



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-2

RESOLUTION OF THE COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT IN OPPOSITION TO THE STATEWIDE PROPOSAL, PROPOSITION HH

WHEREAS, the mission of the Colorado River Water Conservation District is to lead in the protection, conservation, use and development of the water resources of the Colorado River Basin for the welfare of the District and to safeguard for Colorado all waters of the Colorado River to which the state is entitled; and

WHEREAS, the waters of the Colorado River which originate within the boundaries of the Colorado River District are under increasing pressure at the same time that the flow of the river is decreasing due to long term drought; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the water resources of the Colorado River District in these increasingly uncertain times, the Colorado River District must maintain strong and effective leadership in the representation and protection of its constituents' water interests; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado River District and the vast majority of local governments in the state, but not the State of Colorado, levy a property tax to support essential public services and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Colorado River District voted unanimously to oppose SB23-303 on May 4, 2023; and

WHEREAS, SB23-303 was passed by the Colorado General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Polis, and thereby referred Proposition HH to Colorado voters at the statewide election to be held on November 7, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Proposition HH will mandate reductions in local property taxes for at least ten years, resulting in billions of dollars of lost revenue for special districts and local governments without any reduction in service obligations; and

WHEREAS, Proposition HH will increase the State's TABOR spending limit, allowing the State to spend billions of dollars more than it did before, while placing a property tax revenue limit lower than allowed by TABOR on certain local governments and special districts; and



WHEREAS, the ballot question for Proposition HH indicates that local governments will be reimbursed from state funds for lost property tax revenue, but that those reimbursements are a small percentage of the billions of dollars more that the State will retain, and that most local governments and special districts within the River District's boundaries will be ineligible for reimbursements early in the ten-year period of Proposition HH; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado River District has worked closely with its constituents to propose and approve property taxes, and to retain and efficiently utilize revenues therefrom, to represent and protect Western Colorado's water interests; and

WHEREAS, Proposition HH will undermine the short- and long-range planning efforts of the Colorado River District, and local governments and special districts within the Colorado River District's jurisdictional boundaries, that are necessary to support necessary governmental services, such as the construction and maintenance of infrastructure, and to respond to the needs of rural communities on the Western Slope.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

1. It is the position of the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District that local governments, special districts and their constituents are best suited to determine the revenues necessary to meet the needs, expectations, and demands of the communities they serve.
2. The Board of Directors recognizes that local governments and special districts are accountable to their local voters, who may take action if the taxes they pay are not warranted for the services, support, and infrastructure provided by local governments and special districts in their communities.
3. For the reasons set forth above, the Board of Directors concludes that Proposition HH diminishes the ability of local governments and special districts within the River District's jurisdictional boundaries to provide the vital services and infrastructure that the public needs, expects, and demands; and, therefore, the Board strongly urges a NO vote on Proposition HH at the statewide election on November 7, 2023.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 21st day of September, 2023 by the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District.

Kathy Chandler-Henry, President

ATTEST:

Andrew A. Mueller, Secretary/General Manager