



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Colorado River District Statement on Upper Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Planning Documents

Glenwood Springs, CO —Upper Colorado River Commissioner, James Eklund, along with staff from the Colorado Attorney General’s Office and Colorado Water Conservation Board, hosted a webinar this morning to present, for the first time, draft documents outlining the framework of Drought Contingency Plans for the Upper Colorado River Basin states.

Andy Mueller, General Manager for the Colorado River Water Conservation District, issued the statement below following the webinar and subsequent posting of the draft plans for public review:

“I want to thank Commissioner James Eklund, First Assistant Attorney General Karen Kwon and Colorado Water Conservation Board Director Rebecca Mitchell for bringing Colorado’s water community together for a review of Drought Contingency Planning (DCP) efforts today. I appreciated their making the draft DCP documents available for public review.”

“The Colorado Water Conservation Board also deserves thanks for directing an outreach program on these important but controversial water management issues in the coming weeks. We applaud the recent direction from the Board requesting the CWCB staff to draft and present a proposed policy to guide the CWCB in the coming efforts to develop a Demand Management Program. We continue to encourage the Board to make sure that any Demand Management Program in the state of Colorado is voluntary, compensated, temporary and that water for such a program comes from conservation measures on both sides of the Continental Divide.”

“These Plans will undoubtedly shape the ways we use water here on Colorado’s West Slope, and they should require coordinated conservation efforts on both sides of the Continental Divide to protect water uses tied to the Colorado River.”

“We look forward to being part of this important conversation going forward.”

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