

River of Time Museum

Tips and Tidbits

WATER

CAP (Central Arizona Project) water comes from the Colorado River

Our canal system is built on top of the Hohokam system; it covers 336 miles of desert from Lake Havasu to Tucson; the one canal is completely fenced

In 1450 there was a shift in population and the Hohokam left the area

Phoenix has an average of 7" of rainfall per year

There are 1100 miles of canals

There are 13,000 sq. miles of watershed in Arizona

All water ends up at Yuma; it flows NE to SW from all lakes, rivers and canals

In the winter we get water from the Verde River side (no power to pump it); in summer, from the Salt River side (generates electricity)

SRP manages 250 wells in the Valley

- Aquifer
- Surface
- CAP canal - Colorado River, Salt, Verde

There are 6 lakes in the system which function for water storage:

- Apache
- Bartlett
- Canyon
- Roosevelt - the largest
- Pleasant
- Saguaro

1860 Jack Swilling came to the area

1867 Jack Swilling built the first modern canal in the Valley; it was financed by the mines: Vulture Mine in Wickenburg was the largest

1890 There were then 3 yrs of drought and 3 yrs of flooding

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1901 Roosevelt became President and became aware of the water problems in the southwest. He legislated the Bureau of Reclamation Act, loaning funds to the *territory* of Arizona. The government loaned money to the Salt River Water Users Association; farmers put the land up as collateral and used the money to build Roosevelt and Stewart Mountain Dams

Stewart Mountain Dam started moving. They drilled 63 holes into it and tightened it down.

1908 Granite reef Dam was built. It is 30 ft high and directs water into the system; in 1911 it was completed

1922 Colorado River Compact developed
1944 Colorado River Compact Ratified
1968 President Johnson authorized the CAP
1973 Construction began
2000 First water was delivered

CAP has a 15 member Board of Directors who decide where our water goes and how much of it; CAP delivers half the water in the State - delivers 1.5 million acre feet

CAP sells to municipalities and agricultural entities:
47% agricultural
40% drinking

Canal water spends most of its time in Arizona

Whatever gets dumped into the ground ends up in our water table

When groundwater is over pumped, the ground dries up and cracks appear

14 pumping plants lift water 3000 feet; there are 8 siphons (21' each) underground through 3 tunnels; the largest lift is 825' at Lake Havasu (where there are 6 pumps)

Lake Pleasant is used for storage

Recharge - stores water not used

The taste of water out of the tap depends on the salt and chlorine content as well as the source of the water. So, it changes depending on where it comes from

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The Pueblo Grande Museum has a map of the 250 primary and 650 lateral canals

ALL DAMS LEAK

326,000 gallons of water in an Acre Foot

1.5 Acre Feet per year needed to irrigate

200,000 Acre Feet goes into the aquifer to recycle supplies 40,000 families/year

5 million people in the State

3 million people in the Valley

6 million people in 10 years