



River District Applauds Governor's Veto

Press Release

June 6, 2014

The Colorado River District applauds Governor Hickenlooper's decision to veto Senate Bill 14-023 yesterday. As noted in the Governor's veto message, we are certain it was a close and difficult decision. The River District, along with many other parties, requested a veto.

But the issue is not dead. With the veto, the challenge is remains for supporters and opponents alike to reconvene to develop new alternatives that provide genuine incentives for irrigation efficiency while avoiding the unintended and adverse consequences of SB023. The River District is committed to this challenge.

The River District worked with Senator Schwartz and others for two years developing legislation to create irrigation efficiency incentives. We succeeded in addressing an important part of the issue in 2013 with the passage of Senate Bill 13-019, which addressed voluntary, consumptive water use savings. We continued our efforts over the summer last year and throughout the legislative session this winter to address the admittedly more complex issue of non-consumptive water savings. In the end, we opposed the final approach taken in SB023 as too costly and likely ineffective. The River District, however, remains committed to addressing the challenge of providing meaningful incentives for efficient irrigation. The Governor's proposal in his veto message of one or more pilot projects may be one viable approach.

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