

**Final Draft
10/6/08**

Pre-Compact Colorado River Basin Water Rights

Colorado River Water Conservation District Policy Statement:

The River District will pursue an inventory of pre-compact water uses and advocate for legislation, policies and programs to protect, maximize and maintain these valuable water rights that are exempt from curtailment under the 1922 Colorado River Compact and the 1948 Upper Colorado River Basin Compact.

BACKGROUND:

Article VIII of the 1922 Colorado River Compact states, in part, "Present perfected rights to the beneficial use of waters of the Colorado River System are unimpaired by this compact." Water put to beneficial use prior to the effective date of the 1922 Colorado River Compact is therefore exempt from the compact's provisions for curtailment of use. Additionally, under certain circumstances, these pre-compact water uses may replace post-compact water uses and may therefore be integral to certain compact compliance strategies.