

Lessons from the Colorado River

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Colorado River Basin: 2 countries, 7 states



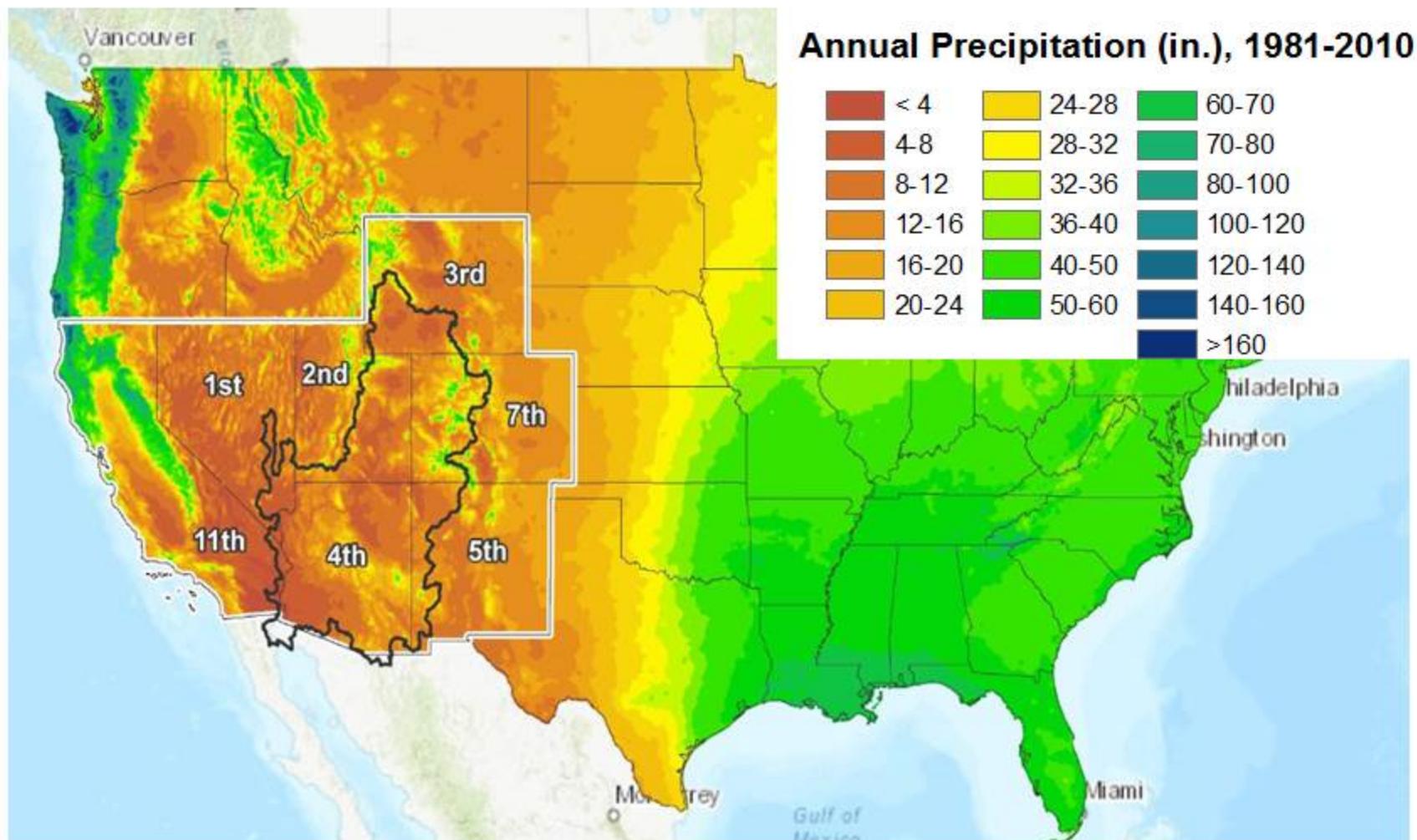
Colorado River By the Numbers

The river supports:

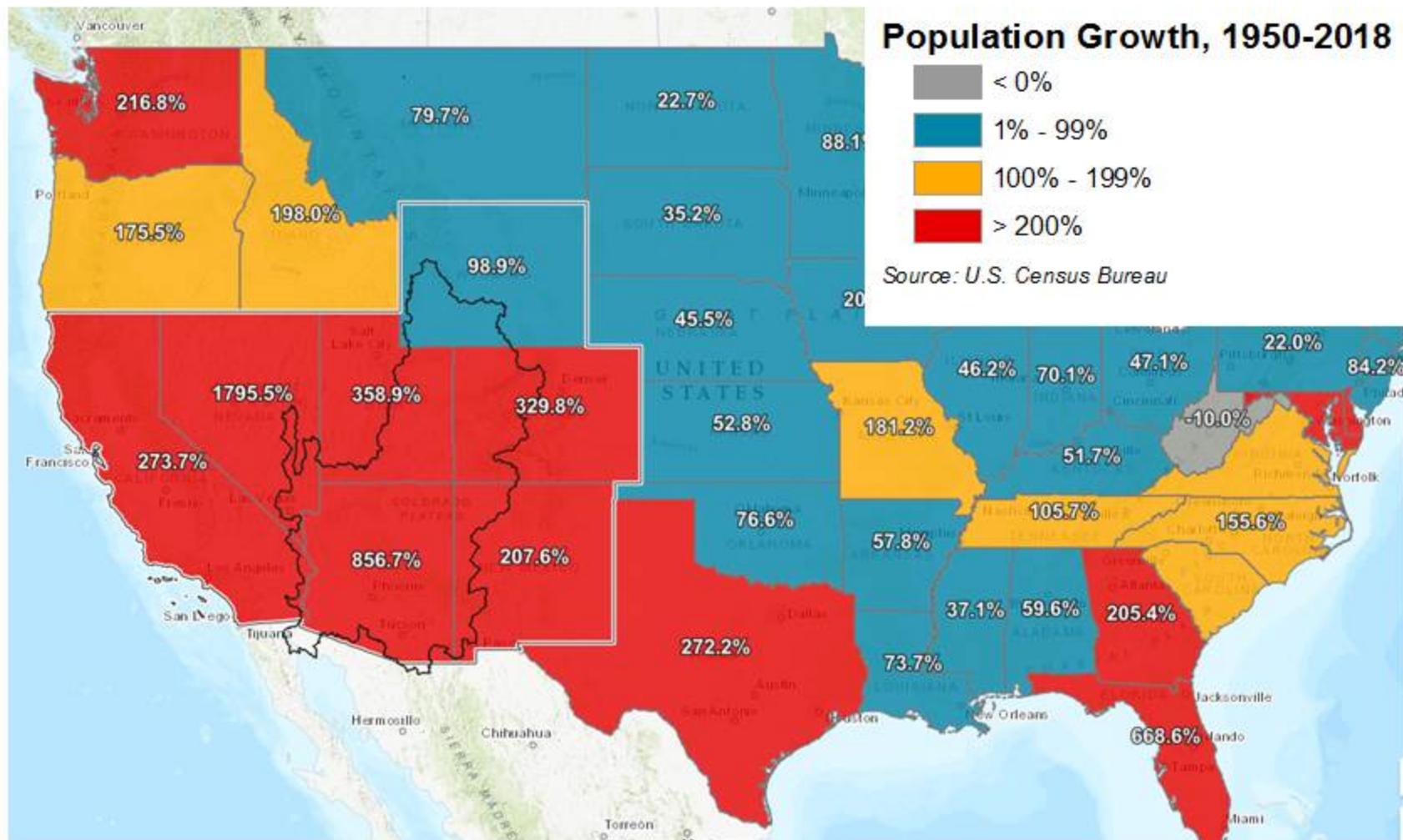
- **40 million** people
- **16 million** jobs.
- **5.5 million** acres of farmland
- **11** national parks.
- **29** federally recognized tribes
- **4,200** megawatts of electrical generating capacity.



The Colorado River Basin includes some of the driest states in the country.



The basin also includes some of the fastest-growing states.



The Unwelcome Science, Pre-1922 Compact



19-Year Drought

The river is **overallocated** and its reservoirs have fallen to record low levels.



Historic Legislation

Arizona reached a bipartisan agreement to conserve water in Lake Mead.



Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan

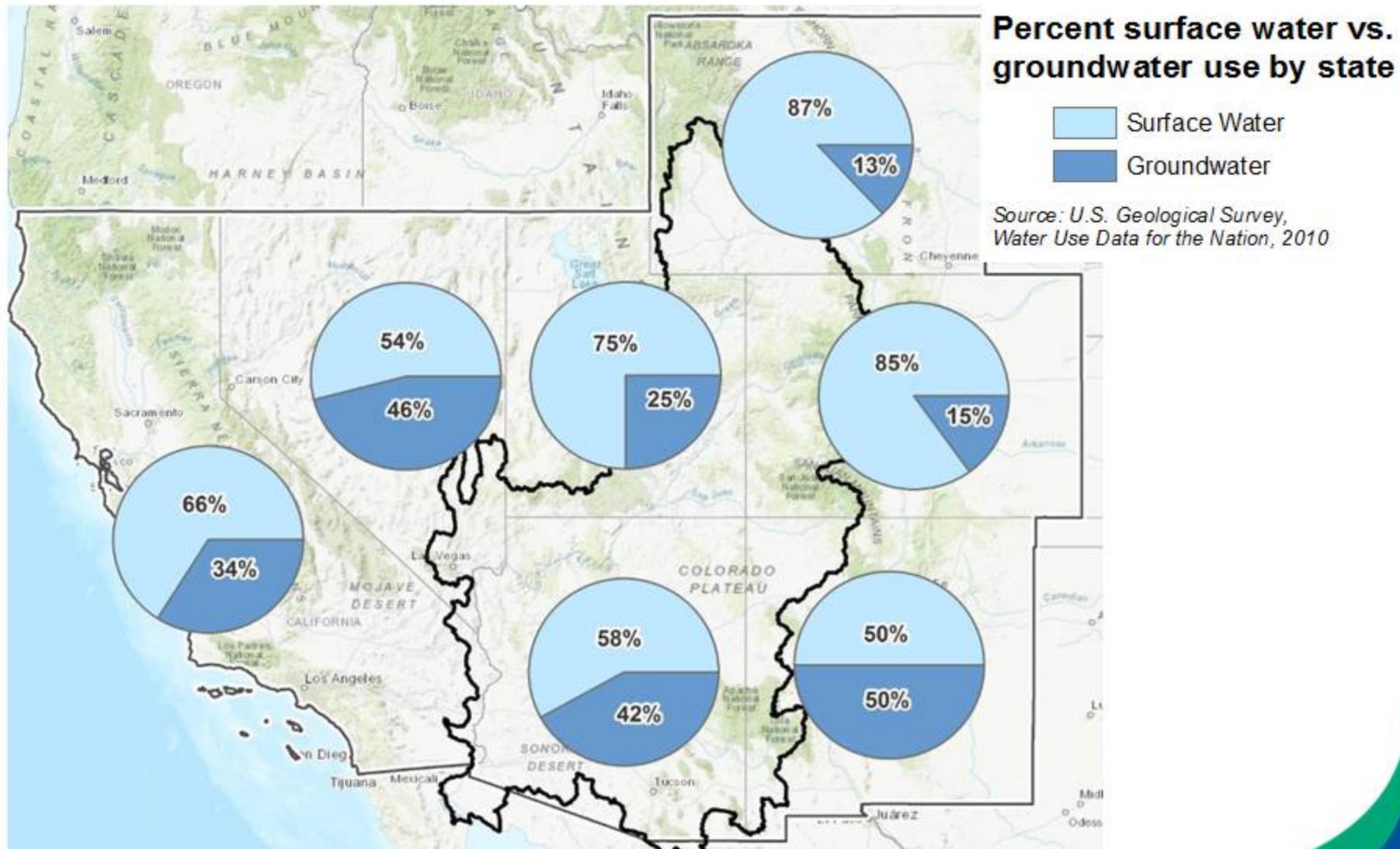
- 7 states, BOR & Mexico; approved by Congress
- New water conservation in Lower Basin
- Start of Demand Management in Upper Basin
- New operating guidelines by 2026



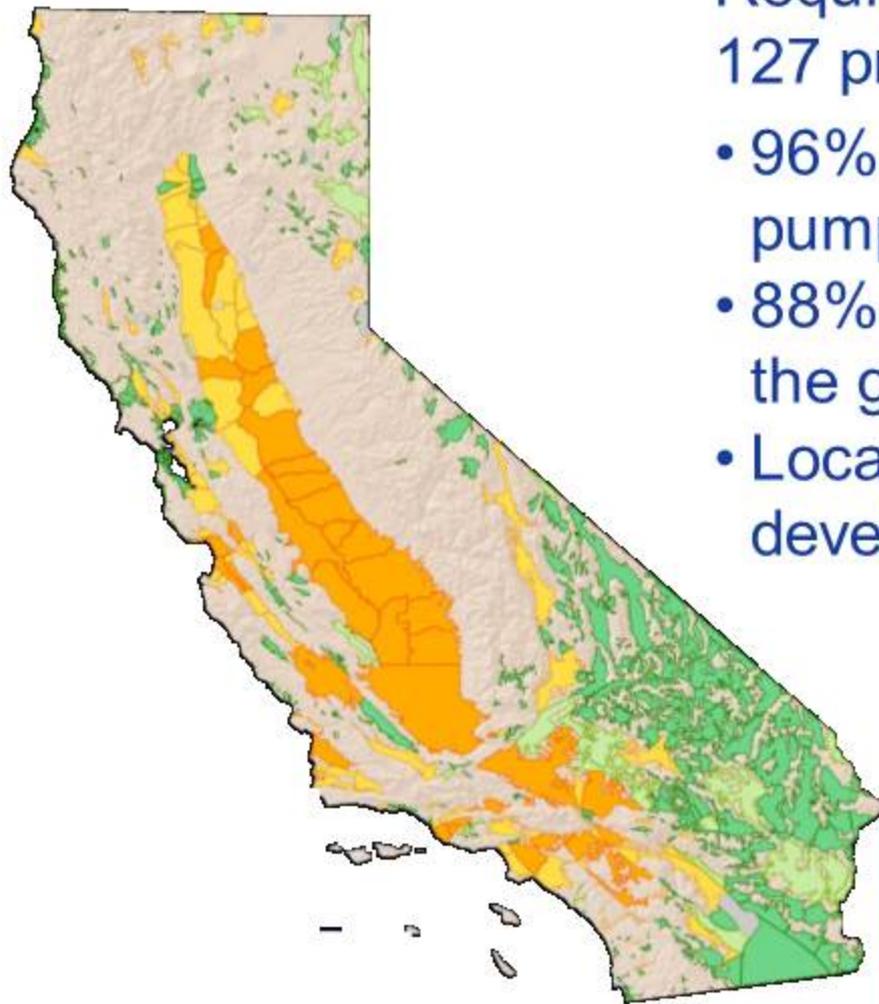
CO Measure DD: Sports betting tax to fund State Water Plan



Groundwater is an important water supply source in the basin.



CA Sustainable Groundwater Management Act



Requires management of 127 priority basins

- 96% of CA's annual groundwater pumping
- 88% of CA's population (overlying the groundwater basins area)
- Local control: Create local agency, develop plan

Basin Rank	Basin Count	Percent of Total	
		GW Use	Population
High	43	69%	47%
Medium	84	27%	41%
Low	27	3%	1%
Very Low	361	1%	11%

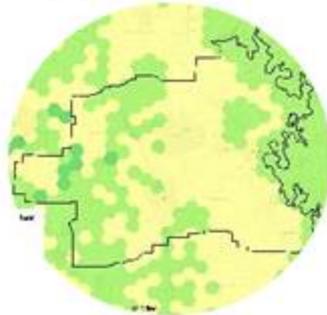
Our strategy in California

Make SGMA compliance easier and more affordable for landowners and water managers

PILOT PROJECTS



Water trading



Regional Conservation Investment Strategy



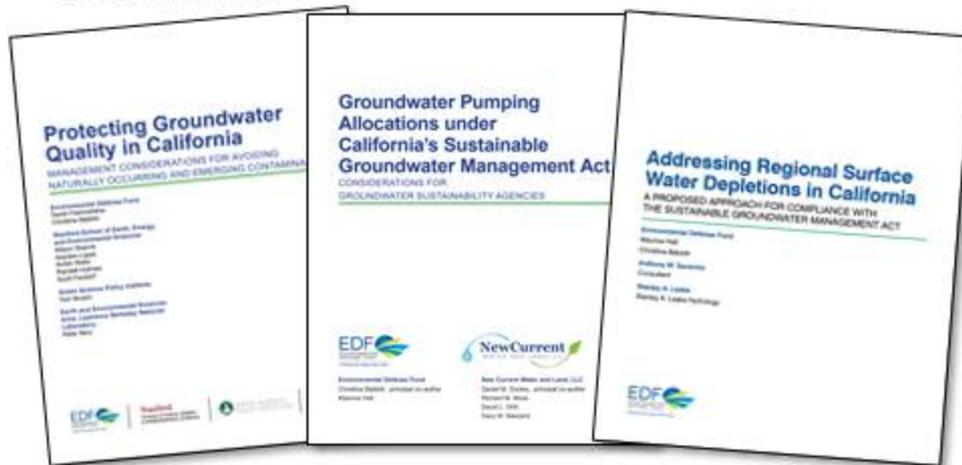
Multi-benefit Land Conversion

DATA



OpenET
Online platform

GUIDANCE



COMMUNITIES



Leadership Institute
Groundwater Game

Arizona: Rural Groundwater & Water Transfers

OPINION

Water shortages are a real threat for rural Arizona. Can we stop them?

Bruce Babbitt and Kathleen Ferris, opinion contributors Published 6:00 a.m. MT June 21, 2019

‘They’re going to dry up’: Debate erupts over plan to move water from farmland to suburbs

Ian James, Arizona Republic Published 7:30 a.m. MT Nov. 20, 2019



Does Arizona need a new economic playbook?



Accurate Data: OpenET

Filling the biggest data gap in water management



Reliable ET data are produced and available at low cost, and **easily accessible via etdata.org** for any area within the western US.



Collaborative Water Management Solutions



Balanced/multi-benefit
Flexible (capacity to adjust over time)
Data-guided
Community supported



Thank you

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Finding the ways that work

