



# ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## HJR2002: Colorado river drought contingency plan..

**PRIME SPONSOR:** Representative Bowers, LD 25

**BILL STATUS:** [Natural Resources, Energy and Water](#)

### **Overview**

Authorizes the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) to enter into various agreements relating to an interstate Drought Contingency Plan (DCP).

### **History**

In 2007, the United States Secretary of the Interior (SOI) signed the [Record of Decision – Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead](#), also known as the 2007 Interim Guidelines. These guidelines, effective until 2026, outline the processes and reductions in water deliveries that the three Lower Basin Colorado River states and Mexico will be required to follow if a shortage is declared in Lake Mead.

Based on recent hydrological information, there has been an increasing decline in the Colorado River system. It has been determined that the 2007 Interim Guidelines will need to be modified to establish a DCP to take additional action to reduce the likelihood of the Colorado River system reaching critically low elevations.

In June 2018, ADWR and the Central Arizona Water Conservation District convened the first Steering Committee, which included over 40 delegates representing various water interests and legislative members, to make recommendations of how to adopt and implement a Lower Basin DCP (LBDCP). In October 2018, the United States Bureau of Reclamation released [drafts of the various DCP-related documents](#) to be signed by the interested parties.

To implement the DCP agreements in Arizona, the state is required to waive various rights and claims to the Colorado River. Statute requires the Legislature to approve a Resolution in order to authorize the Director of ADWR to enter into an agreement involving a sovereign right or claim with the United States, a state or a government ([A.R.S. § 45-106](#)).

### **Provisions**

1. Authorizes the Director of ADWR to forbear Arizona's rights and claims to the Colorado River by entering into agreements in substantial conformance with the draft *Agreement Concerning Colorado River Drought Contingency Management and Operations* and the draft *LBDCP* if:
  - a. federal legislation directing the SOI to execute and implement the agreements has been enacted; and
  - b. all parties other than the United States and Arizona have authorized the execution of the agreements. (Sec. 1)
2. Allows the Director of ADWR to enter into an agreement in substantial conformance with the draft *DCP Contributions and ICS Accumulation Limits Sharing Agreement*. (Sec. 1)
3. Prohibits the Director of ADWR from entering into:
  - a. any of the authorized agreements after August 31, 2019; and
  - b. other future agreements regarding the sharing of DCP contributions without further authorization. (Sec. 1)

<input type="checkbox"/> Prop 105 (45 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Prop 108 (40 votes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency (40 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Note
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4. Requires the Director of ADWR to:
  - a. promptly notify the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Governor upon entering into any authorized agreement; and
  - b. submit a written report to the appropriate legislative committees. (Sec. 1)
5. States that this action is being taken in response to unique and extraordinary circumstances. (Sec. 1)
6. Contains an emergency clause. (Sec. 2)