

## Colorado Water Plan

### **Colorado River Water Conservation District Policy Statements:**

**The Colorado River Water Conservation District believes the Colorado Water Plan can contribute positively to the protection, development, and stewardship of Colorado's water resources.**

**The District and its constituents must be intimately involved in the development and implementation of the Plan. The Plan must include realistic and measurable goals, as well as identification of the financial resources to achieve them. The Plan must also include a robust action plan for on-going communication and outreach regarding the Plan and Plan's implementation and revisions.**

**The Plan must include clear and explicit recognition of the consequences of over-development of Colorado's Colorado River compact entitlement along with definitive measures to avoid Colorado River Compact curtailment. Additionally, these consequences and measures must be clearly and fully articulated in the context of the Plan's treatment of any potential new transmountain diversion. Moreover, the Plan should include assurance that any measures to address compact compliance include an equitable sharing of burdens among all water uses, both East and West Slope.**

**The Plan should include explicit recognition and protection of Colorado's Prior Appropriation doctrine and local planning authorities.**

### **Background & Discussion:**

The River District worked on and supported House Bill 1177 in 2005, which was the origin of the Round Table process and the Colorado Water Plan (CWP).

In the past year, the CWP progressed from draft (12/2014) to anticipated final adoption (12/2015); accordingly, there are elements of the CWP that are known and unknown as this policy is considered and adopted.

The Colorado River is the river of state-wide interest and use in Colorado. Consequently, the River District has been involved with most of the basin roundtables, as well as the Inter-basin Compact Committee (IBCC), since their formations.

The River District's comments on the original draft (12/2014) included a request for adherence to the basin-based development goals of the plan. Specifically, we asked for inclusion of "the critical issues facing West Slope basins as they have been expressed in (individual) basin plans," including "components that simply cannot be reconciled (among individual basin plans)."