

Press Release

May 1, 2018 and Updated May 7, 2018

Mesa State of the River free public meeting to highlight local water conditions; larger Colorado River Basin issues

Andy Mueller, the new General Manager of the Colorado River District, will give the keynote talk at the Mesa State of the River free public meeting, set for Tuesday, May 8, 2018 In the University Center Ballroom at Colorado Mesa University. A free chili and salad supper will be served at 5:30 p.m.; program at 6:00 p.m. RSVP at <https://www.coloradomesa.edu/water-center/> if you want to join the dinner. Local snowpack, streamflow and reservoir operations will be discussed by Erik Knight of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. A panel of Mesa County water leaders will address this year's low snowpack and how it will affect their operations.

In western Colorado, everybody is a snow farmer, whether they are tooth-brushers or working the land. Without high-mountain snowpack, the land could not hold the settlement we see today. Good citizens of the West need to know water.

This is why the Colorado River District and the Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center at Colorado Mesa University are holding their annual Mesa State of the River free public meeting set for Tuesday, May 8, 2018 in the University Center Ballroom at Colorado Mesa University.

~~A free chili and salad supper will be served at 5:30 p.m.; program starts at 6:00 p.m. RSVP to <https://www.coloradomesa.edu/water-center/> if you want to join the dinner.~~ We reached our capacity for meal service however, please join us at 6:00 p.m. for the program!

The keynote speaker will be Andy Mueller, the new General Manager of the Colorado River District – taking over this past January for longtime GM and statewide water leader Eric Kuhn.

Mueller will talk about how protecting irrigated agriculture in western Colorado is tied to the recreational use of water, environmental values and Lake Powell.

Erik Knight, hydrologist with the Western Area Office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, based in Grand Junction, will address how low snowpack conditions will be affecting river flows and reservoir operations.

Finally, a panel of Mesa County water officials will discuss how snowpack conditions will be affecting their operations. Panel members include Larry Clever of Ute Water; Mark Ritterbush of the City of Grand Junction; Mark Harris of the Grand Valley Water Users Association; Max Schmidt of the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District; rancher Carlyle Currier of Molina; and Travis Francis of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For more information, contact Jim Pokrandt of the Colorado River District at 970-945-8522 or email edinfo@crwcd.org.