



Federal Government Declares First-Ever “Tier One” Water Shortage at Lake Mead

PHOENIX - For the first time in history, the Bureau of Reclamation, the federal agency that oversees Colorado River operations, declared a Tier 1 water shortage at Lake Mead. This declaration will result in reduced water deliveries from Lake Mead for Arizona and Nevada as well as Mexico under a binational agreement.

In response to the report, the Water for Arizona Coalition issued the following statement:

“This is the first time a Tier One water shortage has been declared in the Colorado River Basin, but climate change and aridification across the Southwest mean it won’t be the last. In Arizona, we must learn to do more with less water and work harder to conserve our supplies of surface water and groundwater. Two years ago, elected officials, Tribes, business leaders, farmers, NGOs, and many others came together to produce a historic drought contingency plan for the Colorado River Basin. The next stages of that plan will now go into effect starting this January, including much larger water cutbacks to help mitigate the worst effects of the Colorado River water shortage. For our communities to thrive in the face of climate change, we must continue to adapt to using significantly less Colorado River water than in the past and implement proven solutions.”

For more information on solutions to build climate resilience in the Colorado River Basin, visit:
www.tenstrategies.net

The Water for Arizona Coalition is a community of Arizonans who support innovative practices and smart policies to ensure a reliable water supply to meet the state's needs. The Coalition was recently recognized as an Arizona Capitol Times “2020 Leader of the Year” for their efforts in protecting Arizona's most valuable resource. Organizational support is provided by solution-oriented groups like American Rivers, Audubon Arizona, Business for Water Stewardship, Environmental Defense Action Fund, and Western Resource Advocates that collectively have over 60,000 Arizona members, as well as hundreds of hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreation enthusiasts across the state. Kevin Moran, a longtime Arizonan and former government relations consultant, is the Chairman of the Coalition.

