Water is a global issue…
...that demands local solutions.
Not your grandfather’s Colorado River (and what that means for you)

James Eklund
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243,000 miles²
40 million people
5th largest economy

Colorado River
Colorado River

243,000 miles$^2$
40 million people
5$^{th}$ largest economy

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Squire Patton Boggs
16.5 maf to make everyone happy
Land & Ocean Temperature Percentiles Jun 2018–Aug 2018
NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information
Data Source: GHCN–M version 3.3.0 & ERSST version 4.0.0
Emerging trends in global freshwater availability from GRACE (2002-2016)

Colorado River Basin
(based on 1981-2010 average)

Current Water Year Precip.  June 1 Precip.

Source: NOAA, Colorado Basin Forecast Center, Salt Lake City, UT (June 2018).
Colorado River

243,000 miles\(^2\)

40 million people

5\textsuperscript{th} largest economy
Lake Mead

Dead Pool Elevation: 895 ft

Minimum Power Pool: 1,050 ft

Shortage Conditions: 1,075 ft

Inactive Pool (7.7 maf): 1,083 ft

Normal or ICS Surplus Conditions: 1,145 ft

Surplus Conditions: 1,219.6 ft

Lower SNWA Intake: 1,000 ft

Not to scale

Min Power Pool: 16.2 maf

Dead Pool (2.5 maf): 1,075 ft

Inactive Pool (7.7 maf): 1,083 ft

Shortage Conditions: 1,075 ft

Normal or ICS Surplus Conditions: 1,145 ft

Surplus Conditions: 1,219.6 ft

Dead Pool Elevation: 895 ft

Minimum Power Pool: 1,050 ft

Lower SNWA Intake: 1,000 ft

Not to scale
Lake Powell Capacity

- Equalization Tier: 3,700 ft to 3,636 ft, 107 ft
- Upper Elevation Balancing Tier: 3,636 ft to 3,593 ft, 43 ft
- Mid-Elevation Release Tier: 3,593 ft to 3,575 ft, 103 ft
- Lower Elevation Balancing Tier: 3,575 ft to 3,525 ft
- Inactive Pool (4.0 maf): 3,525 ft to 3,490 ft
- Dead Pool (1.9 maf): 3,490 ft to 3,370 ft

- Equalization Elevation (WY 2008): 3,593 ft to 3,525 ft, 11.12 maf (46% of Live Capacity)
- Min Power Pool: 3,370 ft
- Dead Pool Elevation

As of April 27, 2008
The Law of the River

Colorado River Salinity Control Act (1974)
Colorado River Compact (1922)
United States-Mexico Treaty (1944)
Upper Colorado River Basin Compact (1948)

Boulder Canyon Project Act (1928)
Colorado River Storage Project Act (1956)
Arizona v. California (1963)

Colorado River Basin Project Act (1968)

La Plata River Compact (1922)
Interim Surplus Guidelines (2001)

Minute 323 with Mexico (2017)

Colorado Ute Settlement Act (1988)
Recovery Program (1992)

Colorado River Protection Act (1973)
Interim Guidelines for Multi-Species Conservation Program (2005)