



Arizona Department of Water Resources

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 3, 2017

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Governor Ducey signs HJR 2002 authorizing Water Resources Director Tom Buschatzke to take steps to protect water levels at Lake Mead

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey on Thursday signed HJR 2002.

The Joint Resolution allows ADWR Director Tom Buschatzke to obligate the state of Arizona to the “domestic agreements” that are a necessary part of a binational agreement with Mexico that benefits Colorado River water supplies and Lake Mead.

“The Legislature has acted swiftly to give my administration the tools it needs to protect Arizona Colorado River water supplies,” said Governor Ducey. “I commend state Lawmakers for their efforts in passing this important resolution.”

The agreement among the Lower Basin Colorado River states of Arizona, California and Nevada to leave “intentionally created surplus” (ICS) water created in Mexico in Lake Mead would be ancillary to a pending binational agreement between the U.S. and Mexico that is tentatively known as “Minute 32x.”

The current binational agreement – Minute 319 – expires at the end of 2017.

The end result of the binational agreement and the domestic agreements will assure that Colorado River water contractors will retain 100 percent of the ICS that they secure from Mexico *with no risk that any of their ICS will be claimed by another state.*

While ICS remains in storage, it props up the elevation of Lake Mead and prevents triggering delivery shortages under guidelines established in a 2007 agreement among Colorado River water users.

HJR 2002 authorizes Director Buschatzke to enter into those agreements to forbear its rights to use certain quantities of ICS from the Colorado River under certain conditions.

HJR 2002 passed both the Arizona House and Senate with unanimous approval.

For more information regarding this matter, please contact Doug MacEachern, Communications Administrator, at dmaceachern@azwater.gov or (602) 510-0104.

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