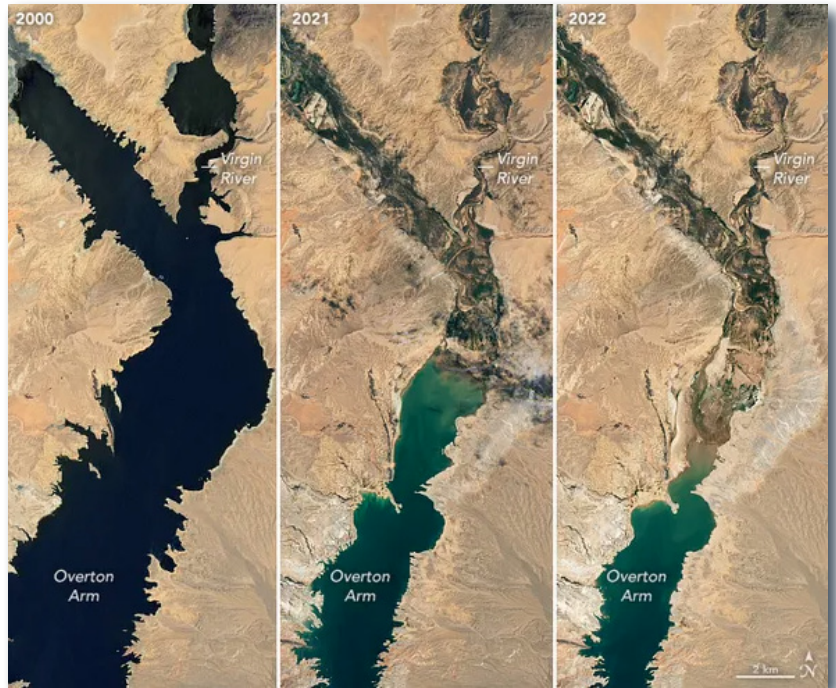


SECURING ARIZONA'S WATER FUTURE

Arizona's economy is booming, and our population is growing. **But the continued success of our state relies on our ability to protect our long-term water supply.** As a member of the Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries Subcommittee of the Natural Resources Committee, Congressman Gallego has led a forward-thinking water policy that reflects Arizona's water and economic leadership in the West.

Protecting Water Rights for Arizonans



Satellite Imagery of Lake Mead (2000,2021,2022)

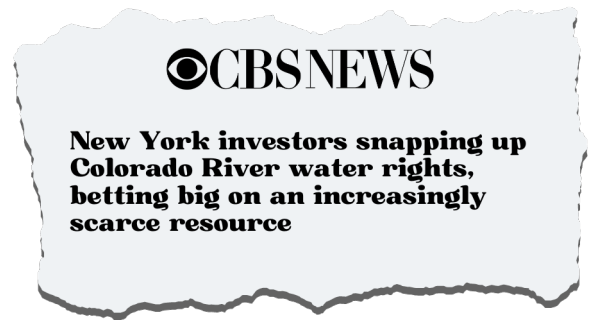
A combination of chronic overuse and historic drought is drying up the Colorado River, which accounts for 36% of Arizona's water supply. This could lead to significant cuts in water delivery to Arizona. Now, the Colorado River Basin states – Arizona, California, and Nevada – are in the process of negotiating post-2026 water allocations to prevent extensive cuts. **To make sure Arizona gets a fair deal, Rep. Gallego is engaging directly with the Bureau of Reclamation and Arizona water leaders – all in the hopes of protecting Arizona's future.**

On top of the Colorado River shortage, foreign governments and corporations continue to exploit Arizona's water rules, using large amounts of our groundwater to grow crops they then ship overseas¹. That's not right, primarily when Arizona's groundwater represents 40% of our water supply and is being used faster than it is being replenished. **It's simple: Arizona's water should stay in Arizona.**



To stop these foreign actors, Rep. Gallego introduced the **Domestic Water Protection Act** of 2023 to stop the abuse of water resources by foreign governments in Arizona and other drought-stricken states.

As Colorado River water scarcity continues, private investment firms see the West's decades-long megadrought as a money-making opportunity². **Rep. Gallego knows that water is a lifeline for Arizona communities - not a resource for Wall Street to exploit. That's why he introduced the Drought Related Overpricing Prevention (DROP) Act** to prohibit the sale or lease of water rights at an excessive price in drought-stricken areas and stop price gouging.



As a member of the House Natural Resources Committee and Armed Services Committee, **Rep. Gallego knows that water security is national security**. So at a time when multiple water facilities across the United States have been targeted in cyber-attacks, Rep. Gallego led a letter to the Department of Homeland Security to do more to protect United States' water facilities and critical infrastructure from our adversaries and terrorists and is pushing to increase cooperation with our allies around the world that face similar threats.³



Water Conservation

Across the country and Arizona, water is lost yearly because of preventable problems with outdated infrastructure and technology – water losses we cannot afford. Aging pipes leak water during transport, and **1 trillion gallons of water are lost yearly to leaks in homes**. These leaks last longer because they're hard to detect in real time⁴. Rep. Gallego's **bipartisan Water Infrastructure Modernization Act** would provide grants for communities to purchase and implement new water technologies,

helping to identify water loss, examine pipe integrity, detect leaks, prepare for severe weather, innovate water storage systems, and more.

Even in the face of severe drought, Arizonans have found new ways to use water efficiently and store it for the future, including through water reuse in energy plants and water exchanges⁵. **Rep. Gallego has advocated for other states to follow Arizona's lead and learn from our 21st-century water con-**

ervation strategies to build water systems for the future.

Tribal Water Rights

Although Arizona's tribes have senior water rights, many have not had quantified water allocations until recent decades – and some still do not. **Rep. Gallego has supported Congressional approval and federal funding for multiple Tribal Water Rights Settlements across Arizona**, including for the Colorado River Indian Tribes, Hualapai Tribe, and White Mountain Apache Tribe in 2023⁶.

Many tribal members living on tribal land do not have access to clean running water,

which impacts their health and well-being. Rep. Gallego wrote to the Environmental Protection Agency to encourage the use of emerging water technologies for underserved communities, especially rural and tribal communities, to address water pollution and clean water access.



Endnotes

- 1 <https://azpbs.org/horizon/2022/06/saudi-water-deal-threatening-water-supply-in-phoenix/>
- 2 <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/new-york-investors-snapping-up-colorado-river-water-rights-betting-big-on-an-increasingly-scarce-resource/>
- 3 <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/11/28/federal-government-investigating-multiple-hacks-of-us-water-utilities-00128977>
- 4 <https://www.12news.com/article/news/local/water-wars/water-leak-finder-bills-surprise-drought/75-74564aac-c81f-4fd3-8cca-84e96fe6ff44>
- 5 <https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2018/04/10/arizona-water-policy-innovative-groundwater-conservation-glennon/499898002/>
- 6 <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-welcomes-significant-progress-indian-water-rights-settlements>