

AZ Water Story Video

Segment 3: CAP

Supplementary Questions and Answers

1. From which river does the Central Arizona Project get the water it delivers?
2. Who manages the CAP and where do they come from?
3. How does CAP move the water from the river to where it is needed in Central and Southern Arizona?
4. Who are CAP's customers?
5. How do CAP customers use the water?
6. Where does CAP store water?
7. Why does CAP store water underground?
8. Why does CAP care a lot about power resources?

Answers:

1. The Colorado River
2. The CAP board of directors is popularly elected by residents in Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties.
3. CAP moves water through a 336 mile long canal and lifts water using pumping plants so it can flow by gravity through the system.
4. Cities, water utilities, farmers and Native American communities
5. Cities and water utilities clean the water and deliver it to residents for drinking. Farmers and Native Americans mostly use water for irrigating crops instead of pumping groundwater.
6. CAP stores water above ground in Lake Pleasant, pumping water into the lake in the winter and releasing water in the dry summer months. CAP also stores water underground in recharge projects.
7. Water stored underground replenishes aquifers that have been depleted (too much water pumped out) and water is not lost to evaporation as it is in lakes.
8. Without power CAP could not move Colorado River water to where the people in Arizona need the water. From where CAP draws water off the river at Lake Havasu, water must be lifted nearly 3000 feet to get it to the end of the system south of Tucson.