

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

Drought Interagency
Coordinating Group

May 15, 2023



COMMUNITY CAP WATER

- * The Community has a 311.8 KAF entitlement to CAP water under its Water Settlement.
- * Community CAP water is an in-lieu supply provided to settle the Community's claims to the Gila River and Salt River.
- * Unlike other CAP tribal settlements, Community CAP water is not fully firmed in times of shortage.
- * 120.6 KAF of Community CAP Water is NIA Priority – supply most at risk during times of drought.
- * 191.2 KAF of Community CAP Water is Indian/M&I Priority – 73.4 KAF not currently under contract for lease or exchange.

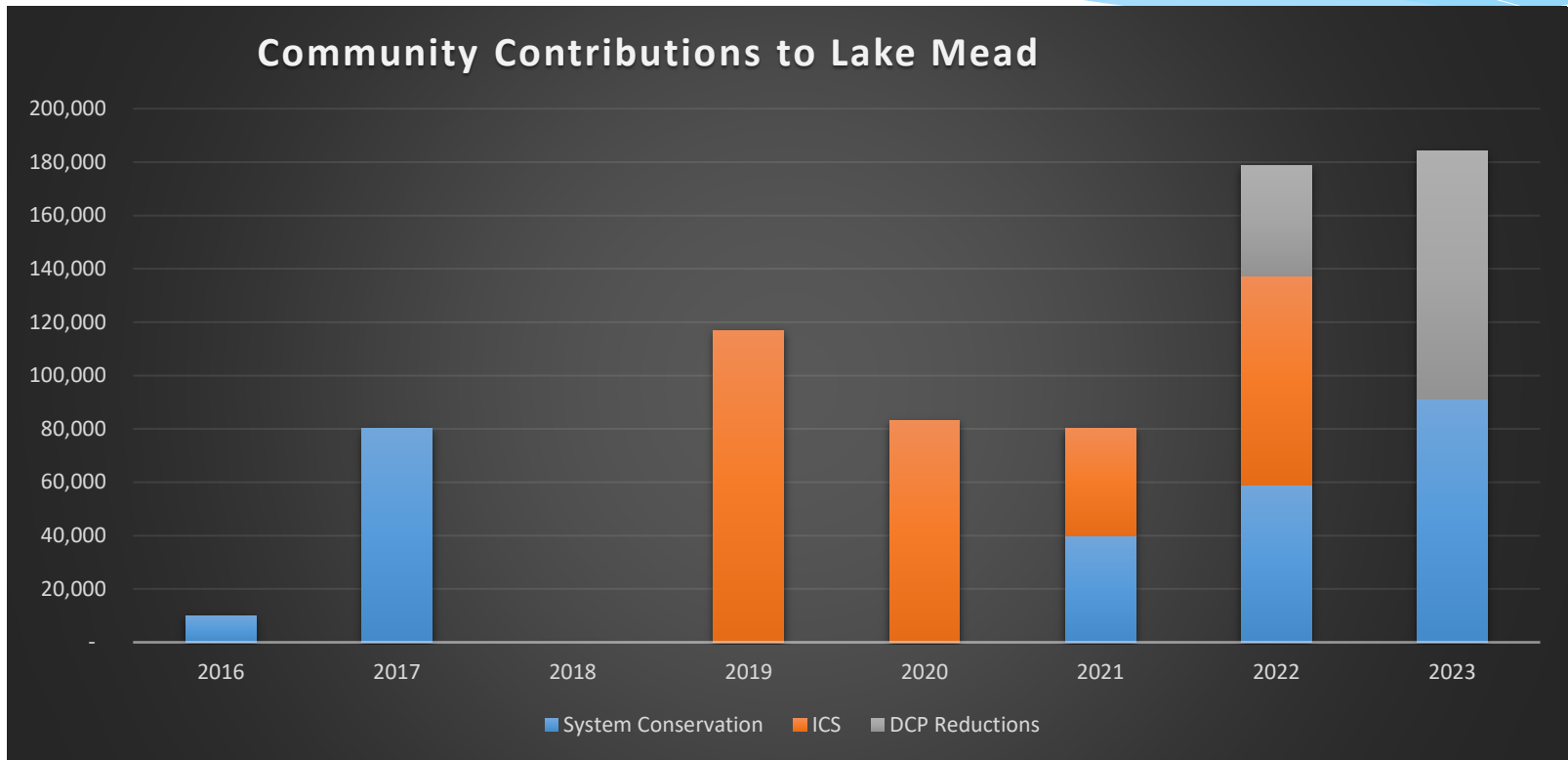
COMMUNITY DROUGHT CONCERNS

- * Community would like to benefit from its 120.6 KAF NIA Priority CAP water as long as possible because this “flex supply” allows the Community to contribute to conservation and/or create long-term storage credits.
- * Community supported the DCP, but was very concerned with falling below Tier 1 because below Tier 1 its “flex supply” is eliminated, and it will have less water to voluntarily contribute to Lake Mead.
- * More recently, the Community is a very concerned that NIA CAP water may be cut on a permanent or semi-permanent basis due to BOR’s call for additional cuts to protect infrastructure under the draft SEIS, and the likelihood that these additional cuts could be incorporated in any post-2026 guidelines.

RECENT CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

- * Under the DCP the Community committed nearly 130 KAF of additional Lake Mead conservation on top of its DCP reductions.
- * As part of the 500+ Plan the Community conserved over 137 KAF in addition to the over 40 KAF of DCP reductions.
- * In April the Community announced a 3-year system conservation implementation agreement to conserve up to 125 KAF per year.
- * Also in April the Community entered into a funding agreement with BOR to construct a reclaimed water pipeline that will enable the Community to maximize the use of A+ reclaimed water it receives from Chandler and Mesa under an exchange, which, once constructed, will result in 20 KAF annual reduction of on-Reservation CAP water demand.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO DROUGHT



DROUGHT IMPACT TO THE COMMUNITY

- * Since 2019 the Community has had to curtail its off-reservation storage activities as it has shifted more water to Lake Mead.
- * The Community reduced some of its farming activity in 2022 to free up water for conservation.
- * There is a substantial opportunity cost given that long-term storage credits are more valuable per acre-foot than payments related to conservation.
- * The Community's plan is to reduce its reliance on CAP water as much as possible given its cost of delivery and exposure to drought, but long-term the Community will want to increase ag activities on its lands and much of its NIA Priority CAP water will need to be replaced.