



**MEMORANDUM**  
**MAY 18, 2018**

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**TO:** CRWCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** ANDY MUELLER, GENERAL MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** *CRWCD JOINT MEETING WITH SWCD*

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**Action Requested:** Staff seeks direction and, if the Board deems fit, possible action related to the funding of the proposed Phase III of the Colorado River Risk Study.

**Strategic Plan Initiatives:**

- 1.A.: Outreach, Advocacy and Partnerships in furthering the River District's mission.*
  - 3.B. and C.: Climate change and planning efforts to adapt to climate change impacts*
  - 4. A.-D.: Protecting the ability to fully use Colorado's share of the River and protecting pre-Compact Colorado River rights, developing a DCP*
  - 6. A.-D.: Development of a voluntary, compensated water bank to protect western Colorado agriculture.*
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On May 23, 2018 we have one of our periodic joint Board meetings with the Board and staff of the Southwestern Water Conservation District ("SWCD"). As many of you know, SWCD is the "other" Conservation District statutorily charged with protecting the waters tributary to the Colorado River for use by the inhabitants of its geographic area and with the task of protecting Colorado's share of the Colorado River for use by the people of the State. They are, in essence, our sister agency and as such we have many common interests. SWCD was created in the late 50's and its organic statute is similar to ours in many ways. Our districts starting having these joint meetings in the mid 2000's to provide a forum for the Boards of our organizations to develop and maintain relationships. These meetings further our ability to act in unison on issues of important statewide and Colorado River Basin wide concern.

Our agenda focuses on a variety of issues related to the low inflows and the decreasing level of storage in Lake Powell. Specifically, we are hoping to have discussions regarding the completed phases of the Colorado River Risk Study and the scope and funding of the proposed Phase III of that study. Many of you have been present for one or more of Eric Kuhn and/or John Carron's summaries of Phase I and II. We will touch on the highlights of these prior phases, and we would like to review the proposed scope of Phase III and discuss the most efficient and politically expedient way of funding and moving that phase to fruition. It is estimated that the total cost of phase III will be one hundred thousand dollars. Specifically, we believe that it is the appropriate

**Mueller Memo to CRWCD Board**

**May 18, 2018**

**Page 2 of 2**

time for the Boards to indicate their joint willingness to move forward with funding Phase III. We recommend that the Boards discuss, and consider authorizing the staff at both Districts to move forward with jointly funding and initiating the third phase of the study. We recommend further that the Boards direct us to seek cost share contributions from our western slope conservancy districts. We believe that it is appropriate to still welcome the financial participation of the CWCB, however, due to the indication that such a process may take until September or November and may be as challenging as or more challenging than the funding for Phase II, we do not recommend waiting until that process is complete.

Furthermore, we would like to provide an update and have discussion on the public happenings at the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC) over the past several months.

As discussed above, the two Conservation Districts, by their very nature, have many common interests and positions when it comes to matters of statewide concern and big river issues. Our legal counsel has prepared a proposed common interest agreement which we would like the Board's to approve so that you may, if desired, enter into a joint executive session to discuss matters related to the ongoing negotiations related to Drought Contingency Planning. There will be more information forthcoming on this issue in Peter's upcoming confidential memorandum.

We greatly appreciate your willingness to carve this time out of your busy schedules to participate in this special meeting. We hope to be able to end the joint meeting by 3:00 with a very short, twenty minute River District Board meeting immediately following. It is our intent to utilize your time to identify and confirm common interests and positions with the SWCD Board. Just as we in our part of the Western Slope are stronger when we speak with a unified voice, so too is the entire Western Slope when our districts are able to speak with a unified vision and articulate a unified position.