

Directors, At this Thursday's (3/29) noon call, I will ask for positions on the following three bills. If the Sea Plane Landing bill is introduced or others of relevance, I will forward prior to Thursday. We will also provide an update on the revenue forecast and the Long Bill.

SB18-218 CWCB Construction Fund bill

Coram; Arndt

http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2018A/bills/2018a_218_01.pdf

Summary: This is the annual authorization bill for expenditures from the CWCB's construction fund, including \$9M for Colorado's Water Plan-related expenditures.

RECOMMENDED POSITION: Support

HB18-1301 Hard Rock Mining

Roberts & McLachlan;

<http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb18-1301>

Summary: This bill does three things related to hard rock mining reclamation permits:

- All-but-requires a specified end date to any water treatment necessary to ensure permit compliance,
- Eliminates current provision for self-bonding for reclamation bonds, and
- Ensures water quality reclamation costs are included in the figure setting for reclamation bonds.

Analysis: Even the proponents cannot explain the logic or policy behind the requirement for setting an end date for water treatment, so I'm at a bit of a loss. I don't believe the elimination of self-bonding (Mined Land Division is no longer approving self-bonding) is a River District issue. I recommend supporting inclusion of water quality costs in determining the amount of reclamation bonds. (Mined Land reports that already do this.)

I don't see this bill getting out of first committee in the Senate.

RECOMMENDED POSITION: Amend or Support the third provision to include water quality in figure setting of bond amounts.

HB18-1338 DNR Program Funding

Rankin; Lambert

http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2018A/bills/2018a_1338_01.pdf

Summary: Through a variety of pea-under-the-shell maneuvers, HB 1338I makes various cash funds and General Fund transfers and diversions in support of programs in the Department of Natural Resources that are currently funded with severance tax revenue. This bill replaces severance tax funding for, among other programs, Native Species Trust Fund, mussel inspections, water efficiency grants, IBCC, roundtable funding, and Water Supply Reserve Account.

RECOMMENDED POSITION: Support

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Colorado River District

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