



SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

# Southern Nevada's Water Resource Strategy: Resilience, Adaptation, and Risk Management

Andrew Burns

Water Resources Division Manager



**The Southern Nevada Water Authority and its member agencies meet the water demands of Southern Nevada's 2 million residents (70% of the state's population) and 40 million annual visitors.**

- **\$93 Billion in Gross Domestic Product**
- **70.4% Nevada Total Gross Domestic Product**

**The Southern Nevada Water Authority is a not-for-profit agency created in 1991 to provide a safe, reliable water supply for Southern Nevada.**



**Regional Water Supply Planning**



**Conservation Programming**



**Water Treatment**

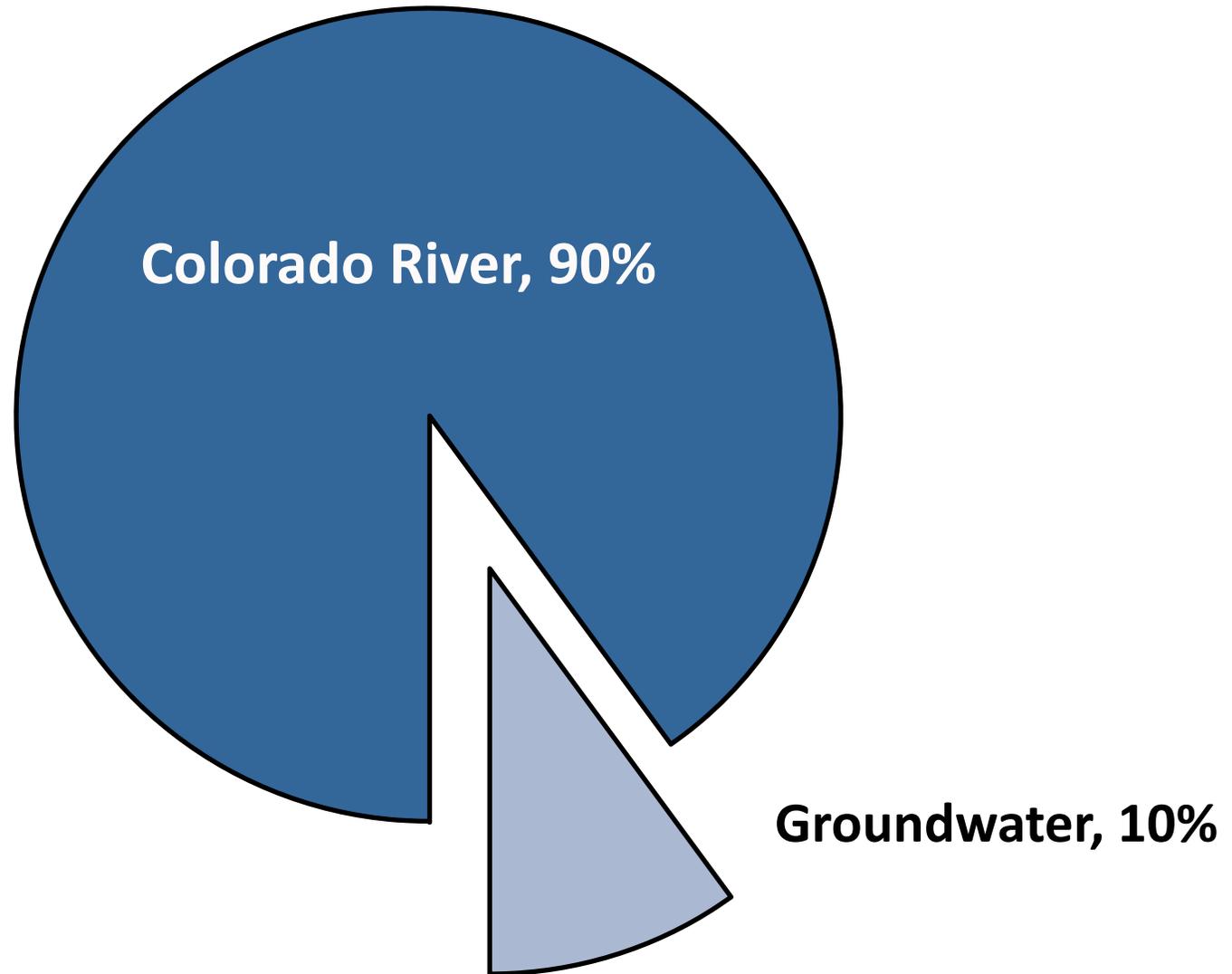


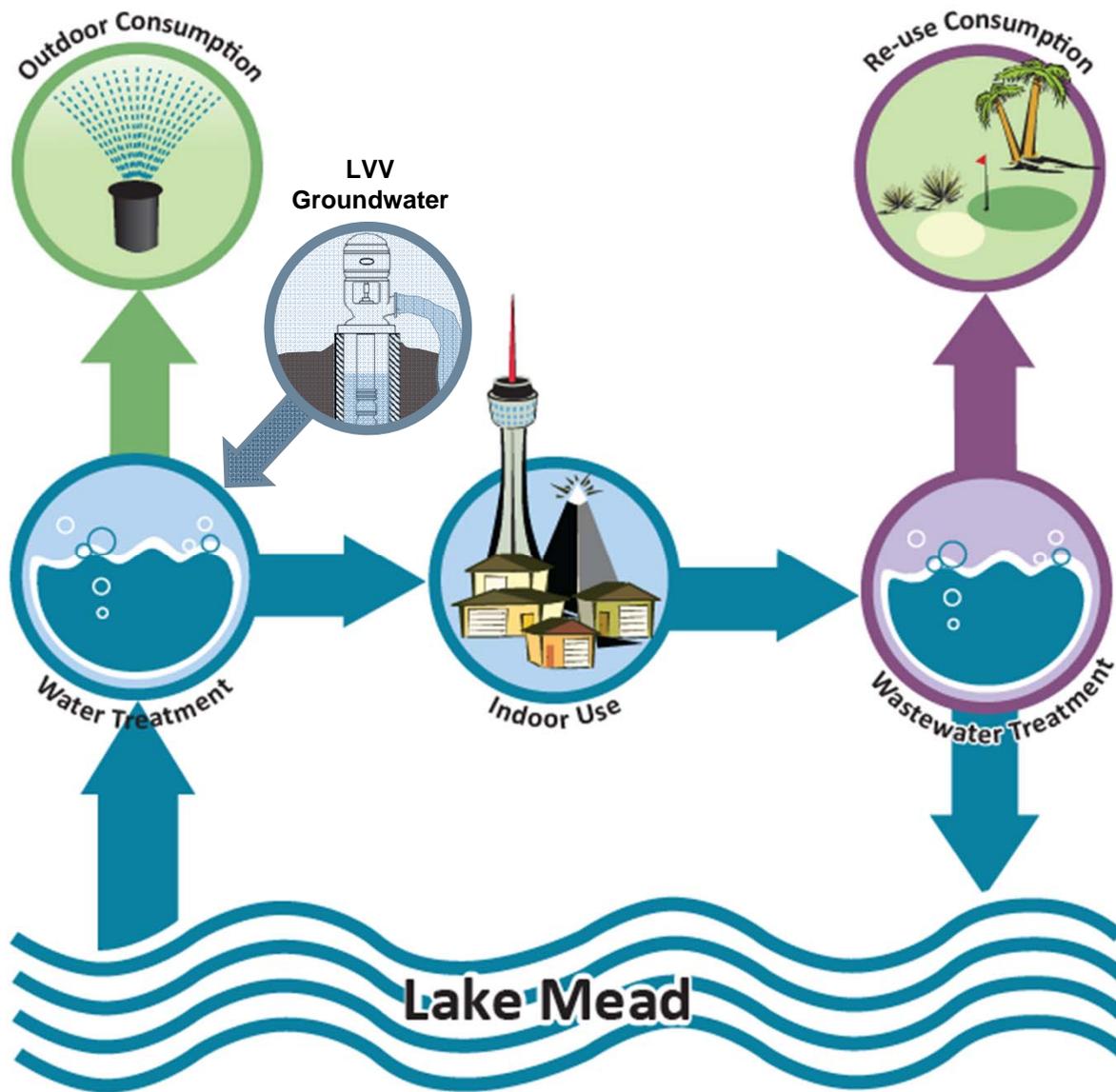
**Facility Construction**



**Regional Facility M&O**

# Potable Water Supplies





**2014 CRW**  
 Diversion 441,122 af  
 Return Flow 216,509 af  
 Consumptive use 224,613 af

**2014 Groundwater**  
 LVVWD 44,550 af  
 NLV 4,758 af

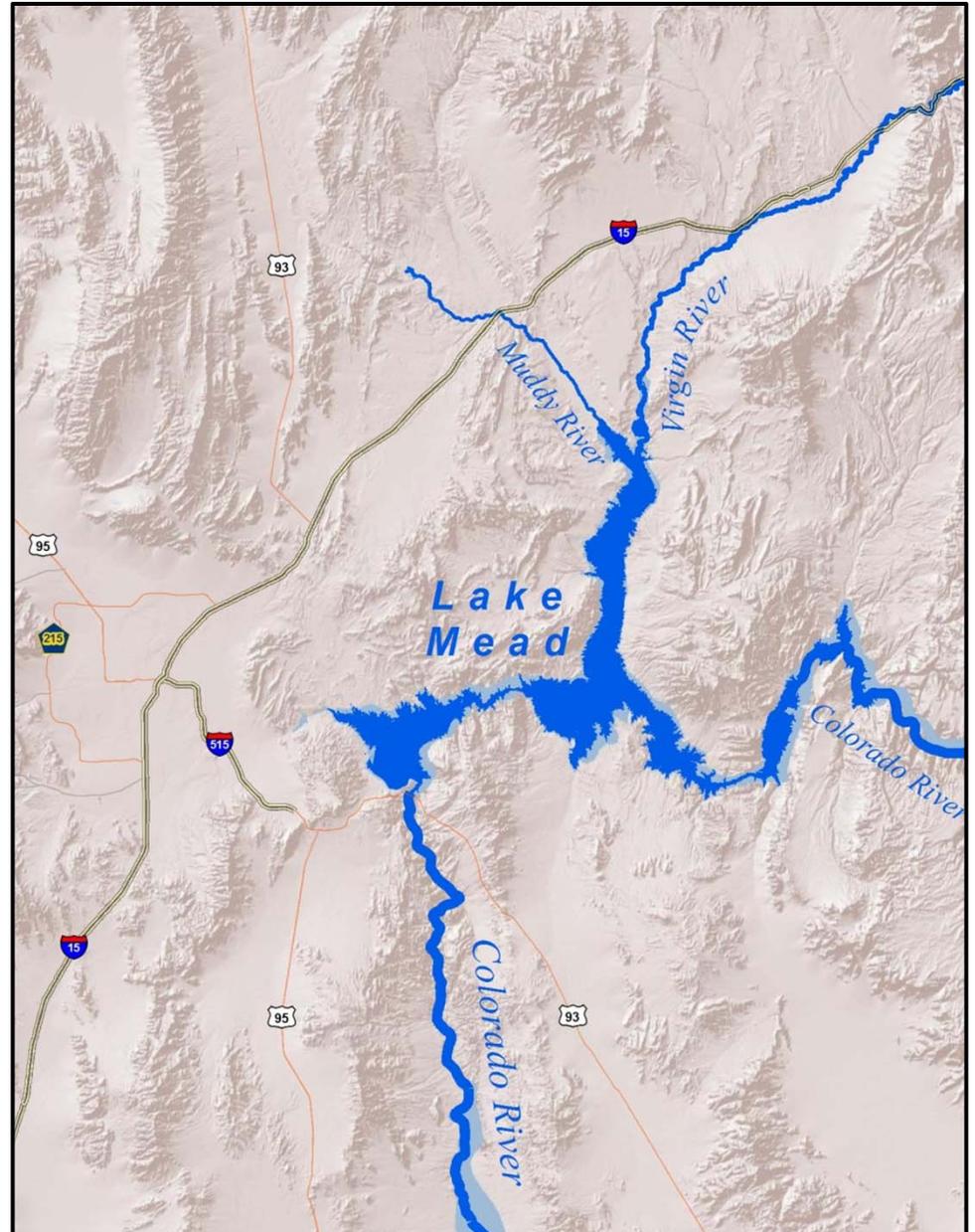
# Colorado River Basin – Basic Facts

- Is more than 1,450 miles long
- Drains 246,000 square miles (approx. 1/12 of the continental U.S.)
- Has an average annual flow of about 15 million acre-feet
- Colorado River water is used in the U.S. by approximately 40 million people for domestic and industrial uses, and to irrigate nearly 5.5 million acres



# Nevada Colorado River Resources

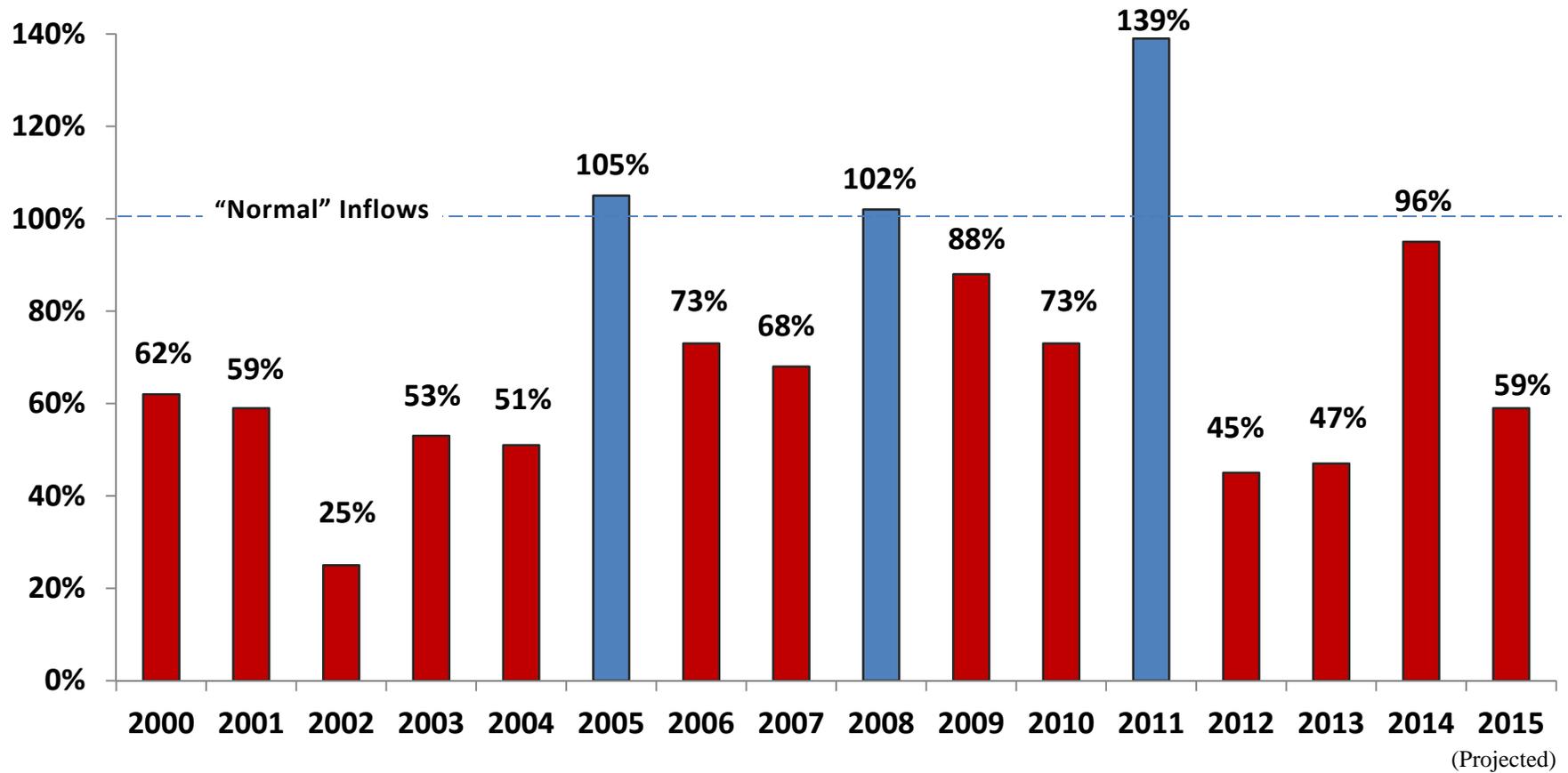
- **300,000** afy consumptive use apportionment
- **> 1.25** maf of interim Colorado River Supplies
  - 600 kaf stored in Arizona Water Bank
  - 200 kaf stored in California Water Bank
  - 400 kaf credit for Brock Reservoir system efficiency improvement
  - 3 kaf credit for Yuma Desalter system efficiency improvement



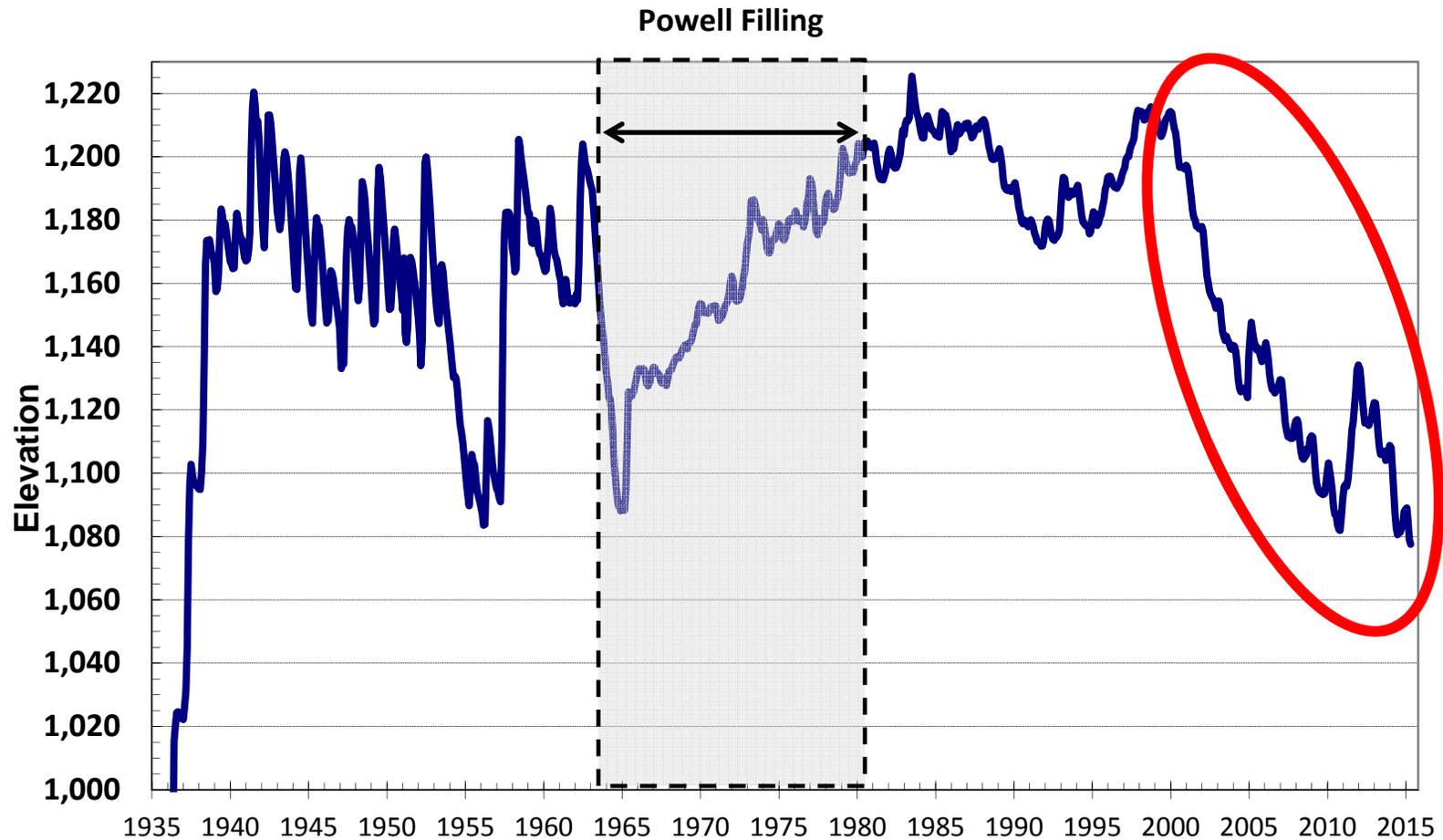


The Colorado River Basin is facing one of the worst droughts in recorded history.

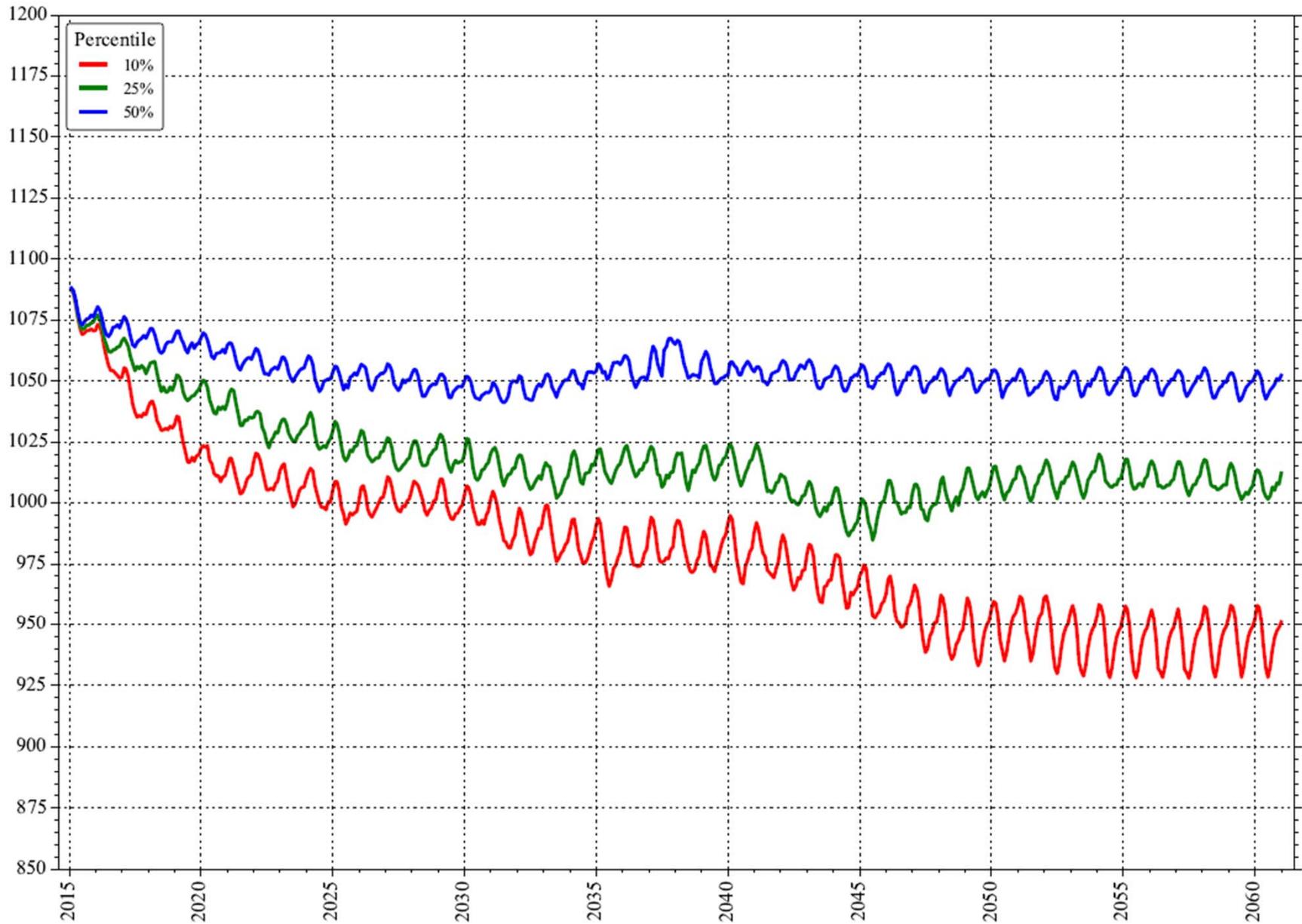
# Lake Powell's annual inflows continue to be below normal.



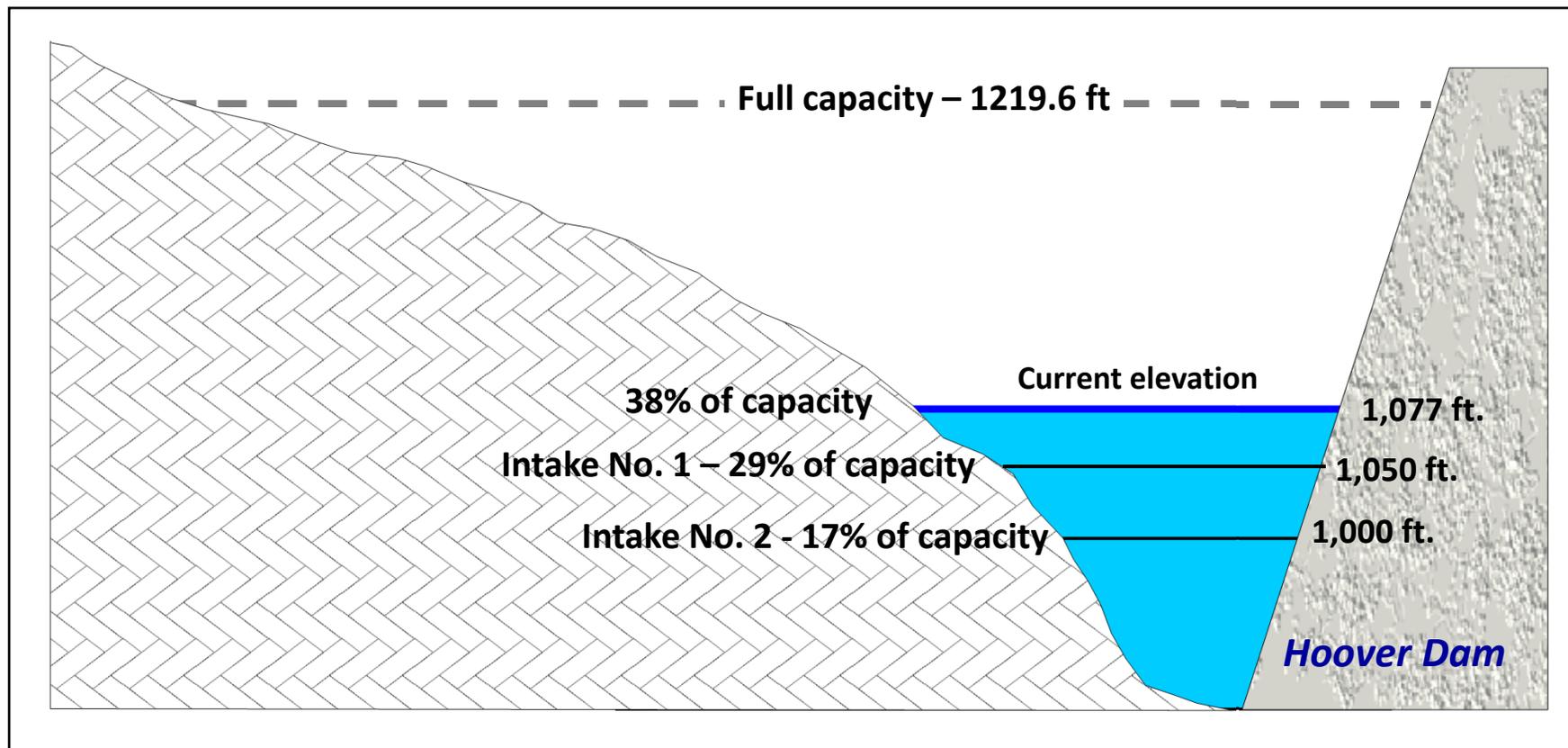
**As a result, Lake Mead water elevations have declined more than 135 feet during the past 16 years.**



# Statistical Percentiles of Future Lake Mead Pool Elevations

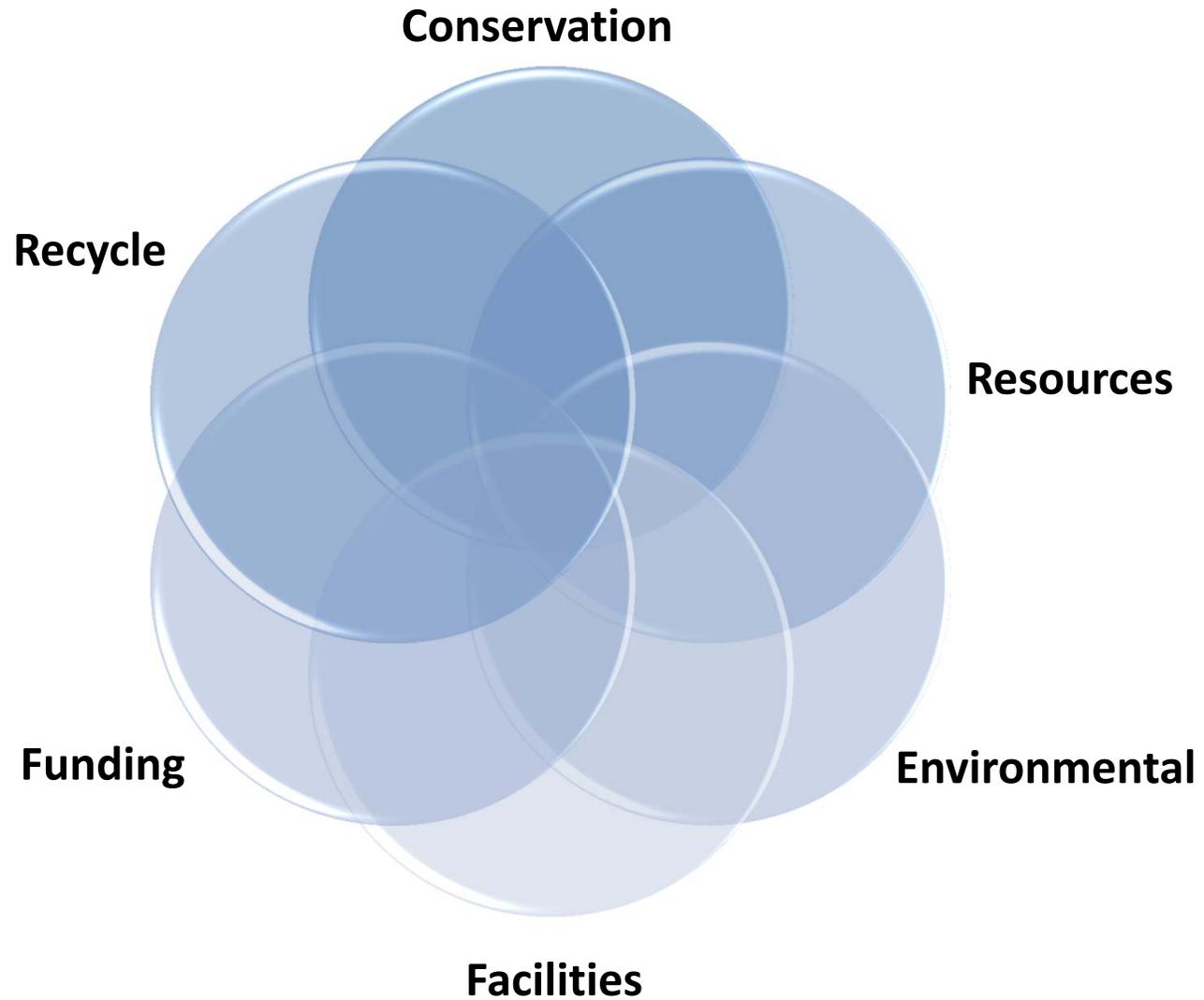


# LAKE MEAD ELEVATION and RESERVIOR CAPACITIES



Current Colorado River System Content: 47%

# INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING



# **INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING**

## **Integrated Resource Plan Advisory Committee (1994-96)**

- Phase I – Water Resources, Facilities & Conservation
- Phase II – Financing & Water Quality

## **Integrated Water Planning Advisory Committee (2004-05)**

- Integration of in-state water resources into the water planning and management activities of Southern Nevada

## **Integrated Resource Planning Advisory Committee (2012-2014)**

- Phase I – Financing of Essential Water Infrastructure
- Phase II – Water Resources, Facilities & Conservation

# RESILIENCE, ADAPTATION, and RISK MANAGEMENT



CONSERVATION



TEMPORARY  
SUPPLIES



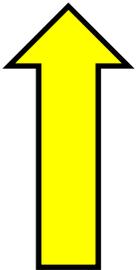
COLLABORATION



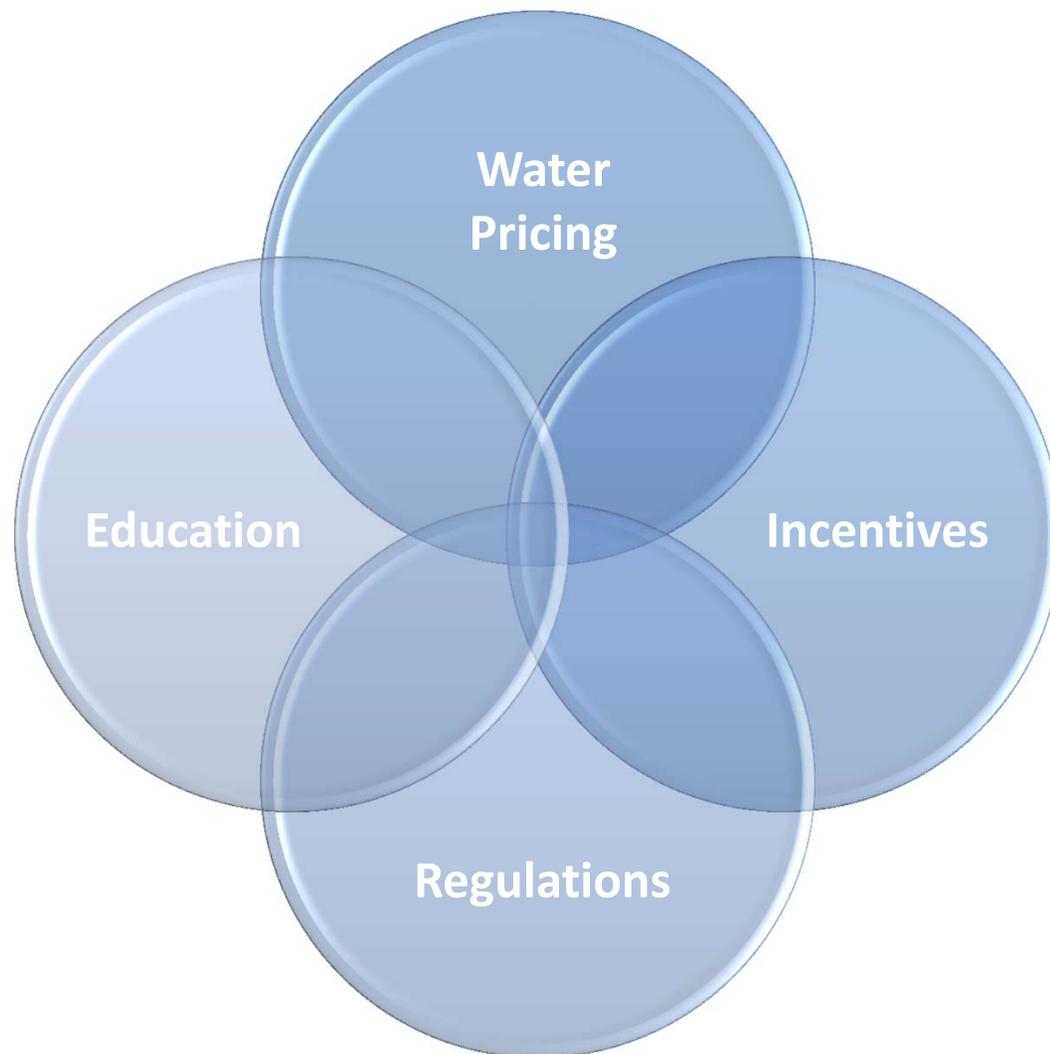
INFRASTRUCTURE



NEW  
RESOURCES



**Southern Nevada has implemented one of the nation's most aggressive and comprehensive water conservation programs.**



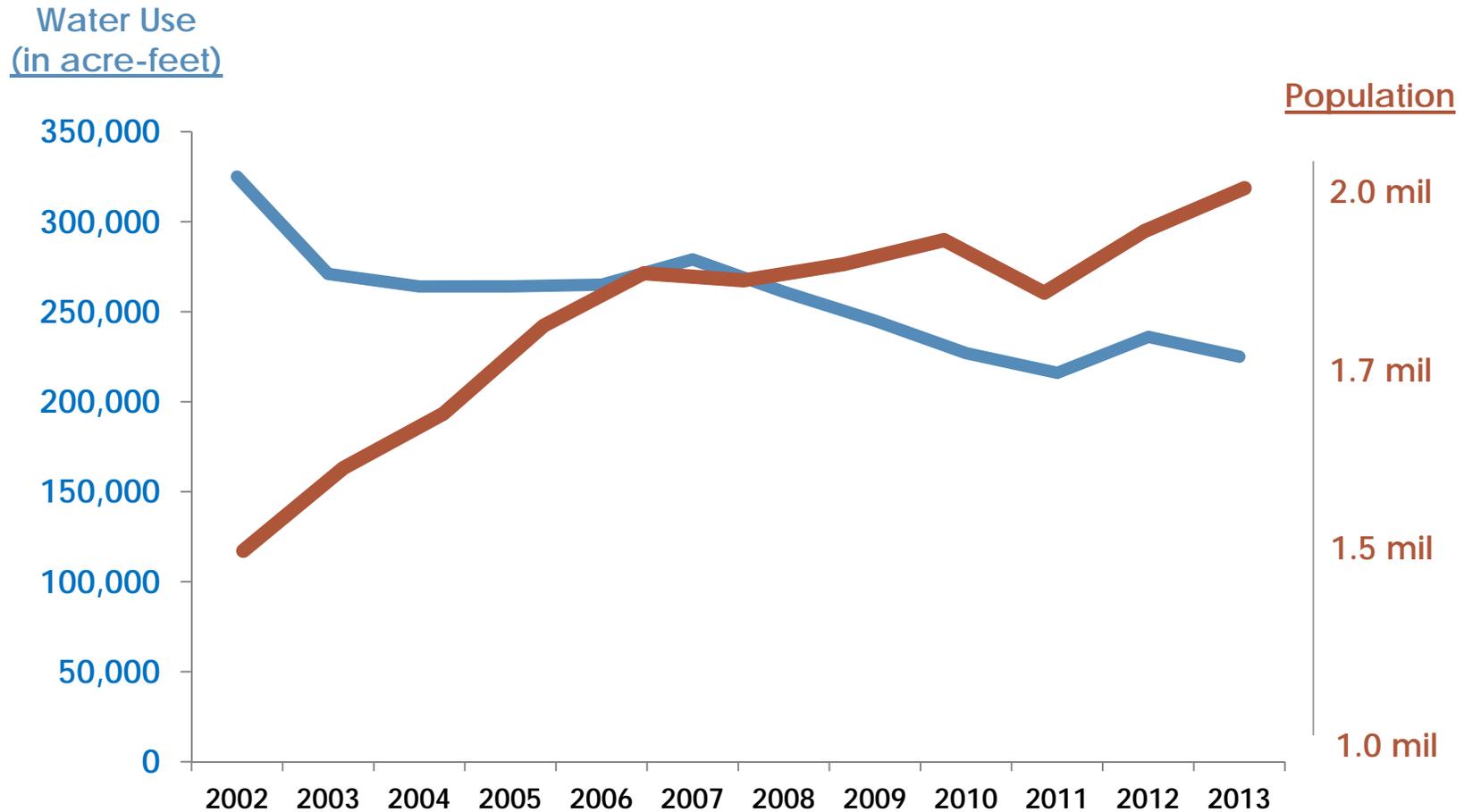


## SNWA's Water Smart Landscapes Program:

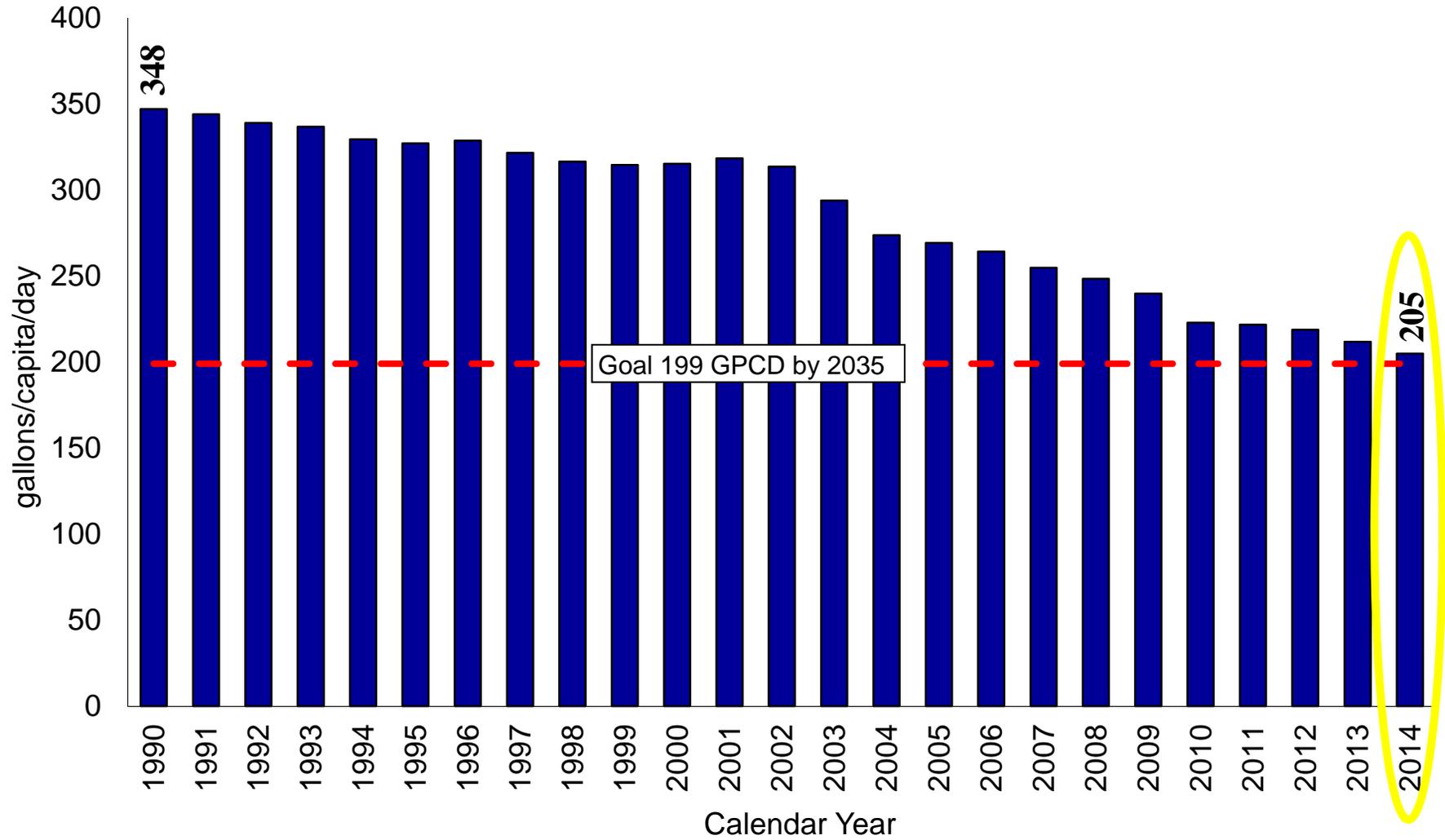
- Started in 1999
- \$205 million invested to date
- 240,000 acre-feet saved
- 172 million square feet of turf converted

*Southern Nevada has removed enough grass for a roll of sod to extend 87% of the earth's circumference!*

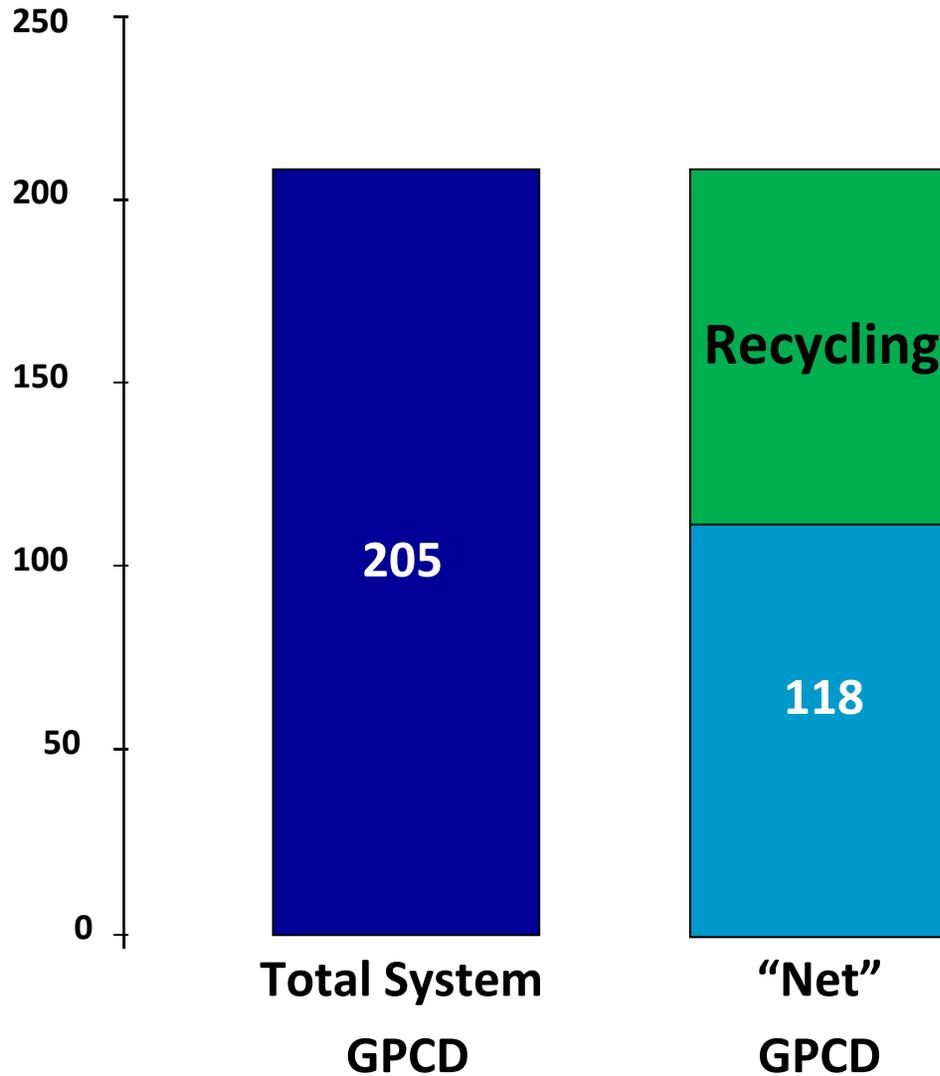
Southern Nevada consumptively used about 100,000 acre-foot less water in 2013 than in 2002, despite adding 480,000 new residents and serving nearly 40 million annual visitors.



# SNWA Total System GPCD 1990 to 2014

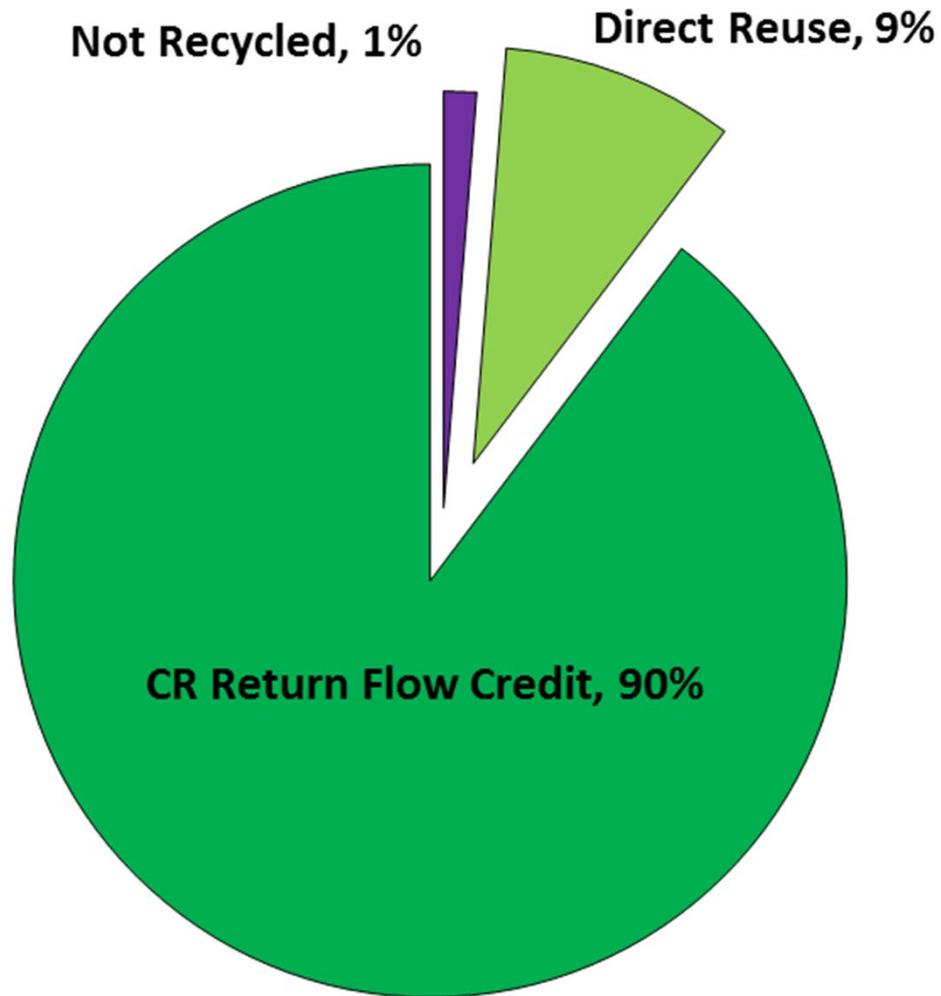


## 2014 GPCD



Direct reuse and Colorado River return-flow credits allow Southern Nevada to recycle 99% of the treated wastewater flows.

## 2014 Use of Highly Treated Wastewater Effluent



### CR Returns Flow to Lake Mead via the Las Vegas Wash

➤ 180,000 af

### Direct Reuse

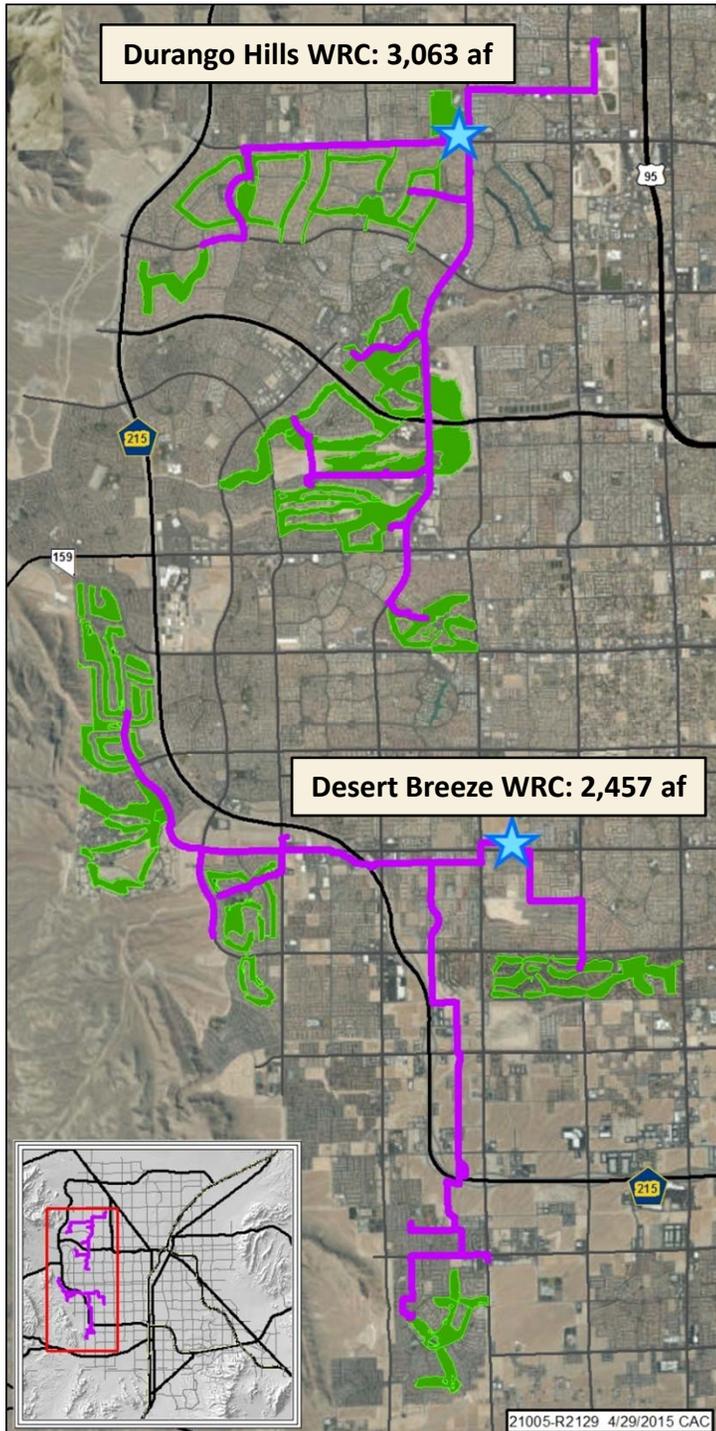
➤ 18,000 af

### Not Recycled

➤ 2,500 af

## Colorado River Return Flows - Las Vegas Wash



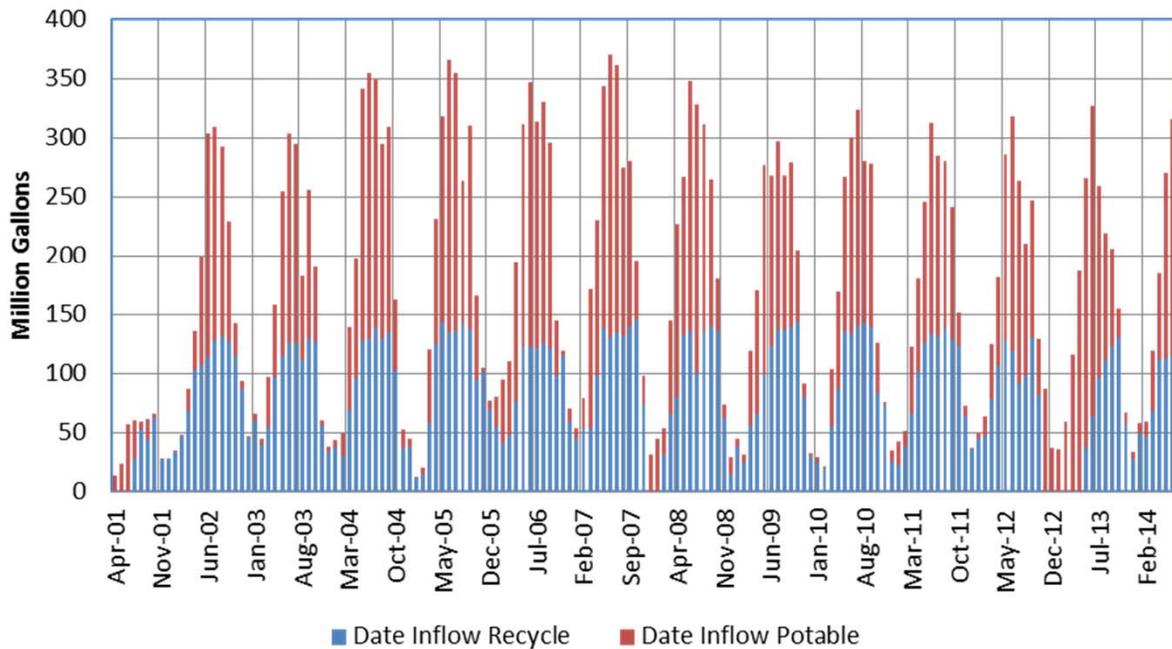


## **2014 Direct Reuse in Las Vegas Valley**

<b>Clark County</b>	6,042 af
<b>City of Las Vegas</b>	4,964 af
<b>City of Henderson</b>	6,772 af
<b>Boulder City</b>	384 af



**Durango Hills Water Resource Center  
Production and Consumption by Source**



## City of Las Vegas

### Durango Hills WRC

- \$37 million facility
- 10 MGD capacity
- Groundwater from LVVWD production wells used to augment supplies during peak demands

- Golf courses
- Greenbelts
- Schools
- Parks

# RESILIENCE, ADAPTATION, and RISK MANAGEMENT



CONSERVATION



TEMPORARY  
SUPPLIES



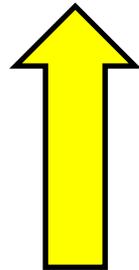
COLLABORATION



INFRASTRUCTURE



NEW  
RESOURCES





**Temporary water supplies will meet demands during shortages and provide interim resources while long-term supplies are developed.**

- Arizona Water Bank
- California Water Bank
- Southern Nevada Water Bank
- Virgin and Muddy River Tributary Conservation and Imported ICS
- Brock Reservoir ICS
- Yuma Desalting Plant
- Extraordinary Conservation ICS
- Binational ICS

# RESILIENCE, ADAPTATION, and RISK MANAGEMENT



CONSERVATION



TEMPORARY  
SUPPLIES



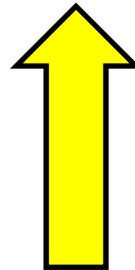
COLLABORATION



INFRASTRUCTURE



NEW  
RESOURCES



## BASIN COLLABORATION

Since the onset of the drought, the seven Colorado River Basin states have been cooperatively addressing river issues:

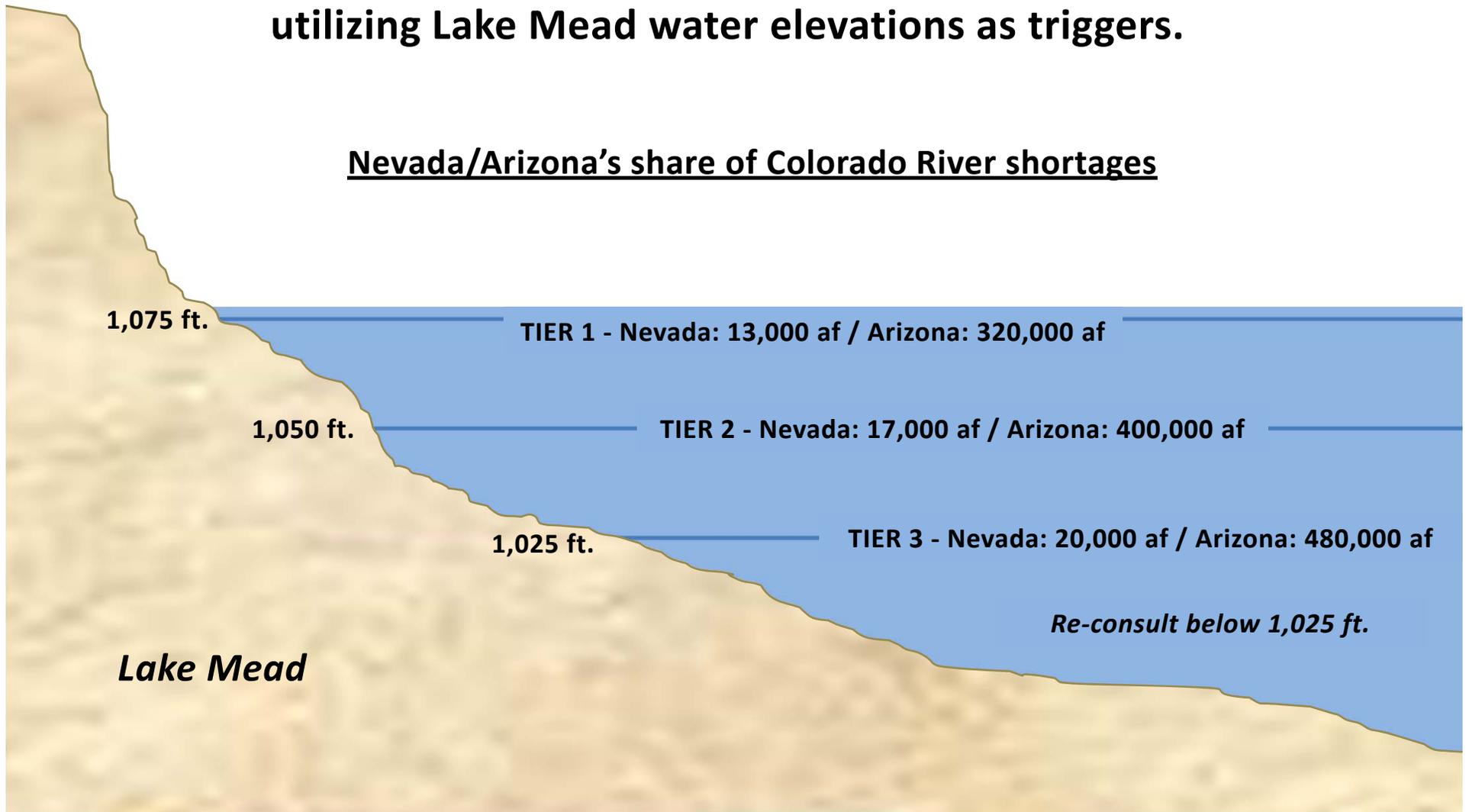
- Coordinated operations of the system's two major reservoirs
- Shortages (timing and quantity)
- Created a mechanism for Intentionally Created Surplus
- Pilot System Conservation
- CR System MOU
- Colorado River Basin Study
- Environmental issues



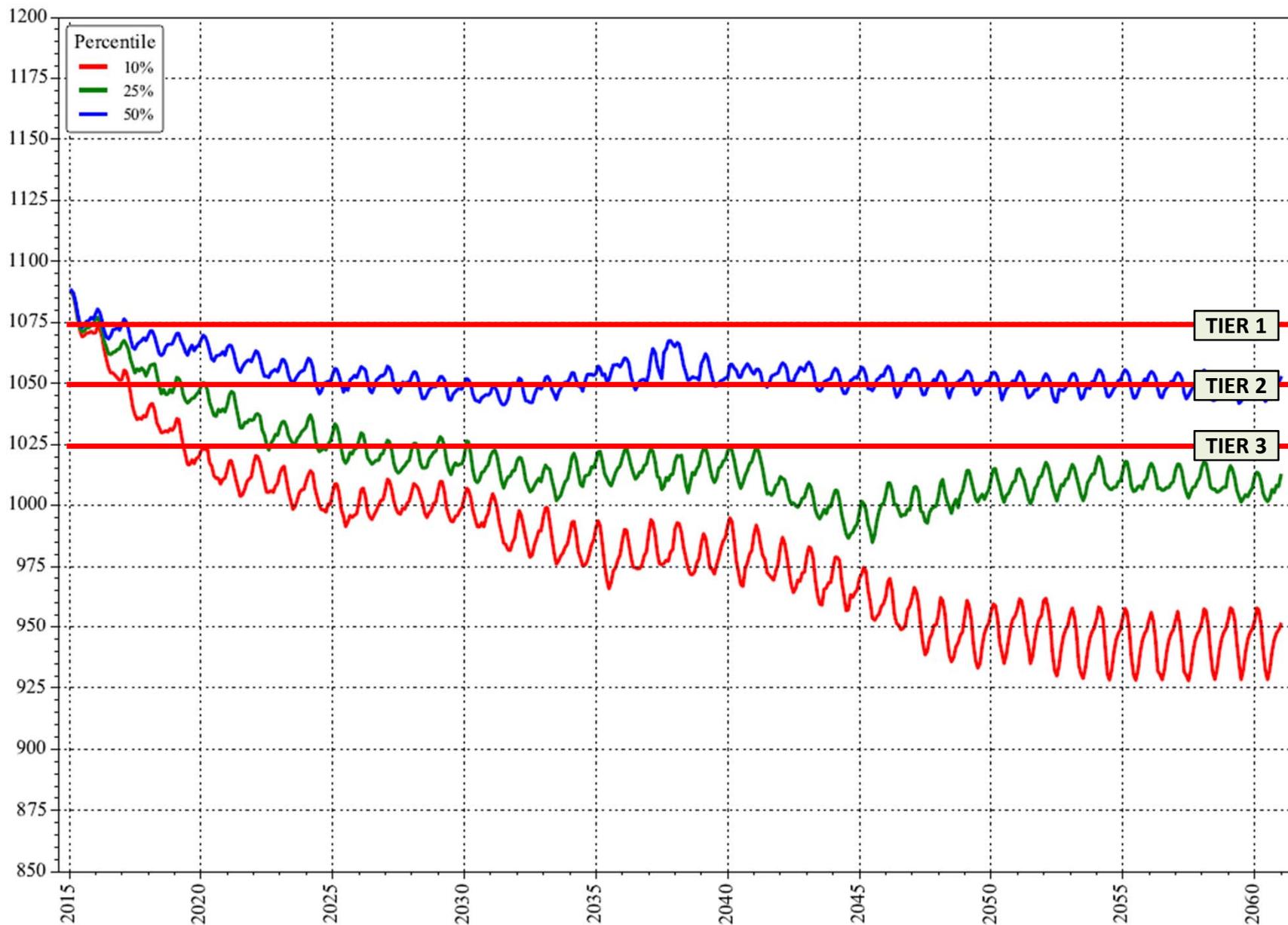
# SHORTAGE SHARING

The Basin States developed a framework to manage shortages, utilizing Lake Mead water elevations as triggers.

## Nevada/Arizona's share of Colorado River shortages



# Statistical Percentiles of Future Lake Mead Pool Elevations



# PILOT COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM CONSERVATION

## **What it is:**

- A “bank account” that funds projects throughout the Colorado River Basin to reduce Colorado River demands or create additional system water

## **What it does:**

- Benefits system as a whole: no funding partner receives additional water rights

## **Funding:**

- \$11 million program (\$3 million from federal partners; \$2 million each from four municipalities, including SNWA)

## **Yield:**

- Estimated 60,000 – 100,000 AF of conserved water

# **COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM MOU (December 2014)**

## **What it is:**

- Collaborative agreement among Lower Basin and federal partners to bolster storage in Lake Mead from 2014 to 2017

## **What it does:**

- Establishes “Protection Volumes”
- Initiates additional drought response actions if Lake Mead’s elevation is below 1,060 feet at end of year

## **Protection Volumes:**

- SNWA: 45,000 AF
- Central Arizona Water Conservancy District: 345,000 AF
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: 300,000 AF
- Bureau of Reclamation: 50,000 AF

# RESILIENCE, ADAPTATION, and RISK MANAGEMENT



CONSERVATION



TEMPORARY  
SUPPLIES



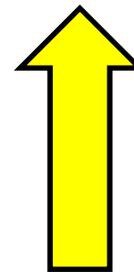
COLLABORATION



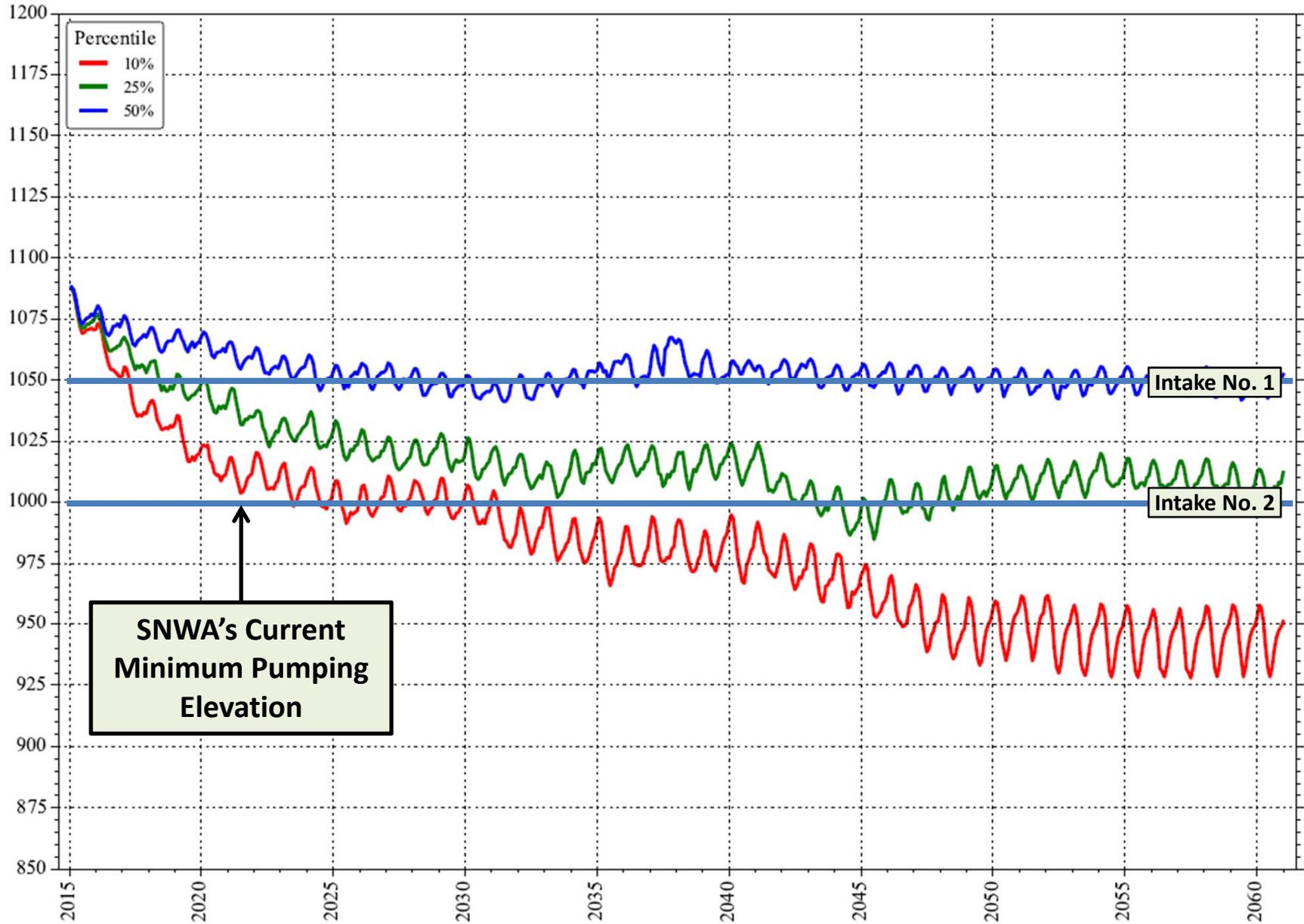
INFRASTRUCTURE



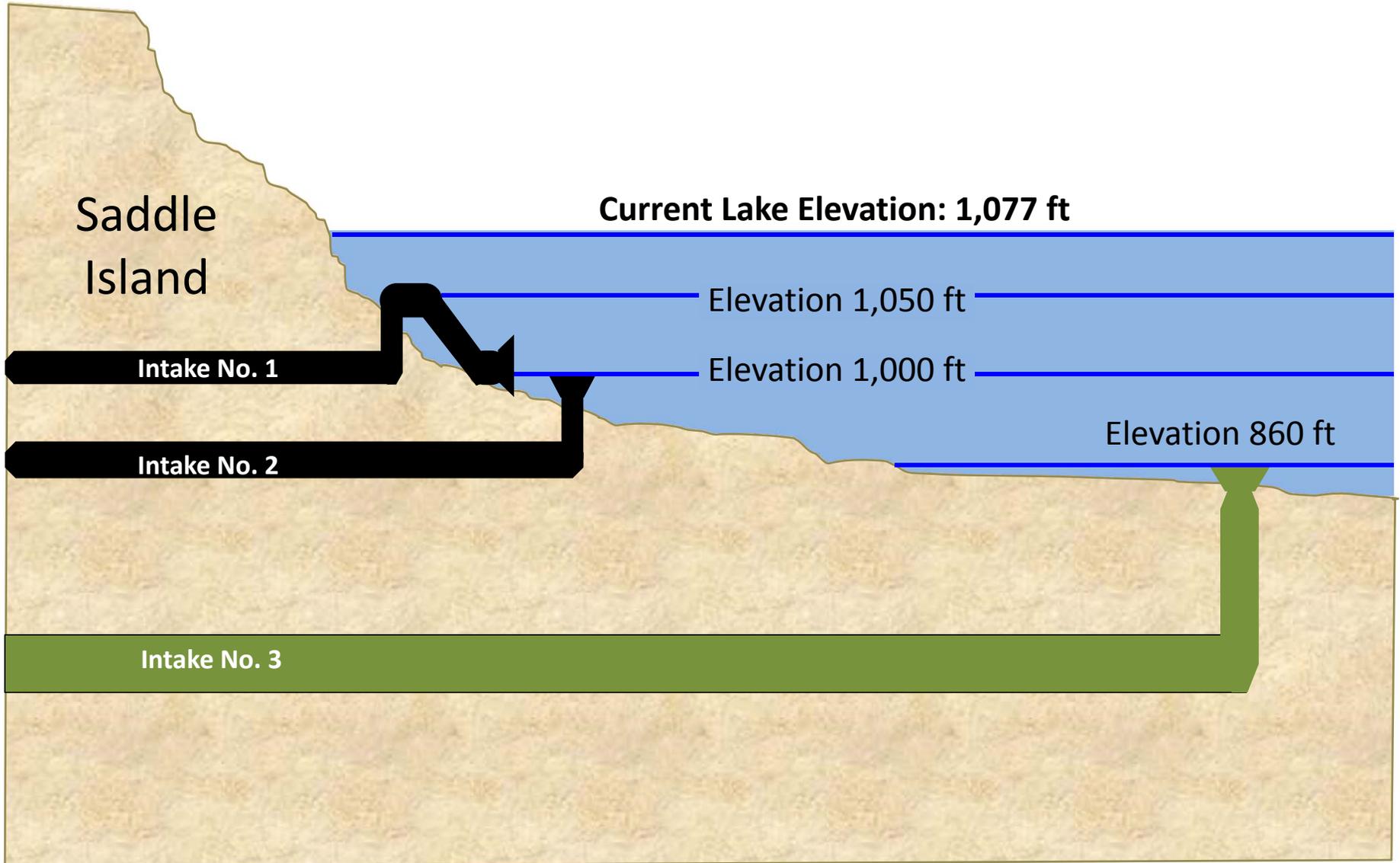
NEW  
RESOURCES



# Statistical Percentiles of Future Lake Mead Pool Elevations



# LAKE MEAD CROSS SECTION



## INTAKE NO. 3

### Purposes

- Improve system reliability and operational flexibility
- Minimize water-quality issues associated with declining water levels

### Features

- 96 ft high, 16-ft diameter stainless steel intake (March 2012)
- Connector tunnel linking to intakes and pumping stations Nos. 1 and 2 (March 2013)
- 15,000 ft of 20-ft diameter tunnel (December 2014)
- Provides access to minimum Lake Mead elevation of 860 ft
- Does **NOT** extend pumping capability below elevation 1,000 feet

# INTAKE NO. 3

INTAKE 3 TUNNEL

INTAKE 3 STRUCTURE

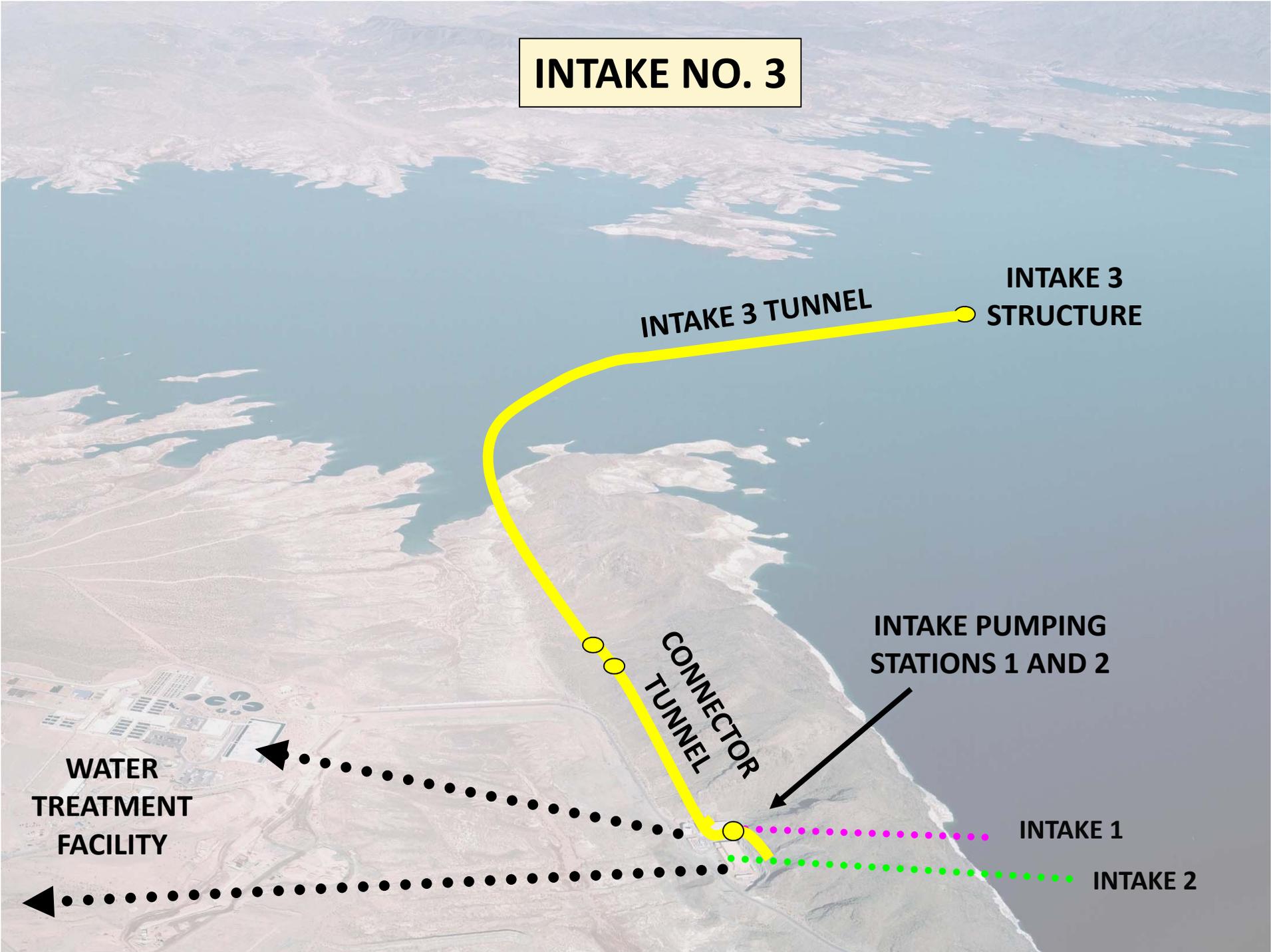
CONNECTOR TUNNEL

INTAKE PUMPING STATIONS 1 AND 2

WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

INTAKE 1

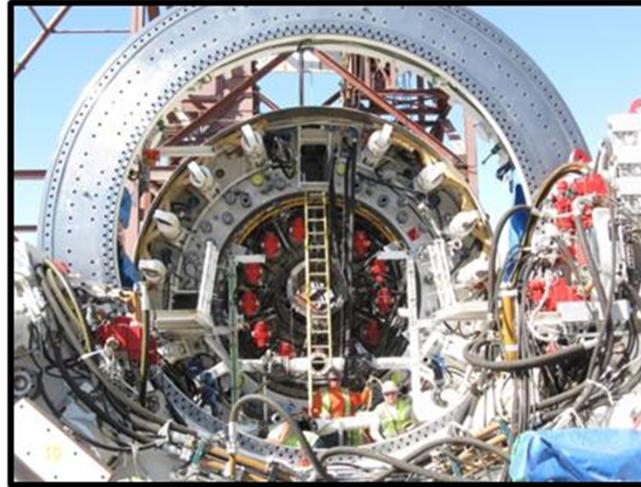
INTAKE 2



# INTAKE NO. 3



**Muck Conveyor System**



**Tunnel Boring Machine Assembly**



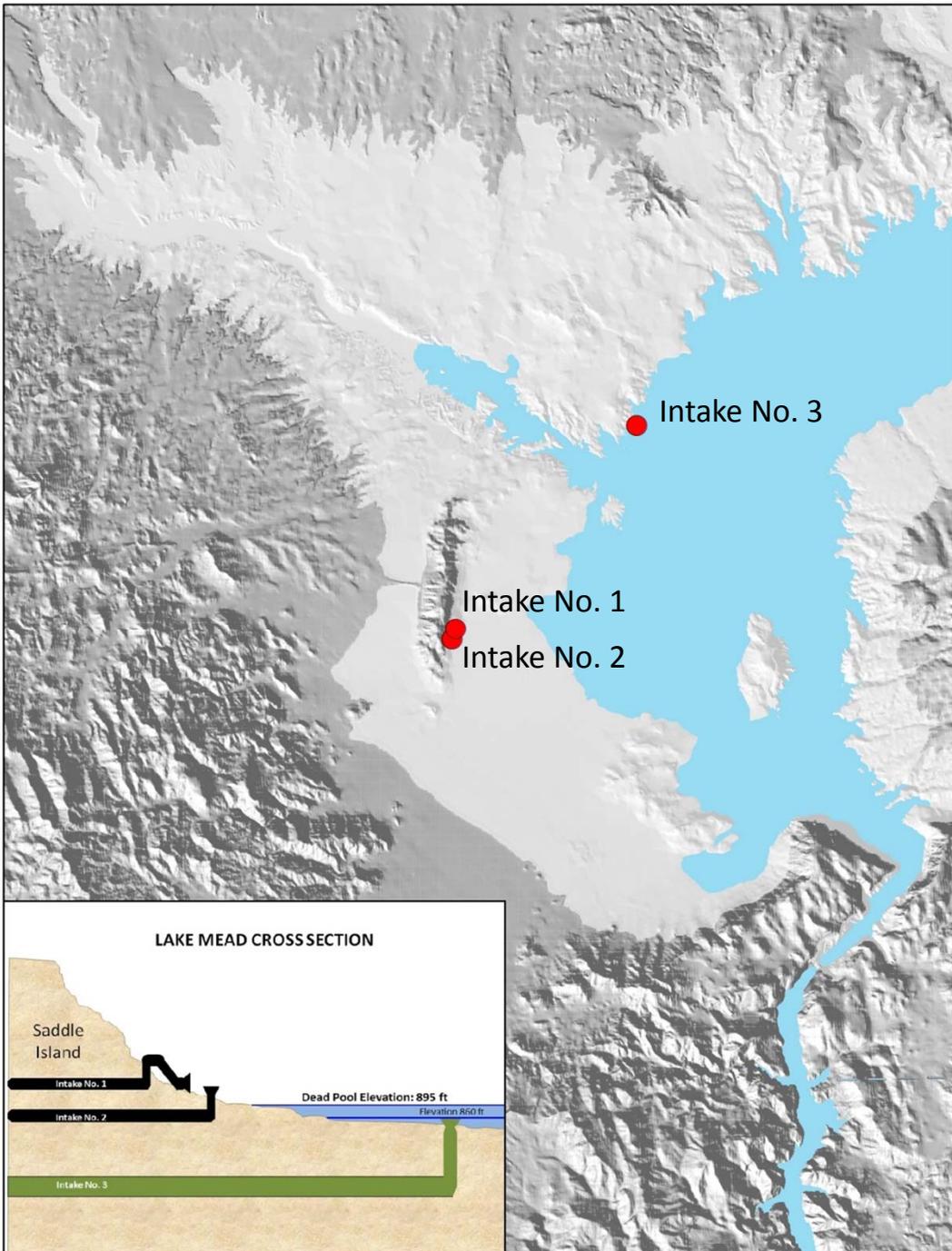
**Intake Tunnel**



**Intake Structure**



**Starter Tunnel**



## Dead Pool Elevation: 895 ft

- Intake No. 1 exposed
- Intake No. 2 exposed
- Intake No. 3 exposed
- 50 feet of water above Intake No. 1
- 35 feet of water above Intake No. 2
- 200 feet of water above Intake No. 3
- 100 feet of water above Intake No. 2
- 217 feet of water above Intake No. 3

## **LOW LAKE LEVEL PUMPING STATION**

**There is risk of Lake Mead falling below elevation 1,000 ft and SNWA's current minimum pumping elevation**

**The citizen's advisory committee recommended to begin design and construction of a new low lake level pumping station as soon as possible.**

### **Purposes**

- Provide replacement capacity in the event Intake Pumping Station Nos. 1 and 2 are offline due to low lake levels

### **Features**

- Design for 900 MGD capacity
- Pump from 875 feet
- Approximate cost: \$650 million

# RESILIENCE, ADAPTATION, and RISK MANAGEMENT



CONSERVATION



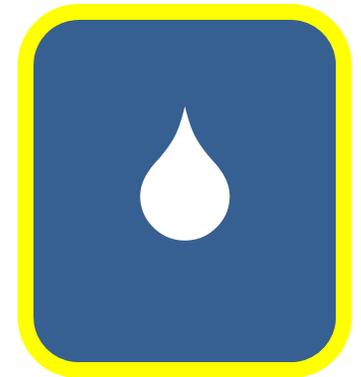
TEMPORARY  
SUPPLIES



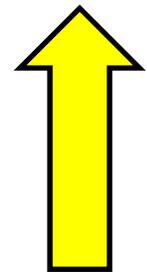
COLLABORATION



INFRASTRUCTURE



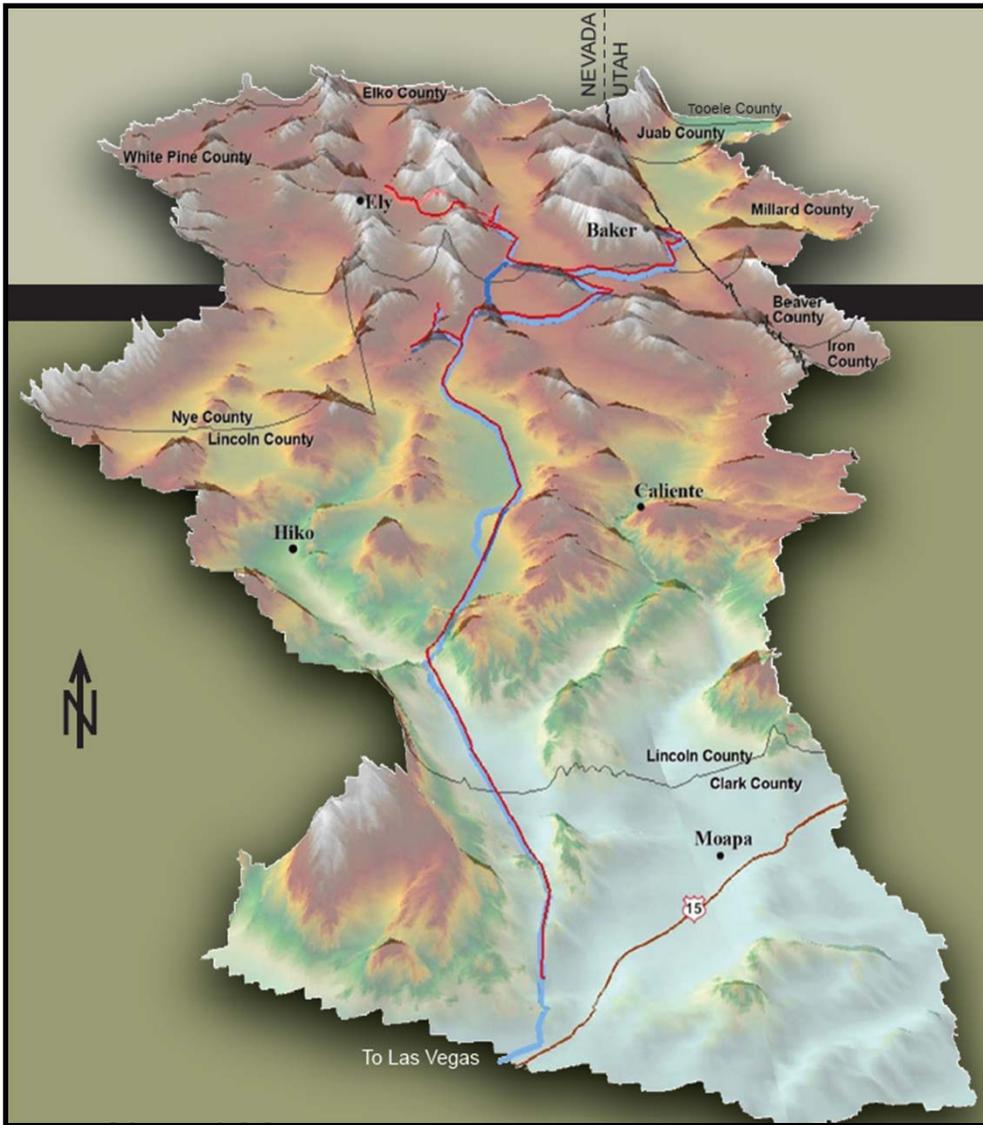
NEW  
RESOURCES



Despite achievements in conservation and water resources, new resources are needed to provide a long-term, reliable water supply for Southern Nevada.



# IN-STATE GROUNDWATER PROJECT



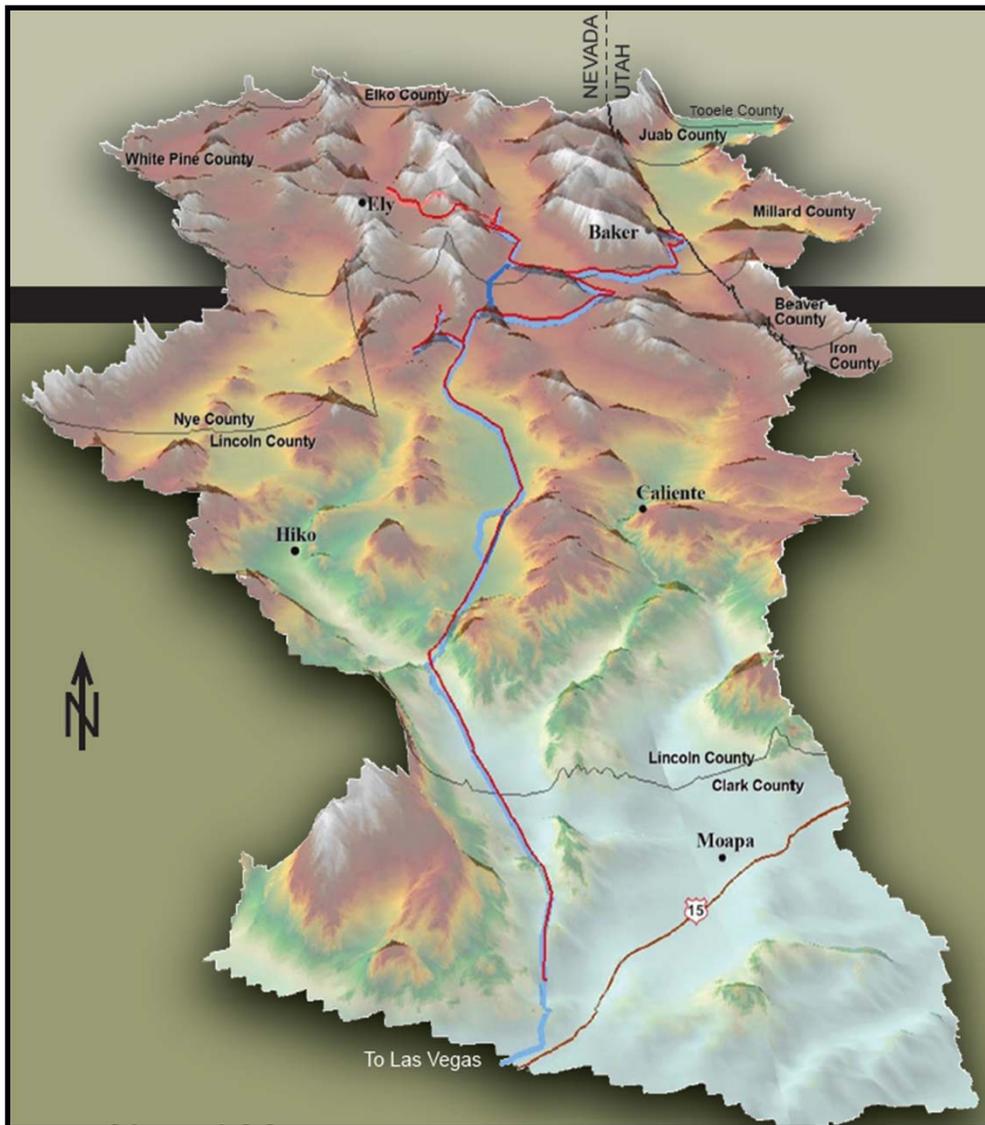
## Groundwater Resources

- 92,000 afy of permitted and purchased rights

## Primary Facilities

- 260 miles of 16- and 84-inch lateral and main pipeline
- 3 pumping stations
- Five 3-10 million gallon regulating tanks
- 3 pressure reducing stations
- One 40 million gallon buried storage reservoir
- 100 MGD treatment facility
- 272 miles of 230 kV, 69 kV, and 25 kV overhead power lines

# IN-STATE GROUNDWATER PROJECT



## Additional Facilities

- 71 to 88 production wells
- 96-254 miles of 10-30-in diameter collector pipelines
- Two pumping stations
- 96-254 miles of 25 kV overhead power lines
- Hydro turbines at pressure reducing sites

## Status

- Groundwater permits issued March 2012
- FEIS issued August 2012
- ROD issued December 2012



The SNWA utilizes a suite of tools to provide a reliable water supply for Southern Nevada.



CONSERVATION



TEMPORARY  
SUPPLIES



COLLABORATION



INFRASTRUCTURE



NEW  
RESOURCES



SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY®