



# GILA RIVER WATER STORAGE, LLC

WRRC Brown Bag

November 7, 2013

# Gila River Indian Community is comprised of two tribes

Akimel O'odham or "River People (Pima)



Pee Posh or "the People" (Maricopa)



# Industrious Agriculturalists of the Desert: Time Immemorial to 1859



# Past water use

- The Akimel O'odham (Pima) Indians and their ancestors the HuHuGam practiced irrigated agriculture in central Arizona for over 2,000 years.
- In 1860, the Akimel O'odham produced more than 2 million pounds of grain annually.

# Stolen water

- Starting in the late 1800s, non-Indian settlements and up river water usage combined with the failure of federal policy to protect the Community's water lead to the decline of agricultural production to subsistence levels, eventually resulting in widespread starvation and famine.

# Water settlement

- After years of litigation, the Community began to pursue settlement of its water rights claims in earnest in the 1990s.
- On December 10, 2004, President Bush signed into law the Arizona Water Settlements Act of 2004, which included the Gila River Indian Community Water Settlement Act.

# Settlement cont.

- Settlement provided funding for refurbishment existing irrigation infrastructure and construction of new on-reservation infrastructure to bring back traditional agrarian economy
- Settlement provides for a total annual water entitlement of 635,000 acre-feet
- Of this amount 311,800 acre-feet is CAP water

# Settlement cont.

- CAP water is in-lieu water; replacement water for free natural flow water
- Under the settlement the Community is responsible for paying CAP energy charges
- The Community is the single largest customer of CAP water
- CAP water is subsidized but cost continue to increase



# Bringing back the river

- Settlement did not return natural flow of the Gila River
- Community is developing a riparian managed aquifer recharge facility on its reservation
- For many Community members this project will be the first tangible evidence of the water settlement

# Partnership with SRP

- Through water settlement negotiations the Community and SRP formed a relationship of mutual respect
- Sound water planning in the region in Community's and SRP's best interest
- Completion of on-reservation infrastructure will not be done until 2030; Community did not want to wait to use its water

# Foundations of Agreement

## Arizona Water Settlements Act

- Gila River Indian Community received 311,800 acre-feet of CAP in place of its Gila River water
- To be used on reservation for a variety of uses

## Community Plans for Putting the Water to Use

- Many years before infrastructure necessary to fully utilize water on reservation is complete
- The Community begins seeking ways to put the water to use in the interim

## Working with SRP

- Working with a trusted settlement partner to design a plan to meet the Community's needs, some SRP needs and meet important water management needs, as well.

# What water is included?

- Commitment to store 2,000,000 acre-feet between now and 2029 to create long-term storage credits
- 30,000 acre-feet of CAP under 100 year leases
- Dry year option for SRP to purchase up to 100,000 acre-feet of CAP when allocation is less than 2.5 acre-feet per acre

# How does it work?

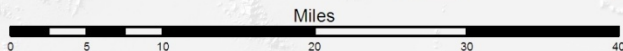
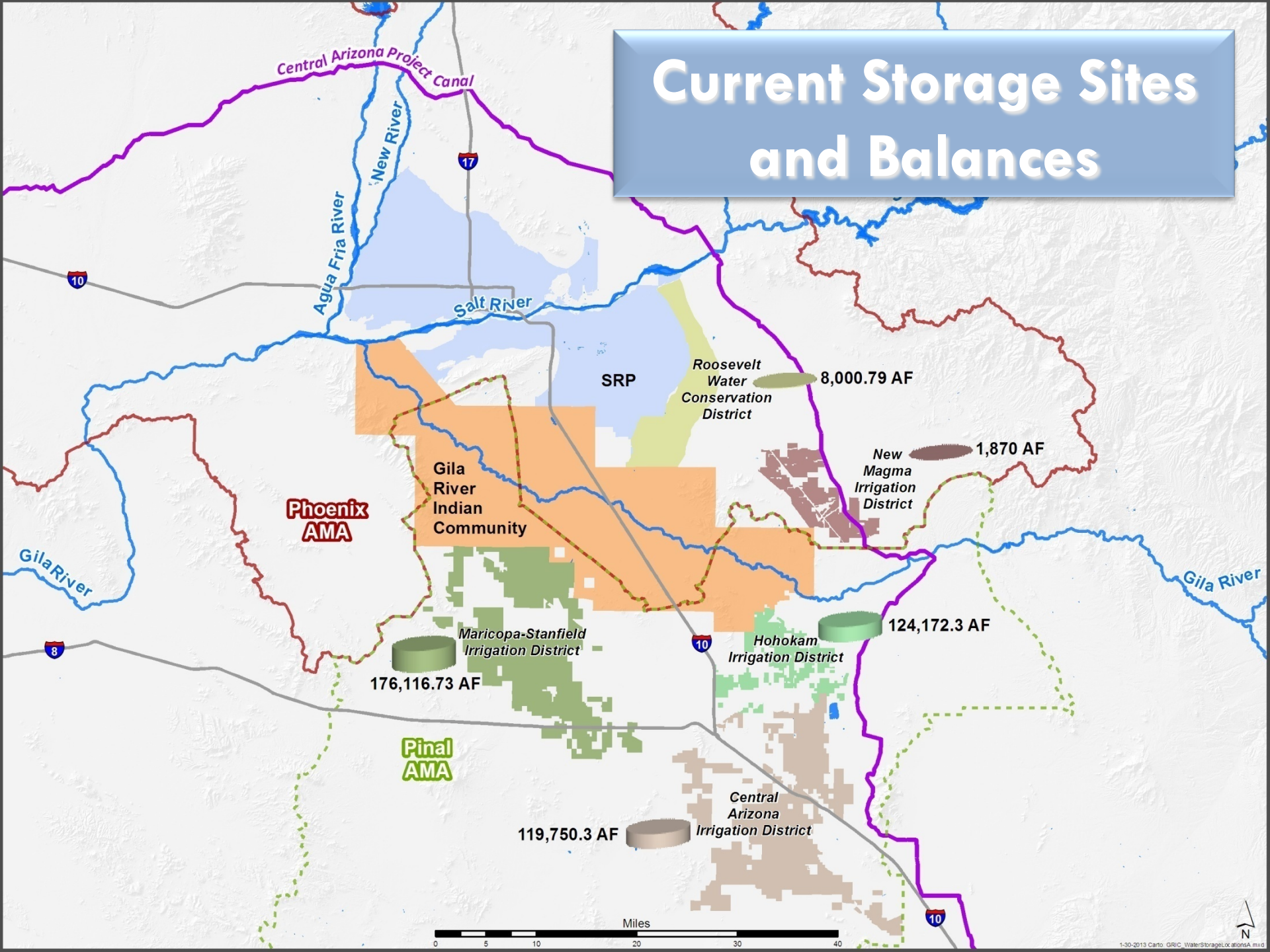
The Community stores CAP water underground and reports to ADWR

ADWR issues the Community Long-Term Storage Credits

The Community transfers these credits to GRWS

GRWS identifies current and projected water users needing renewable water supplies in Maricopa and Pinal Counties

# Current Storage Sites and Balances



# Current Credit Balances & Storage Planned for 2013 & 2014

Storage Location	Current Balance (AF)	AMA Total (AF)	2013 Storage (AF)	2014 Storage (AF)
Maricopa-Stanfield	176,117	Pinal AMA 420,039	30,000	35,000
Hohokam	124,172		40,000	25,000
Central Arizona	119,750		30,000	25,000
New Magma	1,900	Phoenix AMA 9,500	14,000	20,000
Roosevelt	7,600		40,000	28,000
Salt River Project	0		28,889	20,000
Maricopa Water District	0		0	15,000
Superstition Mountain Recharge Project	0		0	2,592

# GRWS Focus Area

## Communities surrounding the Gila River Indian Community

- Maricopa
- Casa Grande
- Coolidge
- Eloy
- Florence
- Superstition Vistas
- San Tan Valley
- Queen Creek
- Apache Junction
- Gilbert
- Chandler



# Buyers in the Marketplace

- Municipal Water Providers
  - ▣ Cities
  - ▣ Private Water Companies
- Industrial Water Users
  - ▣ Mining Companies
  - ▣ Manufacturing
  - ▣ Data Centers
  - ▣ Large Turf Facilities
    - Golf Courses
    - Homeowners' Associations
- Marketing began in October of 2012

# Why are LTSCs important?

- ❖ Needed for Residential Development
- ❖ Needed for Industrial Water Demands
- ❖ Distinct Advantages Over Other Supplies

# Residential Development

- Assured Water Supply Program
  - Renewable water supplies must be proven for 100 years
  - Renewable = surface water, CAP, effluent
- Municipal Water Providers & Land Owners/  
Developers
  - Must meet the AWS requirements before development can happen

# Industrial Development

- Industrial and Commercial Water Users
  - Subject to conservation requirements
  - Groundwater use limited
- Types of Industries Impacted
  - General Manufacturing
  - High Tech Manufacturing
  - Data Centers
  - Any large building using chillers and cooling towers for temperature control

# Unique Advantages of LTSCs

- ❑ No evaporation losses
- ❑ Can be stored until needed
- ❑ Not a use it or lose it supply
- ❑ No costs associated with holding credits
- ❑ Easily traded
- ❑ Portable within Active Management Areas
- ❑ Recovered stored water does not require the same treatment as surface water
- ❑ Can be stored in areas where growth is expected to take advantage of existing infrastructure for recovery and to preserve groundwater

# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION