

# The Colorado River and Water 2120

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Water Utility Authority

# An Overview of the Colorado River Compact

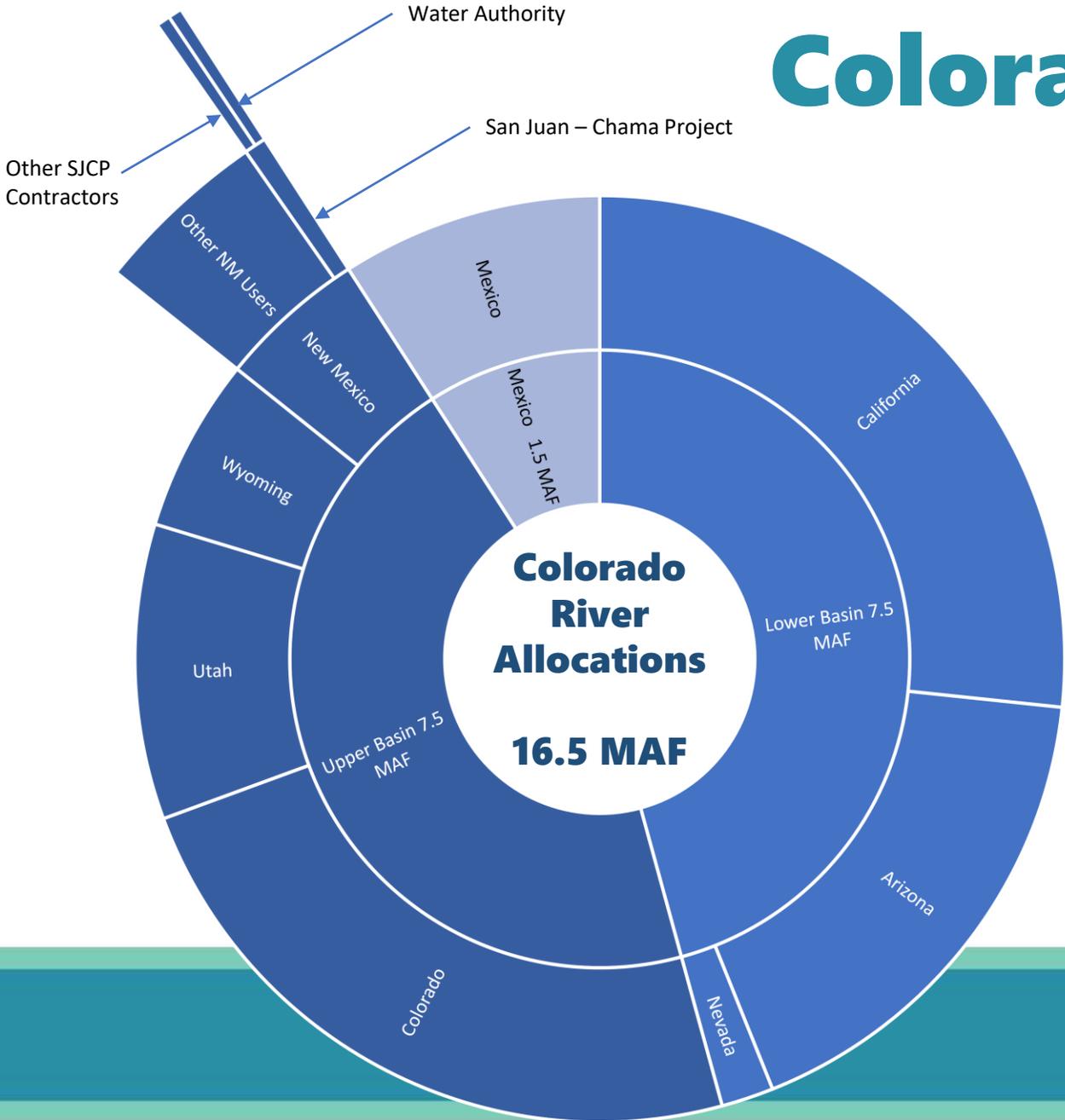
- Final version executed in Bishop's Lodge in Santa Fe in 1922
- 7 basin states share Colorado River Water
- New Mexico apportionment is 11.25% from Upper Colorado River
  - This includes San Juan-Chama Project water



# Colorado River Basin Drought

- Lake Powell and Lake Mead are at critically low elevations due to 23-year long drought
- In response, Department of Interior (DOI) implemented Drought Response Operations Plan with Upper Basin States to maintain power level at Lake Powell
- DOI required a plan for the conservation of 2-4 million acre-feet by all 7 basin states
- Department of Interior in pre-scoping phase of developing post-2026 operations guidelines
- SEIS for Operating Guidelines Revision for 2023-24
- 6 States Consensus Agreement

# Colorado River Allocations



## Upper Colorado River Basin 7.5 MAF per year

Colorado	3.9 MAF (51.75%)
Utah	1.7 MAF (23%)
Wyoming	1.0 MAF (14%)
New Mexico	0.85 MAF (11.25%)

## Lower Colorado River Basin 7.5 MAF per year

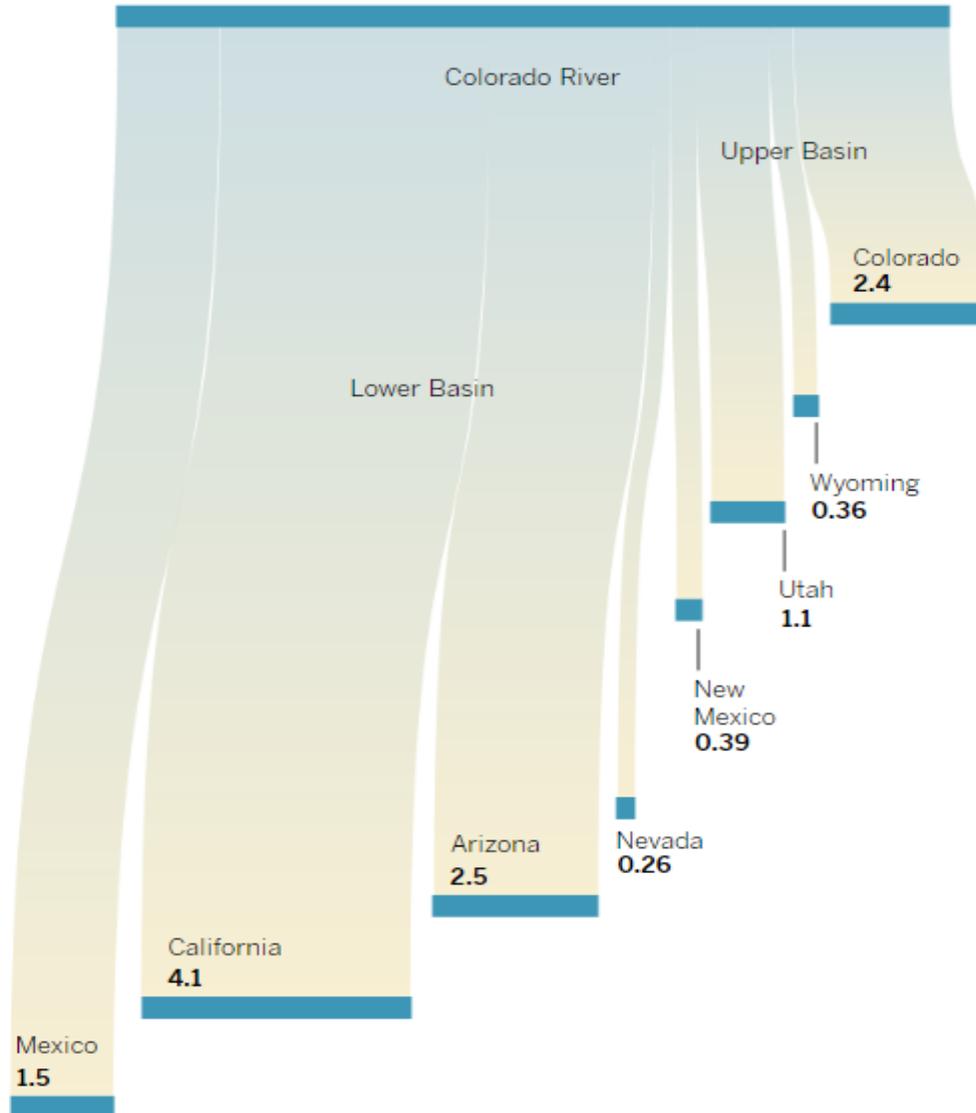
California	4.4 MAF
Arizona	2.85 MAF
Nevada	0.30 MAF

MAF: million acre-feet

## Where Colorado River water goes

In 2020, U.S. states used more than 11 million acre-feet of Colorado River water, while Mexico used about 1.5 million acre-feet.

Water use in millions of acre-feet



# Colorado River 2020 Usage

Does not include ~1.8M acre-feet  
lost to evaporation

Not charted is an estimated 1.8 million acre-feet of water that was lost to evaporation from major reservoirs in 2020.  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation consumptive use figures



# Recent Water Authority Actions

- Monthly meetings with NM Interstate Stream Commission (ISC)
- Coordination with ISC and NM Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission
- Water Efficiency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with major municipal water systems in Colorado River Basin States
- Letter to BOR Commissioner Touton discussing Water 2120
- Providing updates and information on Water Authority Conservation Program and planning



# Partnerships and Collaboration

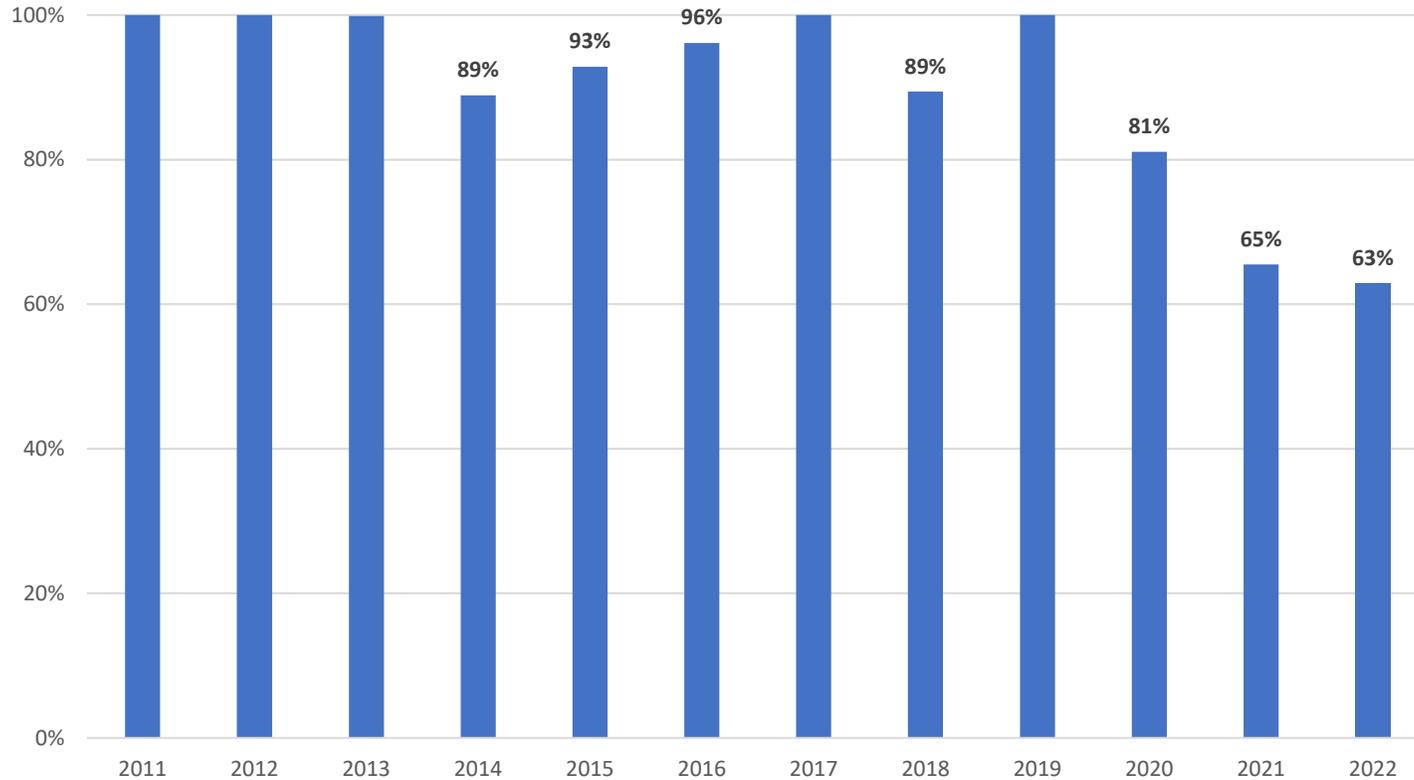


- San Juan-Chama Project Contractors Association (SJCPCA) established in 2021
  - Water Authority is SJCPCA fiscal agent and staff provide administrative and technical support
- SJCPCA currently working with Reclamation to review asset repair and replacement
  - SJCPCA funded an Asset Management Plan to detail condition and needs for repairs
- Coordinated SJCP contractor response to Colorado River Basin actions and decisions to advocate for the SJCP
- Participating in the Post 2026 Technical Education Workgroup

# *Water 2120:* Planning for Change



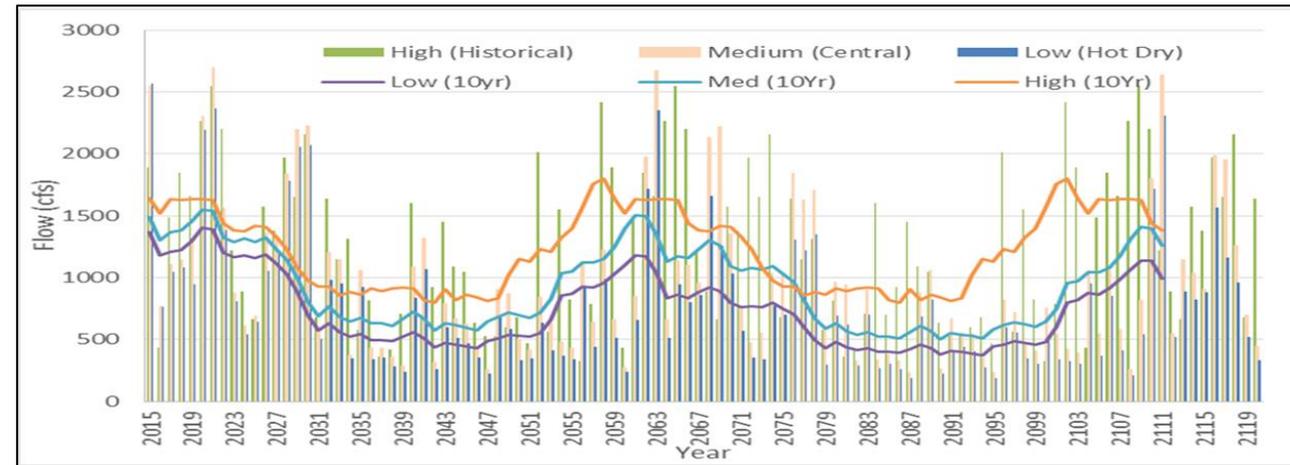
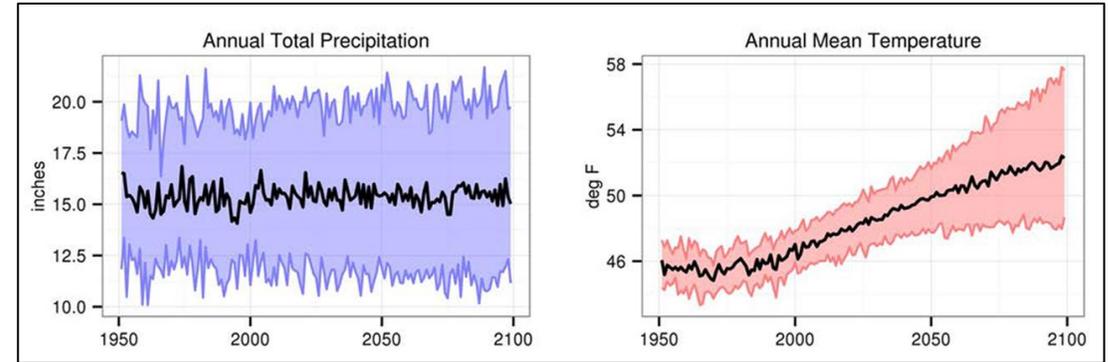
# San Juan-Chama Project Allocations



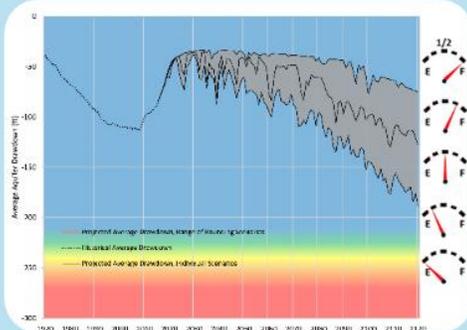
- SJCP has experienced shortages due to hydrology
- SJCP received 63% of full allocation in 2022

# Climate Change and Supply Availability

- *Water 2120* integrates climate change risk analysis
- Predicted spring runoff peaks happening earlier in the year
- Climate change analysis anticipated droughts and shortages in surface water supply



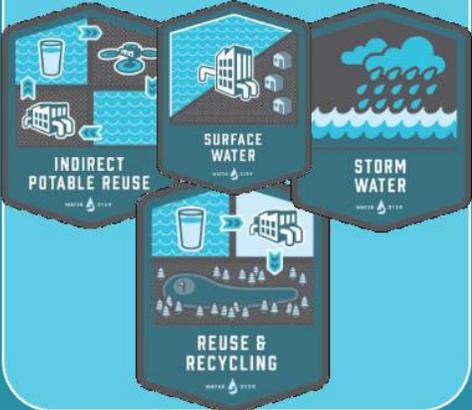
# Key Outcomes of *Water 2120*



## Conserve



## Diversify



## Store

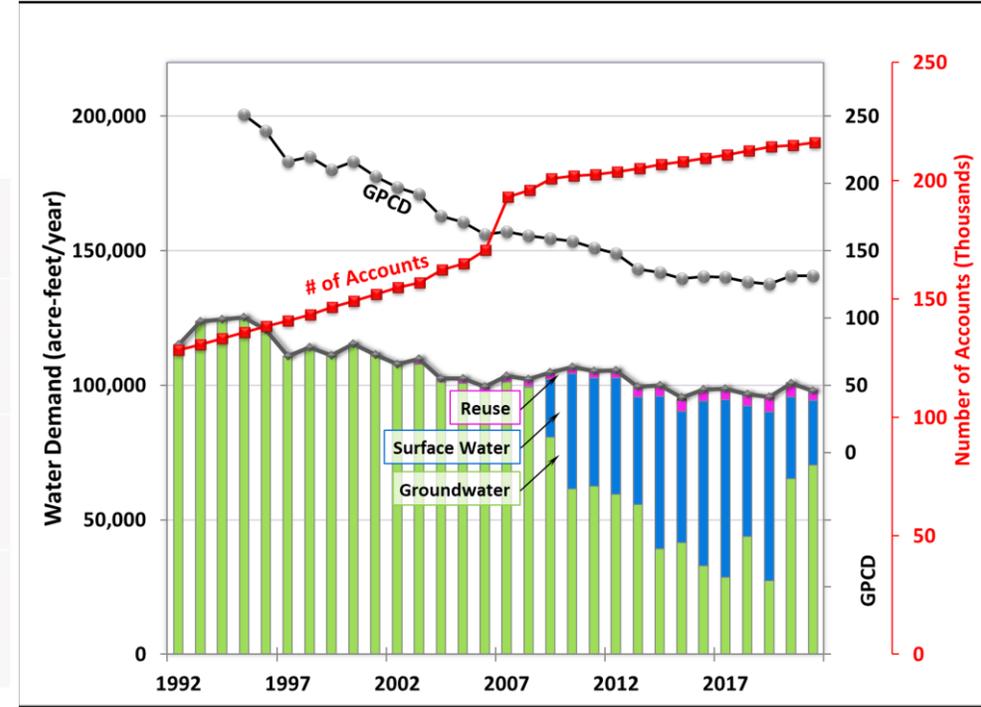
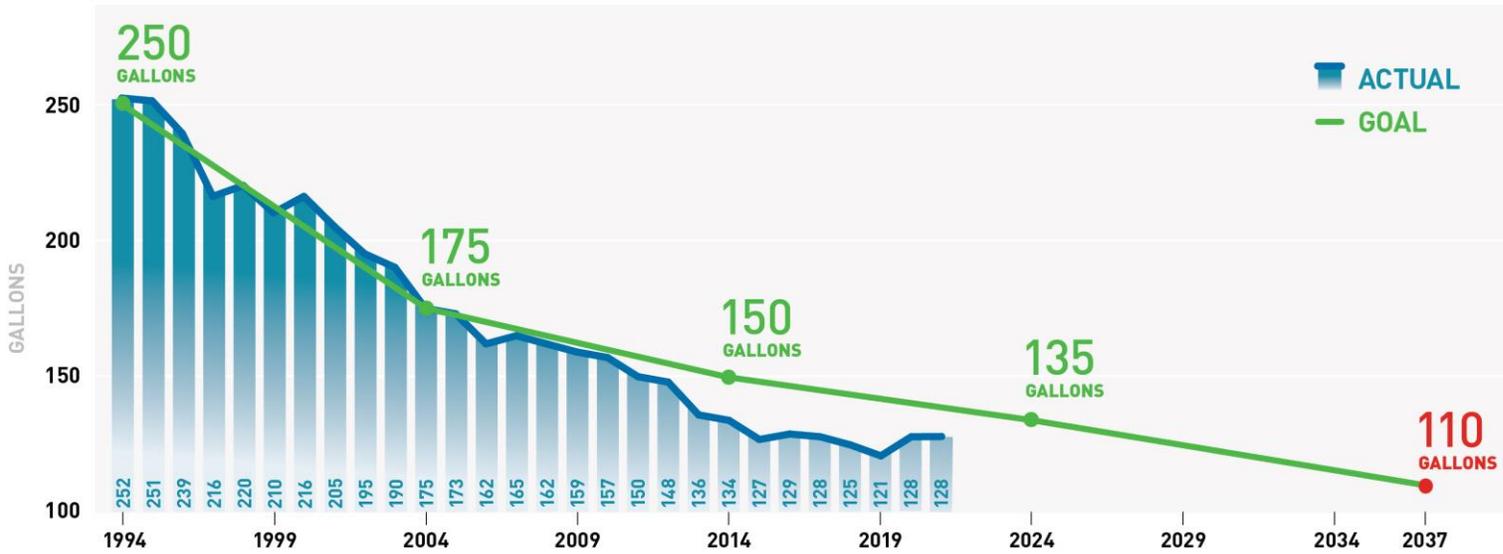


## Manage

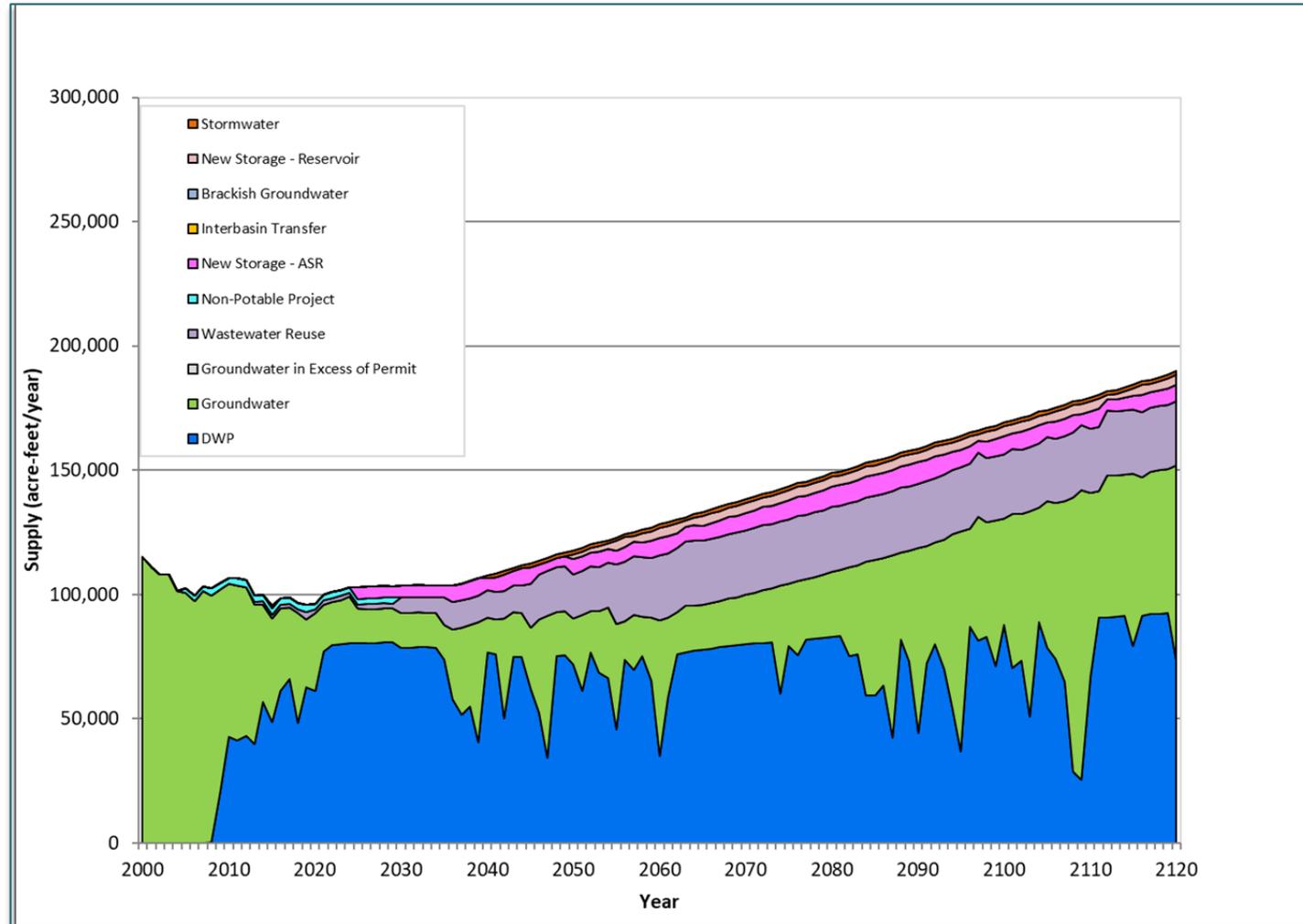


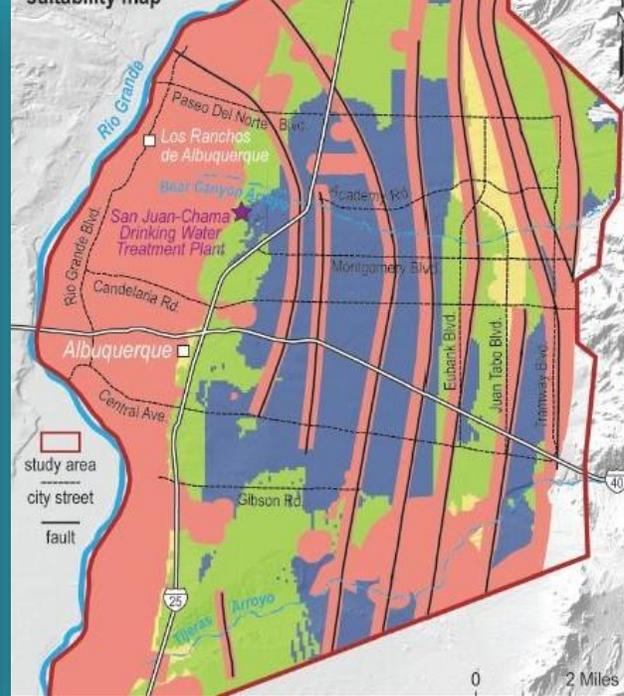
# Water Conservation

## Gallons Per Capita Per Day, 1994-2037



# Diverse Supply Portfolio for Resiliency





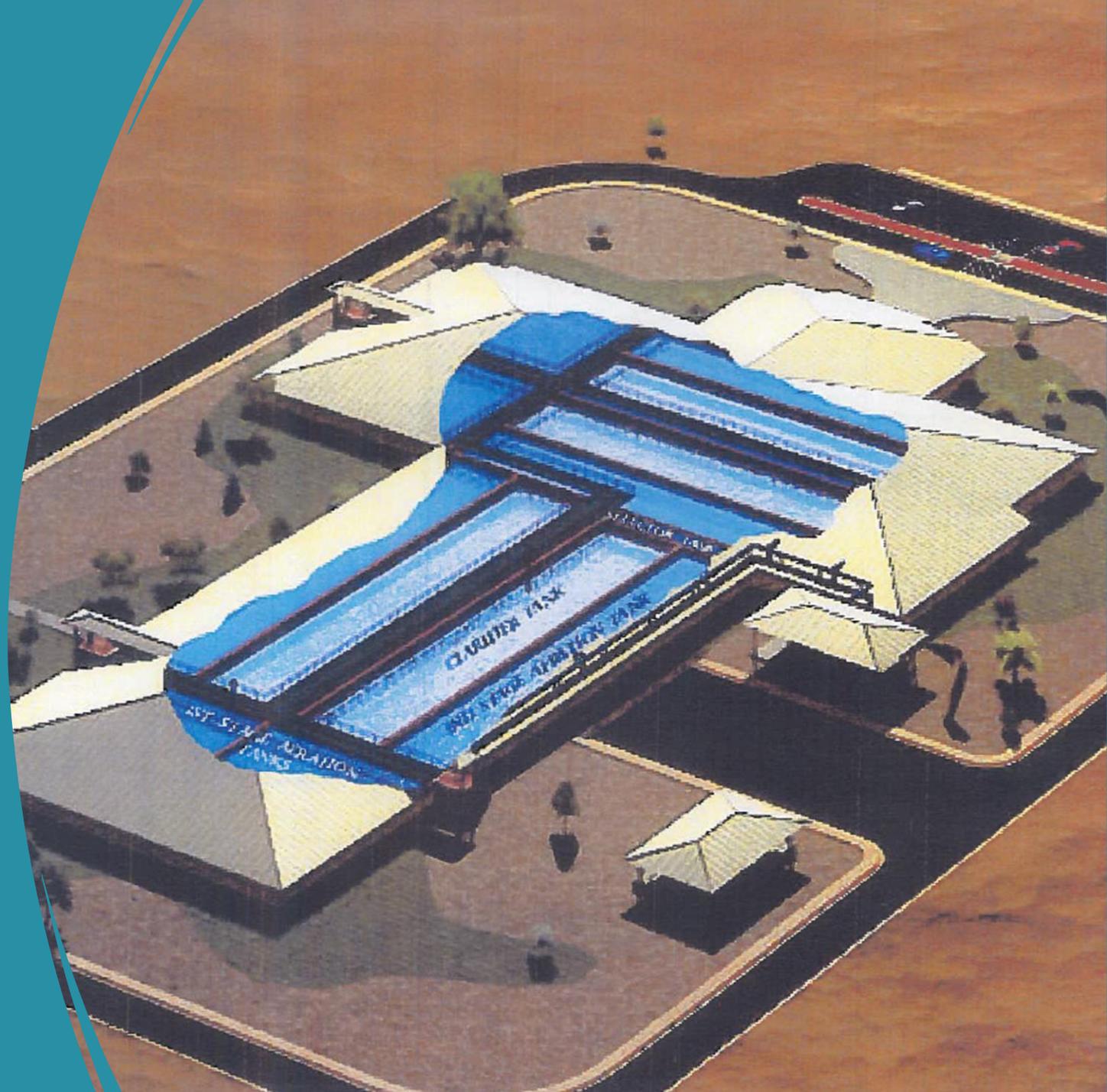
# Aquifer Storage and Recovery

- Two active, full-scale projects
  - Bear Canyon Recharge
  - DWTP Large-Scale Recharge
- Currently 3,900 acre-feet in storage
- Surface recharge and direct injection
- Recharge water is San Juan-Chama surface water
- New ASR project in FY23 Goals and Objectives



# Bosque Reuse Plant

- New wastewater treatment plant
- Divert water from existing Riverside interceptor line
- Expands reuse water for turf irrigation in western service area
- Yield of 1,000 to 7,000 acre-feet per year
- Potential for aquifer storage and recovery



# Connecting South to North Reuse Systems

- Connecting the two existing systems will increase reuse capacity by 50%
- Expand ability to use reuse water for turf irrigation in eastern service area
- Will increase the amount of San Juan-Chama water available for recharge at Bear Canyon
- Conveyance pipe will extend from Southside Water Reclamation Plant (SWRP) to Drinking Water Plant (DWP)

Conceptual alignment scenario

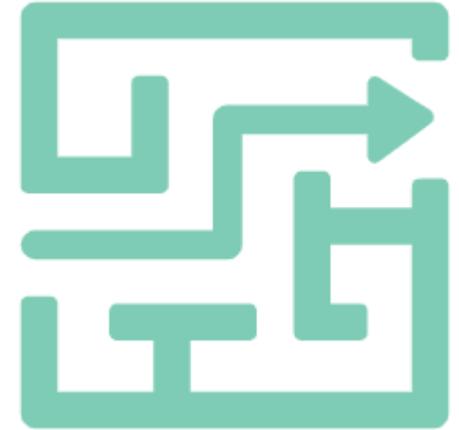
# Increasing Storage at Abiquiu

- Congress authorized concurrent storage of San Juan-Chama and native water by the Water Authority
- Raises the storage elevation for Water Authority stored water from elevation 6,220 to 6,230
- Water Authority is coordinating with NM OSE and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete permitting and contract actions



# Challenges

- Coordination
- Rates
- Increasing ASR
- Financing and Cost of Large Projects
- Balancing Conservation Goals and Revenue
- Time Lag for Results



# Summary

- Water Authority has increased engagement on Colorado River issues
- *Water 2120* is adaptable and will be updated every 10 years – the next update is scheduled for 2026
- Water Authority continues to invest in key projects, including Bosque Reuse Plant
- Leading partner for San Juan-Chama Project
- Infrastructure is required to bring supplies online → long-term planning and funding





**Questions?**



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Water Utility Authority