

What is Demand Management?

Reductions in consumptive use

Temporary.

Voluntary.

Compensated.

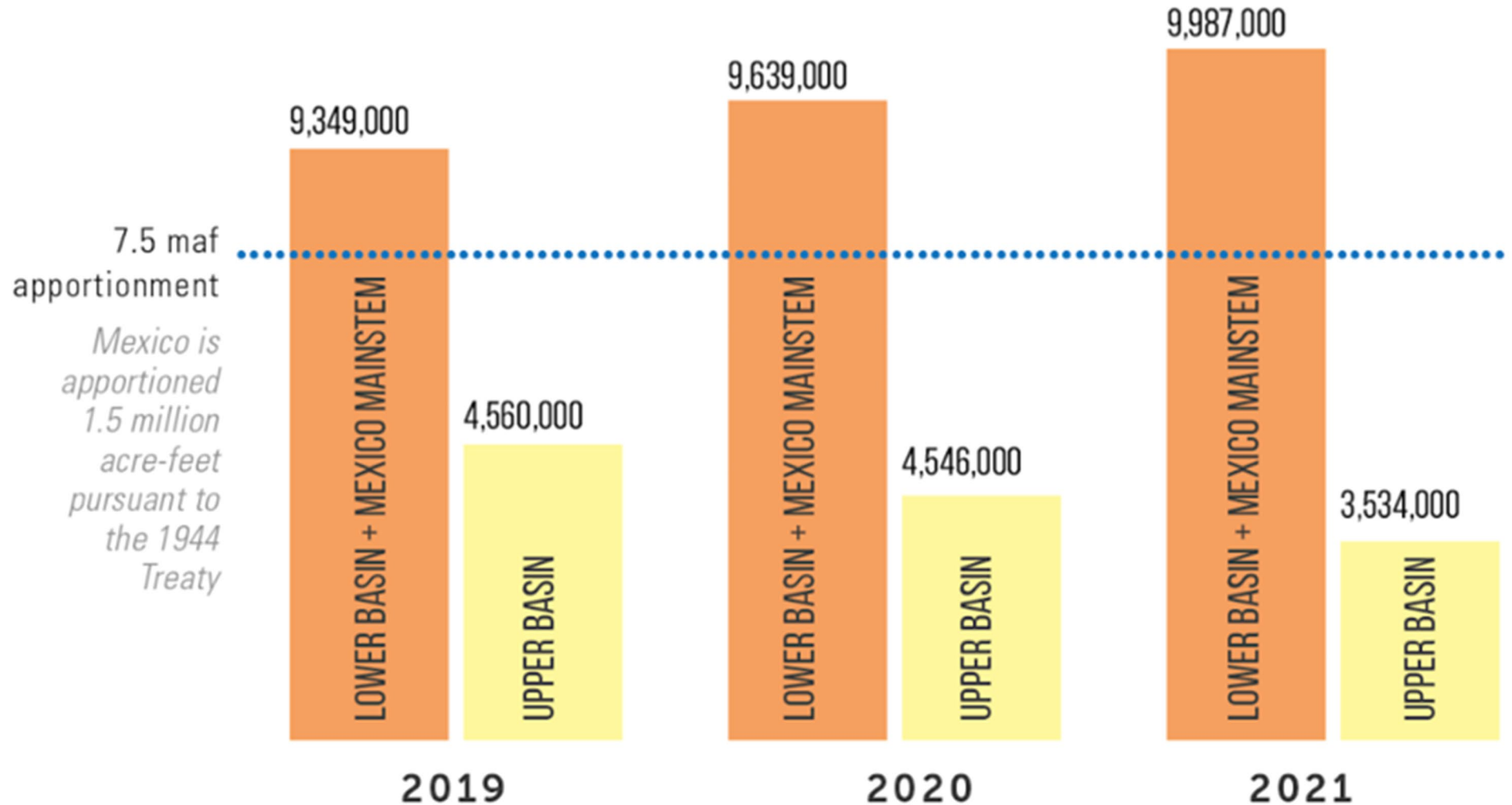
...to ensure ongoing compliance with the Colorado River Compact

Note: Upper Division States are in full compliance with the Compact and using 3-4 million acre-feet less than our 7.5 million acre-foot annual apportionment



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The **Colorado River Compact** provides equal apportionments to the Upper and Lower Basins in perpetuity. **Current Uses:**



What is Demand Management?

- Defined in the **Demand Management Storage Agreement**, part of the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan, which expires at the end of 2025.
- Requires agreement among **all Upper Division States**, coordinated through the Upper Colorado River Commission.
- **NOT a foregone conclusion.**



Demand Management Storage Agreement: Minimum Requirements

YOU ARE HERE

Feasibility

- Verification and Accounting
- Shepherding
- Storage and Release
- Funding
- Compliance with Law



Develop DM Program

- Minimum requirements for
 - Water Conservation
 - Storage
 - Release



Agreement with SOI

- UCRC/SOI agreements on water conveyed to and stored at Initial Units
- Pre-req - Consultation with Lower Basin



Approvals

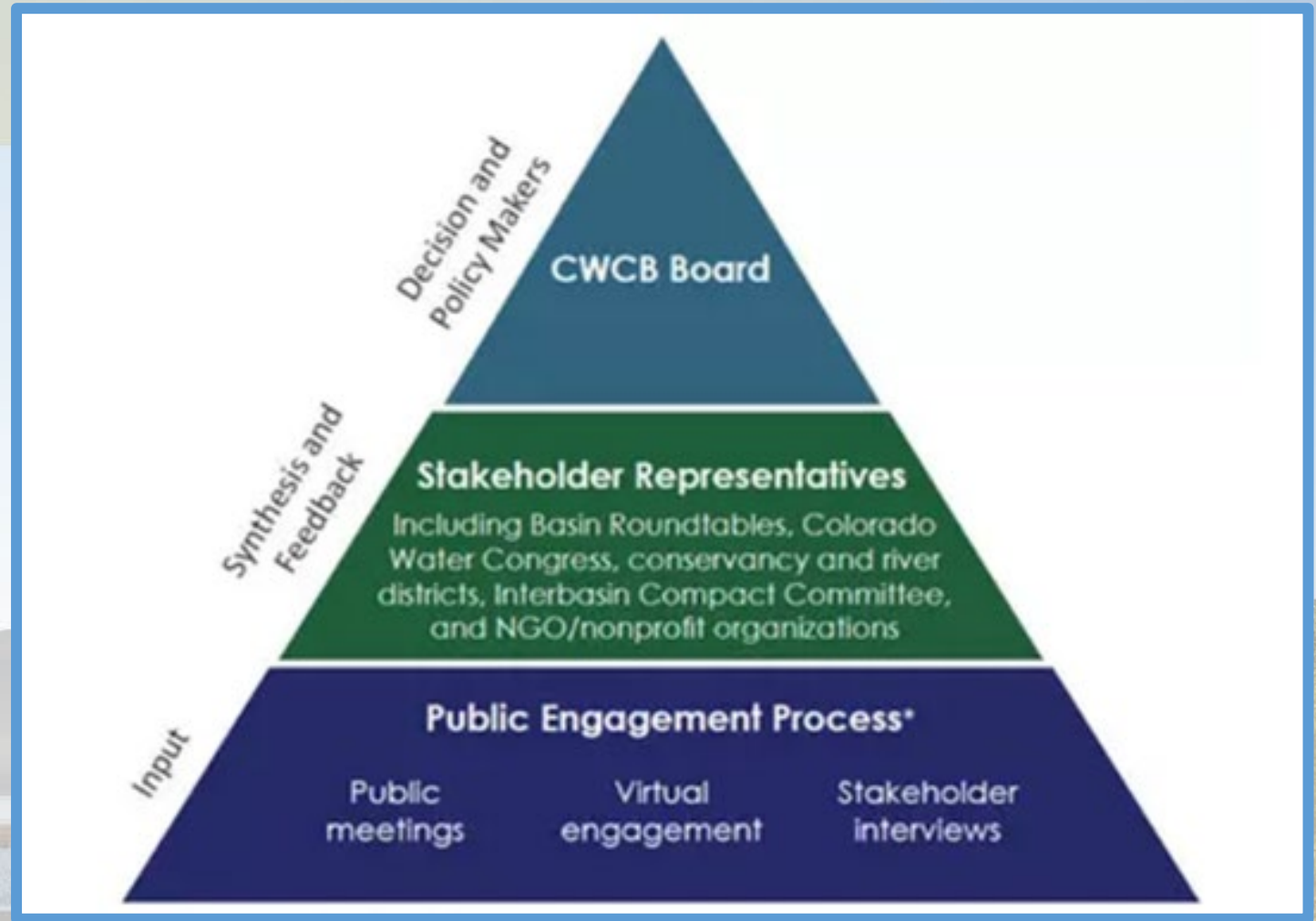
- UCRC Finding of Need for DM
- Commission Approval
- State Approval



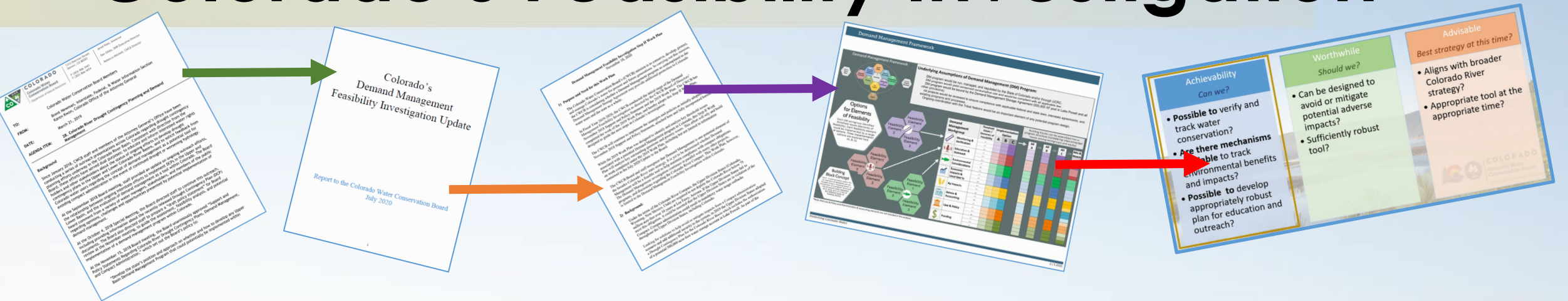
CWCB's Role

“...to preserve, protect, and manage Colorado's water for present and future generations...”

CWCB is leading Colorado's investigation into whether Demand Management is feasible for Colorado.



Colorado's Feasibility Investigation



Work to Date

- 2019 Work Plan: **Broad, big-picture questions explored through workgroups**
- July 2020 Update: **Comprehensive report of work to date**
- Step II Work Plan: **Guidance to develop Framework**
- Demand Management Framework: **Range of implementation options**
- 2021 Decision-Making Roadmap:

Achievable? Worthwhile? Advisable?



Colorado's Feasibility Investigation -Key Findings

- Any potential program would be **temporary, voluntary, and compensated**, and would not envision permanent dry-up of agricultural lands.
- A potential program should be viewed as **equitable and proportional**.
- Any potential program should be designed to **minimize and mitigate on-farm and off-farm agronomic impacts**.
- **Non-injury to water rights holders and non-participants** is key.
- Any such program should be **appropriately timed**.
- There are key open **legal issues** associated with a potential program.
- Appropriate guidance for potential participation by the **Tribal Nations** must be considered.
- *See July 2020 report for more information*



Decision-Making Roadmap

Achievability

Can we?

- **Possible to** verify and track water conservation?
- **Are there mechanisms available** to track environmental benefits and impacts?
- **Possible to** develop appropriately robust plan for education and outreach?

Worthwhile

Should we?

- Can be designed to avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts?
- Sufficiently robust tool?
- Addresses anti-speculation concerns?

Advisable

Best strategy at this time?

- Aligns with broader Colorado River goals?
- Appropriate tool at the appropriate time?



Demand Management is only one potential (*and limited*) tool

...So, what else are we doing?

- Sent **624,000 acre-feet of water** to Lake Powell from Flaming Gorge and Blue Mesa reservoirs in 2021-2022 (18% of our 2021 uses).
- Implementing the **System Conservation Pilot Program**: temporary, voluntary, compensated reductions of 38,000 acre-feet in 2022-2023.
- **Strict administration of water rights**, resulting in 500,000 acres impacted in the Upper Basin and a 25% reduction in water use in 2021.
- Additional efforts through the **Colorado Water Plan**, turf replacement program, other State conservation programs
- Using 3-4 million acre-feet less than our Compact apportionment every year and maintaining **full compliance with the Compacts**.



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