



# Colorado River District

*Protecting Western Colorado Water Since 1937*

## MEMORANDUM

October 4, 2017

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**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FROM:** HUNTER CAUSEY, P.E. *HC*

**SUBJECT:** 2018 GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING AMOUNT AND IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY CONSIDERATIONS

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*Board action requested. Staff requests Board action to 1) specify funds available to the 2018 Grant Program and 2) provide direction regarding funding irrigation efficiency improvements.*

### **2018 Grant Program Funds**

Funds available to the Grant Program have ranged from \$80,000 at its inception to \$250,000 from 2010 until 2015. For 2016 and 2017, the Board reduced Grant Program funds to \$150,000. The 2018 budget allocates \$225,000 of the Capital Fund budget to the Grant Program. Staff is requesting direction from the Board on whether to allocate those funds entirely to the Grant Program, or to direct a portion of those funds to the Grand Valley Water User System Conservation Pilot Program. Mark Harris, General Manager of the GVVUA, plans to attend the Board meeting to discuss the pilot program.

### **Irrigation Efficiency**

Members of the Board have expressed concern regarding funding irrigation efficiency improvements that, in some instances, lead to reduced late season return flows. The Board also recognizes the benefits of improved irrigation efficiency and has shown reluctance to eliminate irrigation efficiency funding entirely due to the benefits it can provide. Staff presented to the Board on the subject at the third quarterly meeting, and a panel discussion at the River District Seminar provided additional insight. Staff recommends addressing this issue qualitatively in the application review process on a case by case basis. More specifically, staff would identify irrigation efficiency projects within the Grant Program applications and perform a base-level analysis of potential return flow issues. This information would be available to the staff review committee and Executive Committee during the review and recommendation process (as well as to any Board member upon request).