

Jeffrey C. Silvertooth
Professor & Extension Specialist – Agronomy/Soil Science
Department of Environmental Science
University of Arizona

20 February 2024

Colorado River Water Update – Looking Ahead to the 2026 Agreements

As part of the SW Ag Summit that is taking place in Yuma this week, we are conducting a breakout session on Thursday, 22 February 2024 titled “Colorado River Water Shortage: Agricultural Perspectives”. This session will start at 9:30 a.m. in MAC 106 at the Arizona Western College campus.

This session will provide a brief review of the background, the current situation on the Colorado River and very importantly it will include an outlook on the current discussions among the basin states to negotiate a new compromise for the guidelines of use under conditions of water shortage. These new guidelines will go into place at the end of 2026. The immediate goal is to draft proposals by March 2024.

This breakout session at the Southwest Ag Summit will provide up to date information and firsthand insight into the process. The participants are uniquely qualified to offer valuable perspectives on these issues. This will be a very good session.

The program outline is as follows:

**2024 Southwest Ag Summit
Educational Program
Thursday – February 22, 2024**

COLORADO RIVER WATER UPDATE AND PROJECTIONS

Location: MAC106

9:30-10:00a.m. Colorado River Background and Introduction

Elston Grubaugh, Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District

10:00–10:30a.m. Colorado River Situation and Future Projections

**Bart Fisher, Palo Verde Irrigation District and State of California Colorado River
Water Board member, Fisher Ranch, Blythe CA**

10:30–11:00a.m. Colorado River Situation and Future Projections

**Hank Auza, Yuma County Water User’s Association President and Yuma Ag Water
Coalition representative, Barkley Co. of Arizona, Yuma AZ**

11:00–11:30a.m. Question & Answer / Discussion

Moderator: Elston Grubaugh, Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District