

SCOTTSDALE CITY COUNCIL  
WORK STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021



CITY HALL KIVA  
3939 N. DRINKWATER BOULEVARD  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor David D. Ortega called to order a Work Study Session of the Scottsdale City Council at 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor David D. Ortega; Vice Mayor Tammy Caputi; and Councilmembers Tom Durham, Betty Janik, Kathy Littlefield, Linda Milhaven, and Solange Whitehead

Also Present: City Manager Jim Thompson, City Attorney Sherry Scott, City Treasurer Sonia Andrews, City Auditor Sharron Walker (participating telephonically), and City Clerk Ben Lane

**PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**1. Colorado River Drought and Shortage Update**

**Request:** Presentation and discussion regarding the Colorado River drought and shortage.

**Presenter(s):** Brian Biesemeyer, Water Resources Executive Director,

**Staff Contact(s):** Brian Biesemeyer, Water Resources Executive Director, 480-312-5683, [bbiesemeyer@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:bbiesemeyer@scottsdaleaz.gov)

Water Resources Executive Director Brian Biesemeyer and Water Policy Manager Gretchen Baumgardner gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached) on the Gila River drought and shortage.

Councilmembers provided the following recommendations:

- Create a chart or graph detailing new connections in different areas of the City.
- Continue to plan for and examine overall impact of future development on water resources.
- Continue to expand the Automated Meter Information system, which allows users to better monitor their water usage.

**NOTE:** MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND WORK STUDY SESSIONS ARE PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES. THESE MINUTES ARE INTENDED TO BE AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF ACTION TAKEN AND DIRECTION GIVEN BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND ARE NOT VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTS. DIGITAL RECORDINGS AND CLOSED CAPTION TRANSCRIPTS OF SCOTTSDALE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AND ARE ON FILE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION AND VOTE – ADJOURNMENT**

Councilwoman Janik made a motion to adjourn the City Council Work Study Session. Councilwoman Whitehead seconded the motion, which carried 7/0, with Mayor Ortega; Vice Mayor Caputi; and Councilmembers Durham, Janik, Littlefield, Milhaven, and Whitehead voting in the affirmative.

The Work Study Session adjourned at 4:53 P.M.

**SUBMITTED BY:**



**Ben Lane, City Clerk**

Officially approved by the City Council on November 9, 2021

## CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Work Study Session of the City Council of Scottsdale, Arizona, held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021.

I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

**DATED** this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2021.



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**Ben Lane, City Clerk**

# Scottsdale Water Colorado River Shortage Update



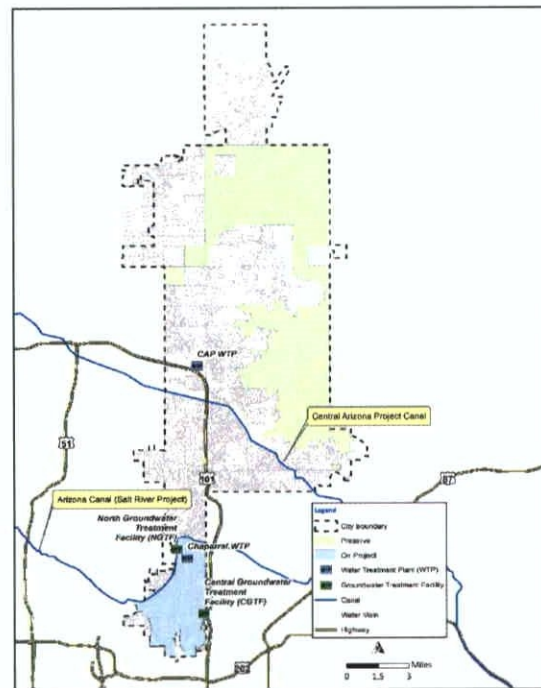
Scottsdale Council Work Study Session  
October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



1

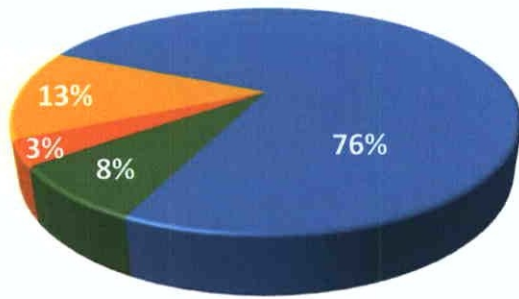
## Scottsdale Water

- Active water accounts: ~93,000
  - 82,000 Single-family residential
  - 5,000 Multifamily residential
  - 6,000 Commercial, nonresidential
- 5-year average water delivery:
  - 87 million gallons/day (97,000 acre-feet)
- 1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons which is enough water to supply a Scottsdale family of four for one year.



2

## 2020 Water Delivery

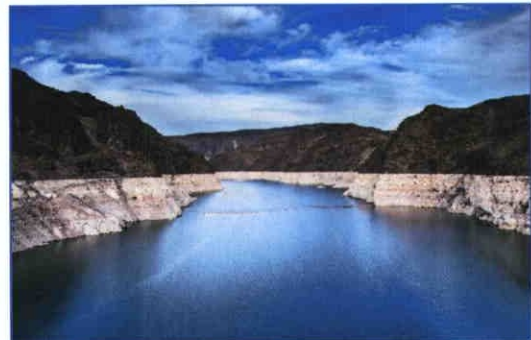


- CAP (Colorado River Water): 74,400 AF
- SRP (Salt River Project Water): 12,700 AF
- Groundwater: 3,500 AF
- Reclaimed: 7,700 AF

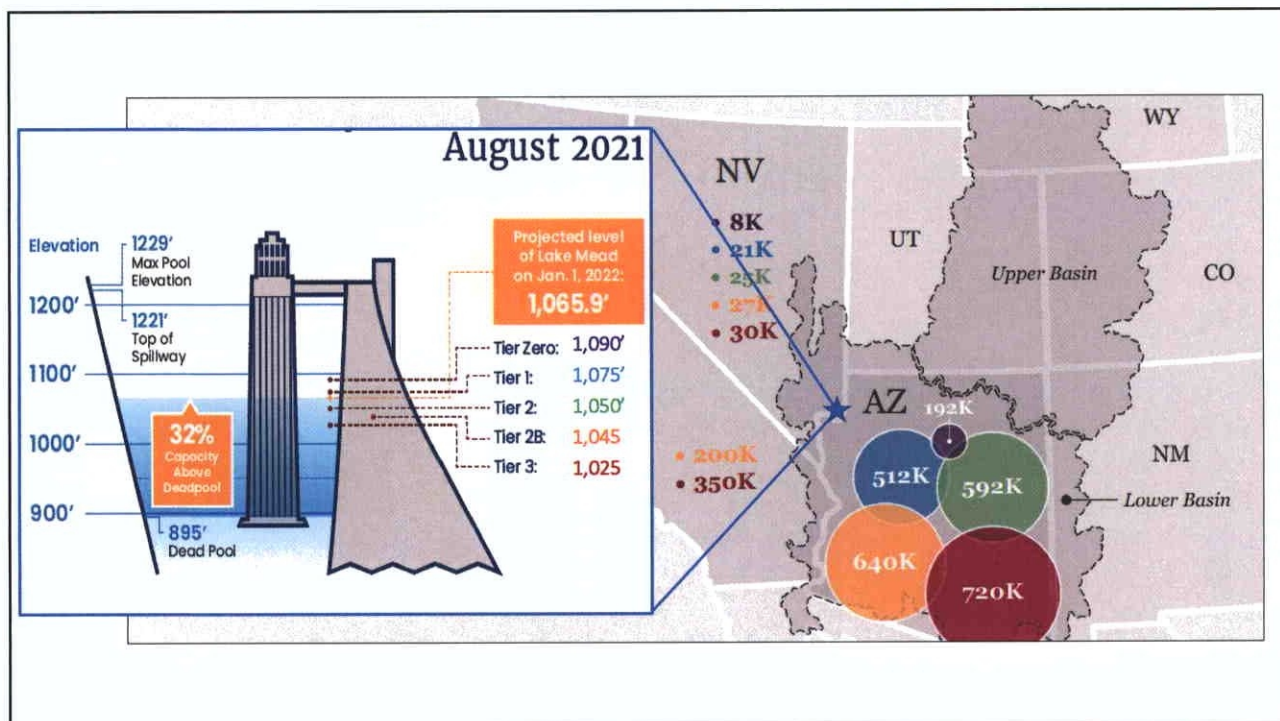
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## Bureau of Reclamation Tier 1 Colorado River Shortage

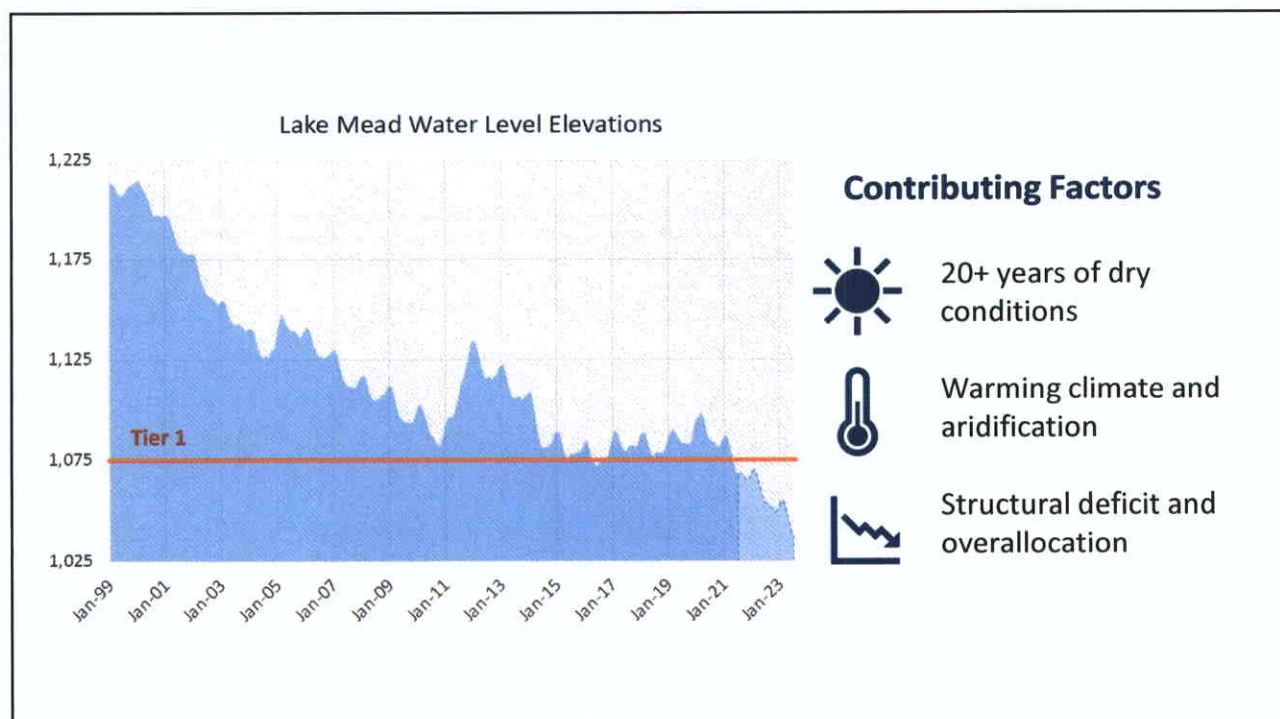
“Phoenix, Arizona (August 16, 2021) – The Colorado River Basin continues to experience drought and the impacts of hotter and drier conditions. Based on the Jan. 1 projected level of Lake Mead at 1,065.9 feet above sea level, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior has declared the first-ever Tier 1 shortage for Colorado River operations in 2022.”



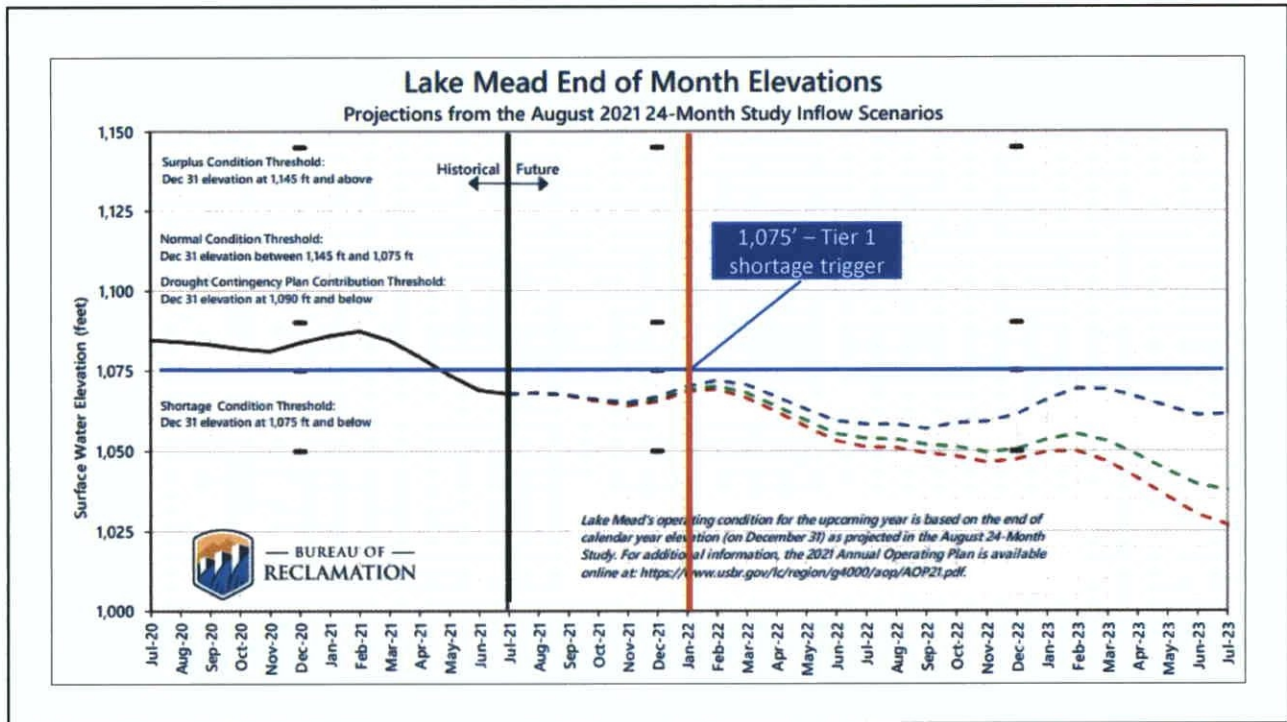
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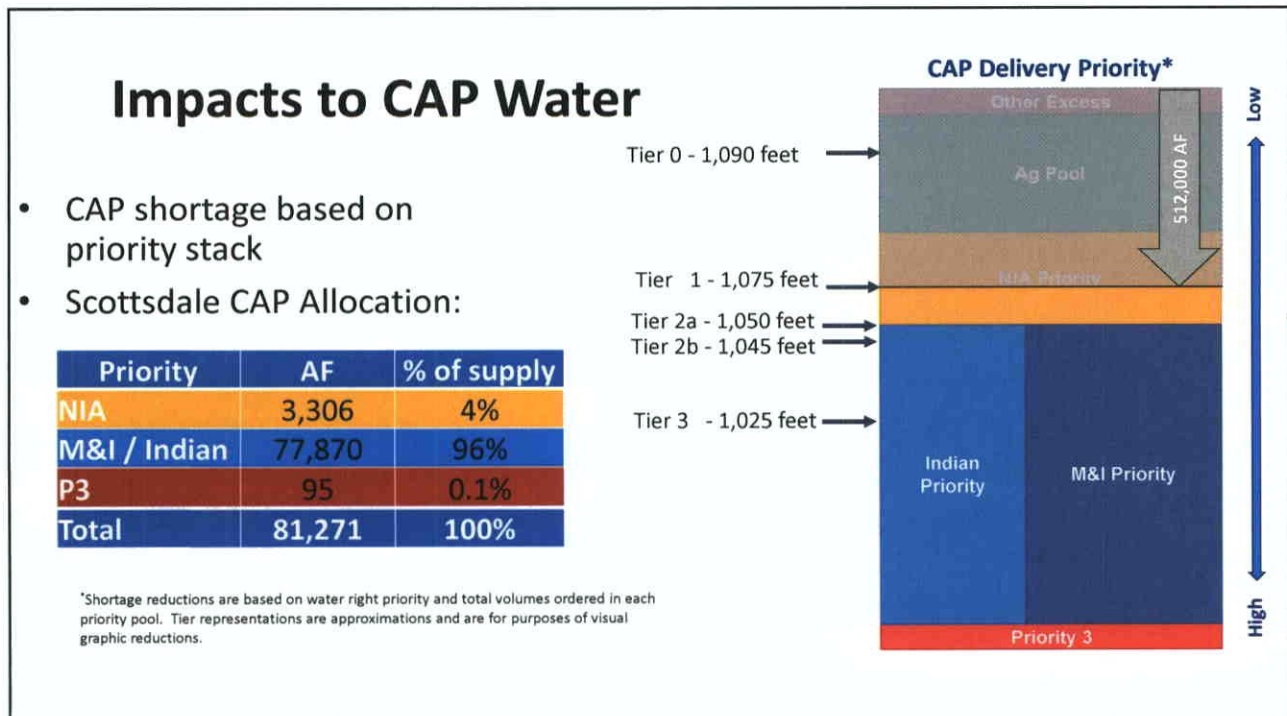
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6



7



8

## Potential affects of Shortage Tiers<sup>(a)</sup> to Scottsdale

CAP Water Shortage Tiers	TIER ZERO	TIER 1	TIER 2A	TIER 2B	TIER 3	PROTECT LEVEL
Lake Mead Elevation (in feet)	1,090	1,075	1,050	1,045	1,025	<1,025
Corresponding City Water Shortage Stage	Stage 0 Shortage Preparation	Stage 1 Minimum Shortage	Stage 1 Minimum Shortage	Stage 2 Moderate Shortage	Stage 3 Severe Shortage	Stage 4 Critical Shortage
Potential City Water Supply Reduction (MGD) <sup>(a)</sup>	0	2.0	3.0	6.5	13.5	24
Potential City Water Supply Reduction (AF/year) <sup>(a)</sup>	0	2,300	3,400	7,300	15,200	26,900

<sup>a)</sup> Shortage reductions are based on water right priority and total volumes ordered in each priority pool. The tabulated values are estimates for planning purposes based on generally acknowledged potential reductions, do not account for mitigation potential and subject to change.

9

## How have we been planning for a reduction on supply?

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average
CAP	10,241	12,506	8,070	13,695	6,345	10,171
Effluent	3,902	4,737	4,799	5,241	5,429	4,821
TOTAL (AF) =	14,143	17,243	12,869	18,936	11,773	14,993

- Scottsdale recharges treated recycled wastewater and our CAP allotment that is above our current demand need into the aquifer to be able to recover in times of shortage and prolonged drought by using groundwater wells.
- This is akin to a savings account.

10



# Scottsdale's Drought Management Plan Stage 1

- Stage 1 of Scottsdale's Drought Management Plan activated by City Manager Thompson on 8-17-21
- No water restrictions to customers, but enhance conservation messaging will occur
- City forms a Drought Management Team to reduce water usage for all City operations

City Manager's Office

Interoffice Memorandum



DATE: August 17, 2021

TO: Mayor David Ortega and City Council

FROM: Jim Thompson, City Manager

Copy: Executive Team

RE: Scottsdale's Drought Management Plan stage 1 declaration

Given the recently declared Tier 1 shortage on the Colorado River by the United States Bureau of Reclamation, I am activating Scottsdale's Drought Management Plan at Stage 1, effective immediately.

The Colorado River watershed has been experiencing more than 20 years of dry conditions and reduced precipitation. It's a historic drought and the driest 22-year period on record. As a result, on August 16, 2021, the United States Bureau of Reclamation declared the first-ever Colorado River Tier 1 shortage, which will officially take effect on January 1, 2022. Since 2020, the river has been operating in a "Flex Zone" status, requiring Arizona to forgo 192,000 acre-feet of its annual entitlement to Lake Mead. This cut has been absorbed by agricultural users on the Central Arizona Project (CAP) system. In Tier 1, Arizona is required to further reduce its use by another 120,000 acre-feet to a total of 172,000 acre-feet, which is a reduction of approximately 30 percent of CAP's normal supply and 18 percent of Arizona's total Colorado River supply.

The water supply to CAP is based off Arizona's water right priority. The vast majority of Scottsdale's CAP water supply is with higher priority water. A small portion of Scottsdale's water supply is in a vulnerable category designated as Non-Indian Agricultural water (NIA). It is from this NIA water that Scottsdale can support cuts in our supply during a Tier 1 and Tier 2A shortage. Fortunately for Scottsdale, we have been preparing for possible water shortages for several decades and have put infrastructure in place to conserve and reuse water whenever possible. As a result, Scottsdale Water has not been using our NIA water for direct delivery and have been recharging this water for future use. In 2020, Scottsdale recharged over 10,400 acre-feet of CAP water and over 5,400 acre-ft of purified recycled water.

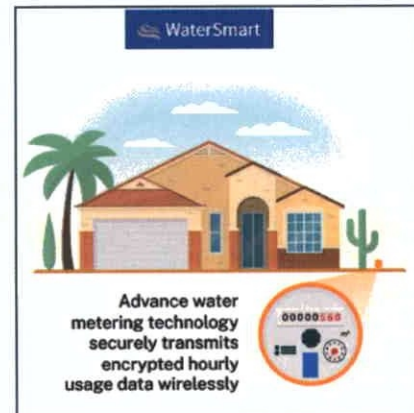
For reference, the following table is the approximate water supply reduction with each tier declaration.

11

## Scottsdale's Response

### All that we normally do plus:

- Activate our Drought Management Plan
  - Expanded conservation and messaging
  - Citywide Drought Team
- Increasing our ASR well capacity with 4 new wells
- Expanding our recycled water recharge and irrigation systems where feasible
- Expanding our AMI meter network
- WaterSmart portal



12

## WaterSmart Customer Interface

- Web-based water management portal
- Integrated into our billing system customer interface
  - High usage or bill notifications
  - Comparisons to previous years
  - Interactive leak check tutorial
- Meters equipped with Automated Meter Information can receive near real-time water usage information
- Meters with Automated Meter Reading technology can receive monthly data



13

## Scottsdale's Drought Management Team

- Water Resources Executive Director (lead)
- Water Policy Manager
- Water Public Information Officer
- Facilities Director
- Parks Director
- Business Services Director
- Enterprise Finance Director
- Economic Development Director
- Communications Director
- City Attorney
- Water Resources Administrator
- Water Services Director
- Planning and Development Area Director
- Emergency Manager

14

# Scottsdale's Drought Management Team

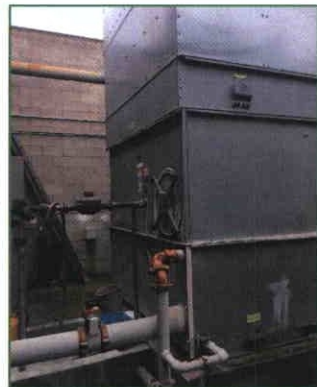
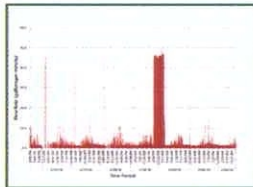
- **Team's responsibilities include**

- Coordination and communication internally and externally
- Evaluate the severity of the drought/shortage and its impact on Scottsdale
- Goal of 5% reduction in City Water Use
- Communicate City efforts
  - Parks → 15% under ADWR conservation allotment = 3 billion saved of 20 years
  - Facilities Water Audits → Identify Water Savings potential

15

## Facilities Audit Program

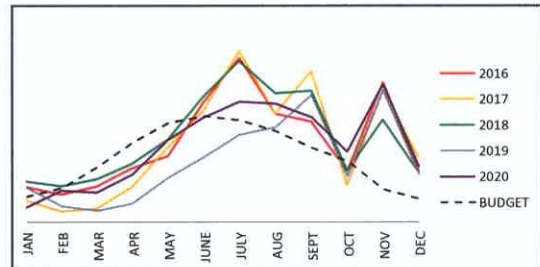
- Meet with Facilities staff
- Understand water needs
- Meter location services
- Recommendations, ROI
  - Leaks
  - Rebates
  - Submeters
  - Cooling towers



16

## HOAs and Multifamily Resources - NEW

- Meet with HOA board, landscaper, management company
- Understand landscape water needs
- See water saving potential by:
  - Forgoing a winter lawn
  - Removing turf
  - Preserving asphalt
  - Identify over application
  - Maintaining infrastructure
- Meter location services
- Water budget summary with recommendations



17

## Economic Development

### How do we grow – using our limited water supply:

Develop tools (Sustainable Water Management Principles) to help the decision makers understand the impact of growth on water and vice versa

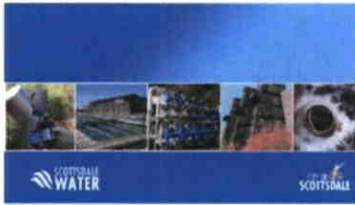
- Consider net water use (one Water evaluation)
- Water resource commitment over time (ultimate water commitment)
- Location of growth in relationship to water supply
- Economic value per water use



18

# Economic Development

## Sustainable Water Management Principles



Additionally, these principles will provide over arching guidance for:

- Water Quality
- Water Infrastructure Planning
- Water Resource Acquisition
- Water Recharge and Recycling

19

# Scottsdale's Water Trends



\*2021 totals are projects for presentation purposes

20

# Questions

