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WATER EFFICIENCY ACTION NETWORK  
FOR THE COLORADO BASIN STATES

# **WATER EFFICIENCY AND THE COLORADO BASIN: HOW'S OUR PROGRESS?**

WSI Panel, Oct. 9, 2015

# Colorado River basin



WATER EFFICIENCY ACTION NETWORK  
FOR THE COLORADO BASIN STATES

# Panelists

- Pam Adams, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Carol Ward-Morris, Arizona Municipal Water Users' Association
- Peter Mayer, WaterDM
- Mark Cassalia, Denver Water
- Moderator Cindy Dyballa, Network coordinator, Sligo Creek Resources



WATER EFFICIENCY ACTION NETWORK  
FOR THE COLORADO BASIN STATES

# Topics

- Current state of the river
- Basin study municipal (M&I) work group recommendations
- Trends in water use
- Progress on current water efficiency efforts
- What this means for the future



# How's Our Progress?

- Not enough water is available in the Basin, now and in future
- Years of drought make a bad situation worse
- Ramping up water efficiency is the quickest and least cost solution
- Collaboration can achieve results
- Join the Network! More info at <http://www.wean-crb.org>

# California Drought



# The Other Drought





# How's Our Progress?





# WATER EFFICIENCY ACTION NETWORK FOR THE COLORADO BASIN STATES



[www.wean-crb.org](http://www.wean-crb.org)

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Colorado River Basin:

- **Current System Conditions**
- **Basin-Wide Activities**

**WaterSmart Innovations 2015**

**Las Vegas, NV**

**October 9, 2015**



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

# Colorado River Basin Hydrology

- 16.5 million acre-feet (maf) allocated annually
- 14.8 maf average annual “natural” inflow into Lake Powell over past 110 years
- 13 to 14.5 maf of consumptive use annually
- Snowmelt dominated system
- Flow is highly variable year-to-year
- Approximately 60 maf of storage



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# Colorado River Drought

- 2000-2015 is the driest 16-year period in over 100 years of historical records (2013-2015 are estimated)
- Tree-ring reconstructions show more severe droughts have occurred over the past 1200 years (e.g., drought in the mid 1100s)
- The preliminary observed 2015 April through July runoff is 94% of average<sup>1</sup> as of October 1
- Not unusual to have a few years of above average inflow during longer-term droughts (e.g., the 1950s)

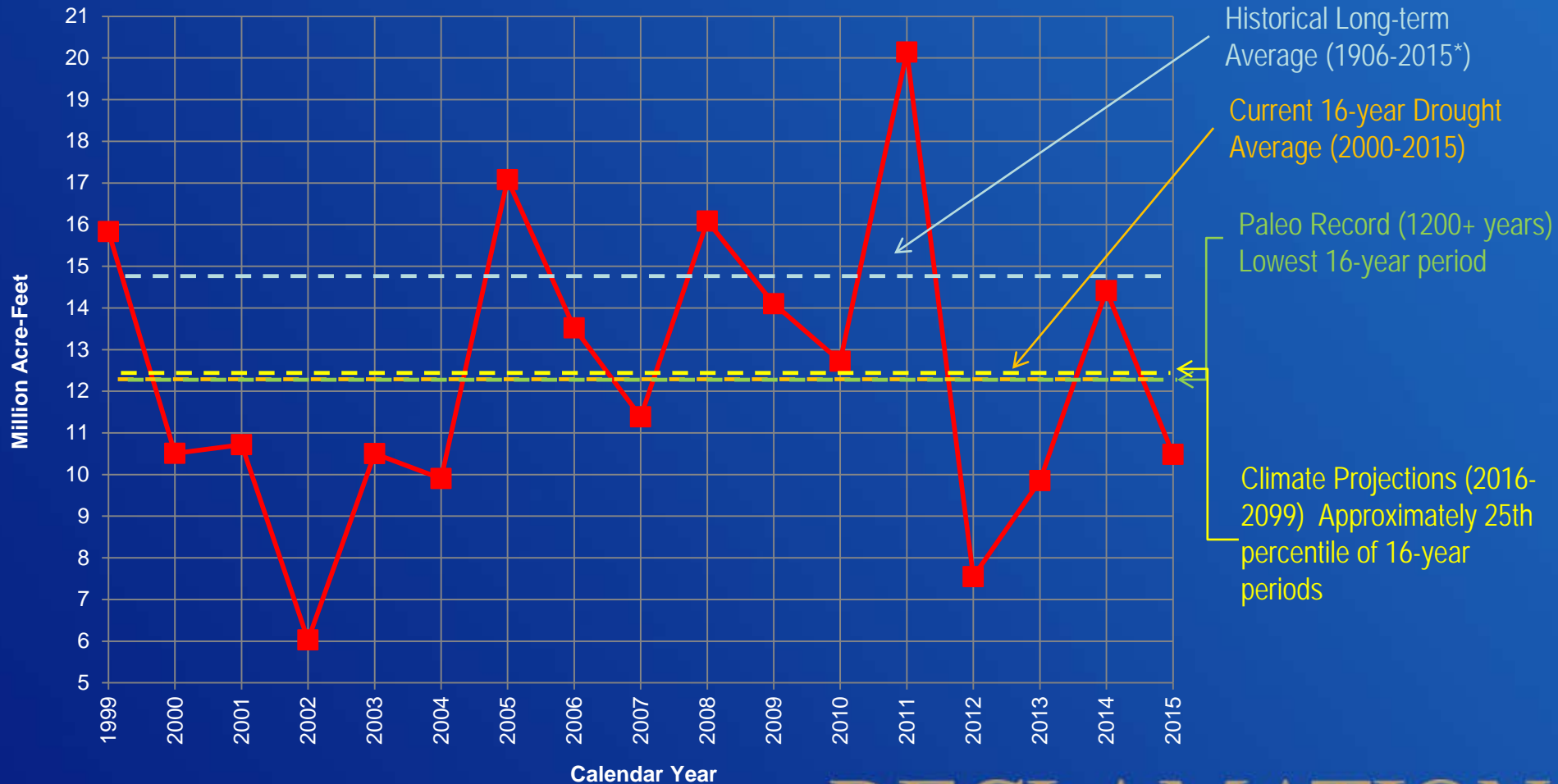


Lake Mead, February 23, 2015  
Elevation 1,089 ft.

<sup>1</sup> Percent of average is based on the period of record from 1981-2010.

# Current 16-year Drought (2000-2015)

## Natural Flow at Lees Ferry

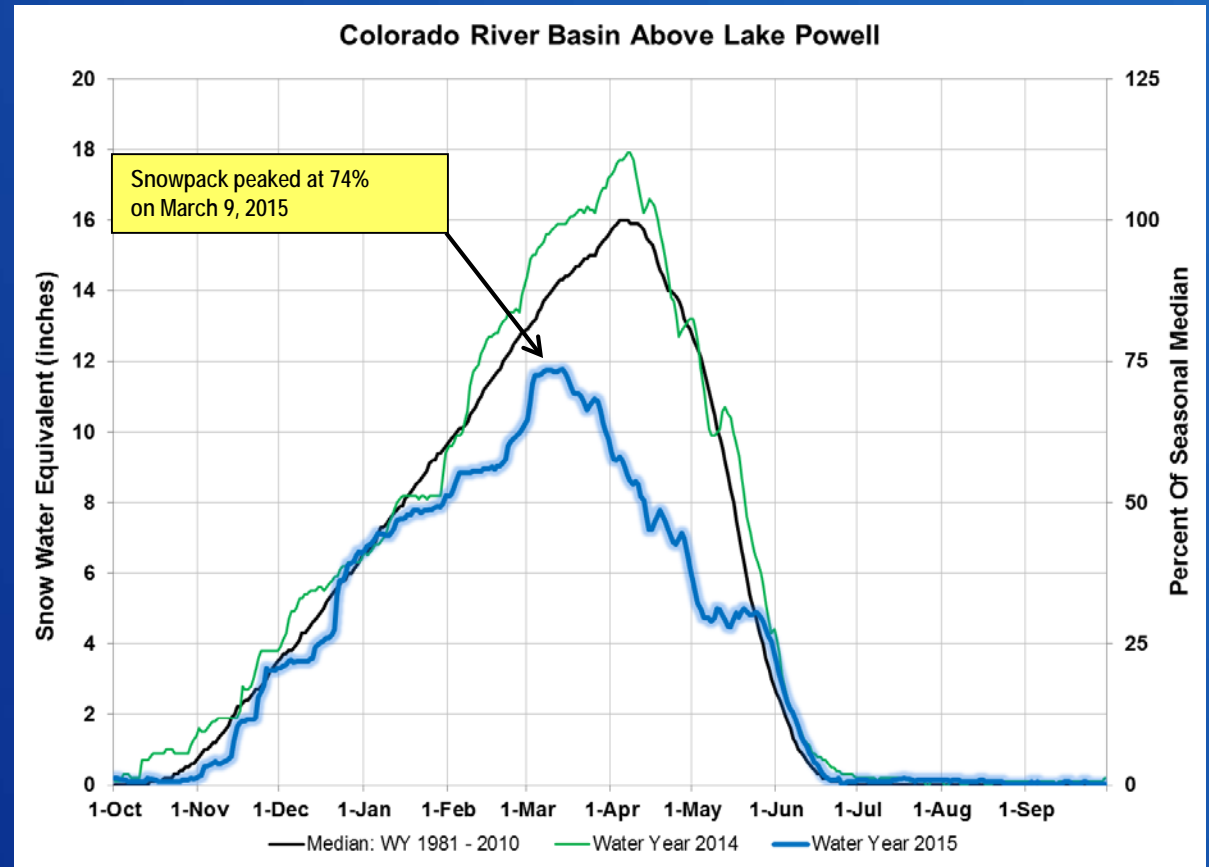


\*2013-2015 natural flows are provisional

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# Water Year Snowpack and Precipitation (as of October 4, 2015)

- Colorado River Basin above Lake Powell
- Water Year 2015 Precipitation to date: 90% of average
- Current Snowpack: NA



# Colorado River Basin Storage

(as of October 4, 2015)

Reservoir	Percent Full	Storage (MAF)	Elevation (Feet)
Lake Powell	51%	12.30	3,606
Lake Mead	38%	9.88	1,078
Total System Storage*	51%	30.25	NA

\*Total system storage was 30.09 maf or 50% this time last year

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# System Conservation Pilot Program

- Funding Partners: Reclamation, CAWCD, SNWA, MWD, Denver Water
- Goal is to examine the effect of Basin-wide solutions on declining levels in Lakes Powell and Mead
- Provides \$11 million for voluntary pilot projects that create system water
  - \$2.75 million for Upper Basin
- The Program went into effect July 2014 for at least through 2016

Agreement No. 14-XX-30-W0574

AGREEMENT AMONG  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THROUGH THE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION,  
THE CENTRAL ARIZONA WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,  
DENVER WATER, AND  
THE SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY,  
FOR A PILOT PROGRAM FOR FUNDING THE CREATION OF COLORADO RIVER  
SYSTEM WATER THROUGH VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION AND  
REDUCTIONS IN USE

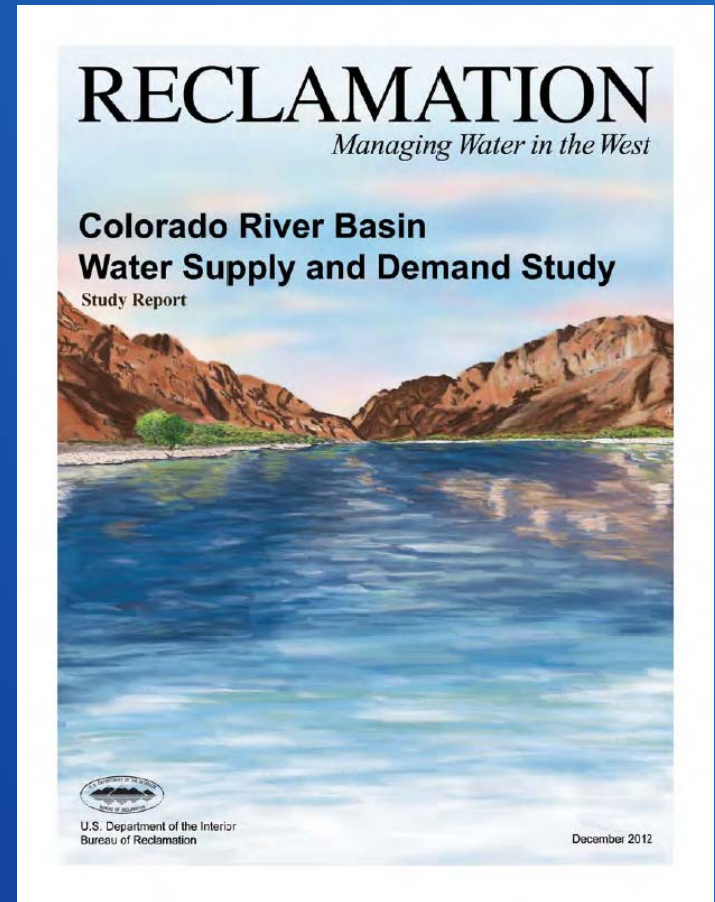
1. **PREAMBLE:** THIS AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is entered into this ~~30<sup>th</sup>~~ day of ~~July~~, 2014 ("Effective Date"), by and between the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ("United States"), represented by the Secretary of the Interior ("Secretary") acting through the officials executing this Agreement, the CENTRAL ARIZONA WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, a multi-county water conservation district duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Arizona ("CAWCD"), the METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, a regional public water district duly organized under California law ("MWD"), DENVER WATER, a municipal corporation and political subdivision of the State of Colorado ("DW"), and the SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada ("SNWA"), each being referred to individually as "Party" and collectively as the "Parties", and pursuant to the Act of Congress approved June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388), designated the Reclamation Act, and acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto, the Act of March 4, 1921 referred to as the Contributed Funds Act (41 Stat. 1404, 43 U.S.C. § 395), the Act of January 12, 1927 (44 Stat. 957, 43 U.S.C. § 397a), the Act of December 21, 1928 (45 Stat. 1057), designated the Boulder Canyon Project Act, the Act of April 11, 1956 (70 Stat. 105), designated the Colorado River Storage Project Act; the Act of September 30, 1968 (82 Stat. 885), designated the Colorado River Basin Project Act, the Act of

# MOU - Pilot Drought Response Actions

- Participants: Reclamation, Lower Basin States, CAWCD, SNWA, MWD
- Identifies goal to create 1.5 to 3.0 maf of protection volumes by 2019
- Commits Reclamation, CAWCD, SNWA, and MWD to “best efforts” to create 740 KAF of protection volumes by 2017
- Identifies consultation triggers
- Commits participants to continue to work on key issues during further consultation

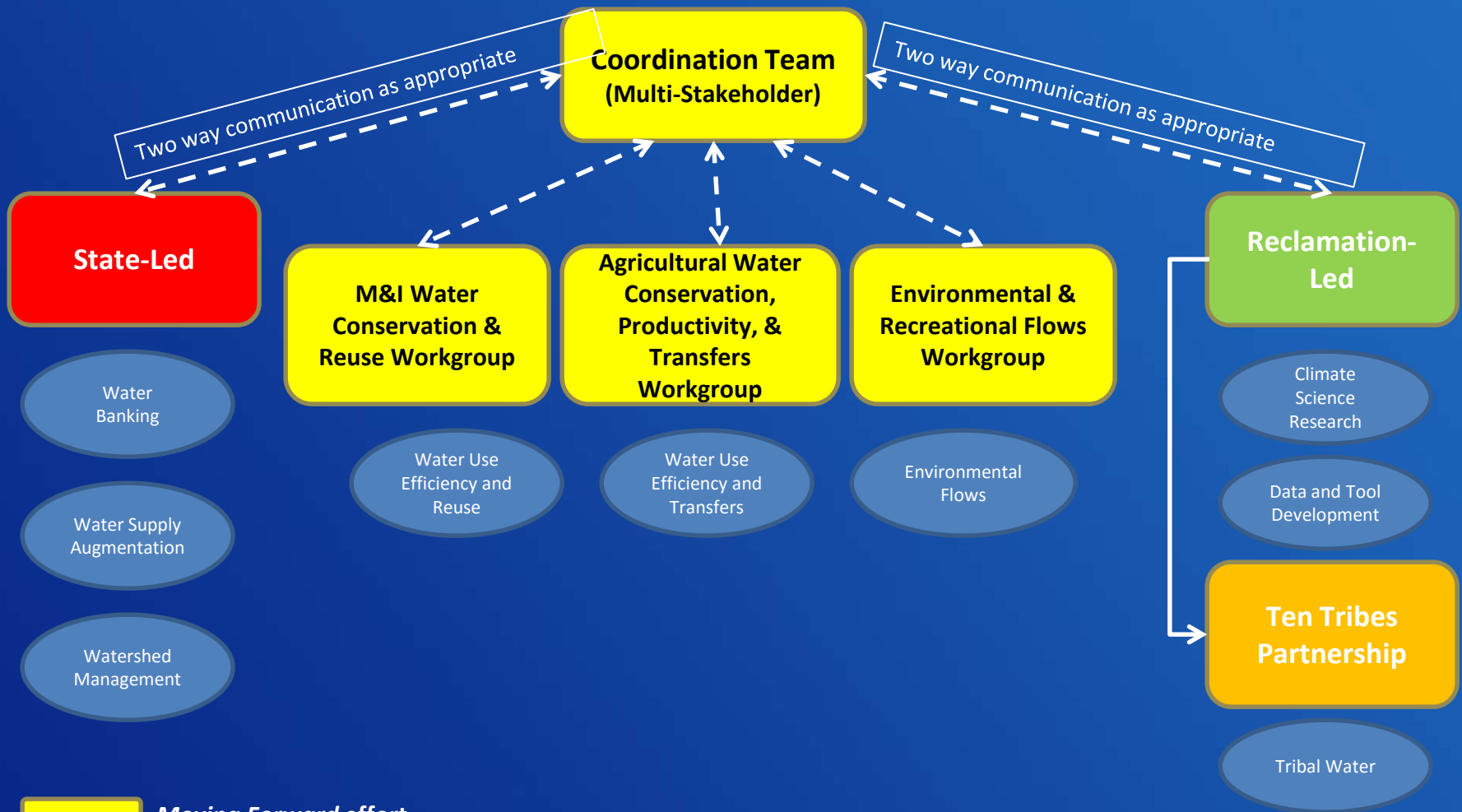
# Study Summary

- The system is vulnerable if we do nothing
- Doing something greatly reduces that vulnerability and makes the system more resilient but does not eliminate vulnerability
- In the near term, all portfolios show that conservation, transfers, and reuse are cost-effective ways to reduce vulnerability
- In the longer term, more tradeoffs emerge to achieve an acceptable level of risk in terms of options, cost, resources, and other implications



<http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy.html>

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*Moving Forward effort*

State-led

Reclamation-led

Tribes/Reclamation-led

Area identified in Basin Study where next steps should be taken

## Next Steps Areas Identified in the Basin Study

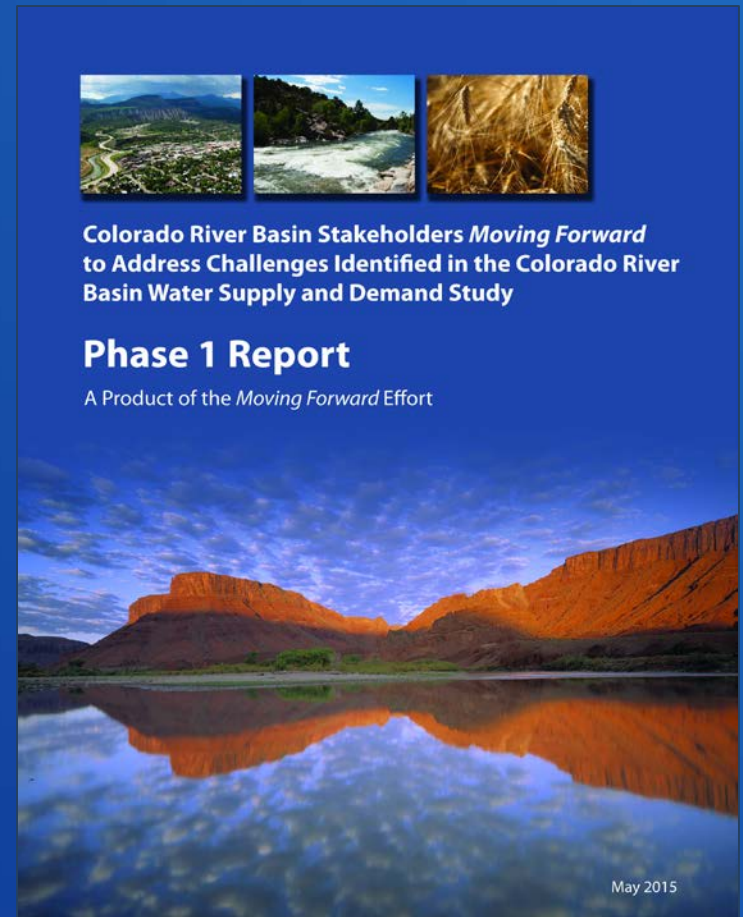
# *Moving Forward* Effort

- Stakeholder kickoff in May 2013
- Ultimate goal: identify actionable steps to address projected water supply and demand imbalances that have broad-based support and provide a wide-range of benefits
- Phase 1 began with the formation of:
  - Coordination Team
  - M&I Water Conservation and Reuse Workgroup
  - Agricultural Water Conservation, Productivity, and Transfers Workgroup
  - Environmental and Recreational Flows Workgroup
- Coordination Team and Workgroups multi-stakeholder
  - Workgroups comprised of subject matter experts throughout Basin

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# Phase 1 Summary

- Phase 1 Report published in May 2015
- Twenty-five opportunities were identified by the workgroups
  - Identified potential actions associated with each opportunity
- Similar findings between workgroup's include opportunities related to:
  - Funding and incentives
  - Data and tools
  - Outreach and partnerships
  - Coordination and integration
  - Infrastructure improvements
  - Flexible water management



Commenting encouraged!

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# *Moving Forward Effort, Phase 2*

- Phase 2, which will begin in 2015, signals the transition from study to action
- Building from the Phase 1 workgroups' proposed opportunities for future actions, several pilot projects will be identified and implemented
- The specifics of the pilot projects are unknown at this time but will be related to M&I and Ag conservation and environmental and recreational flows

# Colorado River Basin Updates

Questions?

For more information

- Lower Colorado River Operations: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/riverops.html>
- Basin Study: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy.html>
- Moving Forward:  
<http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy/MovingForward/index.html>

RECLAMATION





CAP



PHX News12

# WATER EFFICIENCY & THE COLORADO BASIN: HOW'S OUR PROGRESS?

WaterSmart Innovations Conference 2015

Carol Ward-Morris  
Arizona Municipal Water Users Association



**Colorado River Basin Stakeholders *Moving Forward*  
to Address Challenges Identified in the Colorado River  
Basin Water Supply and Demand Study**

## **Phase 1 Report**

A Product of the *Moving Forward* Effort



May 2015

# M&I Conservation and Reuse



SNWA

**Historical & Current Programs**

**Water Use & Reuse Trends**

**Planned Future Efforts**

# M&I Conservation and Reuse Opportunities & Potential Actions

1. Outdoor use
2. Social norming with water customers
3. Integration of water/energy conservation programs
4. Integration of land and water use planning
5. Goal setting for conservation and reuse programs
6. Funding and resources
7. Water system losses
8. Partnerships with commercial, institutional and industrial users
9. Conservation oriented water rates and incentive programs
10. Regulations and ordinances



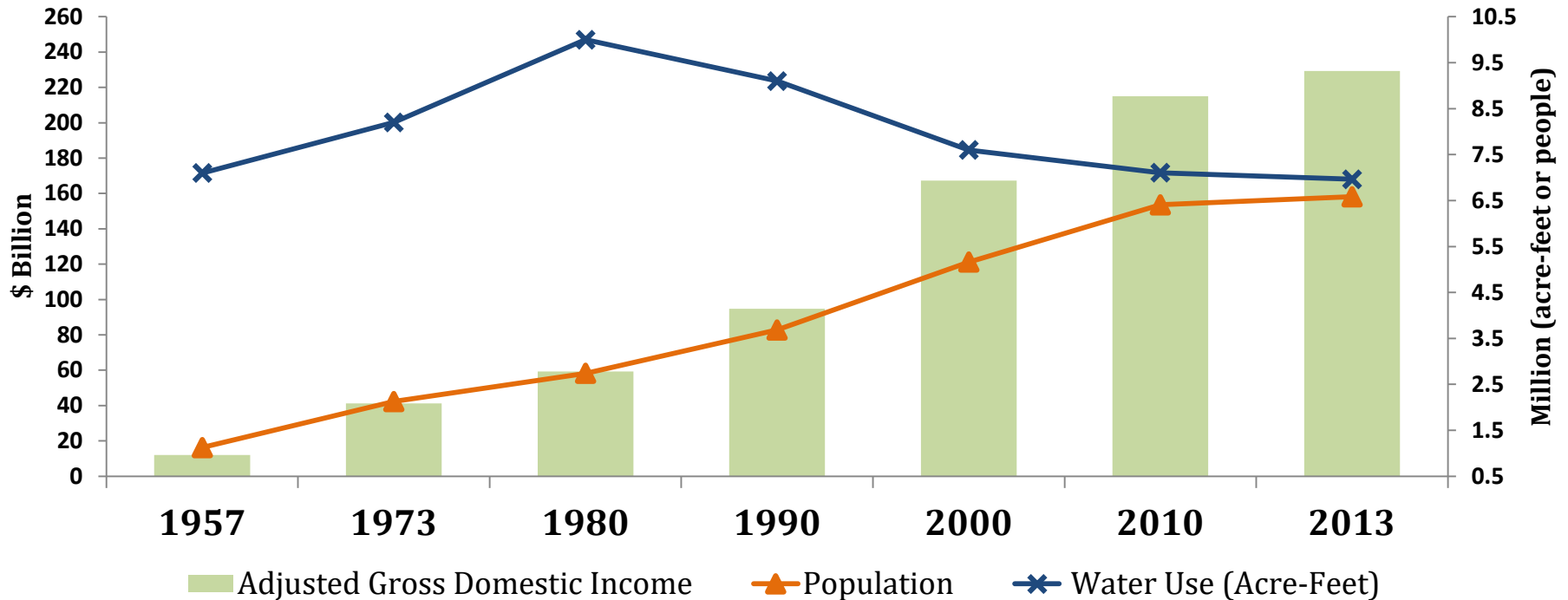


photo: Eloy District, Pinal County. Dorothea Lange, National Archives



photo: AMWUA archives

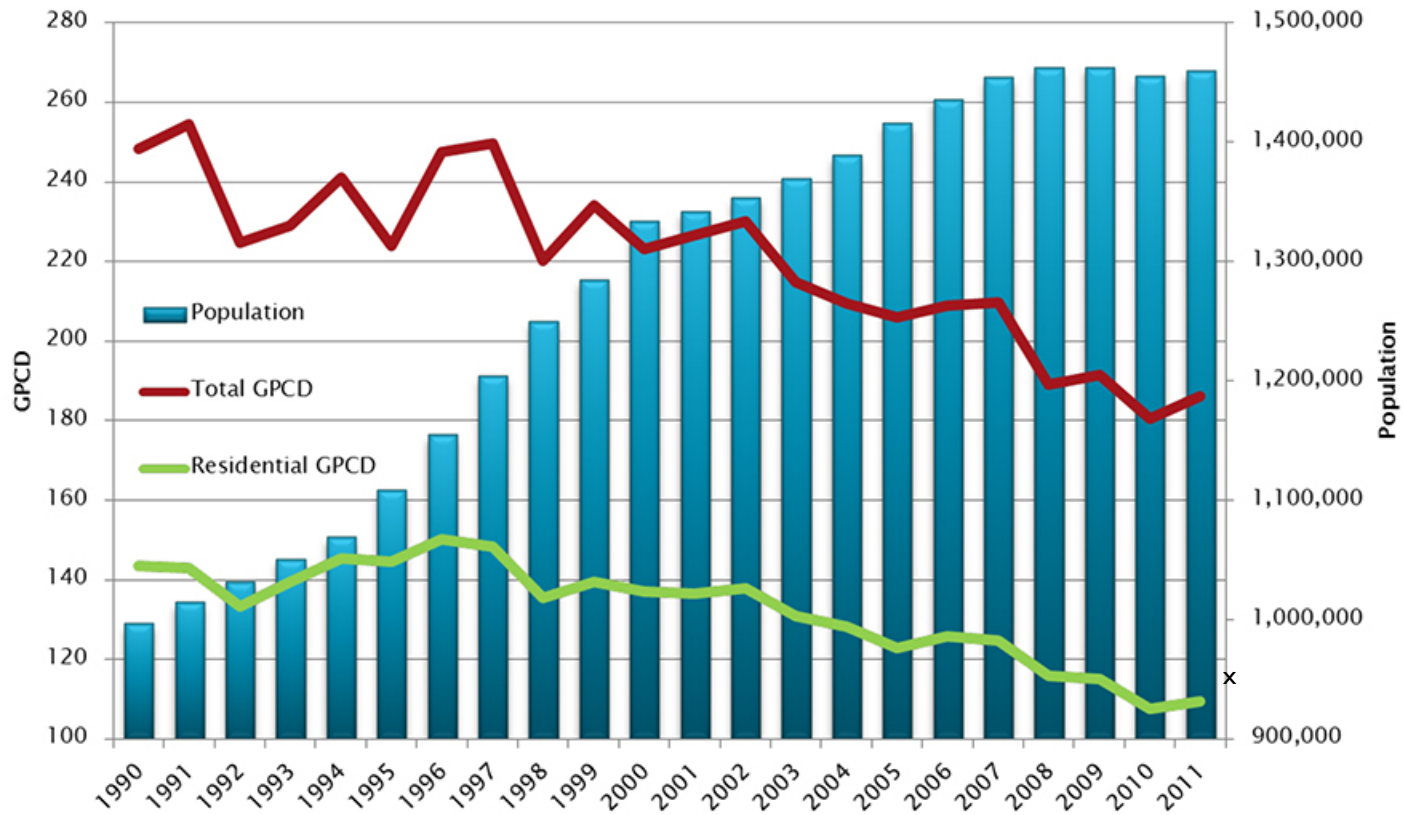
## Arizona Water Use, Population and Economic Growth (1957 - 2013)



Year	Total Water Use (in million acre-feet)	Population (in millions)	Gross Domestic Income (in billions)
<b>1957</b>	<b>7.1maf</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>\$11.99</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>7maf</b>	<b>6.58</b>	<b>\$229.34</b>
<b>Change from 1957-2013</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>472%</b>	<b>1752%</b>

# Phoenix Water Use 1990-2011

## Gallons per Capita per Day (GPCD)

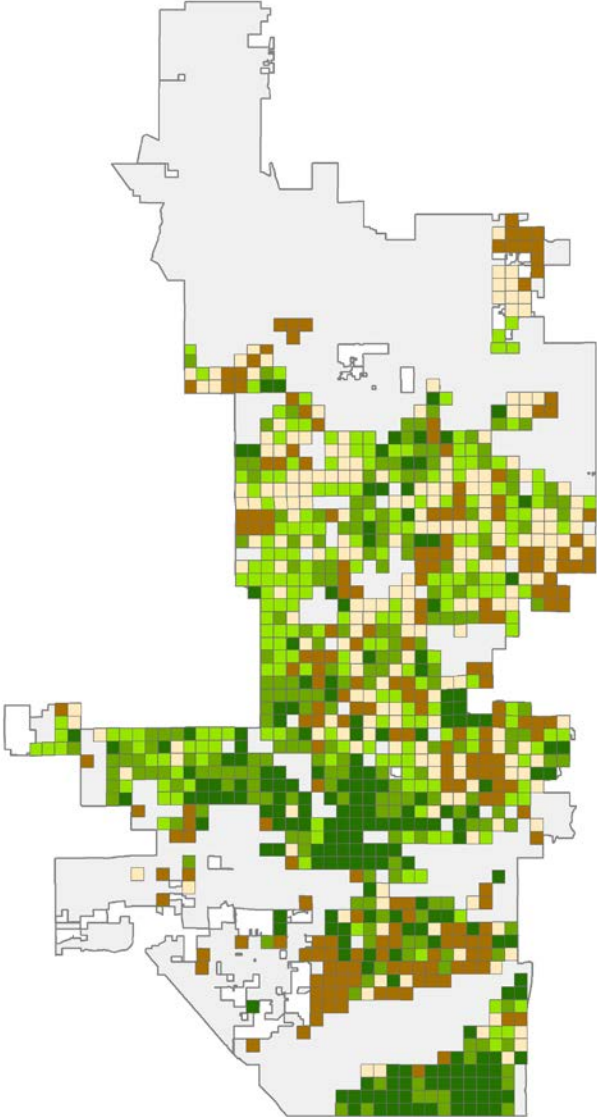




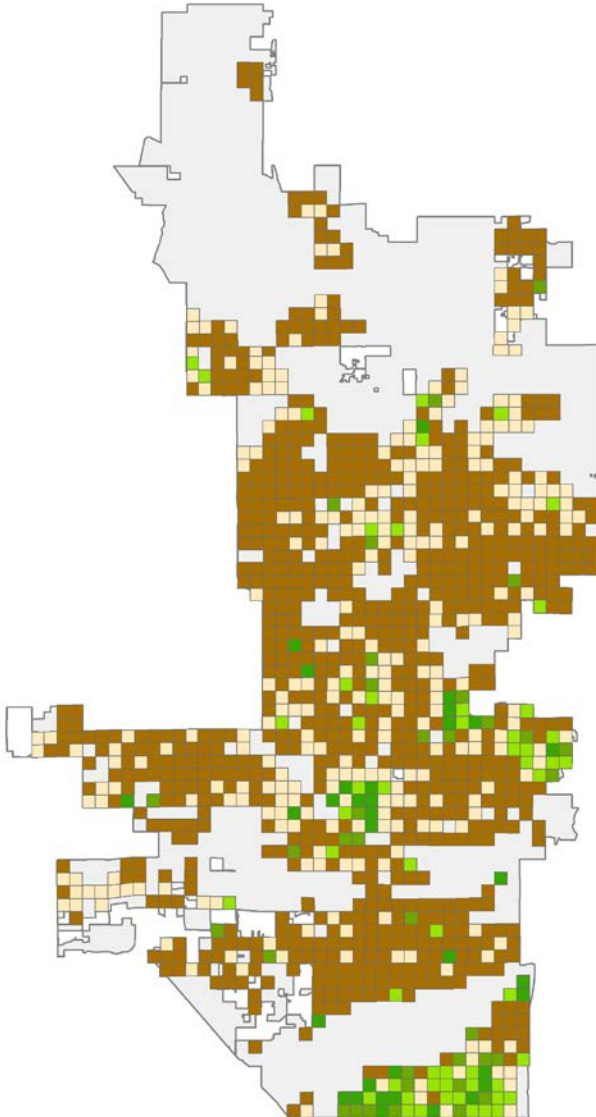
# Relative Water Use Intensity by Quarter Section

## City of Phoenix

2001



2013





Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station  
Photo: APS



Tonopah Desert Recharge Project  
Photo: City of Glendale



Egret, Gilbert Riparian Preserve  
Photo: Jeff Lee

Carol Ward-Morris  
Assistant Director  
AMWUA  
602-248-8482  
[cwardmorris@amwua.org](mailto:cwardmorris@amwua.org)

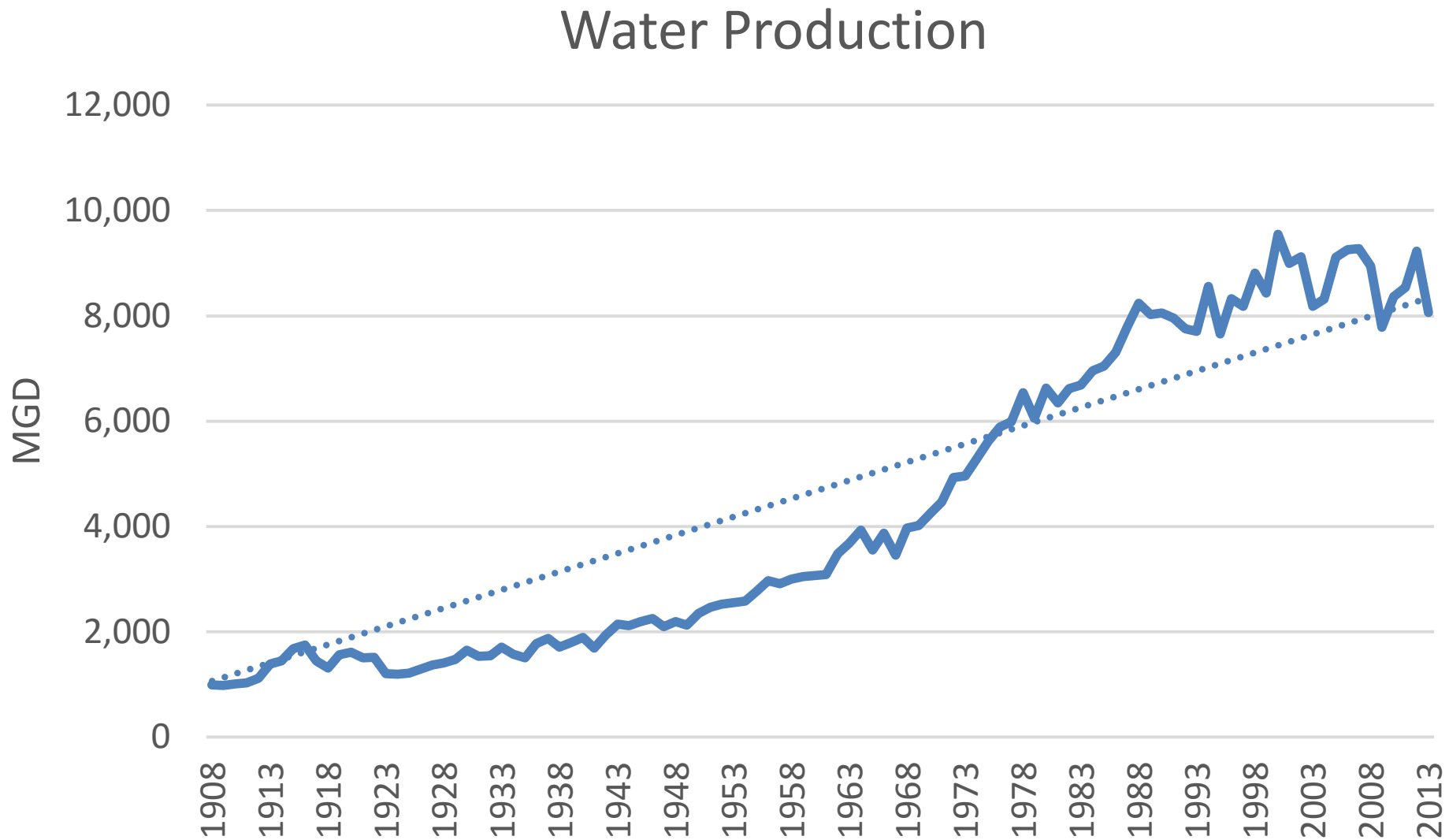


# CRB Friday Seminar

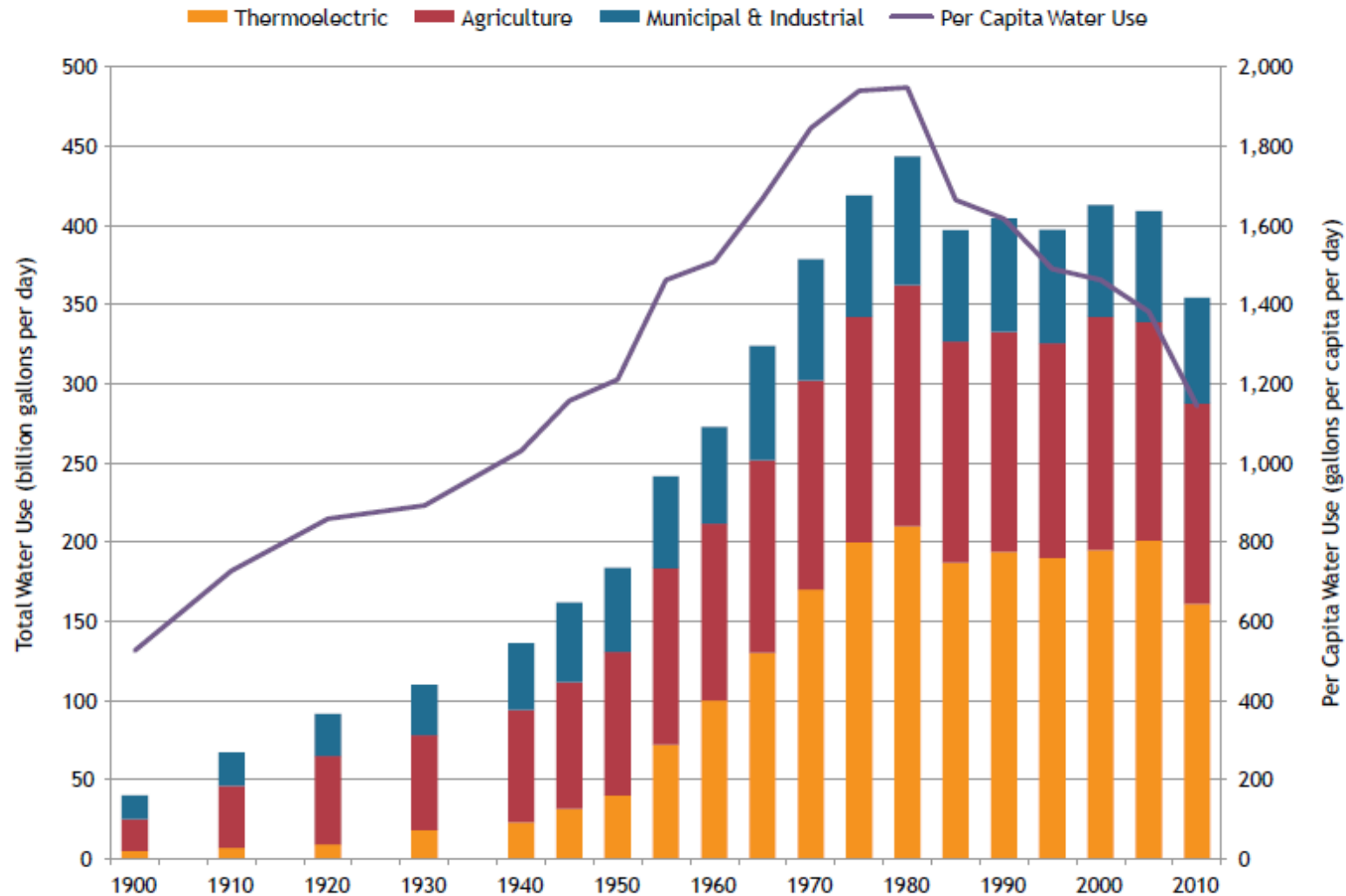
PETER MAYER, P.E., PRINCIPAL  
WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT



# Historic Demand – Greeley, CO

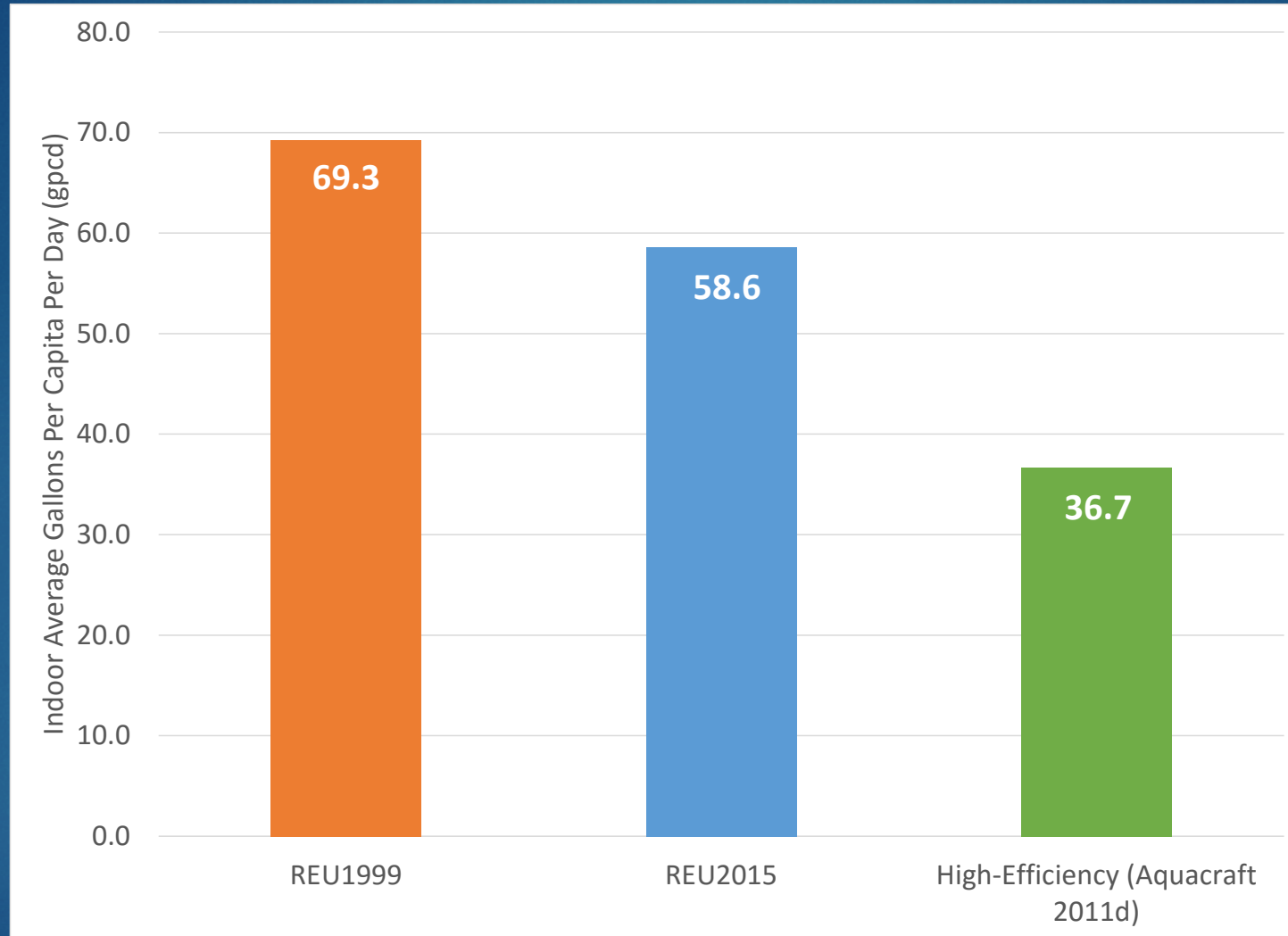


# Water Use in the US, 1900 - 2010



Includes fresh and saline water. Source USGS and Pacific Institute 2015

# Residential Indoor GPCD

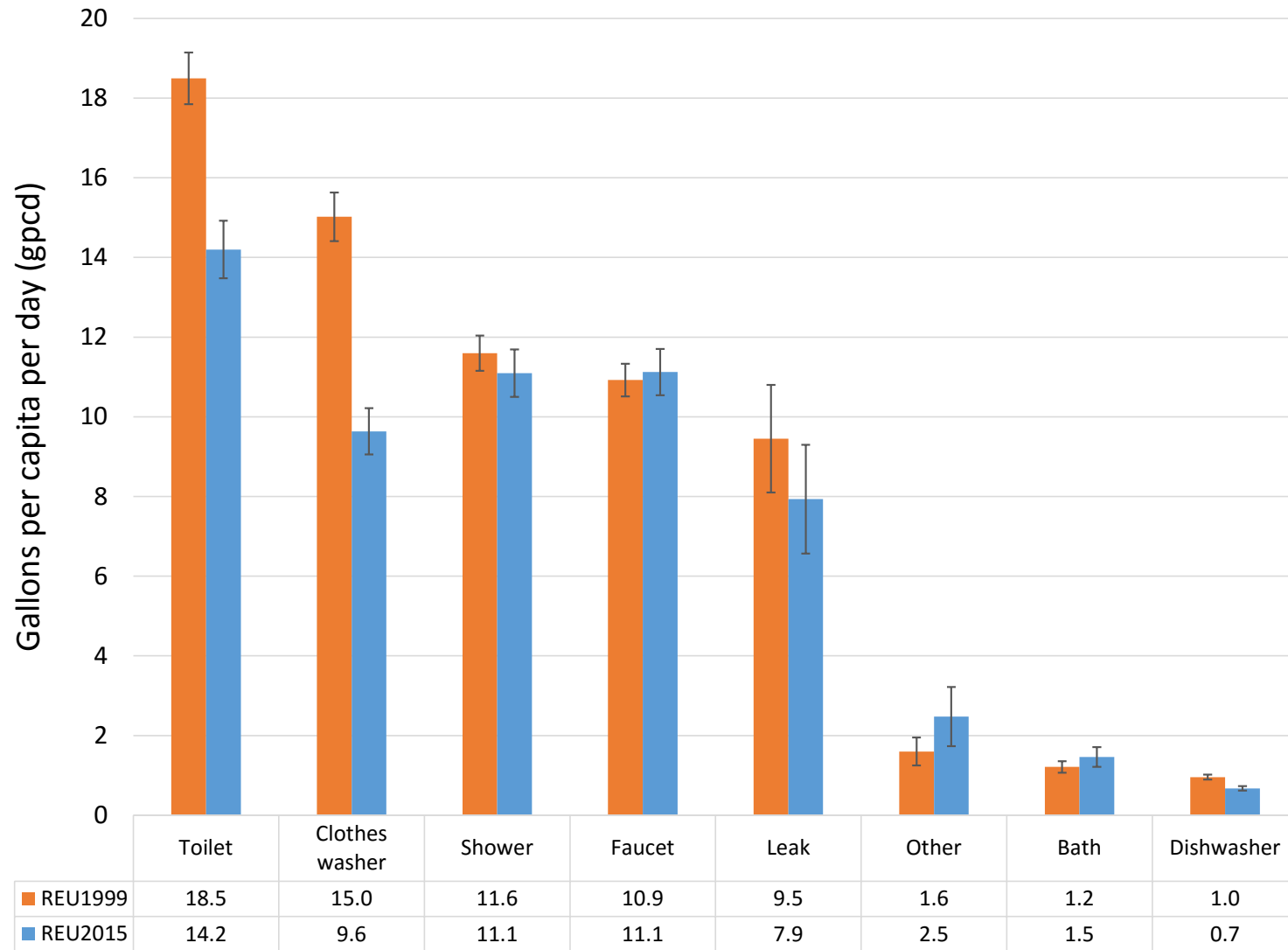


1999 vs. 2015 =  
15.4% reduction

2015 vs. HE =  
37.4% reduction

Source: Water Research Foundation (2015) Residential End Uses of Water Update – #4309. Denver, CO.

# Indoor GPCD Comparison



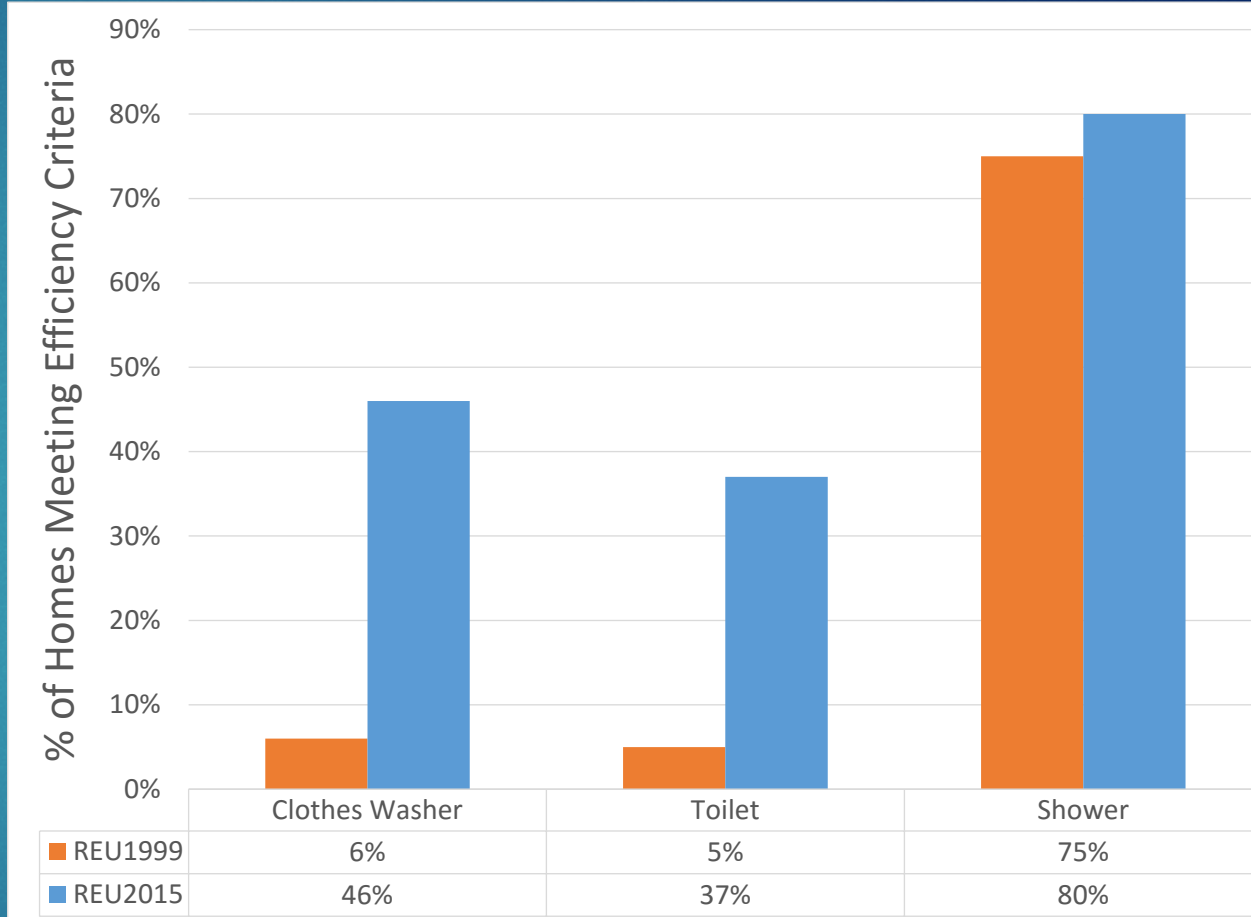
- Statistically significant reductions in:
- Clothes washer
  - Toilet
  - Dishwasher

Source: Water Research Foundation (2015) Residential End Uses of Water Update – #4309. Denver, CO.



# Future Conservation Potential

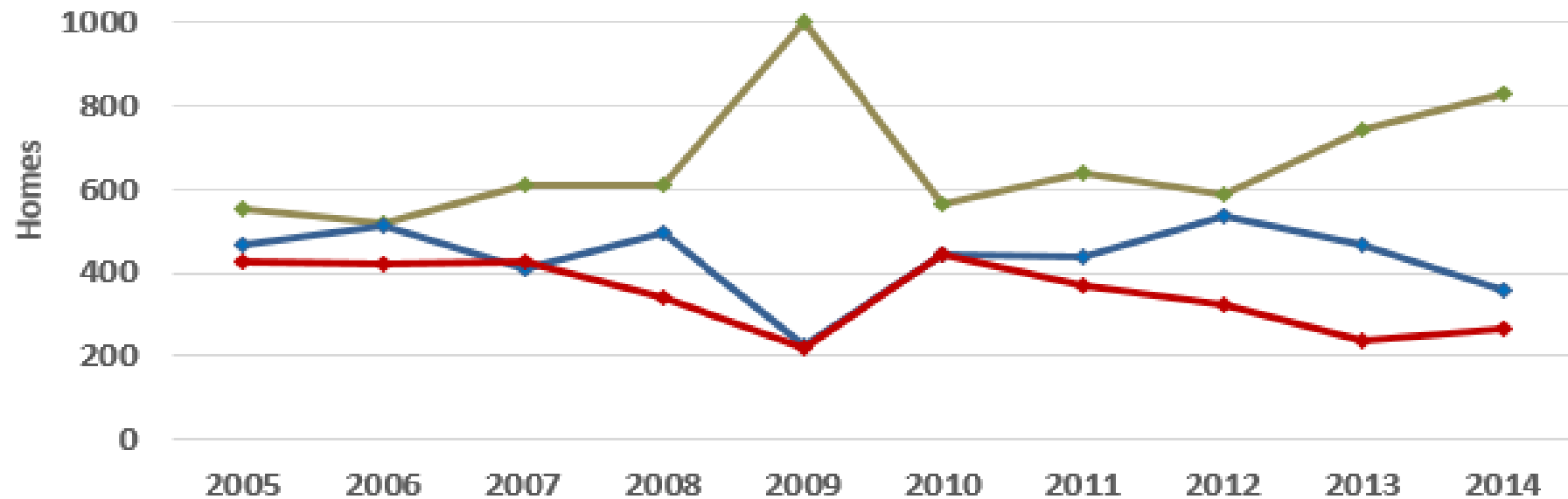
- ▶ A lot.
- ▶ We're almost...half way there!
- ▶ New technology
- ▶ Outdoor efficiency
- ▶ Leak detection
- ▶ Advanced metering
- ▶ Customer engagement through data and information



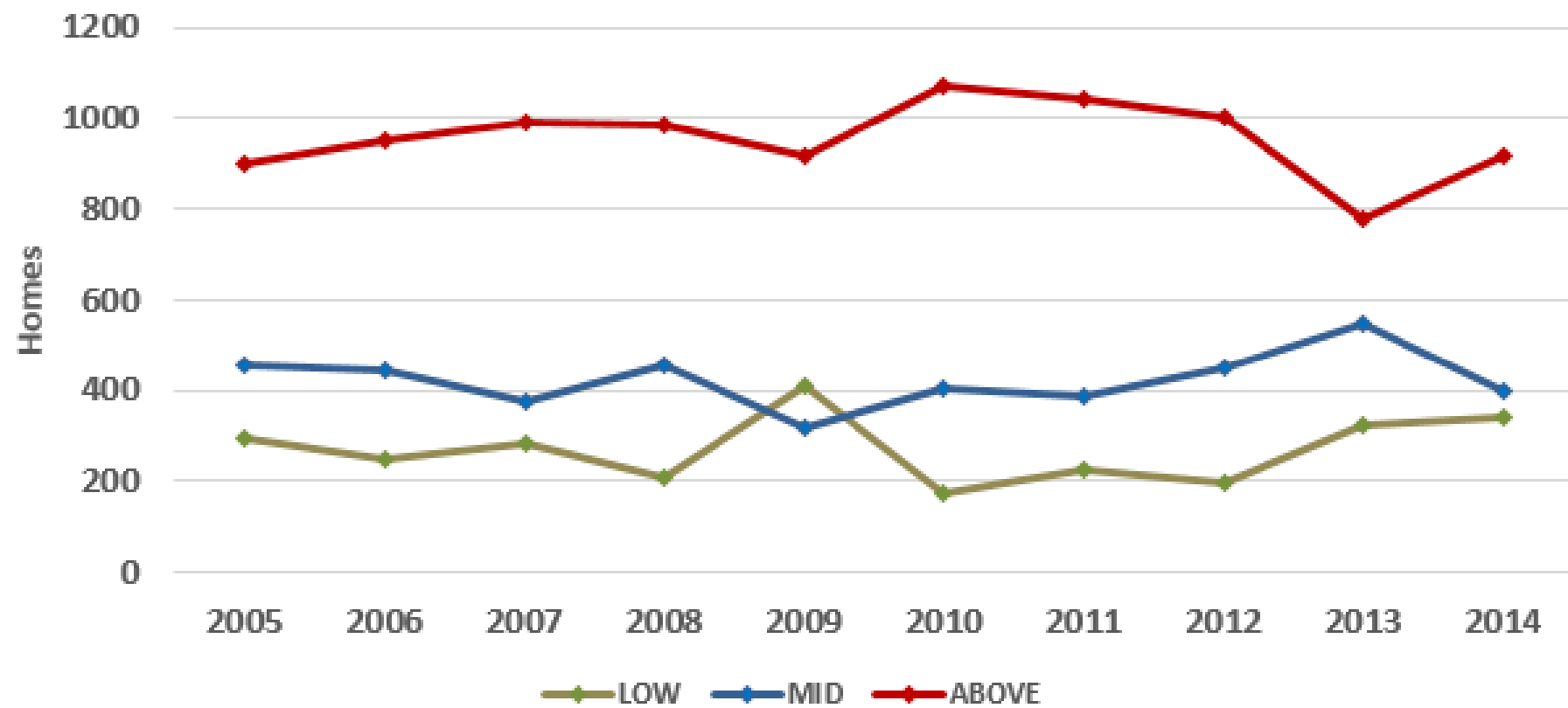
Source: Water Research Foundation (2015) Residential End Uses of Water Update – #4309. Denver, CO.

Average Efficiency Criteria: Clothes washers  $\leq 30$  gallon per load  
Toilets  $\leq 2.2$  gallons per flush  
Showers  $\leq 2.5$  gpm

# Barnum



# Corey Merrill





211 S Downing St

NO  
PARKING  
ANY  
TIME  
→

16  
SEP

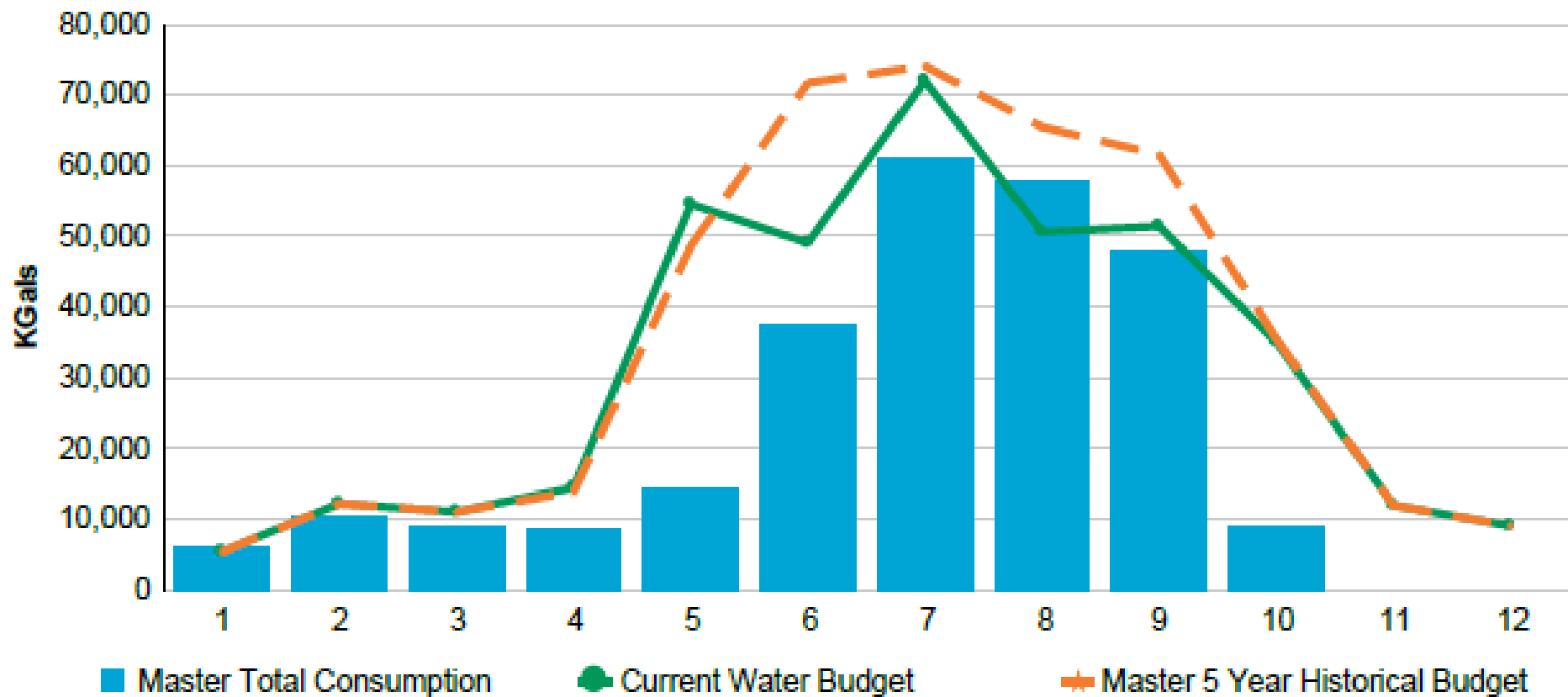
## What lies beneath? (We're about to find out)

Posted by Denver Water in [Your Denver Water](#). Tagged: [aquifer storage and recovery](#), [aquifers](#), [Denver Basin](#), [Denver Water](#), [leonard rice engineers](#), [long range water planning](#), [underground water storage](#), [water storage](#). [Leave a Comment](#)

**Denver Water looks deep underground for new places to store water**

By Jay Adams





	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Indoor Budget	5,385	12,206	11,059	9,817	11,831	8,949	194	0	8,076	12,697	11,978	9,051
Total Outdoor Budget	0	0	0	4,653	42,762	40,110	71,830	50,624	43,341	22,393	0	0
<b>Master Current Budget</b>	5,385	12,206	11,059	14,469	54,593	49,058	72,024	50,624	51,417	35,090	11,978	9,051
<b>Master Total Consumption</b>	5,965	10,361	9,084	8,557	14,194	37,388	60,900	57,909	48,130	8,767	0	0
<b>% of Monthly Budget</b>	111%	85%	82%	59%	26%	76%	85%	114%	94%	25%	0	0

## Housing Authority – Dispersed Housing (Indoor Use)

Efficiency	<30 g/p/d	30-40	40-50	50-60	>60
% of Units	24%	21%	22%	10%	23%



Stout Street  
Health Center

2130