



## **RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO AMENDMENT 74**

WHEREAS, the Colorado River Water Conservation District (Colorado River District) is a special governmental entity responsible for the protection and development of the waters of the Colorado River and its principal tributaries in northwestern and west-central Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado River District is a staunch supporter of property rights, including water rights; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's Constitution currently grants property owners the right to seek compensation from state or local governments when a "taking" of private property has been determined; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 74 would expand existing constitutional protections to include any law or regulation that in any way "reduces the fair market value" of private land as subject to "just compensation"; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 74 would severely limit the ability of Colorado's state and local governments to do anything that might even indirectly or minimally affect the fair market value of private property, including establishing protective water quality standards or fulfilling Colorado's interstate water compact requirements; and

WHEREAS, even widely-supported, responsible water supply improvement projects have detractors, the delay associated with and the cost of such projects would increase dramatically and often prohibitively under Amendment 74; and

WHEREAS, the risk and expense associated with Amendment 74 would predictably result in the State of Colorado losing state authority to implement the federal Clean Water Act to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with attendant adverse impacts to Colorado's streams, rivers and water users; and

WHEREAS, Colorado taxpayers will bear the legal cost of the inevitable flood of claims and lawsuits as well as all monetary awards; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon adopted a similar measure resulting in billions of dollars in claims filed, resulting in Oregon residents repealing their similar initiative three years after its passage;

*Now, therefore, be it resolved* that the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District unanimously opposes Amendment 74 as ill-advised, poorly constructed and fraught with unintended consequences harmful to Colorado's waters and water users.