

Colorado River Tier 1 Shortage

Scottsdale receives a portion of its water supply from the Colorado River via the Central Arizona Project (CAP). In recent years, drought conditions in the southwestern United States have increased, leading to less water in the Colorado River and ultimately a water supply shortage for Arizona.

How does a Colorado River Tier 1 Shortage affect Scottsdale?

- Municipalities, Tribes, and Industrial water right holders will NOT be cut in a Tier 1 Shortage
- Scottsdale Water will continue to deliver its normal water supply to its customers
- Scottsdale Water will evaluate implementing Stage 1 of its Drought Management Plan where water conservation awareness efforts will increase
- Commercial and residential fill stations may be shut down or restricted to those users residing outside Scottsdale's municipal boundary

How bad is Arizona's drought?

According to NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, Arizona is in an Extreme Drought. The Colorado River Basin, which supplies the water to CAP, received lower than normal snowfall during the 2020-2021 winter season, leading to less water runoff in the Rocky Mountains, and thus less water in the Colorado River. The Colorado River system is in a 20-plus year drought that continues to stress the system. Ultimately, long-term drought and climate change means less Colorado River water available to Arizona.

What does this mean for Scottsdale?

As a resident or business within the Scottsdale city limits, there will be no immediate changes. The majority of Scottsdale's CAP water allocation will not be cut in a Tier 1 shortage. Scottsdale Water has planned for this event for decades by investing millions of dollars into its infrastructure, executing a diverse water resource portfolio, and creating a robust conservation program. But even with planning, Scottsdale residents and businesses are urged to maximize conservation efforts to ensure long term resiliency.

Will I have to cut back on my water use?

No. Residents and businesses are not affected in a Tier 1 Shortage and will not be restricted on their water use at this time. Scottsdale's Drought Management Plan does not affect an individual water user until a Tier 2 Shortage is declared. Should a Tier 2 be declared, Scottsdale will evaluate the need and potential to implement restrictions. However, conservation is always encouraged and highly recommended to preserve this precious natural resource; better conservation practices today will lead to more water in the future.

How is Scottsdale preparing?

Scottsdale Water has had the vision to plan and protect our water resource for the future. Not only does Scottsdale have one of the most advanced reclaimed water facilities in the US, but is increasing water storage capacity in our aquifers, investing in automated meter readers to empower customers to reduce water use, and is expanding conservation programs to inspire citizens to conserve more. Scottsdale is also the first city in Arizona to meet "Safe Yield" which means the city adds as much groundwater into the aquifer as it takes out.

Learn more at [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov) search "Colorado River shortage"