



# City Council Report

**Date:** June 17, 2019  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** Karolyn Kent, Assistant City Manager  
**From:** Jake West, Water Resources Department Director  
**Subject:** The Agreement for the Mitigation of Reductions to NIA Priority CAP Water. (Citywide)

## Purpose and Recommendation

Council is requested to approve and authorize the City manager to enter the Agreement Among the United States of America Represented by the Secretary of the Interior Acting Through the Regional Director of the Lower Colorado Region of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, the Arizona Water Banking Authority, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, the Gila River Indian Community, City of Chandler, Town of Gilbert, City of Glendale, City of Mesa, City of Phoenix, City of Scottsdale and City of Tempe for the Mitigation of Reductions to NIA Priority CAP Water Under the Drought Contingency Plan. The Agreement implements the component of the Arizona Drought Contingency Plan during water shortages in Lake Mead which has the potential to directly impact the City.

## Background/Discussion

Over the past several years, representatives of the seven Colorado River Basin States and key water districts have been developing an interstate plan to address historically low levels of Colorado River supplies. On March 19, 2019 these representatives formally submitted Drought Contingency Plans (DCP) to Congress for immediate implementation. On April 16, 2019, President Donald Trump signed a bill authorizing the implementation of the Drought Contingency Plan. The President's signing capped the, sometimes difficult negotiations among the seven Basin States. The legislation allows the Bureau of Reclamation to implement the Plan, which spreads the effect of expected cutbacks to the Colorado River and helps preserve the water levels in Lake Mead and Lake Powell and reduce the risks faced by the Colorado River Basin.

The Arizona DCP reduces delivery of Colorado River waters to the three counties that receive water through the Central Arizona Project. During Tier 1, 2a and 2b shortages, Mesa's Non-Indian Agricultural (NIA) water deliveries will be reduced. The amount of these reductions will increase based on the shortage Tier. The Agreement provides mitigation water to help offset these reductions or alternatively, allows for payment of compensation for leaving water in Lake Mead.

**Alternatives**

Council may choose not to approve the Agreement and authorize its execution. In this case, the City would not receive mitigation water to offset the potential reductions in Mesa's NIA Priority CAP water. The City's full allocation of NIA Priority CAP water is currently being treated at Signal Butte WTP to meet demands in the Elliot Corridor.

**Fiscal Impact**

The City of Mesa is not anticipated to incur additional fiscal impacts from this Agreement.

**Coordinated With**

The Agreement for mitigating the reductions under the Arizona Drought Contingency Plan was negotiated on behalf of the City by representatives of the Water Resources Department and City Attorney's Office with representatives of the other various governmental agencies signing the Agreement.