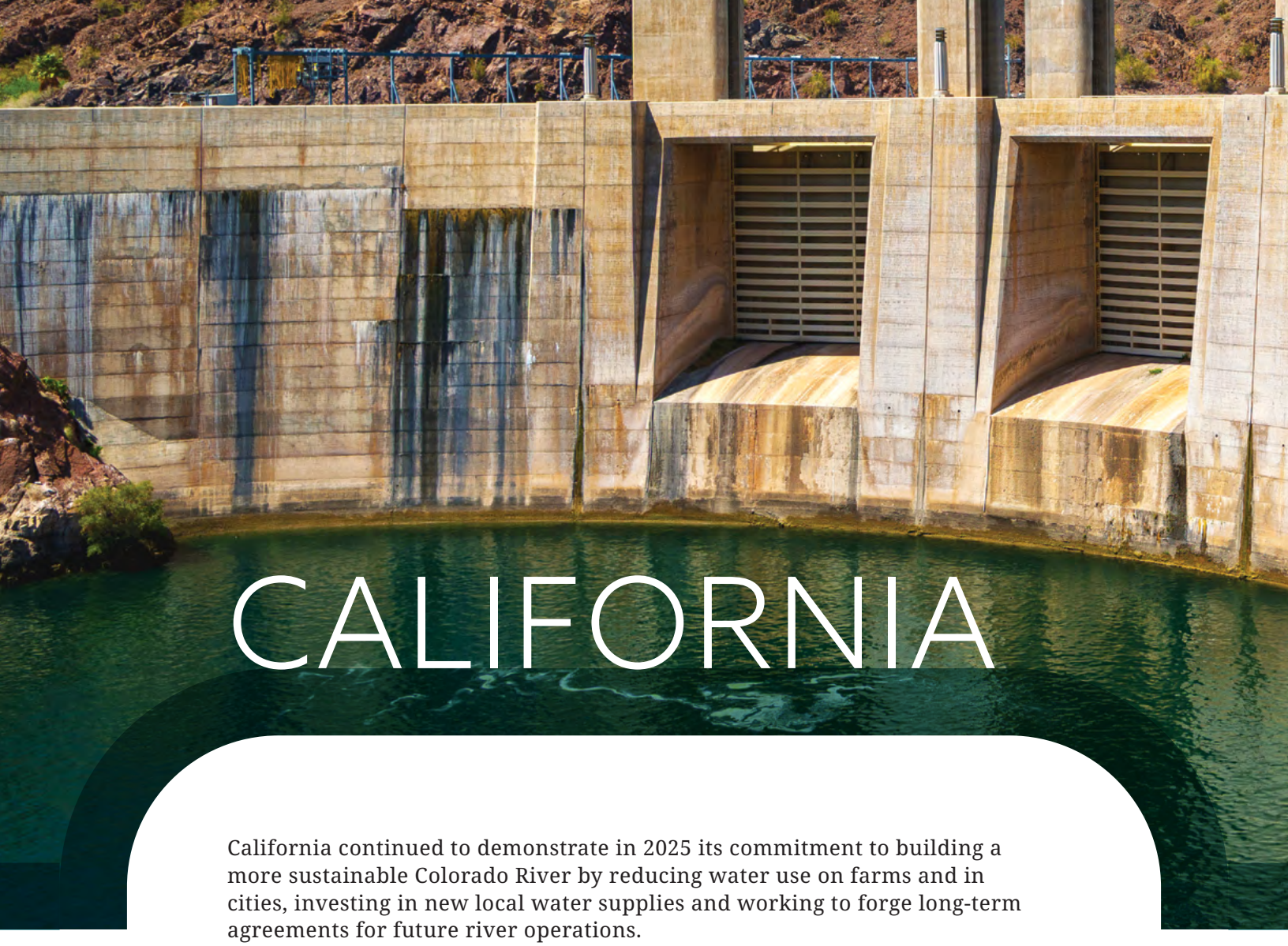
Yuma farmers invest every year in conservation that leaves hundreds of thousands of acre-feet in the system for lower priority users in Arizona to use and store. Water conservation measures that will yield additional water in other conservation regions have already been in place in Yuma for years. These conservation strategies are not standard Basin-wide.

Salt River Project (SRP) – Salt & Verde River System

For over 120 years, SRP has delivered reliable water to more than 2.5 million Phoenix metropolitan area residents. Water Year 2025 on SRP's watershed was the lowest runoff on record, which contrasts the banner 2023 inflow and highlights the watershed's hydrologic variability and the importance of SRP's water management.

SRP has kept its system resilient through prudent water management, conservation and customer outreach. SRP uses cutting-edge forecasting tools and works with numerous forest health partners on strategic watershed initiatives, including a goal to support thinning 800,000 acres by 2035 to mitigate wildfire impacts on water supplies and watershed communities.

Reclamation published a Notice of Intent in July to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Verde Reservoirs Sediment Mitigation Project (VRSMP). The VRSMP EIS will evaluate potential alternatives, including construction of a new, larger Bartlett Dam, which would address impacts of accumulating sediment, expand the reservoir's storage capacity, and provide a more reliable and resilient water supply.



CALIFORNIA

California continued to demonstrate in 2025 its commitment to building a more sustainable Colorado River by reducing water use on farms and in cities, investing in new local water supplies and working to forge long-term agreements for future river operations.

By the end of the year, California is expected to conserve more than 600,000 acre-feet of water for the benefit of the Colorado River system. When combined with the 1.2 million acre-feet of system water conserved by the state in 2023 and 2024, California will not only exceed its 2023 commitment to leave 1.6 million acre-feet in Lake Mead by 2026, it will surpass that goal a year early. This water savings – California's portion of the Lower Basin's commitment to conserve 3 million acre-feet – has helped reduce future risks to Lake Mead after it reached record low elevations three years ago.

This exemplary conservation was made possible through partnerships and collaboration developed across the state between urban and agricultural water agencies and with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Additional system water savings beyond California's 1.6 million acre-feet commitment are expected next year.

With Lake Mead out of immediate jeopardy, Colorado River water users in California focused in 2025 on building solutions for post-2026 river operations. The state remains committed to doing its part to ensure a sustainable Colorado River long into the future.

In March, the Colorado River Board of California named Jessica Neuwerth as its new executive director. Neuwerth previously served as the agency's deputy director and acting executive director.

Imperial Irrigation District

Imperial Irrigation District anticipates reaching its highest ever annual water conservation yield in 2025, with about 700,000 acre-feet in total water conserved through various programs and partnerships. These conservation efforts, which support Southern California water supply resiliency and build elevation at Lake Mead, have resulted in at least a 22 percent reduction in IID's consumptive use.

More than 260,000 acre-feet of IID's 2025 water savings is anticipated to be funded by Reclamation and will help California meet its system water conservation commitments. IID's conservation success is due in large part to outstanding grower participation in its voluntary deficit irrigation and on-farm efficiency conservation programs. These short-term conservation efforts include an extensive drain water monitoring program implemented by IID, and federal investment of $250 million in the expansion of California's Salton Sea Management Program Species Conservation Habitat project.

In total, from 2023-2026, IID will have generated over 800,000 acre-feet of conserved system water for Lake Mead – the largest conserved water contribution on the river. This is enough water to increase Lake Mead's elevation by over 11 feet. And, when combined with water savings from its Lower Basin partners, it will add about 50 feet to the reservoir.

Palo Verde Irrigation District

As part of its effort to stabilize the Colorado River system, the Palo Verde Irrigation District, in partnership with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, in 2025 established an $8 million Community Improvement Program to offset socioeconomic impacts associated with large-scale agricultural land fallowing in the Palo Verde Valley. Under an agreement with Reclamation and Metropolitan, PVID growers are fallowing 26,000 acres – 28% of valley farmland – for three years starting in August 2023, generating 117,000 acre-feet of conserved water annually toward California's 1.6 million acre-foot system conservation contribution.

The new community fund – jointly administered by PVID and Metropolitan – will support local infrastructure, public services, workforce development, and small business growth in the Palo Verde Valley. This program builds upon a prior community investment framework initiated in 2007 and reflects a coordinated approach to balancing system-level water savings with local economic sustainability in frontline agricultural regions.

Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe

In 2025, the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe continued to leverage its strong partnerships to improve the efficiency and resilience of its water use and management, while also conducting ecosystem restoration.

In conjunction with Metropolitan and Reclamation, the Tribe conserved 13,000 acre-feet of water to bolster elevations in Lake Mead, and contributed additional water savings through its ongoing seasonal fallowing agreement with Metropolitan.

Working with the Bard Water District, BlueCommons, and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, the Tribe also secured the lining of the Reservation Main Canal, reducing seepage and improving efficiency for water deliveries to large portions of the Yuma Project Reservation Division. And with support from the Walton Family Foundation, the Tribe was able to expand its water management department to build additional internal capacity.

Coachella Valley Water District

Coachella Valley Water District also continued to conserve water for the benefit of the Colorado River system by curtailing replenishment at its Thomas E. Levy Facility from 2023–2025, saving approximately 35,000 acre-feet annually. A second voluntary program also continues for agricultural customers to conserve up to 10,000 acre-feet a year.

In addition, CVWD received a $39 million Reclamation grant to expand its Thermal Water Reclamation Plant for tertiary treatment. The funding supports Phase 1 of the expansion, allowing the agency to supplement Colorado River water with recycled water for agricultural irrigation. The project is expected to conserve 33,600 acre-feet of water from 2029 to 2059.

In October 2024, CVWD began implementing SpryPoint, a cloud-based utility billing and customer information platform that will enhance customer service, streamline operations, and support Colorado River water customers. The system enables real-time data collection, advanced reporting, and analytics to improve decision-making and service responsiveness and is scheduled to go live in September 2026.

Bard Water District

Bard Water District in 2025 continued its seasonal land fallowing agreement with Reclamation and Metropolitan, also part of the federal short-term system conservation program. Under the agreement, which is based on an earlier program with Metropolitan, growers forgo planting lower-value, water intensive crops during the summer in exchange for financial incentives, while continuing to grow their higher-value winter vegetable crops. The program is expected to conserve nearly 9,300 acre-feet in 2025.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

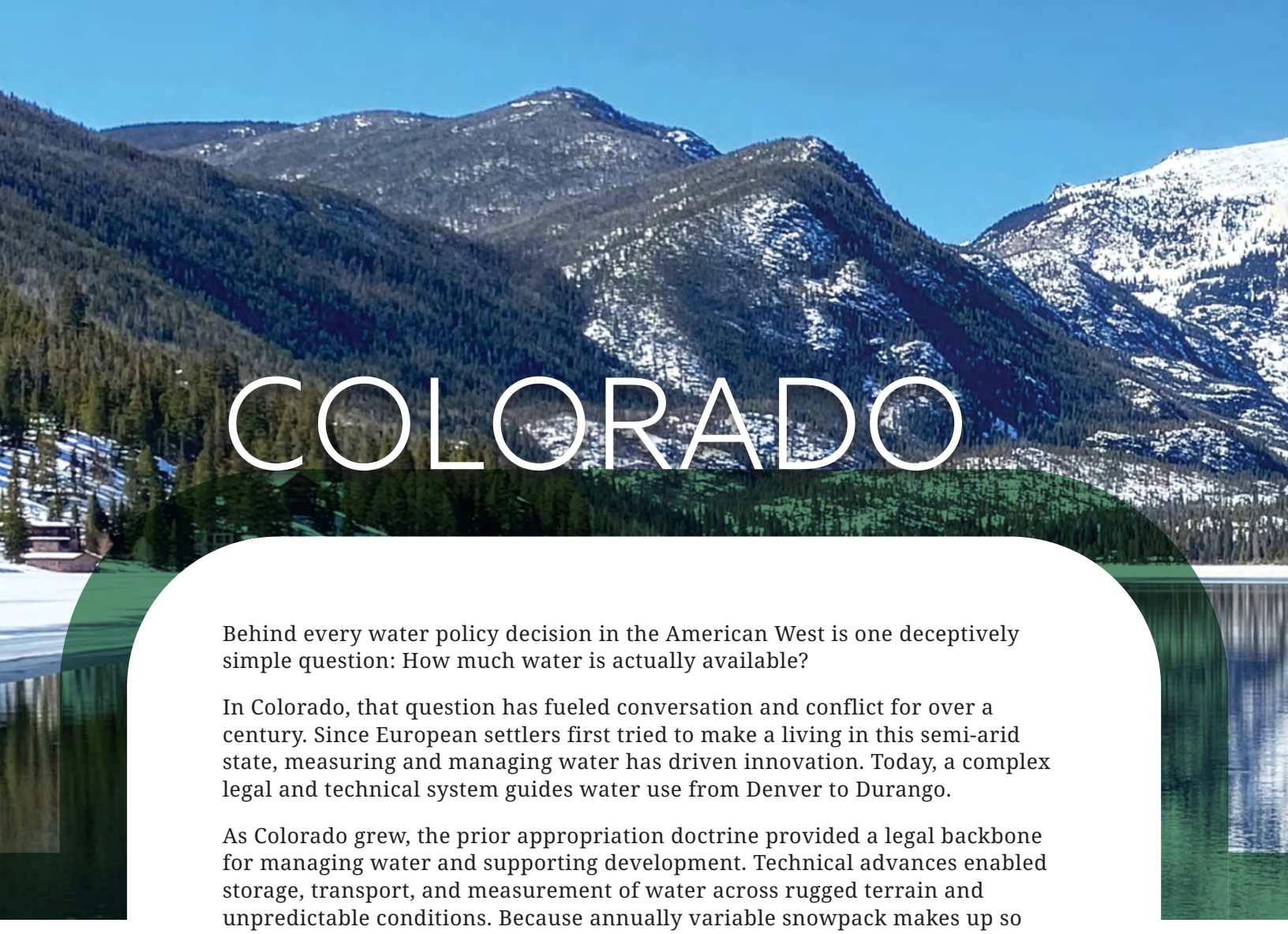
Metropolitan Water District's investments in water efficiency and local supplies continued to produce results in 2025. Per person potable water use in urban Southern California has dropped a record 45% since 1990, the agency announced this year.

This efficiency will continue as the agency in September doubled its turf rebate for businesses and institutions that replace their grass with more sustainable landscaping. The new $7 per square foot rebate – the highest ever offered regionwide – will help businesses, schools, HOAs and other institutions comply with a new state law prohibiting the use of potable water on nonfunctional turf. The increased rebate is made possible in part through $96 million in funding from Reclamation's Lower Colorado Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program.

Reclamation has also granted Metropolitan up to $82 million in funding for the High Desert Water Bank, a groundwater storage project being developed in partnership with the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, and up to $8 million for a program to detect and repair leaks in disadvantaged communities.

In exchange for the funding of these three programs, Metropolitan will add up to 269,000 acre-feet of conserved water to Lake Mead by 2031.

Shivaji Deshmukh was named Metropolitan's next general manager and will assume the position on Jan. 1, 2026. He joined Metropolitan as general manager-designate on Nov. 3 after six years as general manager of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, one of Metropolitan's 26 member agencies. Deshmukh is also president-elect of the WateReuse California Board of Trustees and serves on the US Water Alliance Board of Directors. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from UCLA.



COLORADO

Behind every water policy decision in the American West is one deceptively simple question: How much water is actually available?

In Colorado, that question has fueled conversation and conflict for over a century. Since European settlers first tried to make a living in this semi-arid state, measuring and managing water has driven innovation. Today, a complex legal and technical system guides water use from Denver to Durango.

As Colorado grew, the prior appropriation doctrine provided a legal backbone for managing water and supporting development. Technical advances enabled storage, transport, and measurement of water across rugged terrain and unpredictable conditions. Because annually variable snowpack makes up so much of the state's water supply, snow telemetry (SNOTEL) sites were set up across many basins to give water managers key data on how much they might expect to end up in streams and reservoirs.

For decades, these sites have offered vital snapshots and long-term trends to guide policy and planning. But most SNOTEL stations sit below 11,000 feet and are sparse across Colorado's vast landscape. In recent years, snowpack and streamflow patterns have grown more unpredictable, widening the gap between forecasts and actual water availability.

To improve our snowpack understanding, water managers have turned from the ground to the sky. Airborne Snow Observatories Inc. (ASO), building on a legacy with NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab expertise, uses LiDAR-based technology to scan snowpack at a basin-wide scale from aircrafts, offering a detailed snapshot of the snowpack and how much water might be available each season.

In 2020, the Colorado Airborne Snowpack Measurement (CASM) Program was founded. It is a partnership of multiple local, state, and federal water partners committed to expanding access to state-of-the-art snowpack monitoring data to improve decision making across all water sectors. Agencies like Northern Water, Denver Water, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and the Colorado River District have partnered with ASO to fly over high-altitude basins, helping build a clearer picture of Colorado's water availability year to year.

Recognizing the importance of this work, the Colorado General Assembly passed legislation in 2025 to establish a statewide Water Supply Measurement and Forecasting Program. Building a shared, science-based understanding of snowpack will be essential to help protect and manage Colorado's water for generations to come.

In 2025, efforts continued to convert historic nonconsumptive water rights on the Colorado River into a permanent instream flow.

In May, the Colorado River Water Conservation District, on behalf of the broad-based Shoshone Water Right Preservation Coalition, offered the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) a perpetual interest in the Shoshone water rights for use as an instream flow.

The River District had previously reached a purchase and sale agreement with Public Service Company of Colorado, a subsidiary of Xcel Energy, which operates the Shoshone Power Plant near Glenwood Springs. With funding from the district, local and county governments, water agencies, the state of Colorado, and anticipated federal support, the project's fundraising is nearly complete. Once CWCB accepts the rights, the process will move to Colorado's water court for determination of the right's historical consumptive use and to ensure no injury to other water users.

Work continued in 2025 on the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC), which will bring clean drinking water to 39 water systems along the Arkansas River east of Pueblo. The AVC is being constructed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District as the final piece of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, which brings water from the Roaring Fork basin of the Colorado River into the Arkansas River basin.

The Fry-Ark Project provides supplemental water to cities and farms in the Arkansas River basin, and this year brought in 37,200 acre-feet. The project also contributes compensatory storage for the Western Slope with Ruedi Reservoir, a key facility for flood control, recreation, endangered fish recovery and electric power for the Roaring Fork basin. Under the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Operating Principles, the project also maintains minimum stream flows on the Western Slope.

On the North Front Range of Colorado, Chimney Hollow Reservoir was completed in late 2025 by Barnard Construction Co. Inc. of Bozeman, Montana. The new reservoir will start to accept water through the end of 2025, but initial testing shows it will initially have mineralized uranium within it, which will require additional problem-solving measures to be applied in the coming few years.

The 90,000-acre-foot reservoir is part of the Windy Gap Project, a storage project built by Northern Water's Municipal Subdistrict, which supplies municipal water for 12 municipal utilities, water districts and one electrical utility.

NEVADA

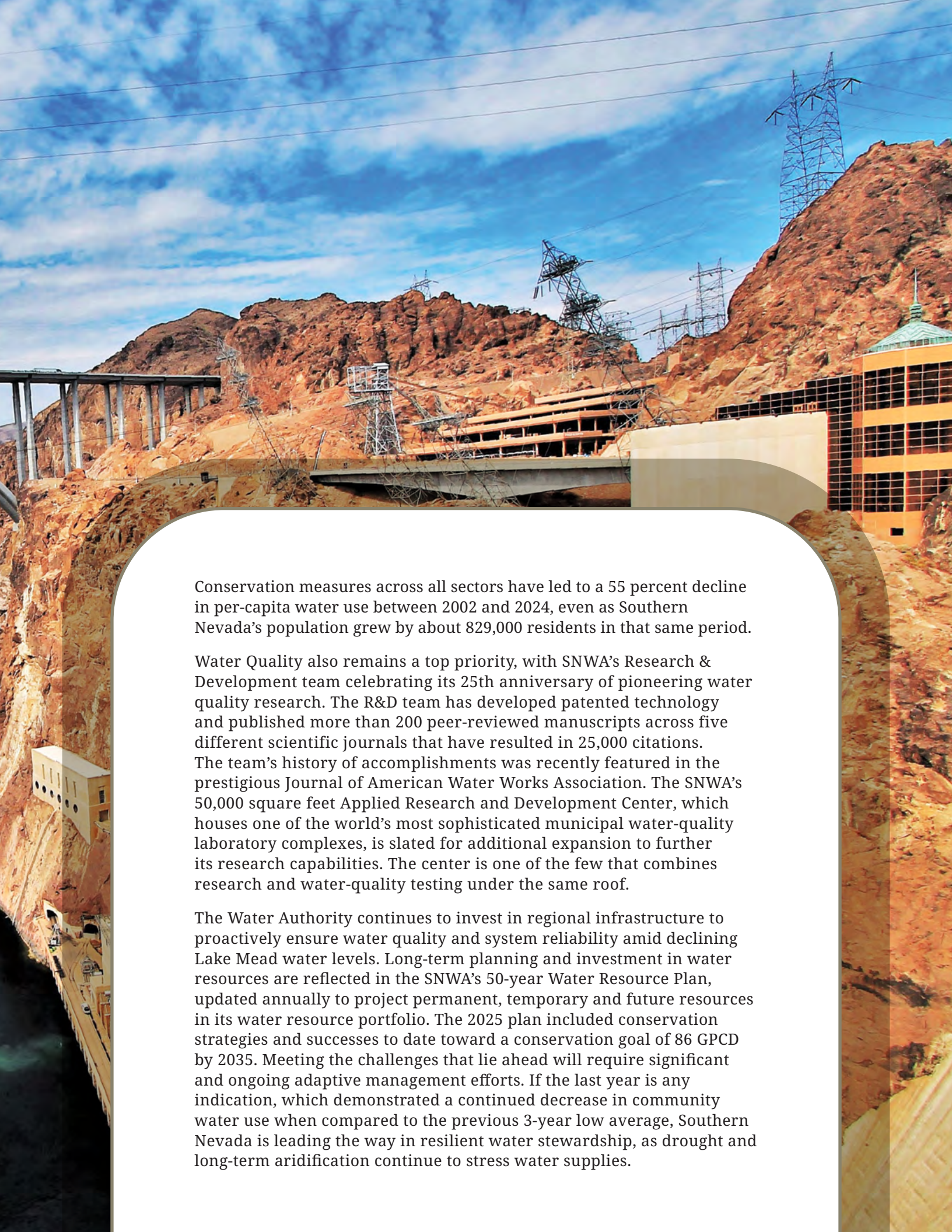
While Nevada faces another year of Tier 1 shortage conditions, our region's resourcefulness, including high-efficiency indoor recycling and successful conservation programming, equip our community to withstand shortages.

Already a world leader in conservation programming, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) continues to advance both regulatory and incentive programs designed to realize water savings and conservation gains from every sector of our community.

In 2025, the SNWA Board of Directors increased incentives to remove decorative grass for Southern Nevada's homeowners. With 70 percent of our residential community already embracing low-water, desert-adapted plants and trees, thanks to the legacy of the Water Smart Landscapes Rebate Program, the increased incentives are designed to maximize participation in this pivotal next year. The SNWA continues to work with businesses throughout the community to eliminate decorative grass, ahead of a state mandate prohibiting the use of Colorado River water to irrigate nonfunctional turf beginning in 2027. Since 1999, our community has replaced more than 241 million square feet of grass with water-efficient landscaping, saving more than 203 billion gallons of water.

The SNWA also partners with the business community to incorporate water-efficient technologies, such as evaporative cooling alternatives, into industries from casinos to warehouses. Evaporative cooling represents the second largest use of water in Southern Nevada. In 2023, a moratorium on evaporative cooling installation in new commercial and industrial buildings went into effect, complemented by incentive programs to replace existing systems. Major conversion projects completed over the last year are projected to save more than 116 million gallons of water.

Another ongoing pillar of Southern Nevada sustainability is community empowerment and education. Residents are encouraged to identify and repair household leaks utilizing online tutorials and videos as well as report water waste in the community via mobile apps. With the installation of smart metering technology, more than 24,000 leak notifications were distributed to enrolled customers since a voluntary early leak notification system was introduced. SNWA member agencies manage a variety of leak assistance programs to help cover the cost of locating and repairing leaks that might otherwise go unaddressed. Programs are tailored with added financial assistance and subsidized repairs for low-income eligible households to ensure the most vulnerable members of our community are served.



Conservation measures across all sectors have led to a 55 percent decline in per-capita water use between 2002 and 2024, even as Southern Nevada's population grew by about 829,000 residents in that same period.

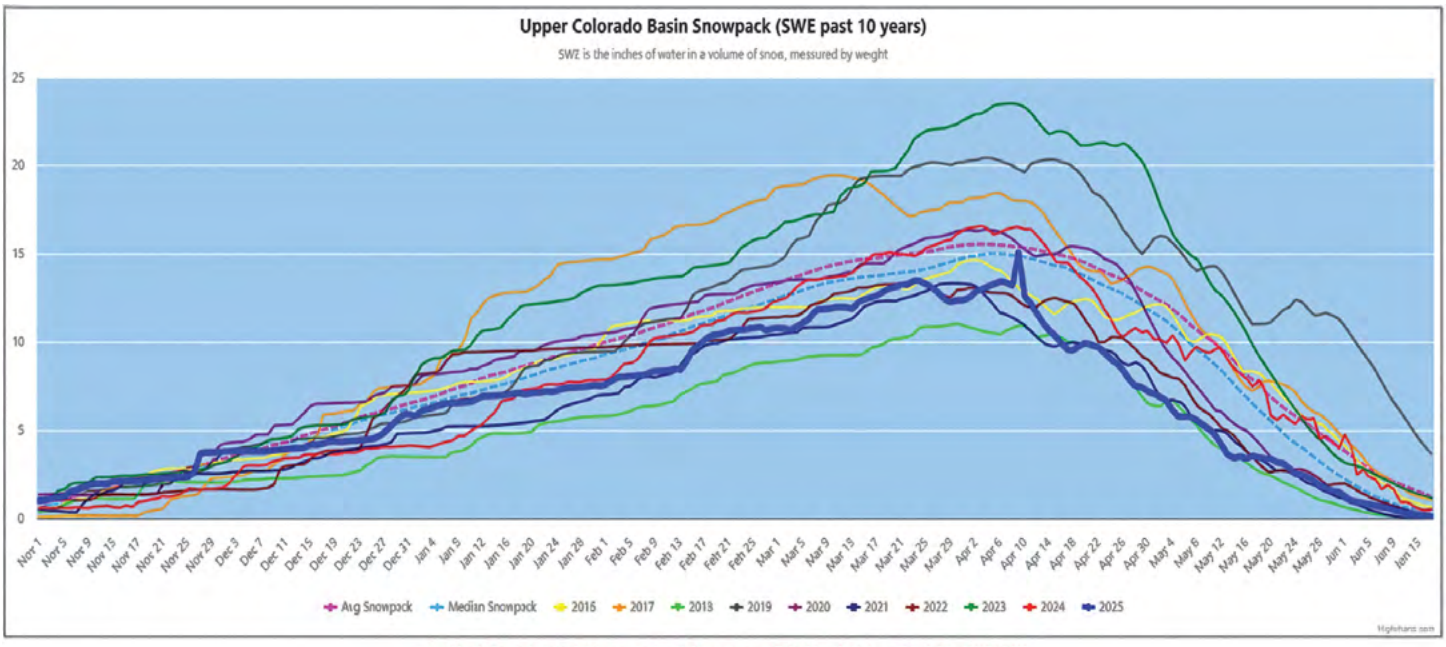
Water Quality also remains a top priority, with SNWA's Research & Development team celebrating its 25th anniversary of pioneering water quality research. The R&D team has developed patented technology and published more than 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts across five different scientific journals that have resulted in 25,000 citations. The team's history of accomplishments was recently featured in the prestigious Journal of American Water Works Association. The SNWA's 50,000 square feet Applied Research and Development Center, which houses one of the world's most sophisticated municipal water-quality laboratory complexes, is slated for additional expansion to further its research capabilities. The center is one of the few that combines research and water-quality testing under the same roof.

The Water Authority continues to invest in regional infrastructure to proactively ensure water quality and system reliability amid declining Lake Mead water levels. Long-term planning and investment in water resources are reflected in the SNWA's 50-year Water Resource Plan, updated annually to project permanent, temporary and future resources in its water resource portfolio. The 2025 plan included conservation strategies and successes to date toward a conservation goal of 86 GPCD by 2035. Meeting the challenges that lie ahead will require significant and ongoing adaptive management efforts. If the last year is any indication, which demonstrated a continued decrease in community water use when compared to the previous 3-year low average, Southern Nevada is leading the way in resilient water stewardship, as drought and long-term aridification continue to stress water supplies.

NEW MEXICO

Navajo Reservoir is located mainly in northern New Mexico with several miles extending into southern Colorado. In New Mexico, Navajo Reservoir is the second largest body of water next to Elephant Butte Reservoir. Three developed recreation areas in New Mexico comprise Navajo Lake State Park. The Pine River and Sims Mesa sites located on the lake near the dam include visitor centers, developed campgrounds, and full-service marinas. The San Juan River site located on both sides of the river below Navajo Dam has wheelchair-accessible fishing facilities on the river, several hiking trails, seven-day use areas, and a campground. This area is also well known for the excellent trout fishing.

Inflows for Water Year 2025 have been below average. For Navajo Reservoir in particular water inflow was 41% of average. Total releases from Navajo Dam for this year have been 363,349 ac-ft. As of September 16, flows have dropped back down to 500 cfs. Due to the low river flows in the Animas River this summer, ditches were put on a rotation schedule to help with flows in the river.



Upper Colorado River Basin SWE and 10 Averages are from the 30 year average calculated from date between 10/01/1010 and 09/30/2020

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

Implementation of the Recovery Program was identified as a reasonable and prudent alternative for the 1991 Animas-La Plata Project biological opinion, which created Colorado's Lake Nighthorse. Following this, the Recovery Program was established through a cooperative agreement in 1992 and currently includes signatories from Colorado, New Mexico, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, and the Navajo Nation. The Recovery Program's goals are to recover the listed and Colorado Pikeminnow (Ptychocheilus lucius) and Razorback Sucker (Xyrauchen texanus), while new and existing water development projects continue in compliance with state, tribal and federal law on the San Juan River.

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program Partners Collaborate to Recover Rare Native Fishes

San Juan Chama Project

The San Juan-Chama Project consists of a system of diversion structures and tunnels for transmountain movement of water from the San Juan River Basin to the Rio Grande Basin. Authorized as a participating project of the Colorado River Storage Project, the San Juan Chama Project provides an average annual diversion of about 91,100 acre-feet of water from the upper tributaries of the San Juan River. Primary purposes of the San Juan-Chama Project are to furnish a water supply to the middle Rio Grande Valley for municipal, domestic, and industrial uses. The project is also authorized to provide supplemental irrigation water and incidental recreation and fish and wildlife benefits.

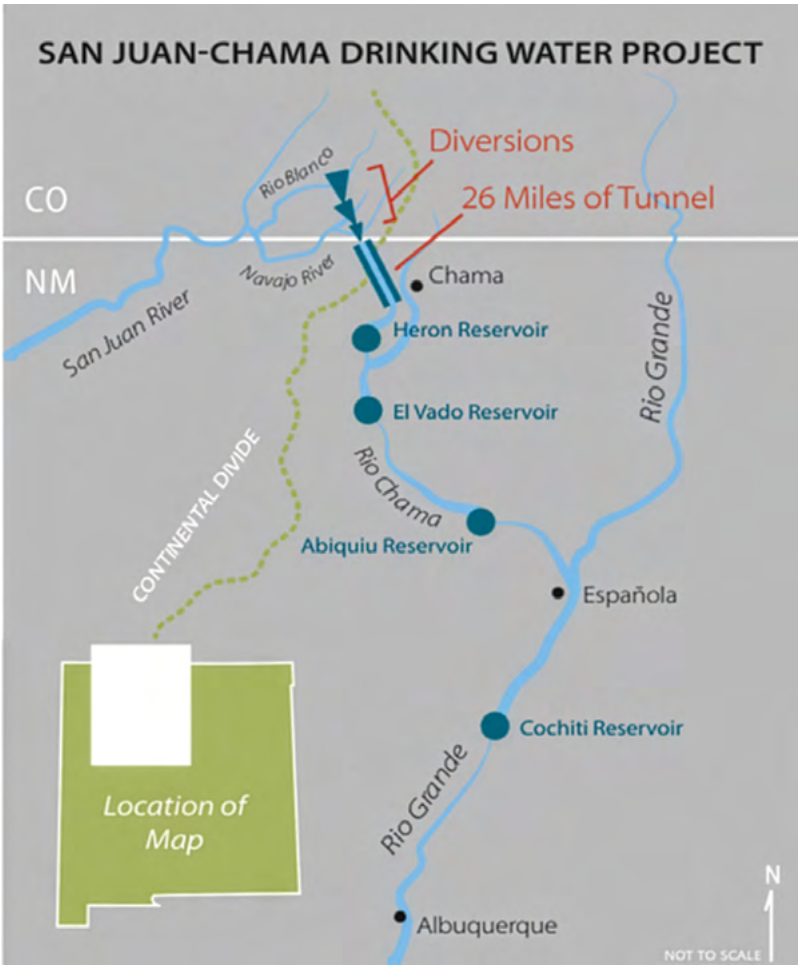


Table 1. San Juan-Chama water contracts (acre-feet).

City of Albuquerque	48,200
Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District	20,900
Jicarilla Apache Nation	6,500
City and County of Santa Fe	5,605
Cochiti Reservoir Recreation Pool	4,290
Taos Pueblo	2,215
Ohkay Owingeh	2,000
Los Alamos County	1,200
Aamodt Settlement	1,079
Pojoaque Valley Irrigation District	1,030
City of Española	1,000
City of Belen	500
Town of Bernalillo	400
Town of Taos	400
Village of Los Lunas	400
Town of Taos Settlement	366
Village of Red River	60
El Prado	40
Taos Ski Valley	15

Great movement was made to the Water Security Planning Act this year. The Water Security Planning Act (WSPA) is New Mexico's guiding legislation for regional water planning and management to secure a resilient water future. It creates a roadmap for regionalized water planning and implementation that prioritizes the unique needs of local communities, makes use of the best available science and data, and maintains compliance with federal and state laws. Robust engagement is an essential feature of the WSPA. To inform rulemaking and the creation of guidelines, an extensive series of community open houses and an online survey were conducted by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) during the Spring and Summer of 2024. The in-person and online engagement process was supported by consultants at Brendle Group and MediaDesk. Brendle Group then developed two reports to summarize the engagement results, observations, and interpretations:

- Engagement Report: The engagement report provides a compendium of engagement results and themes.
- Observations and Considerations Report: This report provides observations and interpretation of the results of the engagement process. It offers preliminary considerations to inform rulemaking and the development of the guidelines for regional water planning.

The primary audience for these reports is the NMISC (New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission) Planning Team who will use them to guide the drafting of WSPA rule and guideline language ahead of a formal review, rule promulgation, and guideline adoption process in 2025. The reports also provide accountability and evidence to all those who provided input during the engagement process, documenting how input was interpreted and incorporated into the development of rulemaking and guidelines.

The 2024 engagement process was led by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission's (NMISC) planning team. Consultants from Media Desk and Brendle Group provided technical expertise and additional capacity to support NMISC with the statewide public engagement effort. The engagement process included one open house held in each of New Mexico's 16 water regions from the previous rounds of planning. To expand participation beyond the in-person open houses, an online open house was provided on the Main Stream New Mexico website. In total, more than 710 people attended open houses in-person and another 1,600 completed the online survey. Together, these efforts garnered more than 25,000 unique responses (i.e., dots placed, comments written, survey questions completed) to inform WSPA rule and guideline development. The companion Engagement Report, which provides a detailed summary of engagement activities and results, is available at https://mainstreamnm.org/wpcontent/uploads/2024/10/NMISC-Regional-Water-Planning-Engagement-Summary-FINAL.pdf.

UTAH

Utah's Strength Is Tied to Its Water Future

Utah is best known for its breathtaking natural landscapes, abundant outdoor recreation, dynamic economy and entrepreneurial spirit. The state has consistently ranked among the nation's top performers, earning the No. 1 spot in the U.S. News & World Report Best States rankings for the third year in a row. Utah placed first in economic stability and third overall in economy and infrastructure — a testament to its diverse industries and balanced growth.

Behind this success lies a foundational truth: Utah's prosperity and quality of life are directly tied to its ability to manage, protect, and develop its most vital resource—water.

Utah's Reliance on the Colorado River

Over one-quarter of Utah's water supply comes from the Colorado River, a lifeline for 40 million people across the West. Utah's allocation represents 23% of the Upper Basin's available supply, and how the state manages that water is central to its long-term future.

Most of Utah's Colorado River allocation supports agriculture, helping farmers and ranchers sustain rural economies and food production. Recognizing the challenges of a prolonged drought and shifting climate, in 2025, Utah launched the Utah Demand Management Pilot Program, a voluntary, compensated effort that encourages agricultural water users to temporarily reduce consumption. This program is designed not only to save water but also to evaluate how reductions can be measured, tracked, and credited for long-term benefit.

Water rights held by Utah's Tribal nations also play a significant role. Nearly 20% of the state's Colorado River allocation is used by Tribes, including the Navajo Nation and the Ute Indian Tribe. Congress ratified the Navajo Nation's settlement of 81,500 acre-feet in 2020, while the Ute Indian Tribe holds rights to 144,000 acre-feet with potential for more pending ratification. Utah continues to support the resolution and implementation of Tribal water rights, ensuring benefits flow to Native communities.

Municipal and industrial uses account for less than 10% of Utah's Colorado River supply, much of it delivered through the Central Utah Project (CUP). This federal project provides more than 100,000 acre-feet annually to many of Utah's largest population centers, underscoring the river's role in supporting both rural and urban communities.

Investing in Better Data and Smarter Use

To manage a resource as critical as the Colorado River, Utah is doubling down on accurate measurement and transparent reporting. The 2023 Metering and Gaging Gap Analysis identified opportunities to expand the state's water measurement network, providing better data for planning and accountability. Improved reporting standards now align Utah more closely with other basin states, enabling water providers to track consumptive use and monitor conservation achievements with greater precision.

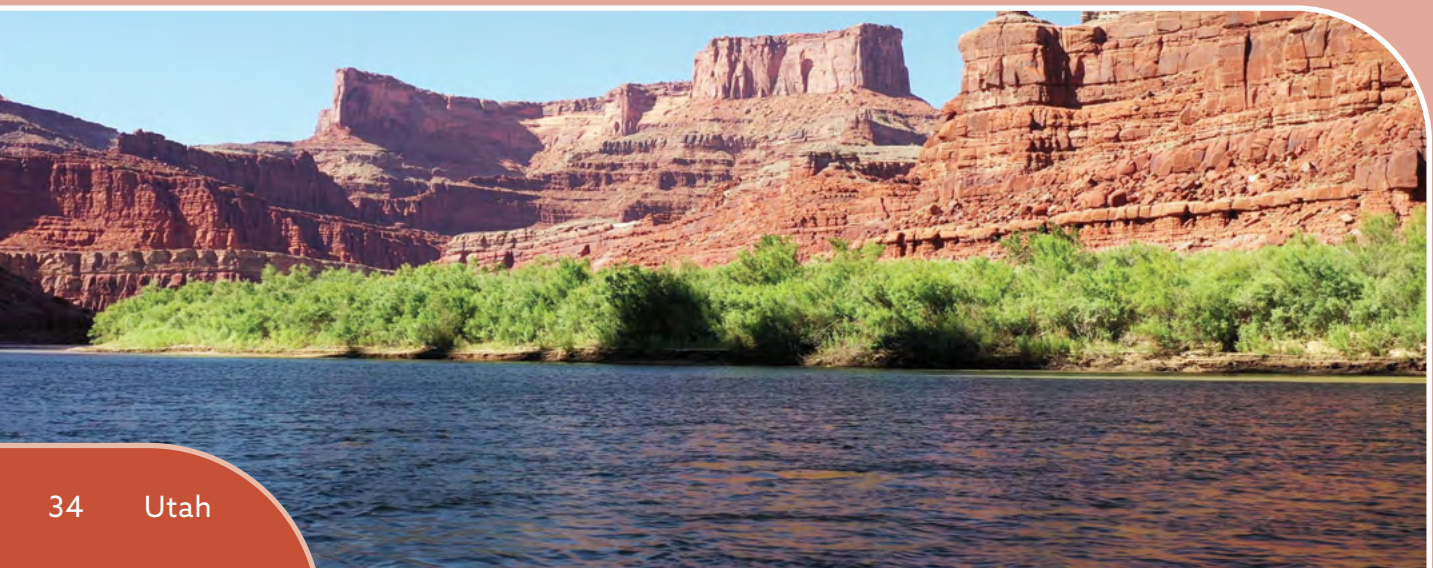
These changes build on a growing suite of statewide conservation efforts, including:

- Expanding indoor and outdoor efficiency programs
- Replacing non-functional grass with drought-tolerant landscaping while protecting tree canopies
- Increasing water reuse and recycling where feasible
- Incentivizing efficiency through conservation-based rate structures
- Accelerating water loss detection programs
- Coordinating land use and water planning more effectively

Shaping the Colorado River's Future

Utah is deeply engaged in shaping the future operations of Lakes Powell and Mead, the two reservoirs that anchor the Colorado River system. In March 2024, Utah and the other Upper Division States submitted a joint Alternative for Post-2026 Operations, outlining strategies to protect water supplies. Later that year, Utah signed an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to ensure states receive credit for water conserved through voluntary programs. In 2025, the seven Colorado River Basin States continued to negotiate a consensus plan for Post-2026 Operations. The Utah Colorado River Commissioner represents the state in these negotiations.

These collaborations reflect Utah's commitment to being both a good neighbor and a strong advocate for its own interests in basin-wide negotiations.



Looking Ahead: Utah's Priorities for 2026

Building on this momentum, the Colorado River Authority of Utah has outlined a robust agenda for 2026. Priorities include:

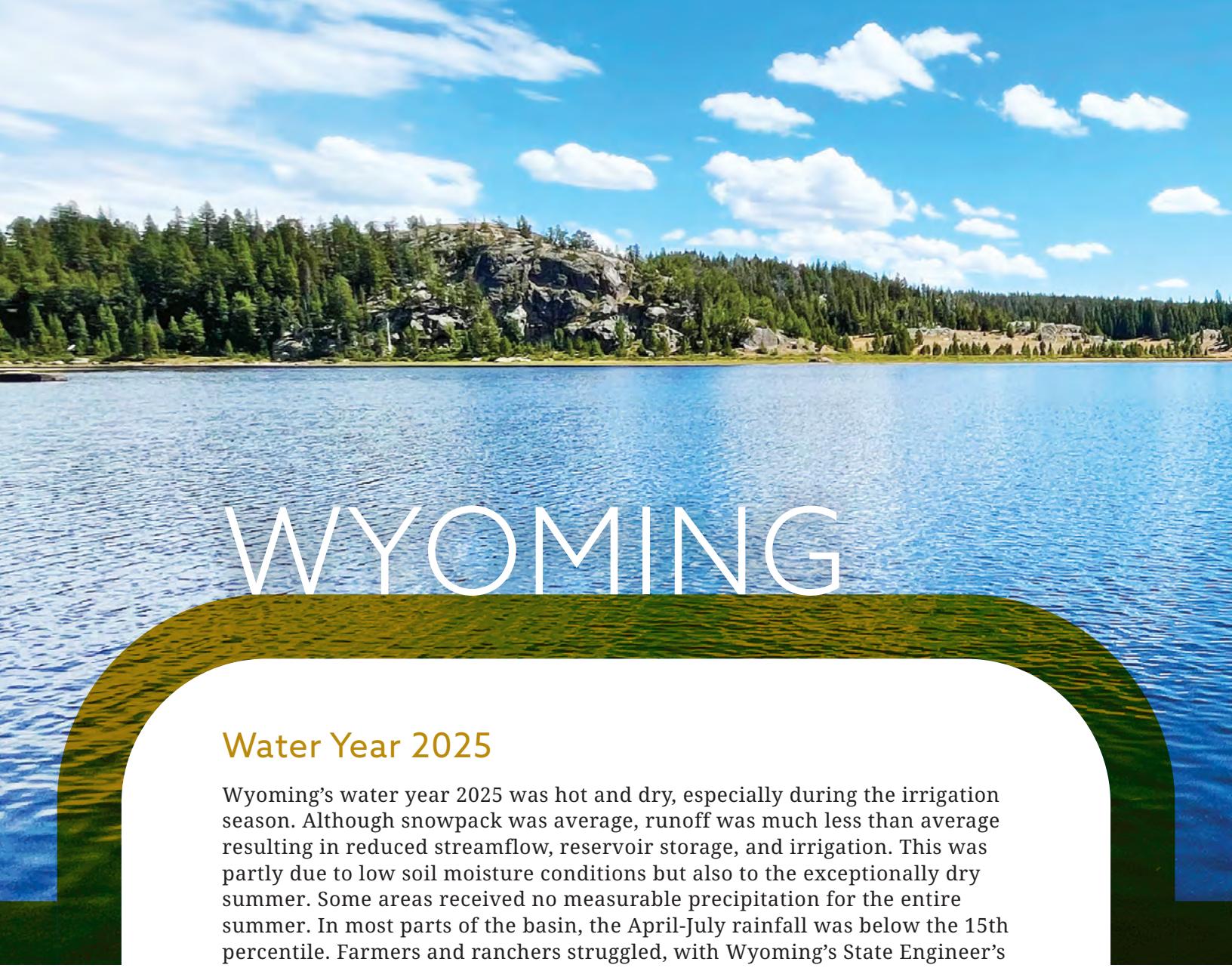
- Expanding participation in intrastate and interstate river activities
- Investing in streamflow and diversion measurement for more reliable data
- Installing agricultural instrumentation to better track farm-level water use
- Leveraging satellite technology for efficient, cost-effective water accounting
- Enhancing water supply forecasting under variable hydrology
- Conducting research and field demonstrations to optimize water use and reduce demand
- Tapping federal funding to extend the impact of state resources
- Testing drought mitigation strategies with potential for basin-wide scaling
- Developing the Utah Colorado River Accounting and Forecasting (UCRAF) model, a platform that integrates data, forecasting, and operations into one transparent tool

By pursuing these initiatives, Utah is not only addressing today's challenges but also preparing for a future where every drop counts.

A Balanced Path Forward

Utah's story is one of balance—between growth and conservation, agriculture and cities, present needs and future security. Water has always been at the heart of Utah's development, and it will continue to define the state's resilience and prosperity.

By investing in measurement, conservation, and collaboration, Utah is positioning itself as a leader in the Colorado River Basin. Protecting this shared resource isn't just about sustaining Utah's economy or landscapes—it's about safeguarding the quality of life for generations to come.



WYOMING

Water Year 2025

Wyoming's water year 2025 was hot and dry, especially during the irrigation season. Although snowpack was average, runoff was much less than average resulting in reduced streamflow, reservoir storage, and irrigation. This was partly due to low soil moisture conditions but also to the exceptionally dry summer. Some areas received no measurable precipitation for the entire summer. In most parts of the basin, the April-July rainfall was below the 15th percentile. Farmers and ranchers struggled, with Wyoming's State Engineer's Office regulating off at least 164,000 acres of irrigation—this regulation produces involuntary and uncompensated reductions. For comparison, 176,000 acres were regulated off in 2021, one of the driest years in the last century. During September, the Green River gage near La Barge, Wyoming recorded the lowest flows in its 50-year record.

Predictably, hot and dry conditions in Wyoming's headwaters and elsewhere in the basin produced negative impacts to Lake Powell. 2025 Lake Powell inflows were about 4.7 million acre-feet while releases were 7.48 million acre-feet, resulting in a significant storage reduction. The reduced Lake Powell storage levels triggered planning to begin under the Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) and will continue through April 2026. Although DROA actions may only require retiming of monthly Lake Powell releases, they may also require releases from upstream Initial Units, such as Flaming Gorge. The magnitude of any 2026 DROA releases will depend on next winter's snowpack and resulting streamflow, as well as possible reductions in Lake Powell releases under its current operating rules. Wyoming will remain fully involved in that process recognizing Flaming Gorge's importance to Wyoming's local economy as well as its purpose of providing a critical buffer for dry years.

In response to the Colorado River's historically dry conditions, Wyoming continues to act proactively and remains committed to helping develop collaborative solutions. Wyoming has commenced and continues to make progress on multiple studies, many which are designed to improve our ability to measure water supply and water use and continue to build upon the commitments we've fulfilled under the 2019 Demand Management Storage Agreement. Sharing federal funding with the other Upper Basin States, Wyoming has installed five eddy covariance towers to help ground truth remote sensing consumptive use estimates. We continue to support field studies with the University of Wyoming, Trout Unlimited, and The Nature Conservancy to better quantify conservation and understand the impacts of fallowing and irrigation timing. Wyoming continues to coordinate with the USGS to install 30 new stream gages, and has begun studies on reservoir evaporation and airborne snowpack observation with runoff forecasting. Wyoming has also initiated a program to improve diversion measurement data, as well as assist water users, by funding a portion of the costs for new measurement devices on thousands of diversions.

With funding from Wyoming's legislature, Wyoming continues to enhance its water management tools. We are developing a Wyoming-specific river model similar to that used by Reclamation; constructing a data-sharing site for stream flows, diversions, and reservoir level data (GreenRiverBasin.org); conducting transit loss studies on Green River and New Fork River upstream of Flaming Gorge Reservoir; and studying impacts of water availability on consumptive use. Wyoming has also spent considerable resources improving our inventory of water diversions regarding conditions and locations.

Wyoming is also actively pursuing tools to effectively engage in voluntary water conservation. Wyoming and its Congressional delegation have supported reauthorization of the System Conservation Pilot Program. That program would provide for temporary, voluntary, and compensated water conservation in the Upper Basin. Additionally, Wyoming and the other Upper Basin States have developed and implemented demonstration projects under the provisional accounting memorandum of understanding they entered with the Bureau of Reclamation in late 2024. The contemplated accounting is necessary to quantify and receive necessary credit for Upper Basin water conservation. Finally, Wyoming is pursuing legislative authorization for a pilot voluntary water conservation program. The potential program is intended to build on all of the substantial work Wyoming has previously performed regarding voluntary water conservation, and aims to provide a program which can effectively work for Wyoming water users under Wyoming's unique laws and circumstances as well as effectively contribute to a broader Upper Basin conservation program. Wyoming's Legislature approved the topic for study in early 2025 which may lead to the consideration of authorizing legislation in the 2026 legislative session. To advance the effort, between May and September of 2025, the Wyoming State Engineer met with the interim legislative committee twice, held multiple public meetings with the Wyoming Colorado River Advisory Committee, and conducted three public meetings in the Green and Little Snake River basins. While Wyoming remains fully committed to collaborative solutions, any solution must adequately assess and mitigate impacts to Wyoming's water users, its natural resources, and its affected communities.

TEN TRIBES PARTNERSHIP

The Ten Tribes Partnership Has Developed and Approved the Following Principles to Guide its Work on River Policy Going Forward:

- As indigenous people, we are closely connected to the land and natural resources and take seriously our obligation to protect and defend the Colorado River, as well as the plants, animals, people and ecosystems that rely on the river.
- Continued drought has created extreme uncertainty for users of Colorado River water and concerns about the health of the river itself.
- Insu#icient water availability will have drastic consequences for our tribes, who rely heavily on the river for commercial, domestic, cultural and spiritual purposes.
- Collectively, the Ten Tribes hold rights to more than 20% of the Colorado River's current estimated flow, and tribal water, therefore, plays an important role in supply and demand.
- The Ten Tribes must be included in a meaningful way in shaping river policy going forward.
- Part of this policy must be an acknowledgment of the extent of tribal water rights, a recognition of tribes' rights to use that water, and a commitment to assist tribes in benefitting from those water rights.
- It is time to stop thinking about tribal water rights as a problem to be solved and start thinking about tribes and tribal water rights as integral to solving the basin's problems.
- For the Ten Tribes, compensated forbearance, o#-reservation marketing and protection of future rights to on-reservation development, will be necessary components of any future river management system.
- We must acknowledge that the water supply in the Colorado River was overestimated to start with and is shrinking year by year.
- We must take steps to address supply/ demand imbalances while protecting tribal water rights, the river, the reservoirs, and the plants, fish, birds and other species that depend on the river system for survival.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes

The Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) continues to leverage the momentum gained from the passage of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Water Resiliency Act of 2022 (Pub. L. No. 117-343). The Tribes are in the process of developing a Water Code and have begun the public engagement process for full implementation.

CRIT has been working with the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Audubon Society on designing a multi-purpose reservoir on tribal lands that will provide significant fish and wildlife benefits while also helping to increase the eTiciency of the Colorado River Irrigation Project. Work on this planning and design study will continue in 2026.

CRIT has entered into a partnership with Indigena Capital to form ‘Amat Kuhwely, a modern tribal majority-owned farming company. ‘Amat Kuhwely will expand farming operations, improve infrastructure, and increase water use eTiciency. CRIT will now be able to further develop its agricultural lands and more fully utilize its Decreed water rights.

The Tribal Council is pursuing a resolution bestowing legal “Personhood” status upon the Colorado River that flows through the Reservation, enshrining in law the Colorado River Indian Tribes’ ancient and inherent connection to the River, and providing a new basis for protecting this valuable resource.

During these times of scarcity and uncertainty on the River, CRIT remains unwaveringly committed to protecting the current priority system and ensuring that the Decree in Arizona v. California is strictly adhered to.

Jicarilla Apache Nation

The Jicarilla Apache Nation's 1992 water settlement resolved the Nation's future-use water-rights claims in the Colorado River system. Since 1992, the Jicarilla Apache Nation has been actively engaged in efforts to put this water to use. The Jicarilla Apache Nation currently subleases a portion of its settlement water to support residential communities, endangered species and resource development.

In 2022, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and The Nature Conservancy, entered into an innovative water sharing agreement that allows the State of New Mexico to lease up to 20,000 acre-feet of water from the Jicarilla Apache Nation each year to benefit threatened and endangered species and to provide water security for communities, while also providing additional benefits to the Nation and its project partners.

In 2023, 2024, and 2025, 20,000 acre-feet of water was ordered and was released pursuant to the agreement. The agreement demonstrates how tribal and state governments and conservation organizations can work together to find collaborative solutions that benefit multiple interests and users at a time in the Colorado River Basin when these kind of win-win-win projects are so important.

In 2025, the Nation received the prestigious Honoring Nations award from Harvard's Project on Indigenous Governance and Development, recognizing the water sharing agreement as an outstanding example of effective self-governance, an honor that the Nation shares with its project partners--the NM Interstate Stream Commission and The Nature Conservancy. In 2025, the Nation also completed construction necessary to convey 1,200 acre feet of drinking water from the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project to the southern portion of the Nation's reservation lands, an area previously served by only a few unreliable groundwater wells. With the addition of a reliable water supply, this area of the Nation's reservation is now available for a range of new uses that will benefit to the Nation and its members.

Navajo Nation

Approximately one in three Navajo households haul water to meet their daily water needs. In 2009, Congress ratified the Navajo Nation – New Mexico Water Rights Settlement Agreement for the San Juan River Basin through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), authorizing construction of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP).

The NGWSP consists of two laterals, the San Juan Lateral and the Cutter Lateral. The Navajo Nation is benefiting from the NGWSP Cutter Lateral completion, where 1,550 households with a population of over 6,200 have been receiving clean, safe drinking water access since 2020. The San Juan Lateral is still under construction. On April 16, 2025, a groundbreaking and blessing was held for $267 million San Juan Lateral Water Treatment Plant. On Sept. 20, 2024, Secretary Deb Haaland provided official notice approving a 5-year extension to the completion dates for the Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation Project, the Hogback-Cudei Irrigation Project, and the NavajoGallup Water Supply Project, as specified in Public Law 111-11.

In February 2025, U.S. Senators Luján, Heinrich, and Curtis, and U.S. Representatives Leger Fernández and Stanbury introduced the NGWSP Amendments Act of 2025, S.637 / H.R.1482. This bill is needed to authorize additional time and resources to complete the NGWSP and create an operations and maintenance trust fund. In the FY2025 Continuing Resolution, the cost ceiling was increased, allowing the FY25 funding to be released for continued construction.

In 2023 and 2024, the Navajo Nation was engaged with 38 parties, including the Hopi Tribeand San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, negotiating the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement, a comprehensive settlement including Upper Colorado River, mainstem Lower Colorado River, and Little Colorado River water rights claims. In May 2024, the Navajo Nation approved the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement. In March 2025, Senators Kelly and Gallego introduced S.953, the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act. A companion House bill H.R.2025 was introduced by Representative Juan Ciscomani and co-sponsored by Representatives Stanton, Schweikert, Grijalva, Crane, and Ansari.

From 2022 to 2024, the Navajo Nation actively negotiated terms of the Navajo Nation Rio San José Basin Stream System Water Rights Settlement Agreement with the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna, N.M., the Village of Milan, City of Grants, and nine individual acequias and community ditches. In May 2024, the Rio San José Basin Stream System Water Rights Settlement Agreement was approved by the Navajo Nation. In February 2025, Representative Ledger-Fernandez introduced H.R.1324 with Representatives Stansbury and Vasquez, the Navajo Nation Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act. A companion bill, S.565, to H.R.1324 was introduced by Senators Heinrich and Luján. On March 5, 2025, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs marked up the reintroduced bill.

The Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act, Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act, and Navajo Nation Rio San Jose Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act, currently pending in the 119th Congress, will provide certainty for the Navajo Nation's permanent homeland's future and an equal opportunity for health and prosperity for the Navajo people.

The Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act became enforceable on September 15, 2025. The Navajo Utah Water Rights Implementation Team continues working on required tasks before the implementation of water projects. The Navajo Nation is also working to secure its water rights in the Little Colorado River Basin (Zuni River) and the Rio Salado in New Mexico.

Quechan Tribe

In 2025, the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe continued to build on its network of successful partnerships across the public, private, and NGO sectors to secure funding to plan and implement important water conservation initiatives, infrastructure improvements and ecosystem restoration projects on the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation (Reservation). Among other initiatives, the Tribe implemented the third year of its System Conservation Implementation Agreement with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and the Bureau of Reclamation to conserve another 13,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead (for a total of 39,000 acre-feet over the past three years), as well as the fourth year of a seasonal fallowing program in partnership with MWD, and the third year of its own seasonal fallowing program. The Tribe also continued to work independently and in partnership with the Bard Water District, BlueCommons, and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to implement efficiency improvements and other water conservation measures on the Reservation, including the lining of the Reservation Main Canal, which has reduced seepage and improving efficiency for water deliveries to large portions of the Yuma Project Reservation Division. With support from the Walton Family Foundation, the Tribe was able to expand its water management department to build additional internal capacity. The Tribe also continued to steward the Yuma East Wetlands and worked to restore additional land on the Reservation to better ecological health."

Southern Ute

The 1988 Colorado Ute Settlement Act, as amended by 2000 amendments and Colorado state court consent decrees, quantified the water rights of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe ("Southern Ute") in the State of Colorado. Southern Ute has been rehabilitating sections of the Pine River Indian Irrigation Project. Southern Ute was notified that its Bureau of Reclamation B2E funding proposal was selected for funding in the amount of $16.8 million to rebuild an irrigation diversion structure on the Pine River that provides water to 23,000 acres of Tribal and non-tribal agricultural land. Currently, the B2E funding is on hold, and we look forward to the release of this funding to address this important project. In addition, Southern Ute was able to use its Animas La Plata Project water for the first time since the project was built. Southern Ute continues to make progress on its long-term goal of developing the Tribe's water resources.

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Over the past year, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (UMUT) Water Resources Committee along with the Water Resource Department, have made great strides in protecting and developing its water resources. Integral successes like the signing of the Animas-La Plata (ALP) OM&R Contract addressing first use and forbearance at last year's 2024 CRWUA Conference, and continued funding for the Tribe's Water Resources Department from the Walton Family Foundation, Colorado River Sustainability Campaign- New Venture Fund, and the Nature Conservancy, which further supports UMUT's goal of building and retaining capacity within the Tribe. Ute Mountain has been actively engaging with the Upper Division States and Upper Basin Tribes, as well as working with the Nature Conservancy, State of Colorado, and Grand Canyon Trust on a Community and Climate Resiliency Project, an initiative developed to help support climate and drought impacts in the Ute Mountain community through a long-term funding mechanism.

Looking forward, the Tribe continues to work on an Upper Basin Concept Paper regarding a Lake Powell Savings Pool and Tribal Deferred Development Program, the UMUT Sweetwater Pumpback Storage Project using leased water from the Jicarilla Apache Nation in the final stages, continuing work on finding options for the Tribe's ALP water, upgrading pivots, telemetry systems, and water saving crops at Ute Mountain Farm & Ranch Enterprise, starting on a Colorado Water Plan Grant funded Feasibility Study for the Tribe's unused water rights in Colorado, and ongoing Utah and New Mexico Settlement negotiations.


CRWUA
COLORADO RIVER WATER USERS ASSOCIATION
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