

REFERENCE TITLE: Colorado River water transfers; limit

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

HB 2372

Introduced by
Representatives Biasiucci: Gillette, Senator Borrelli

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 45, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 4, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 45-142; RELATING TO COLORADO RIVER WATER.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Title 45, chapter 1, article 4, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 45-142, to read:
4 45-142. Colorado River water transfers; limit; legislative
5 intent
6 A. A CONTRACT HOLDER WITH A CONTRACT RIGHT IN EFFECT ON JANUARY 1,
7 2023 FOR FOURTH PRIORITY COLORADO RIVER WATER AVAILABLE TO SATISFY
8 ENTITLEMENTS IN THIS STATE THAT IS NOT CONTRACTED FOR DELIVERY THROUGH THE
9 CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT MAY NOT TRANSFER OR OTHERWISE CONVEY THAT CLAIM
10 FOR USE OF THAT WATER TO ANY LOCATION OR FOR USE OTHER THAN AN
11 AGRICULTURAL, MUNICIPAL, DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL USE IN A
12 COUNTY IN THIS STATE THAT IS ADJACENT TO THE WESTERN BORDER OF THIS STATE
13 BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2033 OR UNTIL LAKE MEAD EXCEEDS AN ELEVATION OF 1,090
14 FEET, WHICHEVER IS LATER.
15 B. THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE TRANSFER OF 2,033.01 ACRE
16 FEET OF COLORADO RIVER WATER RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE DIRECTOR BY
17 LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ON JANUARY 20, 2021.
18 C. THE LEGISLATURE INTENDS:
19 1. TO ENSURE THAT WATER USERS ARE NOT CIRCUMVENTING COLORADO RIVER
20 WATER REDUCTIONS BY REPLACING THOSE REDUCTIONS WITH TRANSFERRED WATER.
21 2. TO CONVEY THAT SHORTAGES ON THE COLORADO RIVER ARE DUE TO
22 PROLONGED DROUGHT AND OVER-ALLOCATION, AND HALTING TRANSFERS REFLECTS THE
23 LEGISLATURE'S COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING THE COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM.