



El Futuro del Río Colorado

ASU Arizona State
University

Center for
Hydrologic Innovations

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Foro Binacional del Agua
Mexicali, Baja California, 22 de junio del 2023

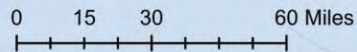
Contexto Geográfico

The Salton Basin and Laguna Salada Basin are usually excluded from contemporary Colorado River Basin maps because they do not currently contribute flow to the River. However, they were functionally part of the greater Colorado River Delta until 20th century upstream dams and diversions, and were included in some federal agency maps of the Basin prior to the completion of Hoover Dam. Even in the post-dam era, Colorado River floodwaters cause the typically dry Laguna Salada to occasionally reform during wet years.

Fuente: Babbitt Center (2021)

BAJA CALIFORNIA

SONORA





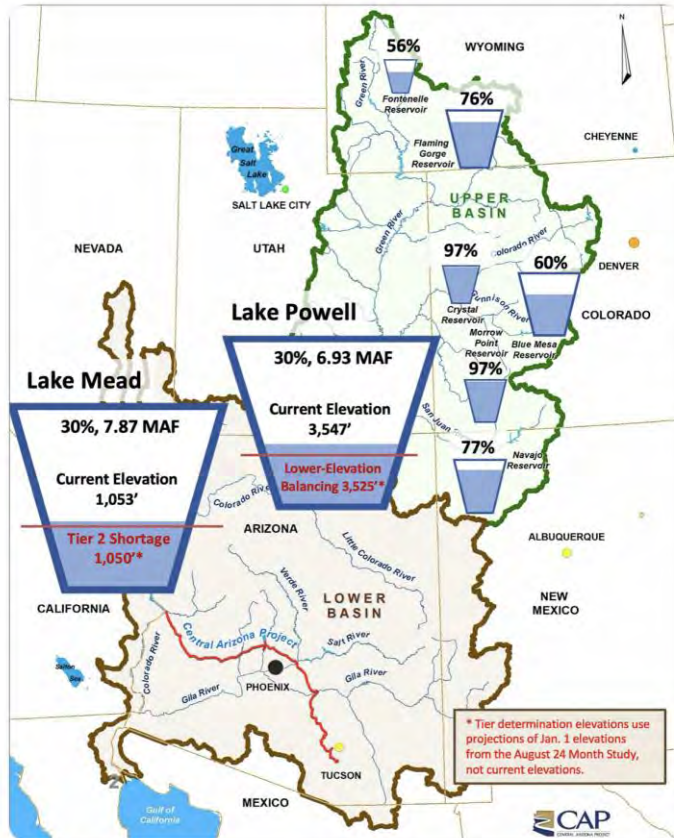
The New York Times

A Breakthrough Deal to Keep the Colorado River From Going Dry, for Now

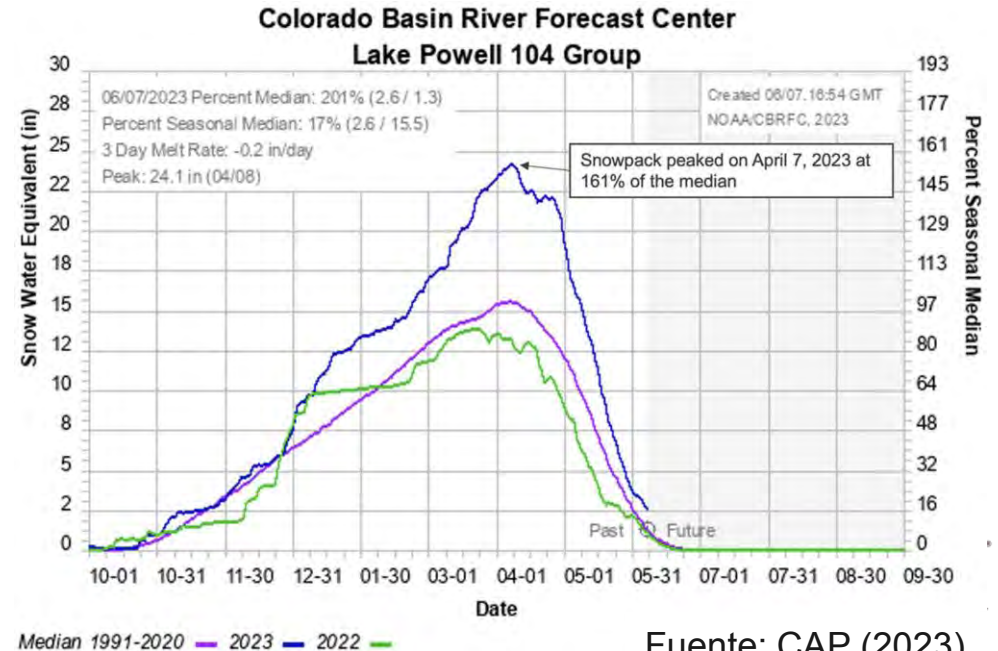
The agreement on cuts, aided by a wet winter and \$1.2 billion in federal payments, expires at the end of 2026.

Contexto Hidrológico

Condiciones en el Sistema de Recursos de Agua



Almacenamiento en sistemas de presas y condiciones hidrológicas (22 de mayo del 2023)



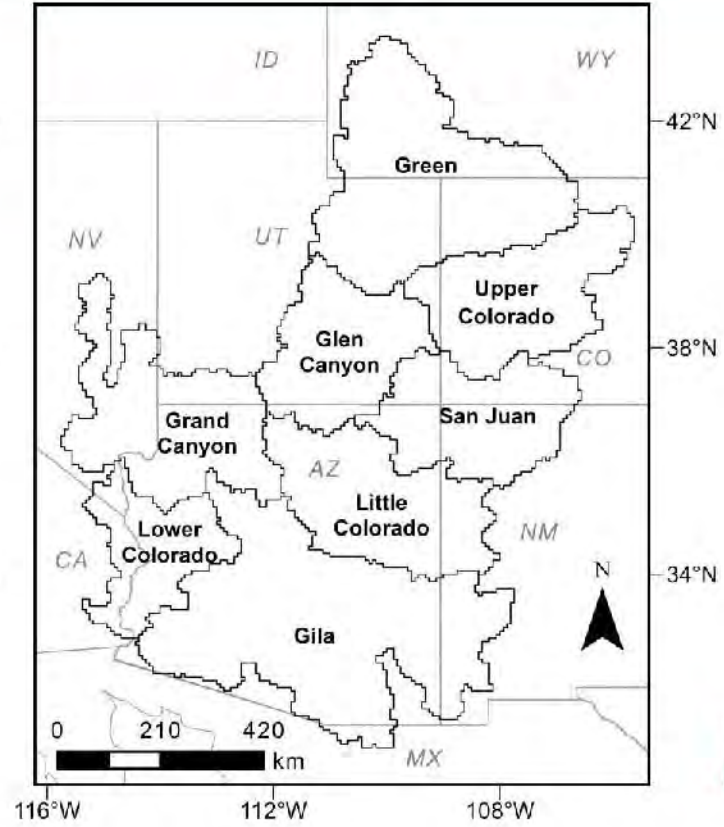
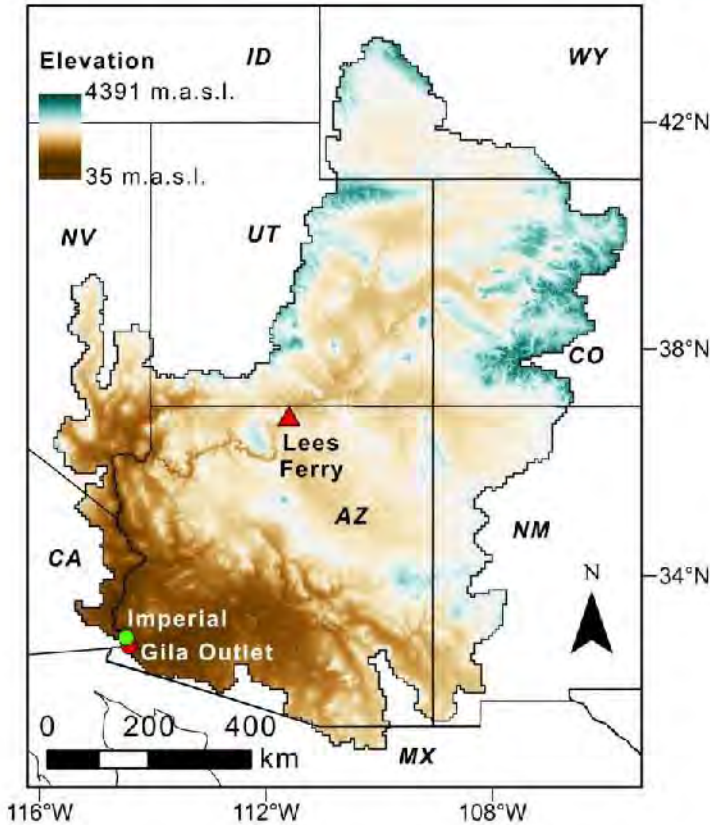
Fuente: CAP (2023)

A wide, shallow river channel in a desert landscape. The water is calm and reflects the light. The banks are rocky and sparsely vegetated. In the background, there are mountains and a hazy sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is arid and desolate.

La sequía actual lleva 23 años de duración. ¿Cuál es el futuro hidrológico del Río Colorado?

El Río Colorado

Representación en Modelo Hidrológico



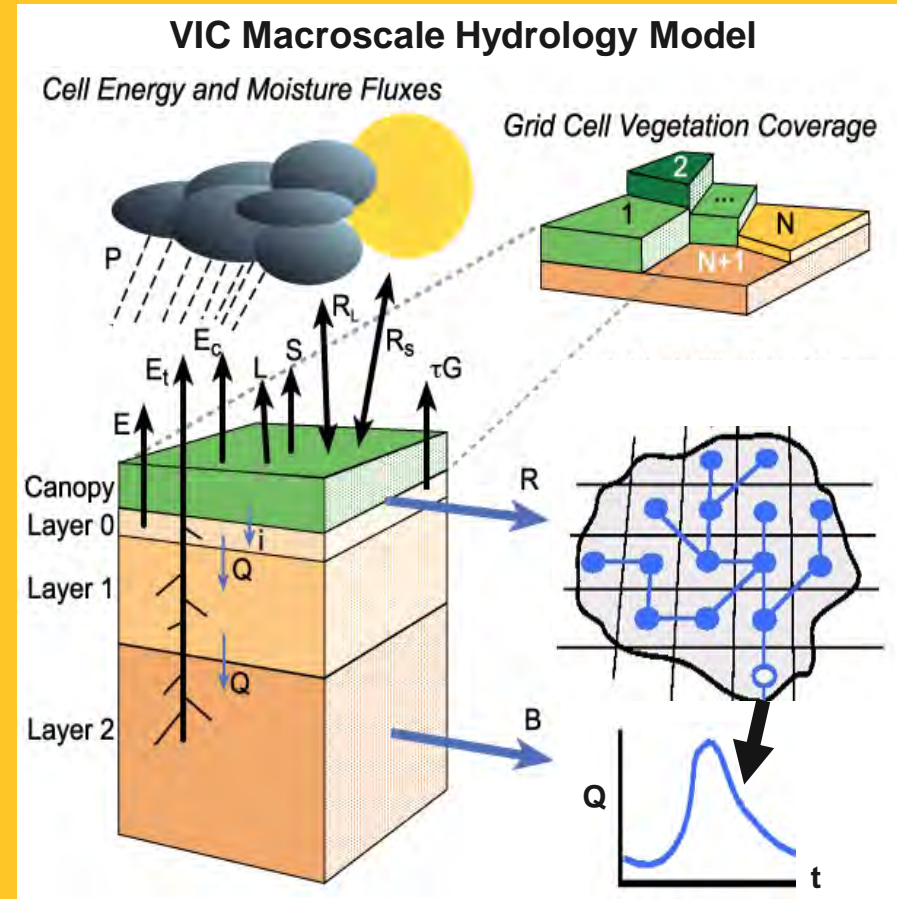
Modelo Hidrológico

Variable Infiltration Capacity (VIC):

- Funcionamiento en celdas
- Procesos hidrológicos para cada cobertura de vegetación
- Transporte de caudal en red
- Consideración de nieve

Aplicaciones en el Río Colorado:

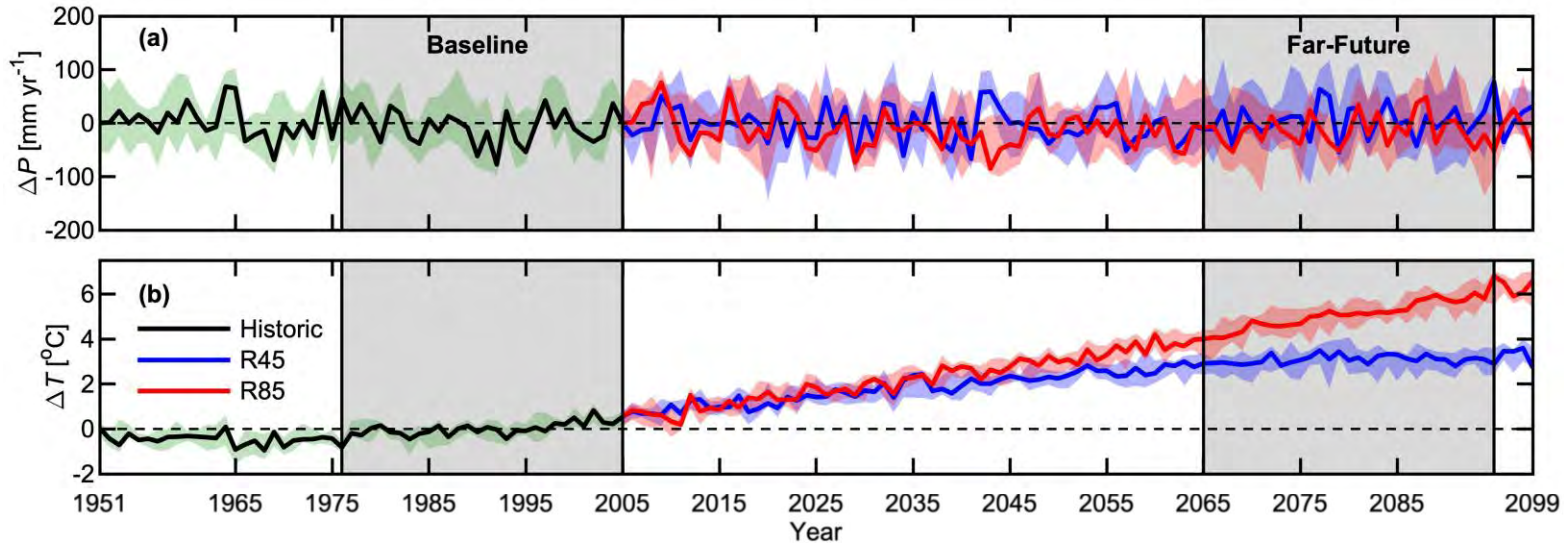
- Christensen et al. (2004, 2007)
- Bureau of Reclamation (2012, 2015)
- Vano et al. (2012, 2014)
- Whitney et al. (2023a,b)



Fuente: Liang et al. (1994)

Proyecciones Climatológicas

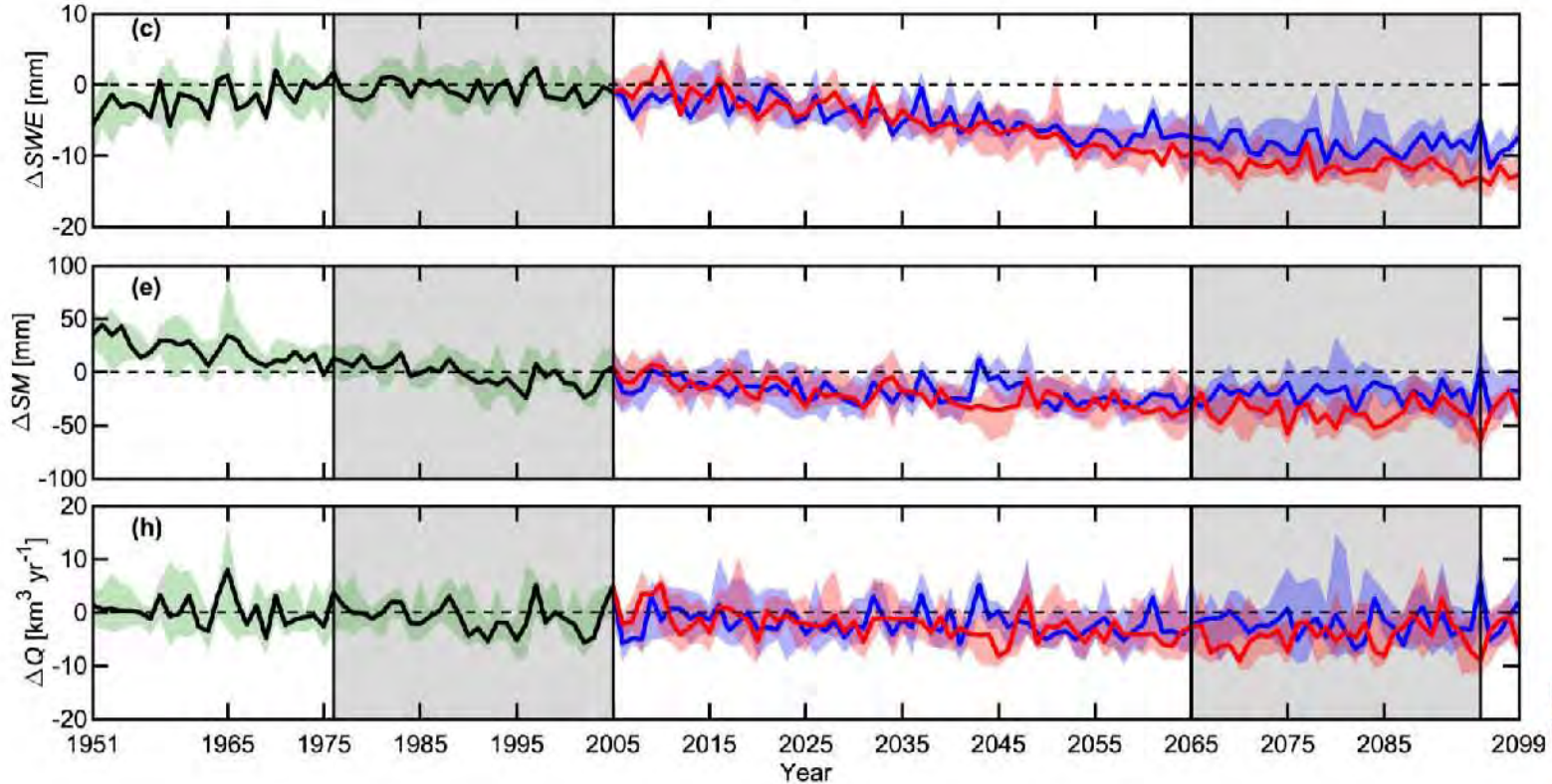
Grupo de modelos globales aplicados al Río Colorado



- **Ocho modelos globales re-escalados** a resolución de 6 km por método LOCA.
- Anomalías anuales de P y T promediadas en la cuenca del Río Colorado.
- Período base (1976-2005) y un período en el futuro lejano (2066-2095).
- **Dos escenarios de emisiones** (RCP 4.5 y RCP 8.5) obtenidos de CMIP5.

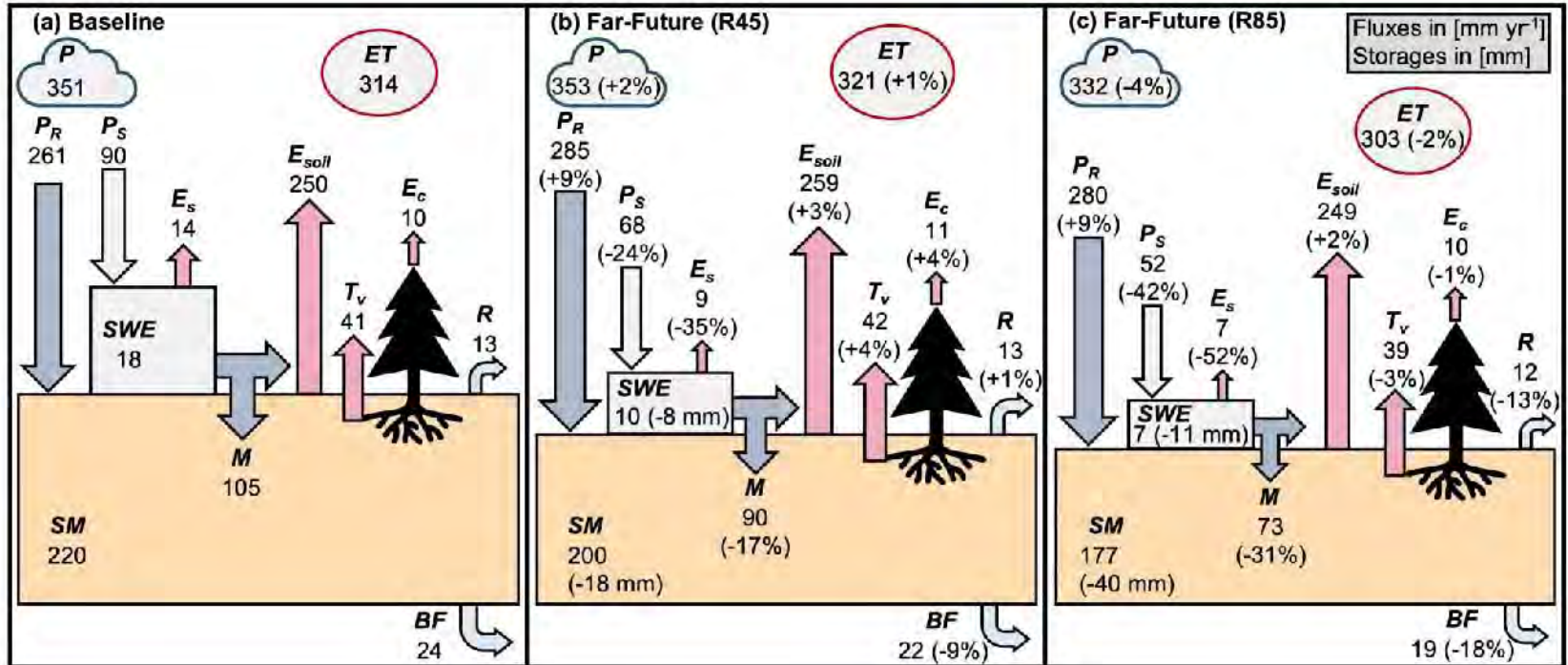
Proyecciones Hidrológicas

Equivalente en agua de nieve, Humedad de suelo y Caudal

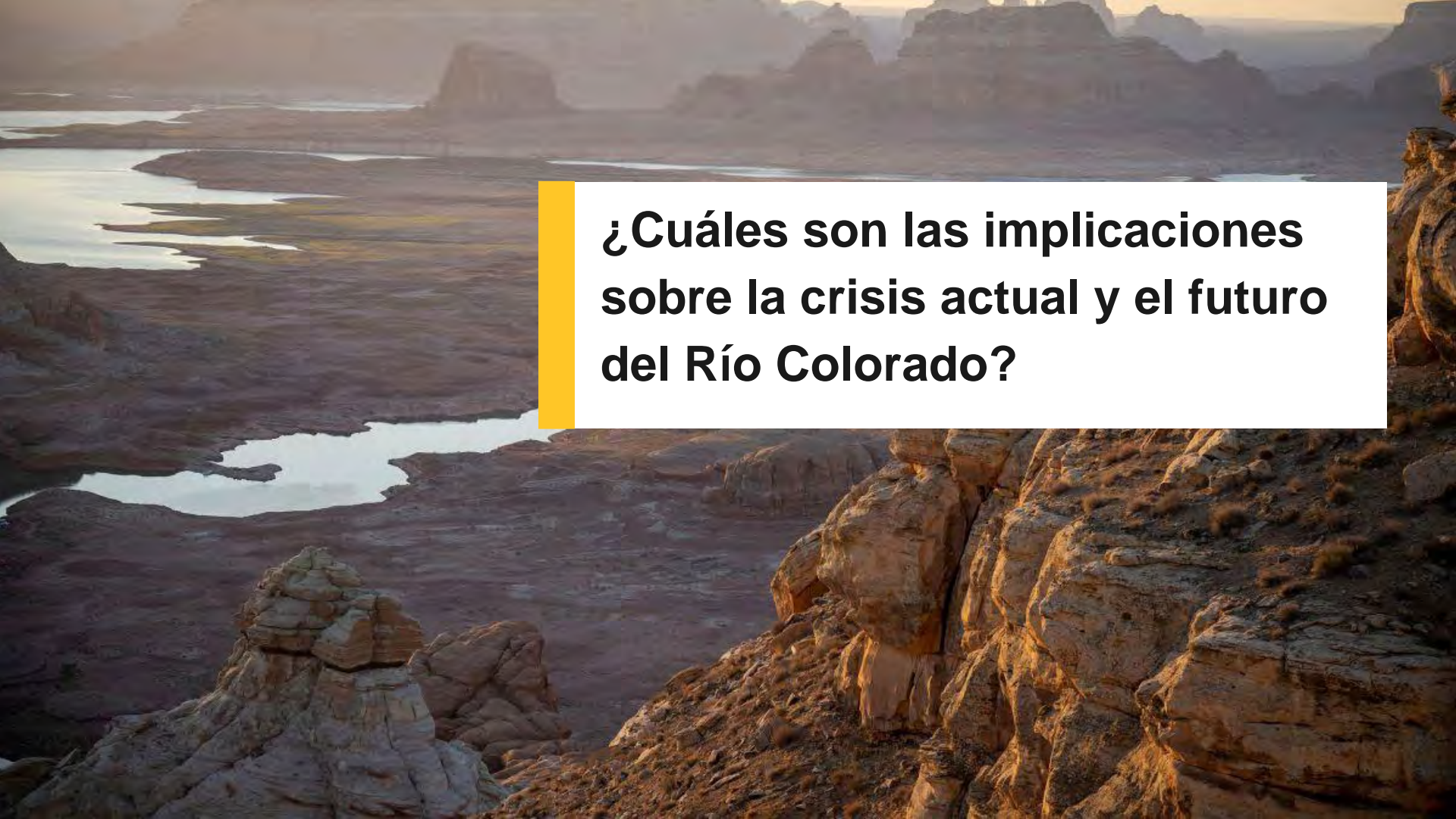


Proyecciones Hidrológicas

Cambios en los componentes de agua y energía



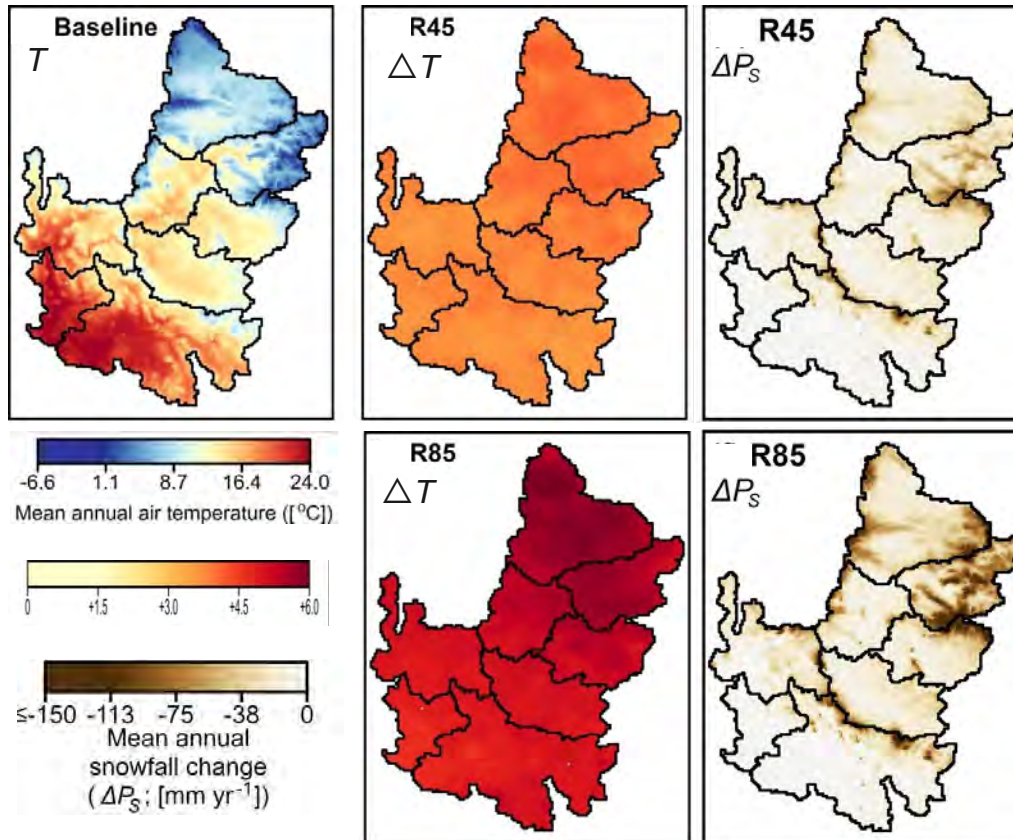
- Reducciones en **SWE** por transición de nieve a lluvia, resultando en menos derretimiento.
- Reducciones en **Q** (R t BF) por la menor cantidad de **SM** y mayor evaporación del suelo.

A wide-angle photograph of a desert canyon. In the foreground, there are rugged, layered rock formations in shades of tan and brown. A river winds through the middle ground, reflecting the light. The background shows more distant, hazy mountain peaks under a soft, golden light, suggesting either sunrise or sunset. A white rectangular box with a yellow vertical bar on its left side is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

¿Cuáles son las implicaciones sobre la crisis actual y el futuro del Río Colorado?

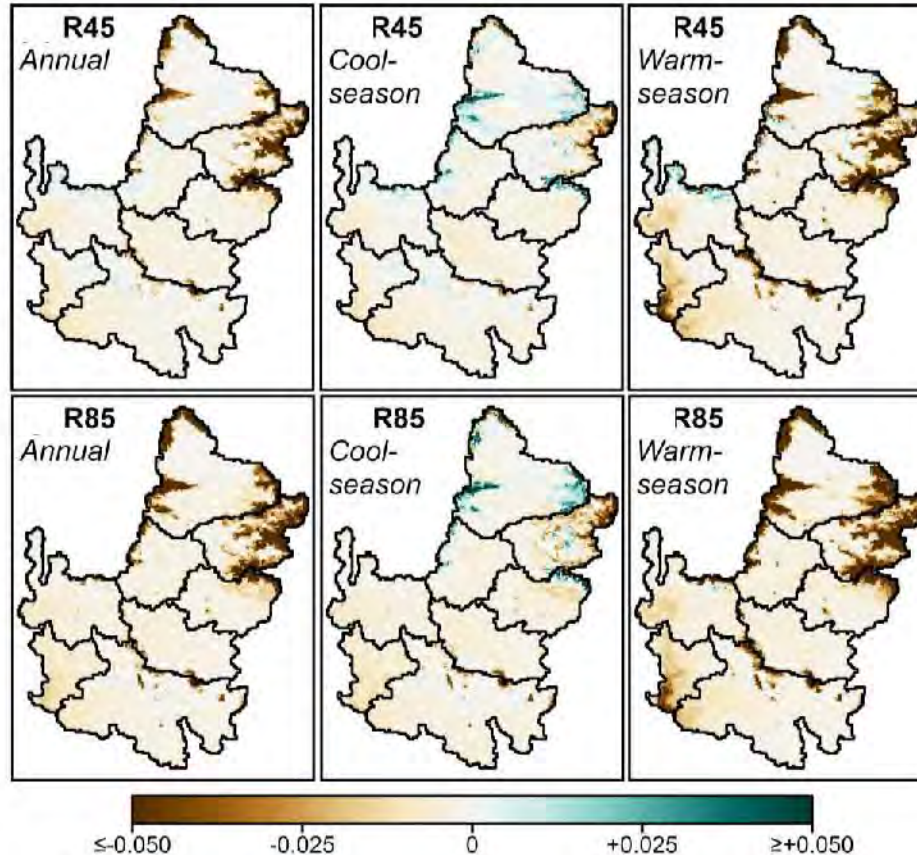
Mensaje #1

La temperaturas van a subir y el impacto será significativo en la nieve



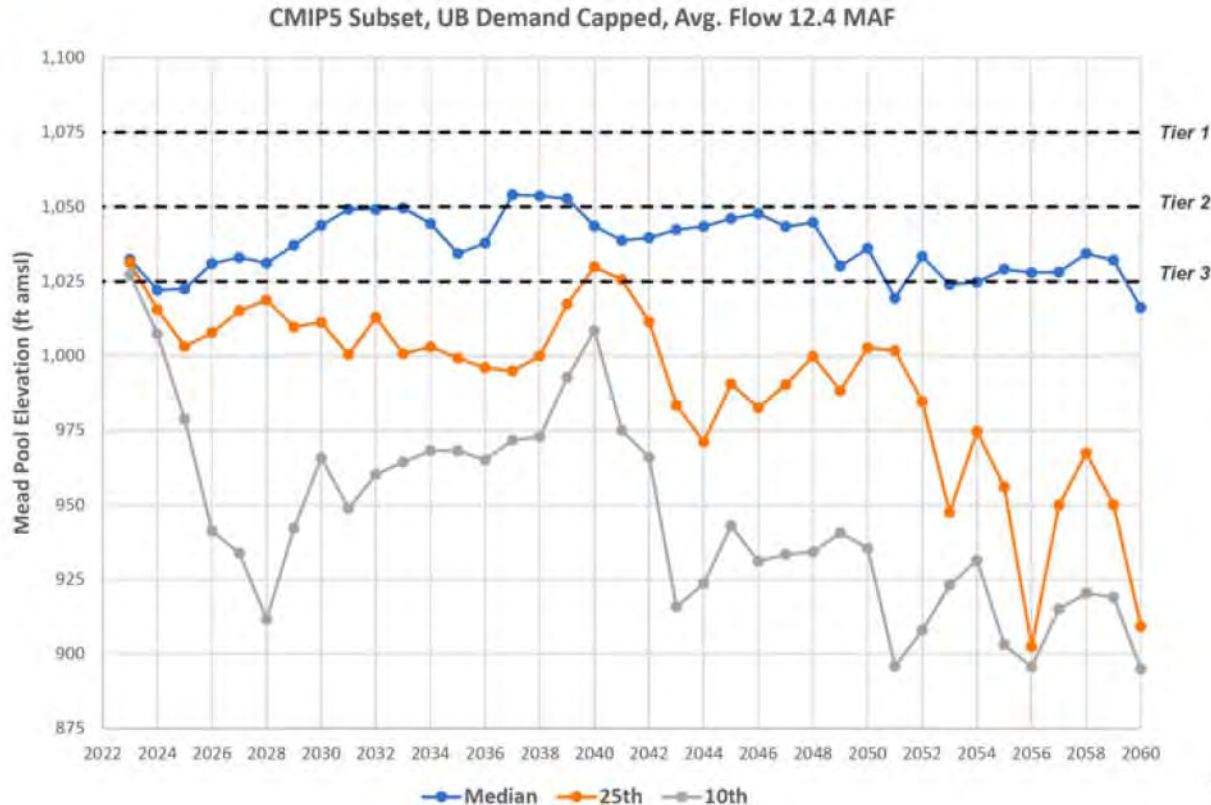
Mensaje #2

Variaciones en precipitación no podrán contrarrestar impactos del calor



Mensaje #3

El Río Colorado producirá menos agua en comparación al período histórico



Hydrology		CMIP5 (Selected Ensemble)
Time Period or Type		Projected: 2023 to 2060
# of Traces/Records		16
Natural Flow at Lees Ferry (MAF)	10%	7.40
	Median	12.18
	Mean	12.41
	90%	17.96

Fuente: CAP (2022)



A scenic view of a river valley with rocky terrain and a winding river, overlaid with a text box. The landscape is rugged, with layered rock formations and a river that winds through the valley. The lighting suggests a sunset or sunrise, with warm tones. A white text box with a yellow vertical bar on the left side is positioned in the center-right of the image.

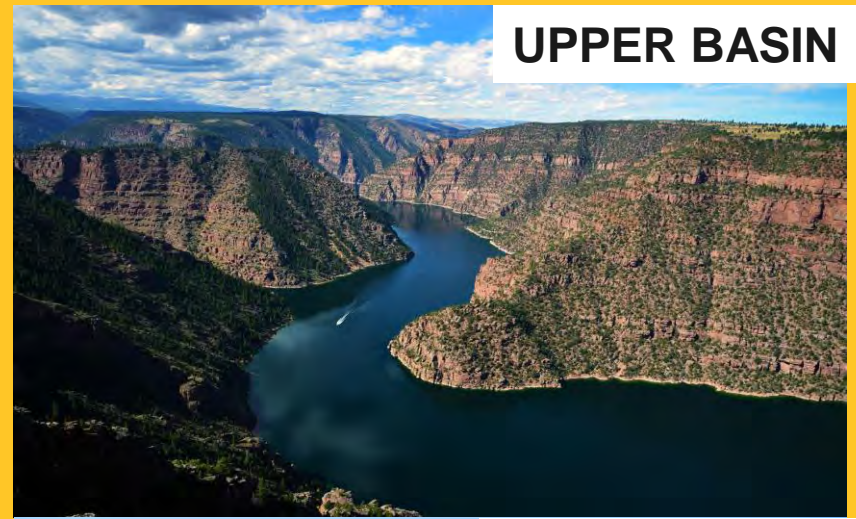
**¿Qué podemos reflexionar a
cerca del manejo de agua
binacional en el Río Colorado?**

Reflexiones

El sistema de manejo de agua del Rio Colorado tendrá que ser modificado para un futuro más caliente y más seco:

- Menos agua implica la reducción y redistribución de usos
- Hay que tomar en cuenta la sustentabilidad y la equidad
- Es necesaria la cooperación entre la ciencia y la política publica

La crisis actual es el principio de los cambios que se avecinan. Utilicemos la oportunidad para crecer y cambiar.



Acciones

La conservación de agua a través de diferentes sectores será importante.

Por ejemplo:

- Compensación a los agricultores por reducción de uso de agua
- Estímulos económicos para apoyar la transición temperara a uso de pozos
- Planeación municipal para la incentivar la reducción de uso de agua
- Uso de aguas almacenadas a través de proyectos de recarga.



Agradecimientos:

NASA Water Resources Applications Program, Central Arizona Project, ASU Water Innovation Initiative, ASU Research Computing Center, Ted Bohn, Mu Xiao, Giuseppe Mascaro, Dave White, Kristen Whitney, Zhaocheng Wang, Ray Quay, Chuck Cullom, Mohammed Mahmoud, Nolie Templeton, and Orestes Morfin.

Center for Hydrologic Innovations

“No single individual or organization can solve our water problems, technology-aided collaboration is the way forward.”

Technical Areas:

Hydrologic Sensor Data Analysis

Remote Sensing for Hydrology

Water Infrastructure Systems

Hydrologic and Land Surface Modeling

Machine Learning for Hydrology

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Water challenges are rising. Are we ready?

The Center for Hydrologic Innovations is a hub of water science and engineering research at **Arizona State University** – Named the **#1 University in the U.S. for Innovation** for 8 consecutive years.

Our faculty, researchers, and students work collaboratively with partners to bring **sensing, prediction, and analysis technologies** into the hands of water decision makers in our region and beyond.

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Salt River Project



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Central Arizona Project



Urban Water and Green Infrastructure

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City of Phoenix