

## **Segment 3: CAP**

### **Our Mission**

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The Central Arizona Water Conservation District runs the Central Arizona Project, or "CAP." The CAP canal carries important fresh water supplies to millions of people. It serves an area that includes Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties. Created in 1971 by our state government, CAP is Arizona's largest provider of renewable Colorado River water.

### **CAP Board of Directors**

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The CAP Board of Directors is elected from the counties it provides water to. There are 15 total board members. Five are elected every other year. They serve six year terms and are not paid. The Board meets once a month. It makes rules, sets taxes and water rates and okays budgets. It also deals with other important matters affecting CAP and its customers.

### **Delivery System**

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The CAP canal begins on the Bill Williams River near Lake Havasu Arizona. This is close to the Arizona - California border. The canal is 335 miles long and runs east and then south ending just past Tucson. The CAP system includes 15 pumping plants, 12 tunnels and siphons, and 42 turnouts. CAP delivers 1.5 million acre-feet of Colorado River water every year. One acre-foot is about the amount of water used by a family of four in one year. Water is lifted almost 3000 feet as it moves along the canal.

### **New Waddell Dam & Lake Pleasant**

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One of the major parts of the CAP system is the New Waddell Dam and the Lake Pleasant storage reservoir. It is used to store Colorado River water and runoff from the Agua Fria River. This 15.5 square mile lake provides water based on customer demand.

### **Customers**

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CAP's large service area includes about 5 million people. This is about 4 out of 5 people in the state. It covers 24,000 square miles and nearly 50 cities and towns like Phoenix, Tucson, Mesa, Glendale and Scottsdale. CAP is headquartered in Phoenix.

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It is a big part of CAP's job to help make sure people in central and southern Arizona have enough water. This makes the growing number of people in Arizona important to CAP. We are serving a state that has grown by 23% since 2000 and is expected to be twice as big by 2035.

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Today, about one third of CAP's water is used by cities and industry. Farmers use about one fourth of the water and one tenth goes to Indian tribes. The rest of the water - about one third of the total - is placed underground for the future by using a process called "recharge."

## **Recharge**

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Central Arizona Project “recharges” water to store it underground for future use. The process involves flooding a site and letting the water drain down through the soil. Recharge helps to replace underground water supplies. This water may then be pumped out and used at a later date. CAP operates more than half a dozen recharge projects that can store more millions of gallons of surplus water underground every year.

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A little less than half of the water being recharged today is being delivered to groundwater savings operations. These are irrigation areas that pump less water from underground. They agree to use CAP water instead. When all of the water that is sent to farmers is added together, it comes to almost two fifths of the total water delivered by CAP.

## **Replenishment**

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CAP’s duties continue to grow. At CAP we not only run the canal, we also replace groundwater. The part of CAP that does this is called the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District or CAGRDR. Its main job is to replace groundwater used by its members. These are groups that who are unable to directly take CAP water or other surface water supplies. Arizona continues to grow at a fast pace, and CAGRDR membership is growing too. This means that CAP’s underground water replacement duties will also continue to grow.

## **Power**

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CAP uses a great deal of electrical power. Most of it comes from three power facilities. These are the Navajo Generating Station, Hoover Dam and the New Waddell Pump Generating Plant. The power plants that CAP uses create about 5 million megawatt-hours of electricity every year. That’s enough to power more than half a million homes!

## **Revenues**

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CAP collects money from its customers to pay for its operations and expenses. Some of this money goes to pay back the U.S. government for part of the costs of building the canal. CAP has three main sources for this money. They include the sale of water, the sale of extra electricity and certain taxes that CAP is allowed to charge.

## **The Future**

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Today, CAP’s leaders are taking a fresh look at business priorities. In the past, special attention has been placed on:

- Leadership
- Public Trust
- Water Supply
- Project Reliability
- Electrical Power
- Replenishment

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CAP will secure, protect and deliver important Colorado River water for many years to come. We will do this by working closely with our customers, stakeholders and elected officials.

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To learn more about Central Arizona Project and what you've seen in this video please visit us at: [centralarizonaproject.com](http://centralarizonaproject.com).