

## SB 16-145

### SUBDISTRICT FORMATION OF COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

#### POSITION: SUPPORT

**ISSUE:** Current law (River District's 1937 organic act) requires a petition be signed by a majority of property owners in a proposed subdistrict in order to form the subdistrict. With vast population growth, out-of-state and foreign ownership, and the advent of fractional (time share) ownership, signature gathering from 50% of property is no longer practical.

#### BILL SUMMARY:

This bill provides an alternative mechanism for creation of subdistricts within the Colorado River District. In order to assist projects and programs identified in Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs) of the three Roundtables comprising the River District creating subdistricts may be desired. Following initial approval by the River District board, including unanimity of directors representing a proposed subdistrict, and a petition of 10% or 200 electors, whichever is less, of the proposed subdistrict, a vote shall be held to determine if the subdistrict is formed. A majority vote for the proposed subdistrict is required to establish the district.

(Any new or increased tax to benefit the subdistrict would be subject to a separate TABOR-compliant vote.)

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Creates a practical process for subdistrict creation
- Follows existing statute for creating subdistricts from Water Conservancy District Act
- Provides for local control/decision making
- Adheres to TABOR requirements

**CONCLUSION:** The River District respectfully requests your SUPPORT for SB 145 establishing an alternative and practical mechanism for creation of subdistricts in order to assist local interests in implementing water projects & programs, including those identified in Basin Implementation Plans of the Colorado Water Plan.

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