



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER**

Transfers of Water in Arizona

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Transfer, Allocation and Beneficial Use

What is a Water Transfer?

- Diversion and Beneficial Use
- Allocation, State or Federal
- Severance and Transfer
- Exchanges and Forbearance
- Groundwater Transfers
- Basin to Basin Groundwater
- Marketing of Personal Property
- Conveyance of Contractual Rights



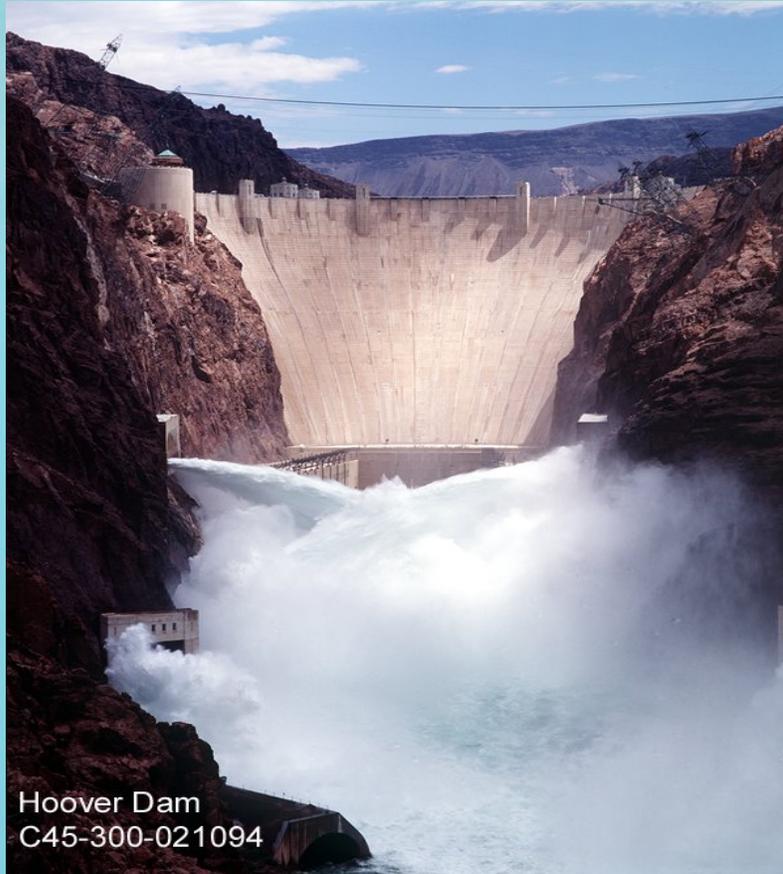
What is a Colorado River Entitlement?

- Present Perfected Rights and the 1922 Compact
- Perfected Rights
- § 5 Contracts Under the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928
- Arizona v. California and the Secretary of the Interior
- Indian Water Rights on the Colorado River



Photo Courtesy US Reclamation

Are Colorado River Water Entitlements Transferable?



Transfer Policies:

Mainstream Colorado River

- A.R.S. § 45-107(C) and (D)
- ADWR CR11 Policy (Current)

https://new.azwater.gov/sites/default/files/2020_09_04_CR11_Policy_and_Procedure_for_Transferring_an_Entitlement_of_CR_Water.pdf

Central Arizona Project

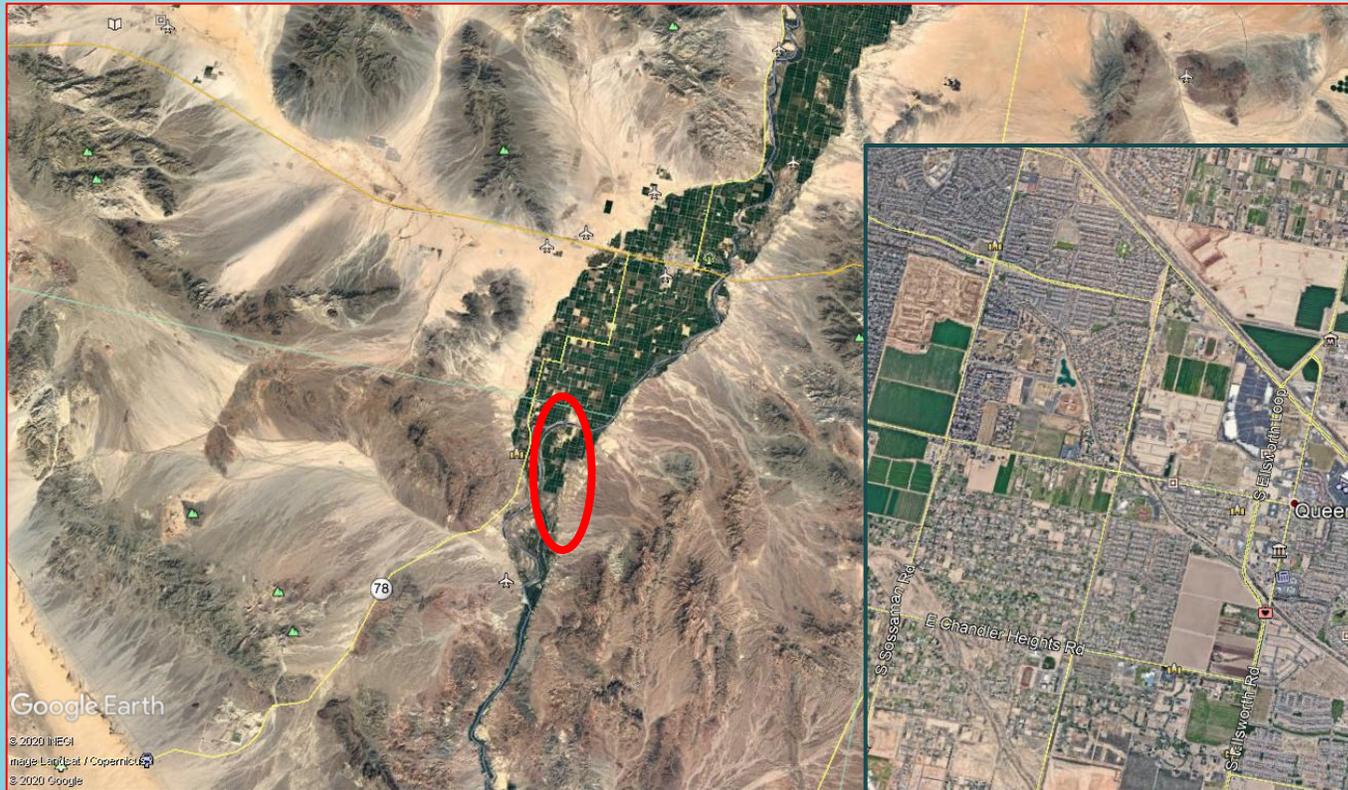
- ADWR Transfer Policy:

https://new.azwater.gov/sites/default/files/media/CAP%20Transfer%20Policy_02-2006_0.pdf

- CAWCD Transfer Policy:

file:///C:/Users/Michael/AppData/Local/Temp/RELINQUISHMENT-TRANSFER-OF-CAP-MandI-SUBCONTRACT-ALLOCATIONS_11-17.pdf

GSC Farm to Town of Queen Creek



Photos From Google Earth®

Cibola Valley



Cibola Valley (2018):

- 293 Current Residents
- 1.33% of La Paz County Population
- 46 Single Family Homes 208 Mobile Homes
- 176 Current Water Meters
- 0.17 af/water meter (30 af/yr)

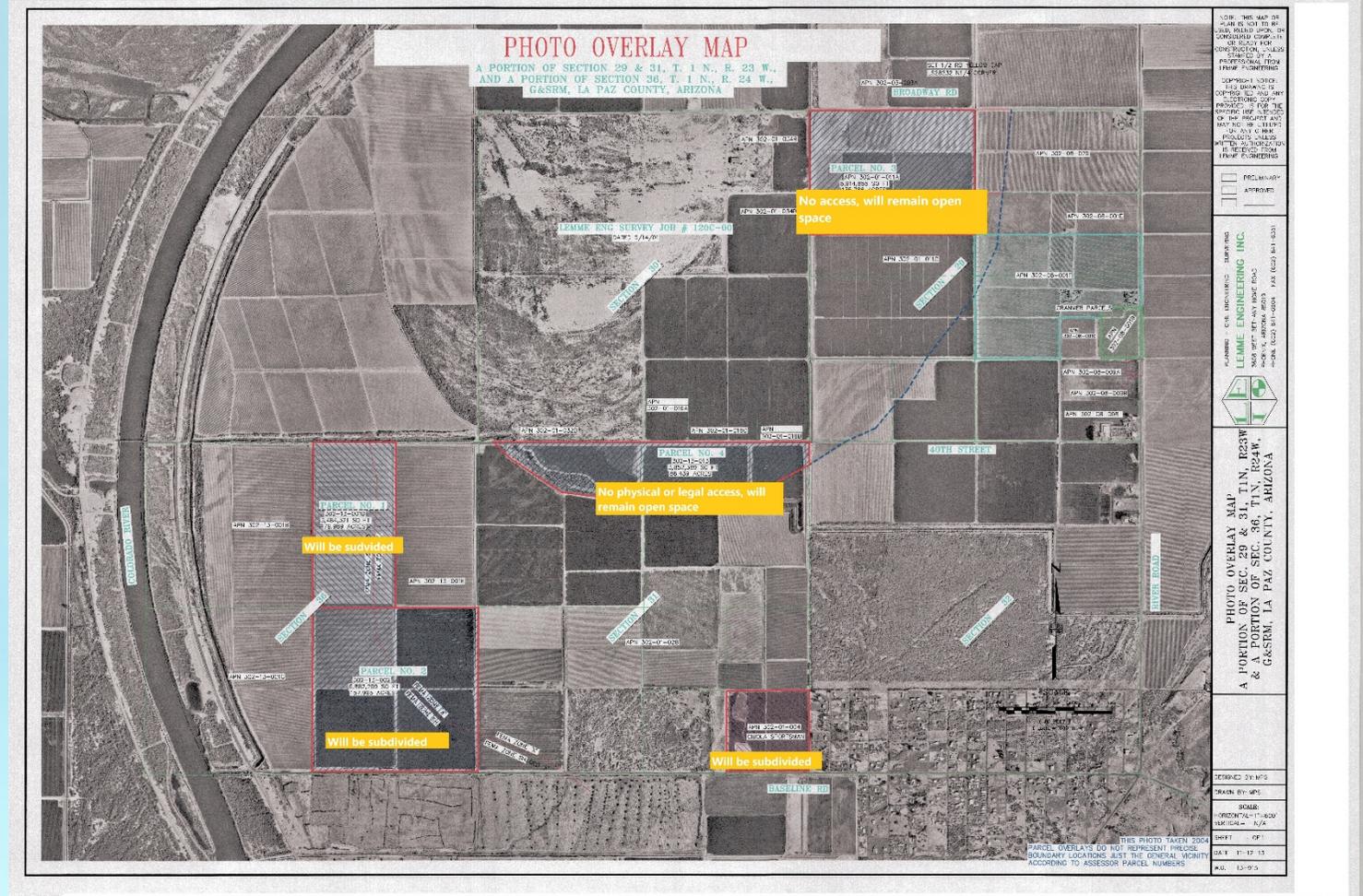
Future Domestic Use in Cibola Valley

Population Projections La Paz

- Arizona State Demographer reports Negative Growth as Most Likely Scenario
- Most Optimistic Scenario: 125 New Residents in Cibola by 2055

GSC Farm LLC Land Use Plan

- Approximately 40 seven acre lots
- ½ Acre Building Envelope
- Dedicated Open Space
- Restrictive Covenants against Future Subdivision



Future Domestic Use in Queen Creek

Town of Queen Creek

- Expected to Double in Population by 2040
- 25,000 new residents in the next 10 years
- Currently uses 19,000af/yr of Groundwater
- Has Annual Storage and Recovery Capacity to immediately use 2,000 af/yr of Colorado River water



Courtesy www.queencreek.org

To Transfer or Not?

- Arizona Co-Equal Priority CAP Water was Not Reserved for Any Particular Use
- GSC Farm, LLC is the Sole Owner of this Colorado River Entitlement
- There is no Cognizable Impact to the Flow of the River or Arizona's Share
- There is no Cognizable Environmental Impact
- La Paz County Tax Base will Increase, while New Home Sites are Offered
- The Central Arizona Project Canal Will be Used for its Intended Purpose—Offsetting Groundwater Reliance
- Quantification will Proceed Based on Realistic Land Use Planning

Market Based Transfers

- Colorado River Indian Tribe Proposed Leasing
- Allocated but Unused Assured Water Supply Water
- Allocated but Unused Central Arizona Project Water
- Consolidation of Private Utilities
- Ag to Urban Revisited

