



# Colorado River – Post-2026

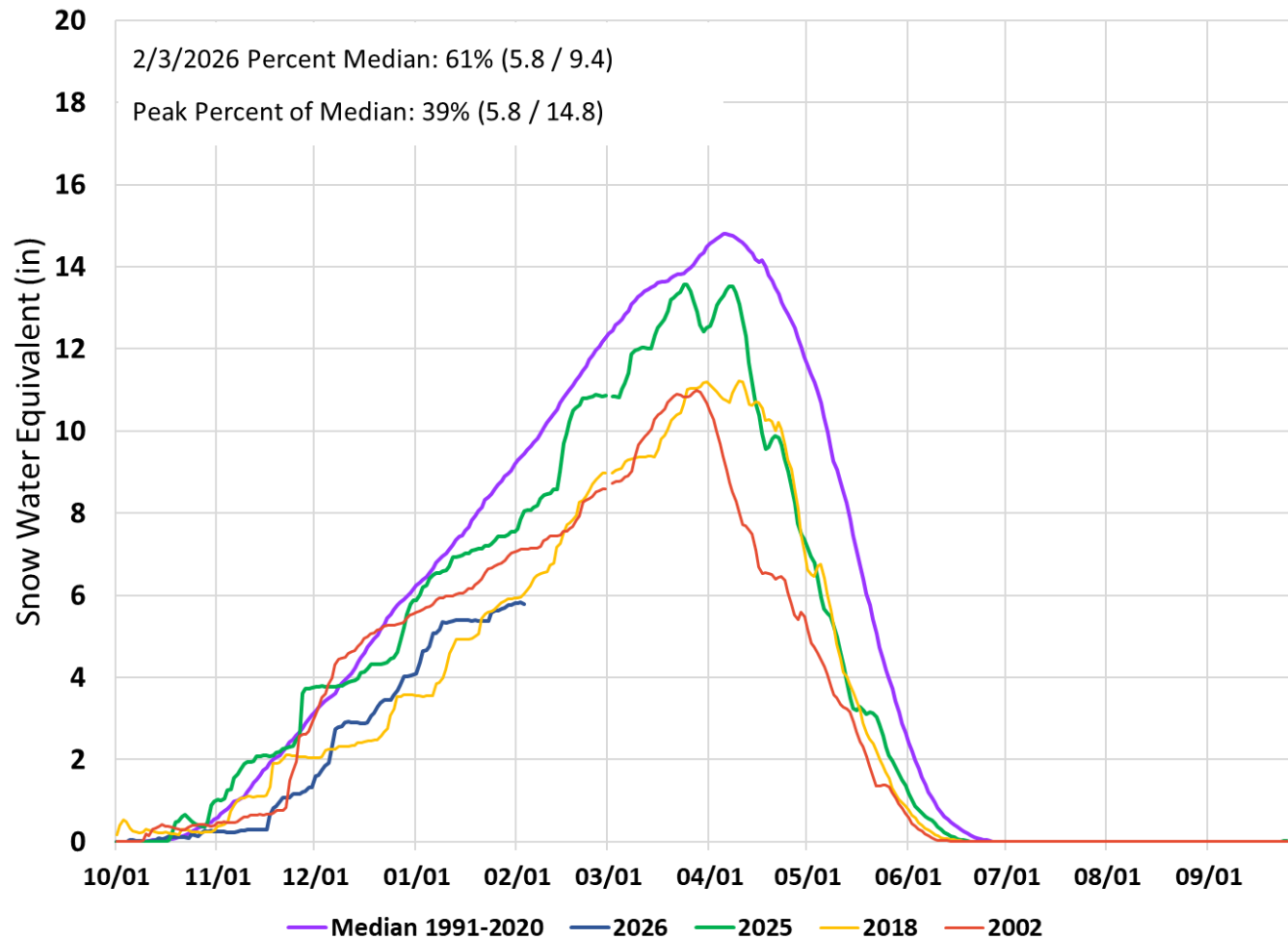
February 6, 2026

**Vineetha Kartha**  
*Colorado River Programs Manager*

**YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.**



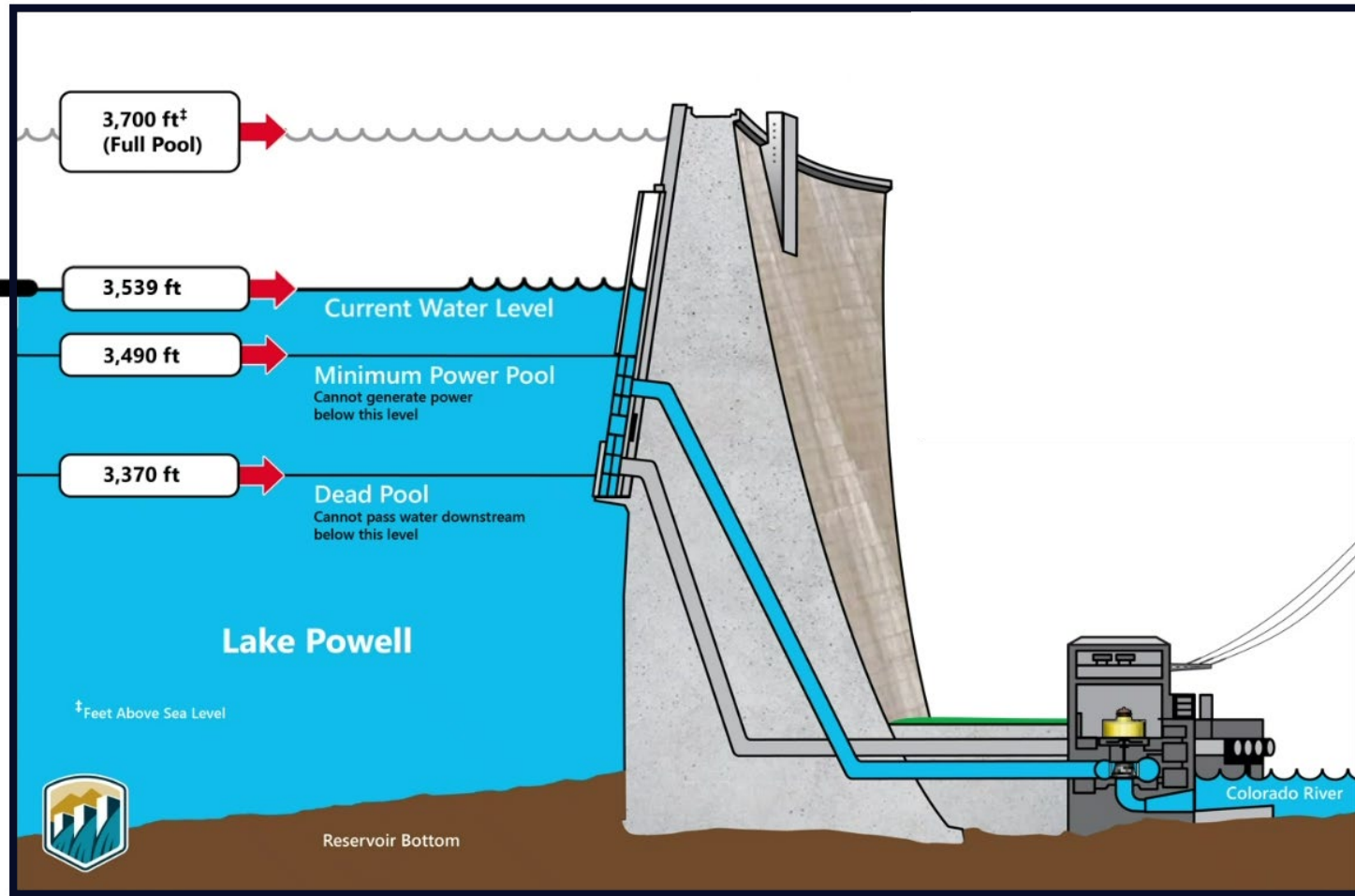
# Colorado River Basin above Lake Powell



Snowpack vs. Runoff		
	Snowpack % of median	Runoff % of average
2002	74%	28%
2018	76%	48%
2022	90%	63%
2023	161%	140%
2024	114%	83%
2025	92%	49%
2026	61%*	?

For the overall Colorado River Basin above Lake Powell, the snow accumulation as of 2/3/2026 is at 5.8 in., which is 61% of the 30-year median for this date of 9.4 in.

# 2024 SEIS ROD: Section 6(E)



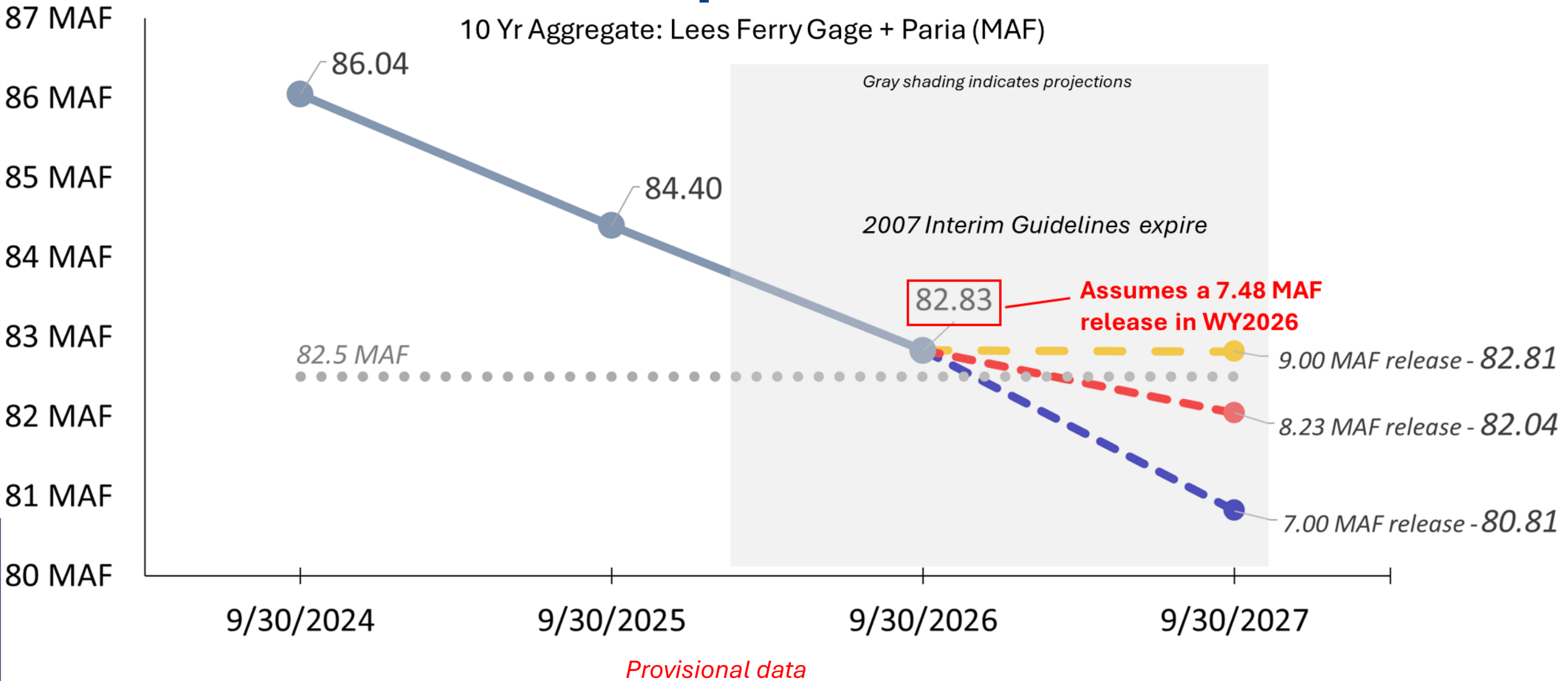
**Powell Storage is dwindling:**

- **Monthly releases at Glen Canyon Dam have been adjusted as the first consideration under DROA**
- **Planning and coordination for DROA releases underway – no determination made yet**

**Given the current hydrology; even with a DROA release, it is possible there will still be a need for 6(E) Lake Powell release reductions.**

**Any Lake Powell release reduction would take into consideration upstream DROA releases and would be implemented only after a DROA plan is established.**

# Projected Water Year of Flows Below Compact Requirements



# Colorado River Compact Compliance

Compliance means flow of the Colorado River at Lee Ferry shall not be below an aggregate of 75 MAF over a rolling 10-year period, plus annual releases equal to one-half the Mexico Treaty burden.

[Compact Explained](#)



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

**Draft**  
Environmental Impact  
Statement

Post-2026 Operational  
Guidelines and  
Strategies for Lake  
Powell and Lake Mead

**Volume I**

January 2026  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Upper and Lower Colorado Basins  
Interior Regions 7 and 8



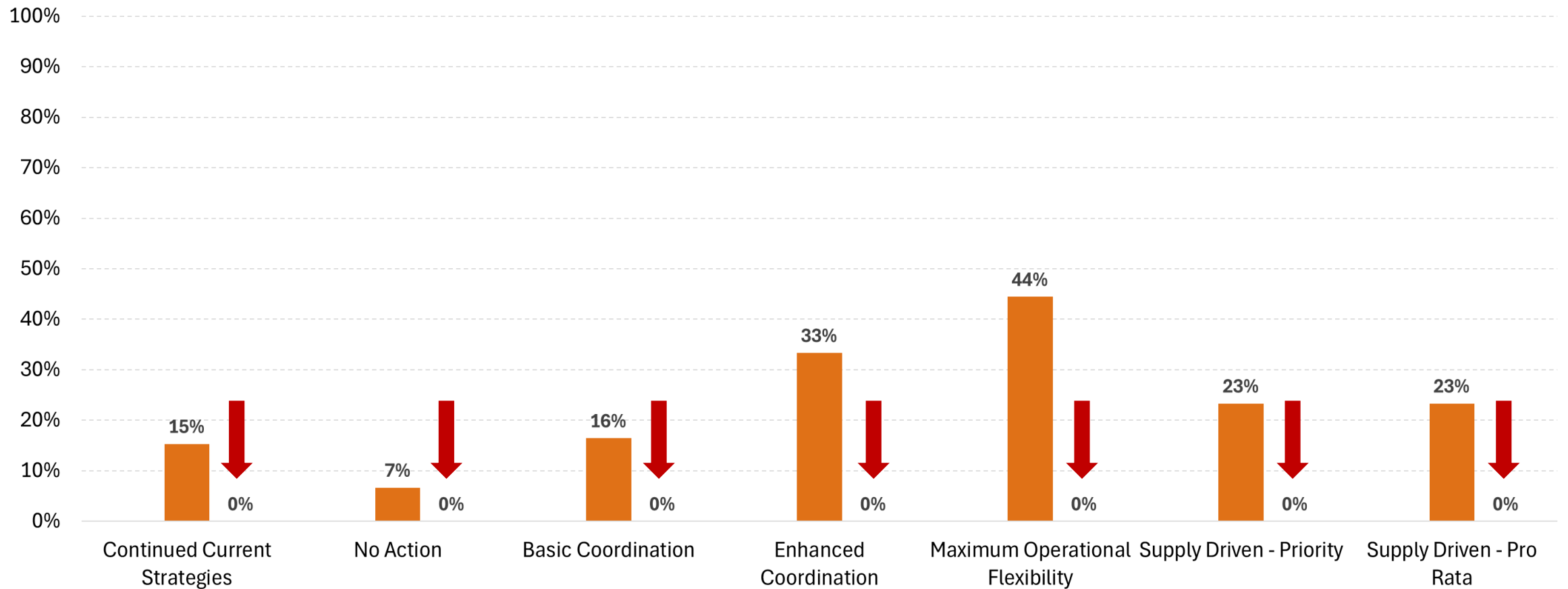
# General DEIS Information

- DEIS published on January 16, 2026
- Reclamation will hold two virtual Public Meetings to provide information
  - January 29, 2026 (1:00 – 3:00 PM MST)
  - February 10, 2026 (5:30 – 7:30 PM MST)
- Comments on the DEIS are due March 2, 2026.



ARIZONA  
RECONSULTATION  
COMMITTEE

# Maximum Policy Shortage in Each Basin for each Alternative



Lower Basin 0% Upper Basin

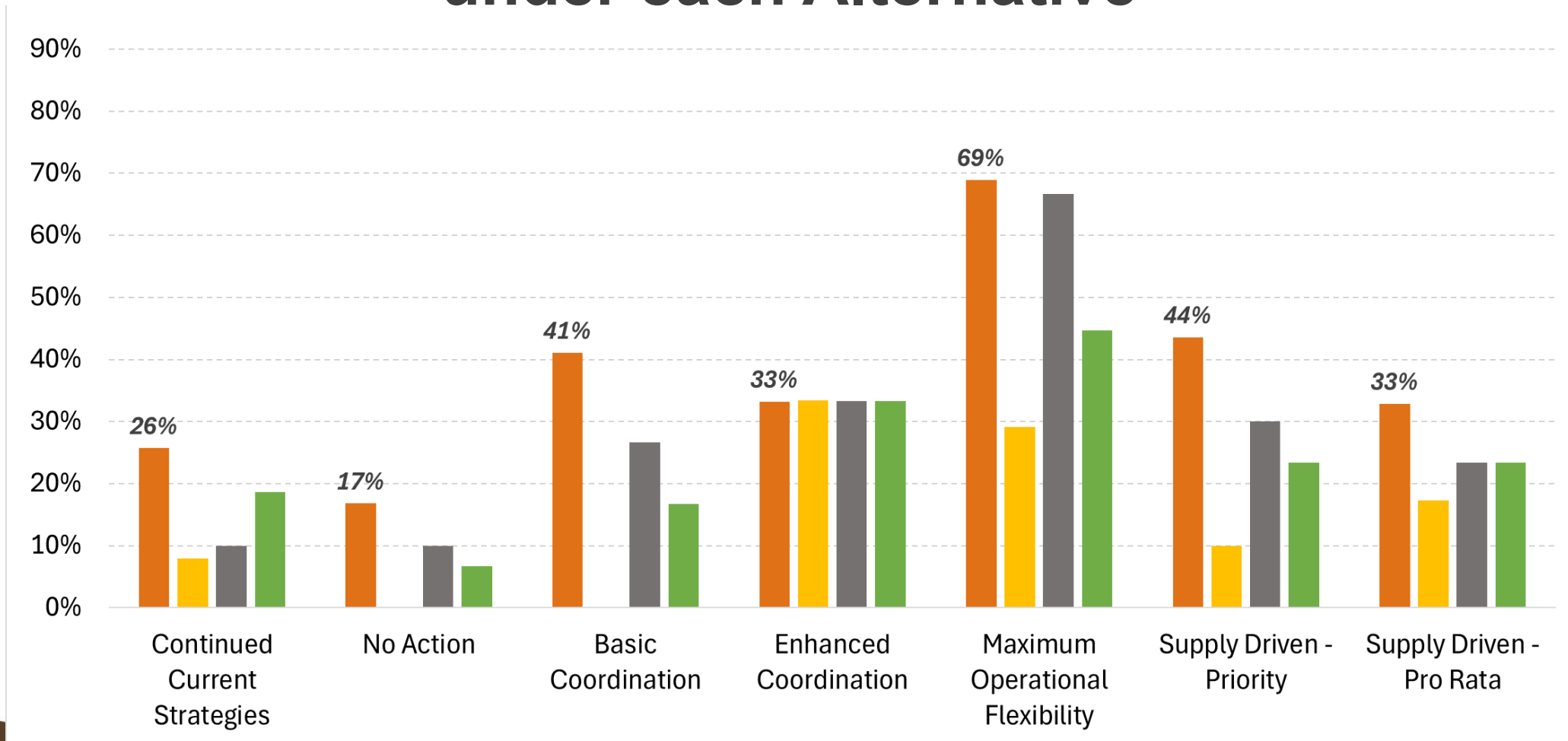


ARIZONA  
RECONSULTATION  
COMMITTEE

ARC Meeting #12 February 2, 2026

*Preliminary analysis; subject to change*

# Maximum Policy Shortage to Lower Basin under each Alternative

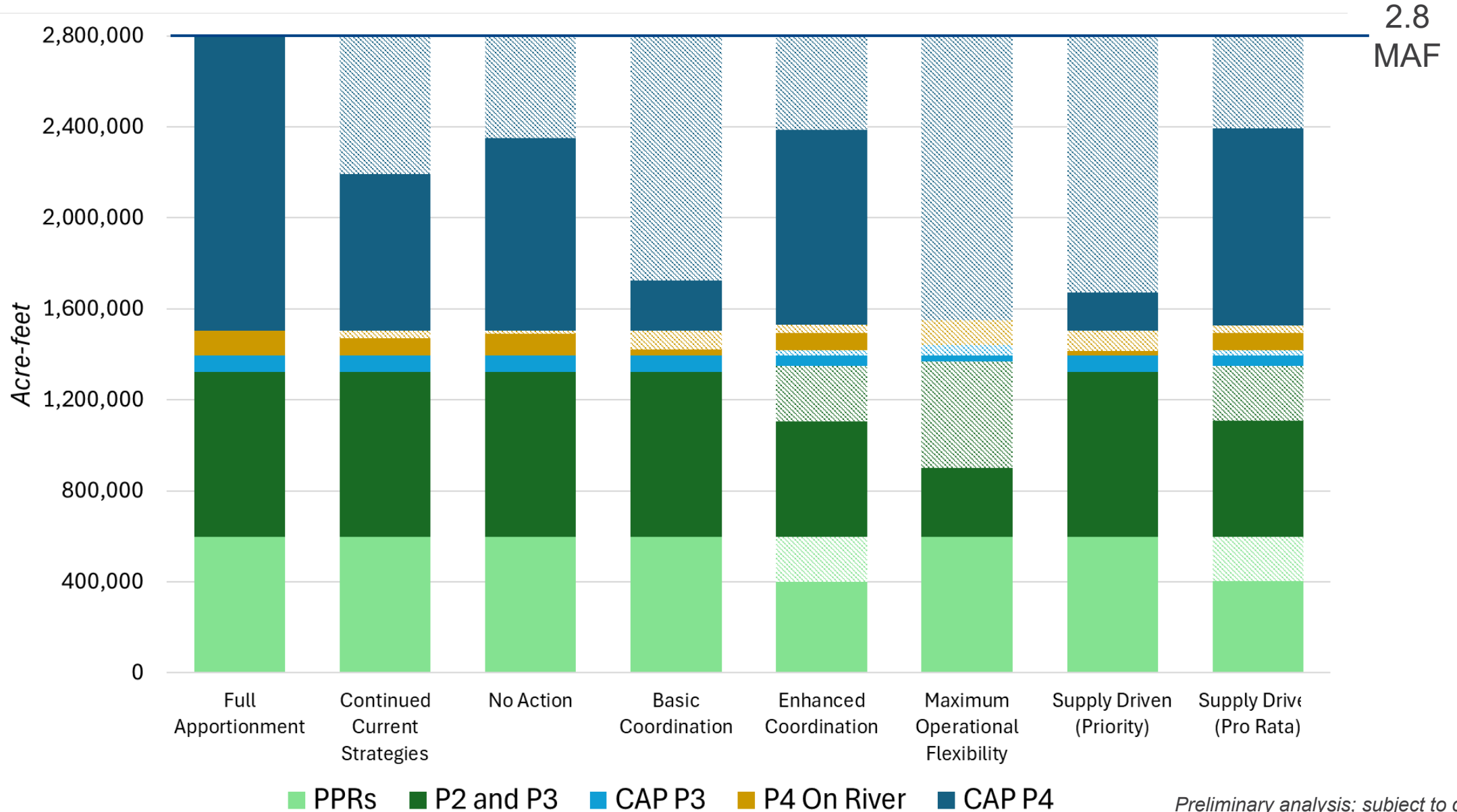


■ Arizona   
 ■ California   
 ■ Nevada   
 ■ Mexico



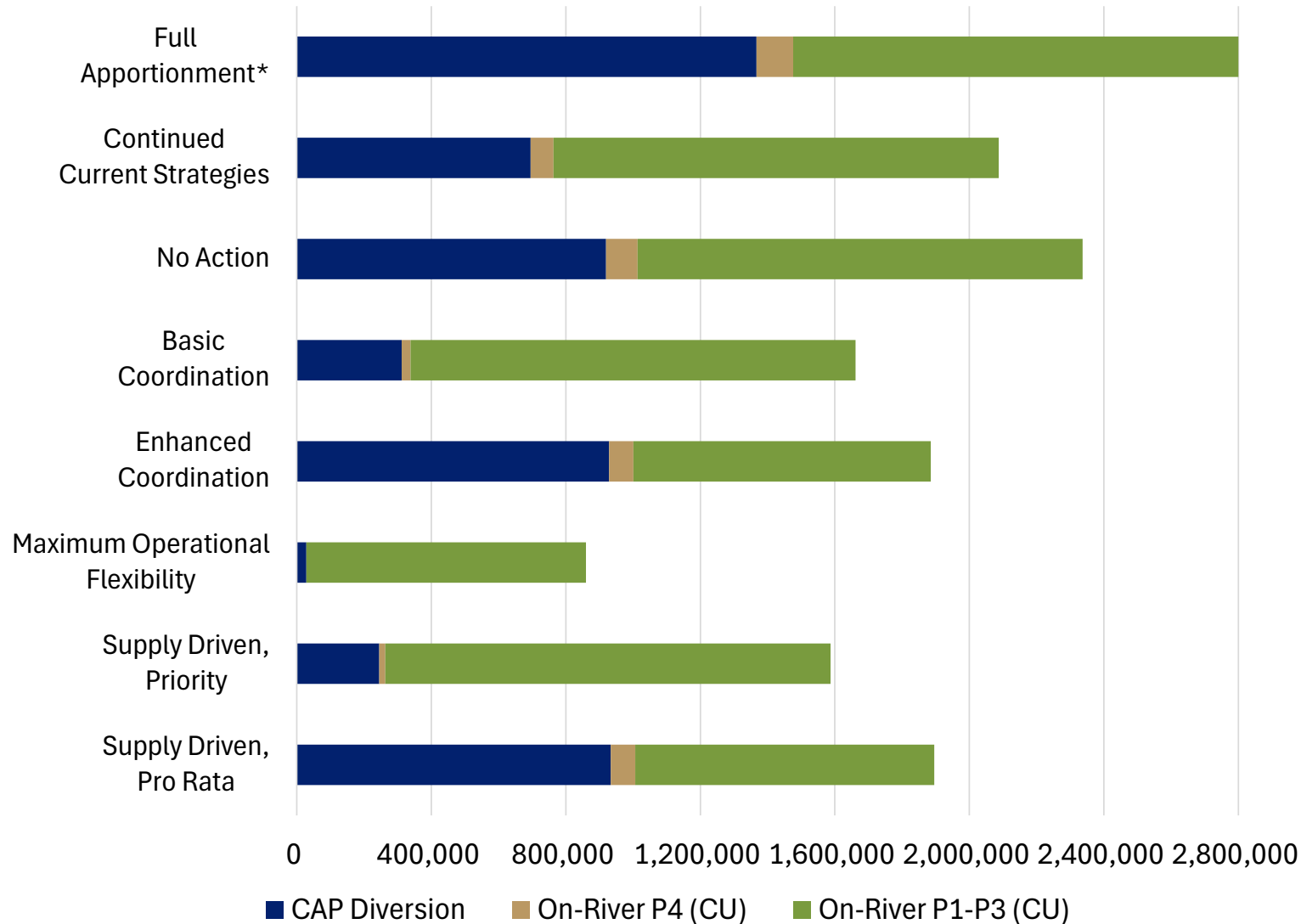
ARIZONA RECONSULTATION COMMITTEE

# Impact to Arizona Supplies At Maximum Policy Reductions



# Available Arizona Supply after Max. Policy Shortage

using Reclamation's SAM/ADM



**The Arizona supply could be significantly less than illustrated here when considering Deadpool Shortages.**

\*Full Apportionment according to Reclamation's SAM build out



ARIZONA  
RECONSULTATION  
COMMITTEE

# Arizona Conclusions

**DEIS focus is to protect Glen Canyon Dam by severely reducing Colorado River supply available to the Lower Basin and Mexico.**

- Ignores Compact compliance thereby relieving the Upper Basin of its curtailment obligation, placing the Lower Basin at greater risk. In fact, the analysis assumes continued increase in Upper Basin water use.
- Releases from Upper Initial Units (UIUs) are solely made for protecting Powell infrastructure, ignoring the Congressionally mandated UIUs purpose to comply with the Compact.
- Does not contemplate pursuing engineering or other fixes to Glen Canyon Dam to allow for more reliable deliveries from Lake Powell.
- Ignores socioeconomic impacts to metropolitan areas.
- Insufficient analysis of impacts to agriculture.
- Significantly impacts Tribal water supplies in Arizona.



ARIZONA  
RECONSULTATION  
COMMITTEE

# Post-2026 Outlook

- Arizona continues to support a collaborative outcome that is equitable, and results in significant actions by both the Upper and Lower Basin. Two tools at our disposal are water in the CRSP reservoirs and reductions in both Basins.
- The Upper Basin continues to assert that CRSP water is for its benefit and under their control. Arizona continues to push for greater use of CRSP water to benefit Lake Powell and Lake Mead.
- Reductions/conservation in Upper Basin use must occur.



# Post-2026 Outlook

- Unless there are significant actions taken in the Upper Basin Arizona is unlikely to waive its Colorado River Compact right.
- Absent a consensus agreement, Reclamation appears ready to significantly cut Arizona as early as 2027 as laid out in the DEIS Basic Coordination Alternative.
- Absent a consensus agreement, Compact Compliance action is likely



# Next Steps

- There is an aggressive schedule for continued seven state discussion(s) to continue work on a consensus solution prior to the February 14, 2026 deadline.
- Post 2026 DEIS comments are due on **March 2, 2026**.
  - Anticipate next ARC meeting will be scheduled for mid-March 2026.
- Final EIS is expected to be published Summer 2026.
- A Record of Decision is anticipated this summer to implement operations starting October 1, 2026.
- Reclamation intends to engage with Mexico along with the Basin States (timing TBD).



