

Arizona Department of Water Resources

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**NEWS
RELEASE**



Jan Brewer,
Governor
Herb Guenther,
Director
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ADWR hailed as “Partner in Conservation”

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar honored the Arizona Department of Water Resources for its work on achieving a landmark agreement on operating the Colorado River.

Tom Carr, assistant ADWR director and a key figure in reaching the agreement, was in Washington, D.C., to accept the award on behalf of ADWR. The honor also went to two organizations related to ADWR – the Arizona Water Banking Authority and the Arizona Water Institute

“It was fitting that Tom attended the ceremony in Washington,” said ADWR Director Herb Guenther. “His experience and ideas were essential to the success of the difficult negotiations to give us peace on the river for 20 years to come.”

Joining Arizona in the “Partner in Conservation” award were the remaining six states that border on the Colorado River, a 1,400-mile waterway that provides water to tens of millions of people and 2 million irrigated acres in the Colorado Basin and northwestern Mexico. The award also was shared by dozens of Indian tribes, environmental advocates and resource-management groups.

Salazar recognized the participants for finalizing an agreement known as the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lakes Powell and Mead.

The “Interim Guidelines,” as they also are known, were developed during a period of severe drought, declining reservoir levels and continued growth in demand for water. The agreement will be in effect until 2026.

The agreement adopts four key elements of river management:

- Rules for shortages –who will take reductions and when they take them.
- Lakes Powell and Mead rise and fall in tandem, better sharing the risk of drought.
- Rules for surpluses, so that if the basin is blessed with ample runoff, the Department of the Interior will have rules in place to distribute the extra water.
- Rules to address the ongoing drought by encouraging new initiatives for water conservation and augmentation.

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