

FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL

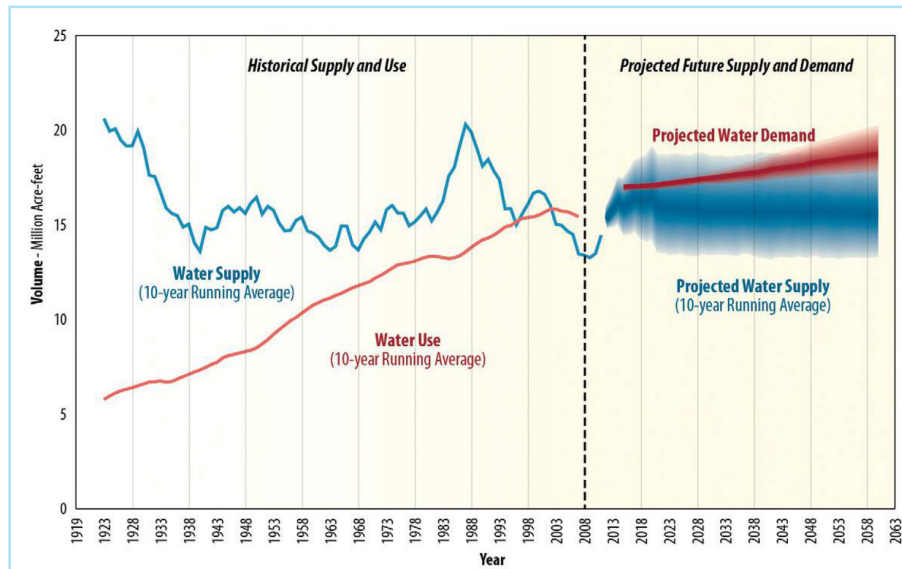
KEEPING ARIZONA'S WATER GLASS FULL

THE HISTORY OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN ARIZONA

Arizona has a long history of water management. In past centuries, Native people practiced sustainable forms of agriculture and built canals to deliver water to support their civilizations.

In the 20th century, new settlers erected dams to capture and store surface water for farming and municipal uses. State leaders also took steps to protect Arizona's rights to Colorado River water, constructed the Central Arizona Project, and enacted laws to manage groundwater supplies. Because of these proactive efforts, Arizona's most populated areas do not currently face a water crisis. Some rural areas, however, are seeing more immediate problems, such as groundwater depletion and competition for limited water supplies.

Statewide, Arizona may need to identify and develop additional water supplies to meet projected water demands over the next 25 to 100 years. Meanwhile, persistent drought and climate changes are affecting the resiliency of our water supplies.

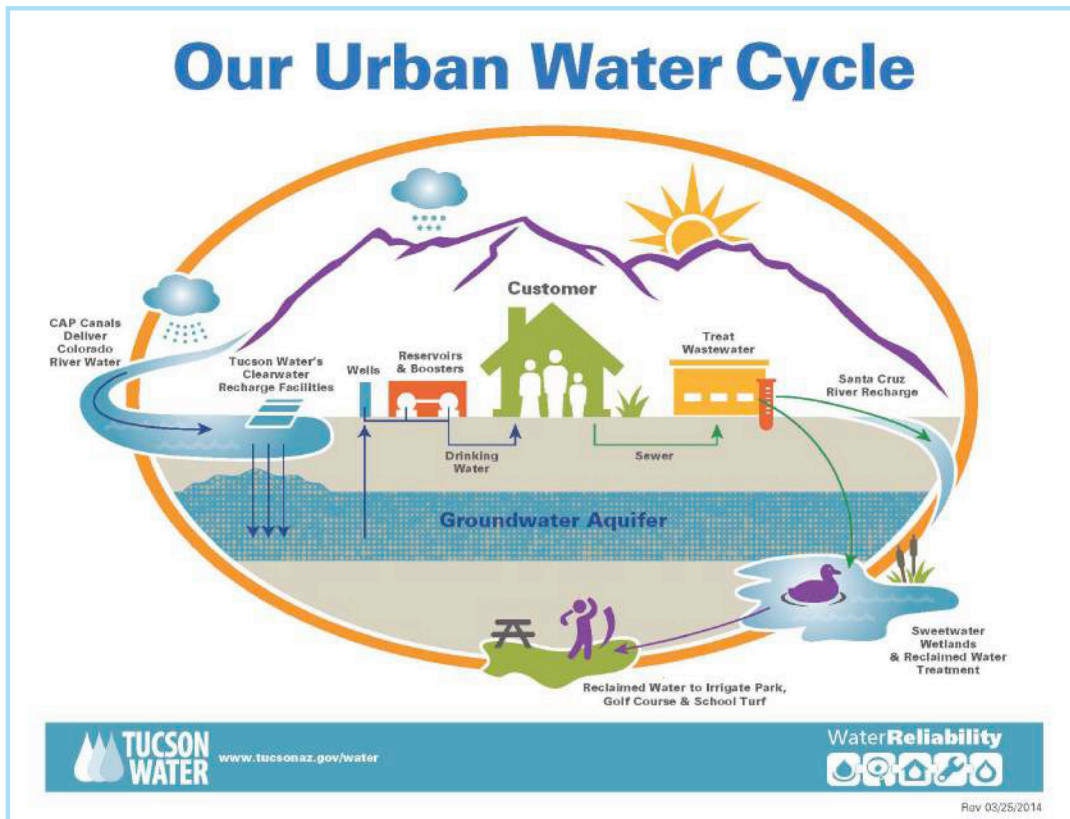


Historic Supply and Use and Projected Future Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand. Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (2012).

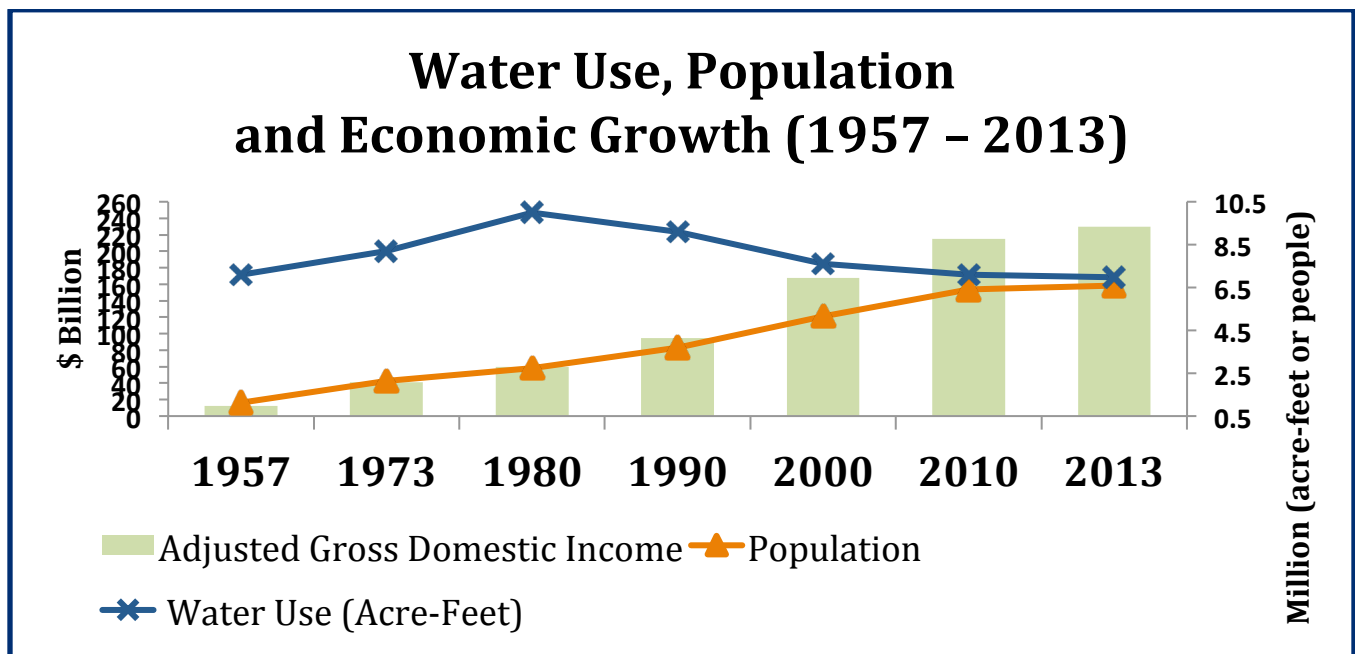
ARIZONA'S WATER SUPPLIES

Arizona's water supplies consist of surface water, groundwater, and reclaimed water. Surface water is water flowing in Arizona rivers, streams and other natural channels. Groundwater is water held under the earth's surface. Reclaimed water is wastewater that has been collected in a sanitary sewer from homes and business and treated at a wastewater treatment plant for subsequent reuse.

Surface water and reclaimed water may be stored underground for later use. This water is then known as stored water. Surface water is generally considered to be a renewable water supply because it is replenished by snow and rain. Reclaimed water is also renewable because wastewater is fairly constant and tends to grow as population increases. Most groundwater is non-renewable because it was stored underground during past geologic ages and is often utilized more quickly than it is replenished.



Urban Water Cycle. Source: Developed for Tucson Water Department by Kaneen Advertising & Public Relations.



Source: Arizona Department of Water Resources