

City of Phoenix

*Meeting Location:
City Council Chambers
200 W. Jefferson St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85003*



City of Phoenix

Agenda

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

2:30 PM

phoenix.gov

City Council Policy Session

If viewing this packet electronically in PDF, open and use bookmarks to navigate easily from one item to another.

OPTIONS TO ACCESS THIS MEETING

Virtual Request to speak at a meeting:

- Register online by visiting the City Council Meetings page on phoenix.gov at least 2 hours prior to the start of this meeting. Then, click on this link at the time of the meeting and join the Webex to speak:

<https://phoenixcitycouncil.webex.com/phoenixcitycouncil/j.php?MTID=m7b4cca3ccbdf53becba80bf03c56bc40>

- Register via telephone at 602-262-6001 at least 2 hours prior to the start of this meeting, noting the item number. Then, use the Call-in phone number and Meeting ID listed below at the time of the meeting to call-in and speak.

In-Person Requests to speak at a meeting:

- Register in person at a kiosk located at the City Council Chambers, 200 W. Jefferson St., Phoenix, Arizona, 85003. Arrive 1 hour prior to the start of this meeting. Depending on seating availability, residents will attend and speak from the Upper Chambers, Lower Chambers or City Hall location.

- Individuals should arrive early, 1 hour prior to the start of the meeting to submit an in-person request to speak before the item is called. After the item is called, requests to speak for that item will not be accepted.

At the time of the meeting:

- Watch the meeting live streamed on phoenix.gov or Phoenix Channel 11 on Cox Cable, or using the Webex link provided above.

- Call-in to listen to the meeting. Dial 602-666-0783 and Enter Meeting ID 2556 595 0846# (for English) or 2552 759 5068# (for Spanish). Press # again when prompted for attendee ID.

- Watch the meeting in-person from the Upper Chambers, Lower Chambers or City Hall depending on seating availability.

- Members of the public may attend this meeting in person. Physical access to the meeting location will be available starting 1 hour prior to the meeting.

Para nuestros residentes de habla hispana:

- Para registrarse para hablar en español, llame al 602-262-6001 al menos 2 horas antes del inicio de esta reunión e indique el número del tema. El día de la reunión, llame al 602-666-0783 e ingrese el número de identificación de la reunión 2552 759 5068#. El intérprete le indicará cuando sea su turno de hablar.

- Para solamente escuchar la reunión en español, llame a este mismo número el día de la reunión (602-666-0783; ingrese el número de identificación de la reunión 2552 759 5068#). Se proporciona interpretación simultánea para nuestros residentes durante todas las reuniones.

- Para asistir a la reunión en persona, vaya a las Cámaras del Concejo Municipal de Phoenix ubicadas en 200 W. Jefferson Street, Phoenix, AZ 85003. Llegue 1 hora antes del comienzo de la reunión. Si desea hablar, regístrese electrónicamente en uno de los quioscos, antes de que comience el tema. Una vez que se comience a discutir el tema, no se aceptarán nuevas solicitudes para hablar. Dependiendo de cuantos asientos haya disponibles, usted podría ser sentado en la parte superior de las cámaras, en el piso de abajo de las cámaras, o en el edificio municipal.

- Miembros del público pueden asistir a esta reunión en persona. El acceso físico al lugar de la reunión estará disponible comenzando una hora antes de la reunión.

CALL TO ORDER**COUNCIL INFORMATION AND FOLLOW-UP REQUESTS**

This item is scheduled to give City Council members an opportunity to publicly request information or follow up on issues of interest to the community. If the information is available, staff will immediately provide it to the City Council member. No decisions will be made or action taken.

CONSENT ACTION

This item is scheduled to allow the City Council to act on the Mayor's recommendation on the Consent Agenda. There is no Consent Agenda for this meeting.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

A vote may be held to call an Executive Session for a future date.

REPORTS AND BUDGET UPDATES BY THE CITY MANAGER

This item is scheduled to allow the City Manager to provide brief informational reports on topics of interest to the City Council. The City Council may discuss these reports but no action will be taken.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION (ITEM 1)**1 Colorado River, Phoenix Water Supply and Demand Update - Citywide**

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This report presents the City Council with an update on the City of Phoenix's water resources planning efforts regarding current drought conditions. Staff seeks authorization for the City Manager, or designee, to enter into Mutual Aid Agreements, as well as any necessary amendments and associated agreements (collectively, "Aid Agreements"), with the City of Tucson, the Town of Cave Creek, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD), relevant Arizona and federal governmental entities, and various on- and off-river Colorado River/Central Arizona Project water entitlement holders in Arizona. These agreements will support participating parties ("Parties") in addressing water needs arising from future Colorado River shortages.

Further, approval is requested to authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute water transactional agreements ("Transactional Agreements") designed to advance the objectives of the Aid Agreements, pending subsequent Council approval of all agreements. Additionally, staff requests that the City Council grant an exception pursuant to Phoenix City Code 42-20, allowing the inclusion of indemnification and assumption of liability clauses within transaction-related documents that would typically be prohibited under Phoenix City Code 42-18.

THIS ITEM IS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION.**Responsible Department**

This item is submitted by Assistant City Manager Ginger Spencer and the Water Services Department.

ADJOURN



Colorado River, Phoenix Water Supply and Demand Update - Citywide

This report presents the City Council with an update on the City of Phoenix’s water resources planning efforts regarding current drought conditions. Staff seeks authorization for the City Manager, or designee, to enter into Mutual Aid Agreements, as well as any necessary amendments and associated agreements (collectively, “Aid Agreements”), with the City of Tucson, the Town of Cave Creek, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD), relevant Arizona and federal governmental entities, and various on- and off-river Colorado River/Central Arizona Project water entitlement holders in Arizona. These agreements will support participating parties (“Parties”) in addressing water needs arising from future Colorado River shortages.

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THIS ITEM IS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION.

Summary

The Colorado River is currently over-allocated and projected to be unable to meet future demand. Water levels at both Lake Mead and Lake Powell have reached critically low points. Notably, this winter’s snowfall was the lowest on record, which will affect water availability in subsequent years. The City of Phoenix relies on Colorado River water to meet approximately 40 percent of its annual customer demand.

The United States Bureau of Reclamation (“Reclamation”) is expected to implement new Post-2026 Colorado River Operating Guidelines (“Post-2026 Guidelines”) effective January 1, 2027. In early 2026, Reclamation released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement outlining multiple decision alternatives, each resulting in significant reductions to water supplies available to the Central Arizona Project (“CAP”) and the State of Arizona. Some scenarios include annual CAP reductions of 1.1 million acre-

feet or more. Accordingly, Phoenix Water Services continues to prepare for a range of possible reductions in water allocations from the Colorado River system.

Phoenix's Preparedness

Phoenix has secured supplemental water sources from the Salt and Verde rivers to offset potential shortages in areas typically served by Colorado River water. Additionally, the City has stored surplus water underground in both the Phoenix and Tucson regions.

Recent infrastructure projects have enhanced resiliency and reliability within the water system. Notable initiatives include the construction of the drought pipeline, enabling flexible distribution of various water sources to northern Phoenix, and the development of new groundwater wells providing access to allocated and stored groundwater.

Beyond expanding water supplies, storing water, and infrastructure investments, Phoenix has consistently promoted water conservation. The City offers multiple conservation programs, including incentives for residential and commercial grass removal, efficiency consultations, and rebates for high-efficiency toilets and irrigation controllers. Moreover, Phoenix departments have developed drought management plans to conserve water while maintaining exemplary municipal services.

Ongoing Preparations

Phoenix Water Services has established strategies to maintain water delivery throughout the next decade, accounting for various potential reductions from the Colorado River. These strategies involve renewable backup supplies from the Salt and Verde river systems, underground water reserves, and groundwater allocations. However, continued program development is required to ensure Phoenix's long-term sustainability.

New initiatives will include expanded partnerships, such as collaborations with Salt River Project (SRP) and others, to construct the planned enhancement of storage capacity on the Verde River through modifications to Bartlett Dam. Phoenix has also initiated a project to integrate Advanced Purified Water via the Cave Creek Road Water Reclamation Facility. Ongoing refinement of the Drought Management Plan will further strengthen conservation efforts and public education regarding water use.

Collaboratively, Phoenix and other Arizona entities are developing Aid Agreements as frameworks for collective action in response to anticipated reductions. These voluntary arrangements may include regulatory agencies (e.g., Reclamation, Department of Water Resources), water organizations (such as Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District, SRP, and Arizona Water

Bank), tribal communities, municipal water providers, and agricultural entities holding Colorado River and/or CAP entitlements. Some Aid Agreements may be intergovernmental, while additional affiliated agreements may permit participation by private sector stakeholders. Collectively, these agreements may be referred to as the Secure Water Arizona Program.

It is anticipated that Transactional Agreements under the umbrella of the Aid Agreements will enable voluntary movement of water resources among Parties. These agreements aim to address emergency water needs, develop and store water supplies to replace lost Colorado River and CAP water, and promote innovative solutions suitable for the current era of limited CAP water resources.

Phoenix remains committed to ongoing planning, investment, and conservation to ensure uninterrupted provision of safe, reliable water services for customers while advancing sustainability goals. The City will continue proactive measures to address deepening shortages on the Colorado River including planning, acquiring additional water supplies, and constructing infrastructure to facilitate water supply distribution.

Contract Term

The Aid Agreements may have terms of up to 10 years, with authority to approve two five-year extensions. Each Transactional Agreement may span up to 25 years, with similar extension authorization.

Financial Impact

Funding is available from the Water Services Department Water Fund. Council approval for Transactional Agreement expenditures will be sought on a case-by-case basis as agreements are finalized.

Request for Action

Staff respectfully requests City Council approval to enter into water Aid Agreements with partner agencies to further address water needs that may arise from future Colorado River shortages.

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by Assistant City Manager Ginger Spencer and the Water Services Department.