

CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT

Before CAP, Arizona took much less than its legal agreement from the Colorado River because it couldn't afford the connecting pipes. It cost \$4 billion and was completed in 1992, allowing 1.85 trillion liters of water to be distributed to Indian reservations, industries, cities and farms. However, more water for Arizona has meant less for California.

FUTURE OPTIONS

- constructing offshore aqueducts that run under from northwest Columbia River to California
- developing new groundwater resources like in northern California
- various techniques of weather modification like cloud seeding, but potentially environmentally and politically incorrect
- desalination plants, however they're very costly, especially for irrigation use
- exploiting the Antarctic water reserves by wrapping wrapping a 100 million tonne iceberg in sailcloth or thick plastic and transporting it to California. However it's costly, could include evaporation loss, and environmentally damaging if anchoring it off the coast. It's also potentially politically questionable.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- reduce leakage/evaporation losses that are currently at 25%
- recycling municipal sewage for watering lawns, gardens, etc.
- more efficient toilet systems
- charging more realistically for irrigation water; many farmers pay less than the cost, leaving the rest to be paid by gov. subsidies
- education on/encouraging more efficient irrigation options
- using less highly water-dependent crops like rice and alfalfa
- requiring water source identification before beginning new development from cities/rural areas

FACTS + FIGURES

- 70% of runoff comes from northern $\frac{1}{3}$ of California
- however, 80% of water demand is in southern $\frac{2}{3}$
- irrigation is the primary water-consumer, using 80%+ of the state's supply
- over 30 million people in the region depend on the Colorado River for their water
- the Colorado drains an area of 632,000 km²