



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT
PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

NOTICE

**Second Regular Joint Quarterly Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Colorado River
Water Conservation District and
of the Colorado River Water Conservation
District Acting by and Through Its Colorado
River Water Projects Enterprise**

April 16-17, 2024

9:00 a.m.

**This Meeting Will be Held at 201 Centennial Street, Suite 100,
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601
and via Zoom**

Please See Registration/Attendance Information Below

PLEASE NOTE: The River District meeting will be held in-person at 201 Centennial Street, Suite 100, Glenwood Springs, CO. Board members may participate remotely upon extenuating circumstances. Members of the public may attend in person or virtually via Zoom. To attend or observe the meeting via Zoom, please register on our website at www.coloradoriverdistrict.org.

The second regular joint quarterly meeting of 2024 of the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District and of the Colorado River Water Conservation District acting by and through its Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, commencing at 9:00 a.m. and continuing to Wednesday, April 17, 2024, commencing at 8:30 a.m.



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT
PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

AGENDA

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| 9:00 a.m. | 1. Review Meeting Agenda and Objectives. |
| 9:05 a.m. | 2. Consent Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Approval of Minutes and Actions Taken:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Minutes of First Regular Joint Quarterly Meeting, January 16-17, 2024.ii. Minutes of Information and Outreach Committee Meeting, January 17, 2024. |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Minutes of Special Joint Meeting, February 22, 2024. iv. Minutes of Special Joint Meeting, February 28, 2024. v. Minutes of Special Joint Meeting, March 21, 2024. vi. Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting, Litigation Committee, March 27, 2024. vii. Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting, April 4, 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Acceptance of Treasurer’s Reports, Check Registers, and Draft Financials for November 2023 through December 2023. c. Check Registers and Draft Financials for January 2024 through February 2024. |
| 9:10 a.m. | <p>3. General Counsel’s Report, Executive Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Matters Proposed for Executive Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Wolford Mountain Reservoir and Ritschard Dam Operations (An Enterprise Matter). ii. Colorado River Cooperative Agreement (CRCA) Implementation. iii. Proposed Deep Creek Wild and Scenic Designation. iv. Colorado River Conditional Water Rights. v. Application of Colorado River District, Ouray County, Ouray County Water Users Association, and Tri-County Water Conservancy District for Ram’s Horn Reservoir Project, Case No. 19CW3098, Water Division 4. vi. Shoshone Permanency. vii. Colorado River Compact and Interstate Negotiations, including System Conservation Pilot Project. |
| 11:30 a.m. | <p>4. General Counsel’s Report, Public Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Summary and Action Items from Executive Session. b. Proposed Ratification of Statement of Opposition in the Application for Water Rights and Plan for Augmentation of Sun River Run Ranch, LLC and the Town of Granby, Case No. 23CW3218, Water Division 5 (An Enterprise Matter). c. Proposed Stipulation in Application of City and County Denver, acting by and through its Board of Water Commissioners, Case No. 22CW3215, Water Division 1. d. Other Items from General Counsel’s Report. |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lunch. |
| 1:00 p.m. | 5. Public Comment. |
| 1:05 p.m. | <p>6. General Manager’s Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Interstate Colorado River Update. b. System Conservation Pilot Project. c. Shoshone Water Rights Preservation Campaign Update. d. Staffing Update. e. Colorado River Basin Hydrology Report. f. Presentation of the Water Conservation Decision Support Tool. g. Contract Approval with Strategic Planning Consultant. h. Service Anniversary. |
| 3:45 p.m. | Break. |
| 4:00 p.m. | 7. Directors’ Updates and Concerns. |



Dinner will be provided to the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District, River District Staff and Invited Guests at 6:00 p.m. at Smoke Modern BBQ, 713 Grand Avenue, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601.

**CONTINUE THE MEETING TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024
COMMENCING AT 8:30 A.M.**

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| 8:30 a.m. | 8. Presentation by Erin Light, Division 6 Engineer, Regarding Division 6 Water Administration and Conditions. |
| 9:30 a.m. | 9. External Affairs: a. Information and Outreach Update. b. State Affairs. c. Federal Affairs. |
| 10:15 a.m. | Break. |
| 10:30 a.m. | 10. Annual Policy Review Discussion (Resubmission): a. Agriculture Water Use. b. Colorado River Storage Project Act. c. Colorado’s Prior Appropriation Doctrine. d. Federal Water Rights. e. Upper Colorado River Recovery Program. f. Speculation in Water Resources. g. Multi-Benefit Water Projects. |
| 11:10 a.m. | Lunch. |
| 11:40 a.m. | 11. Community Funding Partnership (CFP) Applications: a. The Sonoran Institute; Project: West Slope Growing Water Smart (and Presentation Regarding Policy Opportunities for Land Use – Water Integration). b. Blue River Watershed Group; Project: Blue River Habitat Restoration Project. c. East Mesa Water Company; Project: East Mesa Ditch Emergency Repairs. d. Pothook Water Conservancy District; Project: Little Snake River Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project. e. Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District; Project: Wolf Creek Reservoir Project. f. Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District; Project: Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Bundled Project. g. Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District; Project: Blue Mesa Harmful Algal Bloom Study Phase II. h. Colorado Water Trust; Project: Yampa River Reservoir Release Program. i. Approval of Elkhead Reservoir Water Supply Contract with Colorado Water Trust |
| 1:10 p.m. | 12. Project Operations and Updates (Enterprise Matters): a. Wolford Mountain Reservoir. i. Contract Approval with McDonald Farms Enterprises, Inc. |
| 1:30 p.m. | 13. Future Meetings: a. Third Regular Joint Quarterly Meeting, July 16-17, 2024, Glenwood Springs, CO. |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">b. Fourth Regular Joint Quarterly Meeting, October 15-16, 2024, Glenwood Springs, CO.c. Budget Workshop, Grand Junction, Colorado, September 19, 2024.d. Annual Water Seminar, Grand Junction, Colorado, September 20, 2024.e. Other Meetings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Middle Colorado, Garfield County, May 7, 2024.ii. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Grand County, May 9, 2024.iii. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Summit County, May 23, 2024.iv. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Eagle County, May 29, 2024. |
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The Board may address the agenda in any order to accommodate the needs of the Board and the Audience.

Persons who need special accommodations due to a disability are requested to call the River District at 970-945-8522 at least three days prior to the meeting. This agenda may be viewed and printed from our website at www.crwcd.org

GO BACK TO AGENDA

- 2. Consent Agenda:**
 - a. Approval of Minutes and Actions Taken:**
 - i. Minutes of First Regular Joint Quarterly Meeting, January 17-18, 2024.**
 - ii. Minutes of Information and Outreach Committee Meeting, January 17, 2024.**
 - iii. Minutes of Special Joint Meeting, February 22, 2024.**
 - iv. Minutes of Special Joint Meeting, February 28, 2024.**
 - v. Minutes of Special Joint Meeting, March 21, 2024.**
 - b. Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports, Check Registers, and Draft Financials for November 2023 through December 2023.**
 - c. Check Registers and Draft Financials for January 2024 through February 2024.**

GO BACK TO AGENDA

**MINUTES
FIRST REGULAR JOINT QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AND OF THE
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS COLORADO RIVER WATER PROJECTS ENTERPRISE**

January 16-17, 2024

Pursuant to notice duly and properly given, the First Regular Joint Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District (CRWCD) and of the Colorado River Water Conservation District acting by and through its Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise was held on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 16-17, 2024.

Directors present during all or part of the meeting:

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| Kathy Chandler-Henry, President, Eagle County | Marc Catlin, Vice President, Montrose County |
| Tom Gray, Moffat County | Alden Vanden Brink, Rio Blanco County |
| Rebie Hazard, Saguache County | Doug Monger, Routt County |
| Scott McInnis, Mesa County | Stan Whinnery, Hinsdale County |
| Sonja Chavez, Gunnison County | Steve Beckley, Garfield County |
| Mark Roeber, Delta County | Taylor Hawes, Summit County |
| Cary Denison, Ouray County | Mike Ritschard, Grand County |

Directors not present:

John Ely, Pitkin County

Others present during all or part of the meeting:

Peter C. Fleming, General Counsel, CRWCD
Andrew A. Mueller, General Manager, CRWCD
Jason V. Turner, Deputy General Counsel, CRWCD
Bruce C. Walters, Associate Counsel, CRWCD
Lindsay DeFrates, Deputy Director of Public Relations, CRWCD
Melissa Wills, Community Funding Partnership Program Manager, CRWCD
Raquel Flinker, Sr. Water Resources Engineer, CRWCD
Brendon Langenhuizen, Director of Technical Advocacy, CRWCD
Hunter Causey, Director of Asset Management/Chief Engineer, CRWCD
Dave Kanzer, Director of Science and Interstate Matters, CRWCD
Lorra Nichols, Paralegal, CRWCD
Lyzzi Borkenhagen, Administrative Assistant, CRWCD
Ian Philips, Director of Financial & Administrative Services, CRWCD
Don Meyer, Sr. Water Resources Engineer, CRWCD
Audrey Turner, Chief of Operations, CRWCD
Marielle Cowdin, Director of Public Relations, CRWCD
Rebecca Briesmoore, Water Resources Engineer/Project Manager, CRWCD
Stephanie Moore, Executive Assistant, CRWCD
Zane Kessler, Director of Government Relations, CRWCD
James Fosnaught, Karp Neu Hanlon
Shoshana Rosenthal, Karp Neu Hanlon
Martha Whitmore, Karp Neu Hanlon
Orla Bannon, Western Resource Advocates

¹An audio recording has been made of the meeting. The motions described herein may not necessarily represent a verbatim transcription. The audio recordings are available for listening at the CRWCD offices during regular office hours. These minutes are the official record of the Colorado River Water Conservation District's meeting.

Steve Wolff, Southwestern Water Conservation District
Angela Schenk, Spronk Water Engineers
Heather Sackett, Aspen Journalism
Josh Kuhn, Conservation Colorado
Chris Treese, Individually
Nancy, Johnston, Colorado Trout Unlimited
Richard Van Gytenbeek, Colorado Trout Unlimited
Tony LaGreca, Colorado Water Trust
David Gardner, City of Gunnison
Mike Rogers, City of Gunnison
Wendell Koontz, Delta County Commissioner
Josh Kuhn, Conservation Colorado
Abby Burk, Audubon Rockies

Quorum.

President Chandler-Henry found a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Review Meeting Agenda and Objectives.

Andy Mueller requested to add a resolution for former Director Martha Whitmore thanking her for her service to the River District as Agenda item No. 5. Director Vanden Brink moved, seconded by Director Hazard. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation and Report of Directors' Credentials for Garfield, Gunnison, Montrose, Ouray, and Rio Blanco Counties.

Andy Mueller reported that the fully executed credentials for directors from Garfield (Steve Beckley), Gunnison (Sonja Chavez), and Ouray (Cary Denison) have been received and are in order. The District is still awaiting credentials for Montrose and Rio Blanco Counties. The Garfield, Gunnison, and Ouray's director credentials are attached as **Appendices A-C**.

Election of Board Officers for 2024.

Election of President:

Director McInnis moved, seconded by Director Hawes, to nominate Kathy Chandler-Henry as President. Director Catlin closed nominations as there were no other nominees for President. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Vice President:

Director Monger moved, seconded by Director Roeber, to nominate Director Marc Catlin as Vice President. President Chandler-Henry closed nominations as there were no other nominees for Vice President. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Committees for 2024.

President Chandler-Henry provided background information regarding appointments to the Executive Committee, which historically rotates among the counties within the District. The Executive Committee for 2024 is composed of directors from Delta, Pitkin, Saguache, Summit, and Rio Blanco (as well as the president as an ex-officio member). Other committee assignments were made by the President and Vice President, a complete list of committees is attached as **Appendix D**.

Adoption of Resolution for Outgoing Directors.

President Chandler-Henry presented, for Board approval, a resolution recognizing outgoing Director Kathleen Curry, for her three years of service to the Colorado River Water Conservation District, as the director representing Gunnison County, and its water users. Director Vanden Brink moved, seconded by Director McInnis, to adopt the resolution for Kathleen Curry. Motion carried unanimously.

President Chandler-Henry presented, for Board approval, a resolution recognizing outgoing former Board President and Director, Martha Whitmore, for her nine years of service to the Colorado River Water Conservation District as the director representing Ouray County, and its water users. Director Denison moved, seconded by Director Roeber, to adopt the resolution for Martha Whitmore. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda.

Director Hawes moved, seconded by Director Catlin, to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

- a. Designation for Posting Notices.
- b. Reappointment of General Manager, General Counsel, and Treasurer.
- c. Confirmation of Assistant Secretary.
- d. Approval of Minutes and Actions Taken:
 - i. Minutes of Fourth Regular Joint Quarterly Meeting, October 17-18, 2023.
 - ii. Minutes of Special Joint Meeting, December 5, 2023.
 - iii. Minutes of Special Joint Meeting, December 19, 2023.
- e. Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports, Check Registers, and Draft Financials for October 2023.

General Counsel's Report – Executive Session.

Peter Fleming reported that the following matters qualify for discussion in Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b)(legal advice) and (e)(negotiations):

- a. Matters Proposed for Executive Session:
 - i. Woford Mountain Reservoir and Ritschard Dam Operations (An Enterprise Matter).
 - ii. CRCA Implementation, including Shoshone Permanency.
 - iii. Colorado Springs Utilities Diligence, Case No. 15CW3019, Water Division 5, and Proposed Enlargement of Montgomery Reservoir.
 - iv. Colorado River District Conditional Water Rights.
 - v. Colorado River Compact, Interstate Negotiations, and Related Matters.
 - vi. Snake River Water District v. Rein, Case No. 22CW3074, Water Division 5.

Director Chavez moved, seconded by Director Denison, to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b)(legal advice) and (e)(negotiations). Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fleming stated that no further record of the Executive Session need be kept based on his opinion that the discussion will constitute privileged attorney-client communications.

President Chandler-Henry reconvened into Public Session at 2:05 p.m.

General Counsel's Report – Public Session.

Peter Fleming reported that during Executive Session, the Board provided guidance to staff and counsel on the following matters:

- a.
 - a. Matters Proposed for Executive Session:
 - vii. Woford Mountain Reservoir and Ritschard Dam Operations (An Enterprise Matter).
 - viii. CRCA Implementation, including Shoshone Permanency.
 - ix. Colorado Springs Utilities Diligence, Case No. 15CW3019, Water Division 5, and Proposed Enlargement of Montgomery Reservoir.
 - x. Colorado River District Conditional Water Rights.
 - xi. Colorado River Compact, Interstate Negotiations, and Related Matters.
 - xii. Snake River Water District v. Rein, Case No. 22CW3074, Water Division 5.

Director Hawes moved, seconded by Director Roeber, to authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with BBA Water Consultants, Inc., to support ongoing CRCA Implementation matters, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000, including technical support for the Shoshone Permanency Campaign, subject to review by legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Hawes moved, seconded by Director Gray, to approve the Colorado Springs Settlement Agreement and to authorize the President of the Board to execute the necessary settlement documents in Case No. 15CW3019, Water Division 5, subject to review by legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Vanden Brink moved, seconded by Director Monger, to authorize an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with West Divide Water Conservancy District, to allow the West Divide Water Conservancy District to provide augmentation supplies within the Gunnison County portion of the Crystal River basin. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Chavez moved, seconded by Director Denison, to approve the 2024 rates for the River District's special counsel. Motion carried unanimously.

Peter Fleming requested the Board to review General Counsel's 2024 Goals and Objectives and invited Board comments.

Public Comment.

None.

General Manager's Report.

Status on Shoshone Water Rights Preservation – Update:

Andy Mueller reported that after approving the Shoshone Water Rights Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA) and authorizing the District's commitment of \$20 million to the effort, staff is now focused on the contingencies set out in the PSA. The CWCB Board will hold a meeting to take action on the District's application for a \$20 million commitment from the CWCB's Non-Reimbursable Investment program. Additionally, the District's will contact its eighteen coalition members to schedule presentations and to request monetary commitments to the Shoshone Water Rights Preservation.

Update on S.B. 23-295 Colorado River Drought Task Force:

Andy Mueller reported on the Colorado River Drought Task Force that concluded its business with a final meeting on December 7, 2023, with a final report submitted on December 15, 2023. The taskforce made eight recommendations to the legislature. The recommendations are summarized as follows: 1) continued funding of technical assistance grants; 2) provide increased funding throughout state for aging water-related infrastructure; 3) prioritize forest health and wildfire ready watersheds; 4) expansion of CWCB Temporary Loan Program to include storage rights; 5) expansion of Agricultural Water Rights Protection legislation beyond Divisions 1&2; 6) continue state funding of measurement tools; 7) support invasive phreatophyte and species removal; and 8) increase funding and support of municipal turf removal.

The Task Force did not agree to forward any recommendations to the Legislature related to the operation of a conserved consumptive use program for interstate purposes. As the District's representative, Andy Mueller sponsored two proposals proactively addressing (but not endorsing) conserved consumptive use programs aimed at delivering water out of state. The District's staff and legal counsel drafted the proposals to be consistent with the District's Guiding Principles, which were established by the District's Board in July of 2023.

The first recommendation from the District proposed a non-binding resolution from the Legislature to establish guidelines, largely adopted from the CWCB's 2018 Demand Management Policy Statement and the language

of SB-295, for any future conserved consumptive use program designed with the primary purpose of sending water out of state. The proposal was defeated in a 7-9 vote, with one abstention.

The District's second proposal, for a non-binding resolution of the Legislature supporting the proposition that the Lower Basin must permanently reduce its consumptive use, including system losses, to its compact entitlement before the Upper Basin and/or the State of Colorado participate in any conserved consumptive use. This concept was moved to the "narrative" section of the report.

Colorado River Interstate Discussion – Update:

Andy Mueller reported that there continues to be significant dialogue on the interstate level regarding the next iteration of interim guidelines for the coordinated operations of Lakes Powell and Mead.

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and lower basin contractors recently announced the execution of several contracts wherein the BOR is paying up to \$800.00 per acre foot for one-off fallowing efforts or conserved consumptive use to prop up the level of Lake Mead with the stated goal of achieving approximately three-million-acre feet of conservation in the lower over the three-year period of 2024-2026.

The BOR will be releasing the Lower Basin consumptive uses and losses report for the years 2005-2015. This report identifies consumption by water use sector and geography. The District understands that the reports will show significantly higher water consumption by the Lower Basin than is allocated to the basin under Article III(a) [7.5 MAF] and III(b) [1 MAF from Lower Basin tributaries].

Colorado River Basin Hydrology Report – Update:

Dave Kanzer and Don Meyer reported on hydrologic conditions within the District and the Colorado River Basin. Water supply conditions remain good with average-to-above-average soil moisture and healthy carryover storage projected for most of the reservoirs in the District. Additionally, potentially hedging against a dry 2024 is the return of a strong El Niño, with near record warming of sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center, "El Niño remains the major climate driver and is expected to be the primary influence on the mid-latitude circulation" for the near term.

Slater Park Land Livestock, LLC Water Conservation Program Application:

Director Monger moved, seconded by Director Gray, to authorize staff to approve a Water Conservation Program requested by Slater Park Land and Livestock, LLC, for partial year fallowing on approximately 680 acres in the Slater Creek basin, tributary to the Little Snake River, for one year through the 2024 irrigation season. Motion carried unanimously.

President Chandler-Henry recessed the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

President Chandler-Henry found a quorum and reconvened the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

2024 USGS Joint Funding Agreement for Data Collection:

Director Vanden Brink moved, seconded by Director Ritschard, to enter into an annual Joint Funding Agreement with the USGS, subject to review and approval by legal counsel, in the amount not to exceed \$735,000 to engage in cooperative water quantity and water quality measurement, monitoring and sampling activities in calendar year 2024, consistent with the adopted 2024 budget. The Board further authorized the General Manager to enter into all relevant agreements, subject to review and approval by legal counsel, with cooperating partners for reimbursement of a portion of the gauging and sampling activity costs, estimated to be up to \$145,000, making the net financial obligation to the River District approximately \$590,000. Motion carried unanimously.

2024 Urban Landscape Transformation Task Force Update:

Amy Moyer and Rebecca Briesmoore reported on the River District Staff's participation in the Urban Landscape Transformation Task Force. Staff was supportive of all recommendations and was particularly involved in drafting the recommendation related to statewide collaboration and the encouragement to advance creative solutions and partnerships. This concept was included in the final report discussing the nexus between urban outdoor water conservation and drought resilience. The report includes recommended support for drought resilience conversations between Western and Eastern Slope communities to promote collaboration and mutually beneficial coordinated action. on.

Triennial Salary Survey – Update:

Audrey Turner reviewed the Board's previously established compensation philosophy and formalized salary review process. The Board's compensation philosophy centers around being a slight pay leader and targets the 65th percentile for the midpoint of salary ranges. The District works with outside consultants to conduct triennial salary surveys to ensure pay ranges remain on track and provide objective data for salary ranges. This year, the consultant will survey 25-50 employers (surveying 28 positions, including board member and board officer salary compensation). In the off years from the triennial salary survey, the District relies on data from Employers' Council to adjust ranges annually. The District intends to have the completed report to present to the Board at the July quarterly meeting.

Proposed Process to Update the River District's Strategic Plan:

Audrey Turner and Amy Moyer requested direction to direct staff to refresh and update the Strategic Plan. This work will include working with a consultant and require both staff and Board-level involvement. The Board agreed and directed staff to include metrics of success as part of the process.

Colorado Basin Roundtable Appointment:

Director Hazard moved, seconded by Director Hawes, to appoint Brendon Langenhuizen, Director of Technical Advocacy, to serve as the River District appointee to the Colorado Basin Roundtable. Motion carried unanimously.

Water Conservation Decision Support Tool – Update:

Amy Moyer, Raquel Flinker, and Dave Kanzer reported that staff continues to work with The Freshwater Trust, under a cooperatively funded contract with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), to build a Decision Support Tool (DST), to guide potential water conservation activities and pilot projects. The build-out of the first iteration of the DST is on track, with an anticipated completion by March 2024. In June 2023, the District formally partnered with the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association on the development of this multi-objective DST which focused on the federal Uncompahgre Project area. Staff is exploring new funding opportunities to improve the DST, implementing updated and expanded input as it becomes available (e.g., annual crop pricing), and expanding on the DST in other areas of the District. Staff will present a demonstration of the DST to the Board in April 2024.

President Chandler-Henry recessed the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

President Chandler-Henry found a quorum and reconvened the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office Resource Management Plan Amendment and Associated Statement:

Raquel Flinker presented on the Bureau of Land Management's Uncompahgre Filed Office Resource Management Plan Amendment and requested Board direction. The Board directed staff to not participate as a cooperating agency for the Bureau of Land Management's Resource Management Plan Amendment and associated Environmental Impact Statement.

General Manager’s 2024 Goals and Objectives:

Andy Mueller invited the Board to review General Manager's 2024 Goals and Objectives and invited Board comments.

Waters of the United States “WOTUS” Update and the Governor’s Office Initiative to Address “Sackett Gap Waters:”

Rebecca Briesmoore provided updates regarding State efforts around Waters of the United States “WOTUS” after the United States Supreme Court’s decision in the Sackett case. Stakeholders have requested a clear jurisdictional scope to maintain pre-*Sackett* Federal protections without expanding them; and to potentially expand and clarify language for existing exemptions and exclusions. Stakeholders also expressed additional concern regarding the need to avoid project delays by streamlining the permitting process and not duplicating federal permit requirements. At this time, a permitting program has not been authorized by the legislature and the Governor’s Office is drafting a legislative framework based on stakeholder feedback and comments. Staff will continue to engage in the stakeholder process to advocate that any new rules do not exceed the pre-*Sackett* level of protection.

Directors’ Updates and Concerns.

Directors provided updates from each of their respective counties that included beetle kill concerns, below average snowpack, the reintroduction of wolves, the importance of the Airborne Snow Observatory flights, housing and employment issues, decommissioning of coal fired powerplants, dust and wind events, requests for more water storage, a new county commissioner, and excitement for the District’s Shoshone Permanency Water Rights purchase.

President Chandler-Henry recessed the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

President Chandler-Henry found a quorum and reconvened the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

Community Funding Partnership – Administrative Changes:

Amy Moyer and Melissa Wills introduced and requested that the Board review updates to the Community Funding Partnership Framework, Guidelines, and Multi-Benefit Policy Statement along with a revised Multi-Benefit Water Projects Policy Statement, to be considered for adoption at the District’s Second Joint Quarterly Meeting held in April 2024.

Community Funding Partnership (CFP) Applications.

Amy Moyer and Melissa Wills proposed the following projects for approval pursuant to the River District’s Community Funding Partnership:

- a. Applicant: City of Gunnison; Project: City of Gunnison Water Treatment Plant and Infrastructure Improvements Project in the amount of \$150,000 and that the awarded funds be attributed to Infrastructure (40%) and Watershed Health and Water Quality (60%).

Director Monger moved, seconded by Director Catlin, to approve the City of Gunnison Water Treatment Plant and Infrastructure Improvements Project in the amount of \$150,000. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Applicant: Trout Unlimited; Project: Middle Colorado Agricultural Collaborative Phase 3 Project in the amount of \$150,000 and that the awarded funds be attributed to Productive Agriculture (30%), Infrastructure (30%), and Healthy Rivers (40%).

Director Ritschard moved, seconded by Director Hawes, to approve the Middle Colorado Agricultural Collaborative Phase 3 Project in the amount of \$150,000. Motion carried unanimously.

External Affairs.

Information and Outreach Committee Update:

Marielle Cowdin and Lindsay DeFrates provided a summary of the Information & Outreach Committee Meeting and dates for upcoming District events that include the District's Annual Budget Workshop, scheduled for September 19, 2024; the District's Annual Water Seminar, scheduled for September 20, 2024; and the District's State of the River Meetings. Additionally, the External Affairs team recently launched the Shoshone Water Rights Preservation Campaign. The District recognizes this historic endeavor and generational investment in long-term water security for Colorado water users, the Colorado River ecosystem, endangered and threatened native fish, and the foundational agricultural and recreational economies on which all Colorado residents depend.

State Affairs:

The board directed staff to establish bi-weekly special joint meetings (beginning February 8, 2024 through April 25, 2024) to discuss bills proposed for legislative action. Zane Kessler advised that the general assembly is set to adjourn on May 8, 2024. Water related bills that are calendared for consideration by the Senate Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee are included below:

SB-005: Prohibit Landscaping Practices for Water Conservation.

Recommendation: Support.

Director Hawes moved, seconded by Director Denison, to support SB-005. Motion carried unanimously.

SB-026: Agriculture & Natural Resources Public Engagement Requirement.

Recommendation: Support.

Director Chavez moved, seconded by Director Roeber, to support SB-026. Motion carried unanimously.

SB24-037: Study Green Infrastructure for Water Quality Management.

Recommendation: Monitor.

The Board directed staff to monitor SB24-037.

SB24-038: Authorize Conservancy District Water Management.

Recommendation: Monitor.

The Board directed staff to monitor SB24-038.

HB24-1029: Prohibit Foreign Ownership Agriculture & Natural Resources.

Recommendation: Monitor.

The Board directed staff to monitor HB24-1029.

Federal Affairs:

Zane Kessler reported that lawmakers in Washington, D.C. continue to navigate drafting the next five-year Farm Bill which expired on September 30, 2023 and was not extended until the passage of a continuing resolution (CR) on November 16, 2023. The CR revived and extended programs in the 2018 Farm Bill through September 30, 2024 and continued funding for USDA and allocated resources for other departments through January 19, 2024. Staff continues to work with members of Colorado's congressional delegation and others to advance Farm Bill legislative concepts intended to streamline the implementation of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program and the PL-566 program.

Annual Policy Discussion.

Zane Kessler reported that the District's Agricultural Water Use, Colorado River Storage Project Act, Prior Appropriation, Federal Water Rights, Upper Colorado River Recovery Program, Speculation in Water Resources and Multi-Benefit Water Projects policies were due for review and revision consistent with the Board's practice of reviewing one-third of its policies on a rotating three-year basis. New drafts will be provided for additional comment and/or final approval during the April quarterly meeting.

Project Updates (Enterprise Matters).

Water Marketing Policy (Enterprise Matter).

Director Monger moved, seconded by Director Gray, to approve the 2024 Water Marketing Contract cost increase of 6.2 %. Motion carried unanimously.

Wolford Mountain Reservoir.

Approval of Contract Amendment with Gannet Fleming:

Director Vanden Brink moved, seconded by Director Monger, to amend the contract with Gannett Fleming, Inc. for a third phase of an ongoing Seismic Hazard Analysis of Ritschard Dam, in an amount not to exceed \$63,430, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$166,864, subject to review and approval by legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Contract Amendment with Pass Creek Investments:

Director Ritschard moved, seconded by Director Vanden Brink, to execute a five-year agreement with Pass Creek Investments, to act as the concessionaire for the recreation area and marina at the River District's Wolford Mountain Reservoir Project, subject to review and approval by legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously.

Eagle Park Reservoir.

Approval of Contract Eagle Park Regional Water Authority:

Director Monger moved, seconded by Director Denison, to approve an Eagle River Supply Water Marketing Contract in the amount of 50 acre-feet for the Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority, for a total contracted amount of 90 acre-feet, subject to review and approval by legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously.

Future Meetings.

- a. Second Regular Joint Quarterly Meeting, April 16-17, 2024, Glenwood Springs, CO.
- b. Third Regular Joint Quarterly Meeting, July 16-17, 2024, Glenwood Springs, CO.
- c. Fourth Regular Joint Quarterly Meeting, October 15-16, 2024, Glenwood Springs, CO.
- d. Budget Workshop, Grand Junction, Colorado, September 19, 2024.
- e. Annual Water Seminar, Grand Junction, Colorado, September 20, 2024.
- f. Colorado River District, biweekly Legislative Update Special Joint Meetings (February 8, 2024 through April 25, 2024).
- g. Other Meetings:
 - i. Colorado Water Congress 2024 Annual Convention, January 31 - February 2, 2024, Aurora.
 - ii. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Lower Gunnison, March 18, 2024.
 - iii. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Moffat & Routt Counties, April 2, 2024.
 - iv. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Ouray County, March 19, 2024.
 - v. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Rio Blanco County, March 26, 2024.
 - vi. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Gunnison County, March 18, 2024.
 - vii. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Mesa County, April 1, 2024.
 - viii. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Middle Colorado, Garfield County, May 7, 2024.
 - ix. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Grand County, May 9, 2024.
 - x. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Summit County, May 23, 2024.
 - xi. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Eagle County, May 29, 2024.

Adjourn.

There being no other business before the Board, President Chandler-Henry adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Kathy Chandler-Henry, President

ATTEST:

Andrew A. Mueller, Secretary/General Manager

Executive Session Attestations.

I hereby attest that the portions of the Executive Session that were not recorded constituted privileged attorney-client communications.

Peter C. Fleming, General Counsel

DRAFT

[GO BACK TO MINUTES](#)

APPENDIX A

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

This is to certify that the Board of County Commissioners of Garfield County has appointed Steve Beckley as Director of the Colorado River Water Conservation District for a term ending in January 2027, beginning with the January 16, 2024 first regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of said Colorado River Water Conservation District.

Steve Beckley has been a resident of Garfield County for at least two years preceding the date of his/her appointment and is a freeholder who has paid taxes on real property in Garfield County during the preceding year.



[Signature]
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

APPENDIX B

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

This is to certify that the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County has appointed Sonja Chavez as Director of the Colorado River Water Conservation District for a term ending in January 2027, beginning with the January 16, 2024 first regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of said Colorado River Water Conservation District.

Sonja Chavez has been a resident of Gunnison County for at least two years preceding the date of his/her appointment and is a freeholder who has paid taxes on real property in Gunnison County during the preceding year.



Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

**OATH OF OFFICE FOR
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF GUNNISON)

I, Sonja Chavez, being first duly sworn, do solemnly swear upon my oath that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Colorado, and that I will impartially, without fear or favor, discharge the duties of a Director of the Colorado River Water Conservation District.

Sonja Chavez

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF GUNNISON)

Sonja Chavez, has appeared before me and subscribed and sworn to the foregoing Oath of Office on this 4th day of January, 20 24

[Signature]
County Clerk and Recorder
Deputy



APPENDIX C

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

This is to certify that the Board of County Commissioners of Ouray County has appointed Cary Denison as Director of the Colorado River Water Conservation District for a term ending in January 2027, beginning with the January 16, 2024 first regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of said Colorado River Water Conservation District.

Cary Denison has been a resident of Ouray County for at least two years preceding the date of his/her appointment and is a freeholder who has paid taxes on real property in Ouray County during the preceding year.



Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

GO BACK TO MINUTES

APPENDIX D



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

COMMITTEES SELECTION - 2024

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Kathy Chandler Henry, President
Cary Denison (Ouray)
John Ely (Pitkin)
Rebie Hazard (Saguache)
Mike Ritschard (Grand)
Alden Vanden Brink (Rio)

LITIGATION COMMITTEE (5)

Kathy Chandler-Henry, President (Ex-Officio)
Steve Beckley, Chair
Scott McInnis
John Ely
Doug Monger
Taylor Hawes
Mike Ritschard

INFORMATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE (5)

Kathy Chandler-Henry, President (Ex-Officio)
Taylor Hawes, Chair
Scott McInnis
Tom Gray
Marc Catlin
Alden Vanden Brink

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE (5)

Kathy Chandler-Henry, President (Ex-Officio)
Doug Monger, Chair
Mike Ritschard
John Ely
Alden Vanden Brink
Steve Beckley

WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS COMMITTEE (ENTERPRISE) (7)

Kathy Chandler-Henry, President (Ex-Officio)
Mark Roeber, Chair
Mike Ritschard
Tom Gray
Marc Catlin
Cary Denison
Sonja Chavez
Steve Beckley

RETIREMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (2)

Kathy Chandler-Henry, President (Ex-Officio)
Marc Catlin, Vice President

GO BACK TO AGENDA

MINUTES¹
INFORMATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AND OF THE COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS COLORADO RIVER WATER PROJECTS ENTERPRISE

January 17, 2024

Pursuant to notice duly and properly given, an Information and Outreach Committee Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District (CRWCD) and of the Colorado River Water Conservation District acting by and through its Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise was held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at Morgridge Commons, 815 Cooper, Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601.

Committee Members participating during all or part of the meeting:

Kathy Chandler-Henry, (ex-officio), Eagle County
Taylor Hawes, Summit County, Chair
Tom Gray, Moffat County
Scott McInnis, Mesa County
Alden Vanden Brink, Rio Blanco County

Others participating during all or part of the meeting:

Andy A. Mueller, General Manager, CRWCD
Zane Kessler, Director of Government Relations, CRWCD
Lindsay DeFrates, Deputy Director of Public Relations, CRWCD
Audrey Turner, Chief of Operations, CRWCD
Marielle Cowdin, Director of Public Relations, CRWCD
Lyzzi Borkenhagen, Administrative Assistant, CRWCD
Stephanie Moore, Executive Assistant, CRWCD
Wendell Koontz, Delta County Commissioner

Quorum.

Chairwoman Hawes found a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Discussion of Strategies.

Marielle Cowdin and Lindsay DeFrates presented updates to the District's Strategic Communications Plan which aims to provide a clear and more impactful roadmap for constituent communications, including pillars to guide River District messaging, outreach, and engagement in 2024 and beyond. Communications from the River District's staff will drive public attention to West Slope issues and priorities, including increased hydrologic uncertainty, aging infrastructure, access to funding, and other resources for long-term water security.

The River District's External Affairs Team recently launched the Shoshone Water Right Preservation ("SWRP") Coalition as an inclusive, transparent, and diverse group of stakeholders committed to permanent protection of the essential flows attributable to the Shoshone Water Rights, which provide upstream and downstream benefits to all Colorado citizens.

The 2024 State of the River Workshops, "Water With Your Lunch" meetings, and the River District's Annual Water Seminar have been scheduled. River District staff will continue outreach efforts to strengthen relationships with local partner organizations and provide focused information on local and basin specific

¹An audio recording has been made of the meeting. The motions described herein may not necessarily represent a verbatim transcription. The audio recordings are available for listening at the CRWCD offices during regular office hours. These minutes are the official record of the Colorado River Water Conservation District's meeting.

issues.

Adjourn.

There being no other business before the Committee, Chairwoman Hawes adjourned the meeting at 8:20 a.m.

ATTEST: Taylor Hawes, Chairwoman

Andrew A. Mueller, Secretary/General Manager

GO BACK TO AGENDA

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND OF THE
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS COLORADO RIVER WATER PROJECTS ENTERPRISE

February 22, 2024

Pursuant to notice duly and properly given, a special joint meeting of the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District (CRWCD) and of the Colorado River Water Conservation District acting by and through its Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise was held on Thursday, February 22, 2024.

Directors present during all or part of the meeting:

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Kathy Chandler-Henry, President, Eagle County | Alden Vanden Brink, Rio Blanco County |
| Rebie Hazard, Saguache County | Doug Monger, Routt County |
| Scott McInnis, Mesa County | John Ely, Pitkin County |
| Sonja Chavez, Gunnison County | Mark Roeber, Delta County |
| Mike Ritschard, Grand County | Steve Beckley, Garfield County |
| Stan Whinnery, Hinsdale County | |

Directors not present:

Marc Catlin, Vice President, Montrose County
Taylor Hawes, Summit County
Cary Denison, Ouray County
Tom Gray, Moffat County

Others present during all or part of the meeting:

Andrew A. Mueller, General Manager, CRWCD
Jason V. Turner, Deputy General Counsel, CRWCD
Lindsay DeFrates, Deputy Director of Public Relations, CRWCD
Melissa Wills, Community Funding Partnership Program Manager, CRWCD
Brendon Langenhuizen, Director of Technical Advocacy, CRWCD
Lorra Nichols, Paralegal, CRWCD
Lyzzi Borkenhagen, Administrative Assistant, CRWCD
Ian Philips, Director of Financial & Administrative Services, CRWCD
Audrey Turner, Chief of Operations, CRWCD
Marielle Cowdin, Director of Public Relations, CRWCD
Rebecca Briesmoore, Water Resources Engineer/Project Manager, CRWCD
Stephanie Moore, Executive Assistant, CRWCD
Zane Kessler, Director of Government Relations, CRWCD
Bruce Walters, Associate Counsel, CRWCD
Amy Moyer, Director of Strategic Partnerships, CRWCD
Sam Calahan, Water Resources Data Specialist, CRWCD
Raquel Flinker, Sr. Water Resources Engineer/Project Manager, CRWCD
Francie Jacober, Pitkin County Commissioner
Andi Rossi, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
Michael Daugherty, Somach Simmons Dunn
Holly Kirkpatrick, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
Christopher Votoupal, Votoupal Government Affairs
Paula Stepp, Middle Colorado Watershed Council

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Quorum.

President Chandler-Henry found a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

External Affairs.

State Affairs:

Zane Kessler presented the following bills for consideration and action:

SJR24-004: **The annual resolution to list the water projects that have been selected by the Colorado Water and Power Development Authority for funding assistance.**

Short Title: **Water Projects Eligibility List.**

Recommendation: **Support.**

Director Vanden Brink moved, seconded by Director Whinnery, to support SJR24-004. Motion carried unanimously.

SB24-127: **To establish a program in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish standards and issue permits for dredge and fill activities.**

Short Title: **Regulate Dredge and Fill Material State Waters.**

Recommendation: **Monitor.**

The Board directed staff to continue to monitor SB24-127.

SB24-148: **To allow a facility approved for use as a precipitation harvesting facility located within a storm water detention and infiltration facility to use detained water.**

Short Title: **Precipitation Harvesting and Stormwater Detention.**

Recommendation: **Monitor.**

The Board directed staff to continue to monitor SB24-148.

General Managers Report:

Presentation and Report of Directors' Credentials for Rio Blanco and Montrose Counties.

Andy Mueller reported that the fully executed credential documents for the Directors from Rio Blanco County (Alden Vanden Brink) and Montrose County (Marc Catlin), were received by the District and are complete. (The credential documents are attached hereto as "**Appendices A and B**".)

General Counsel's Update (if any):

Jason Turner reported that there is no update at this time.

Adjourn.

There being no other business before the Board, Vice President Catlin adjourned the meeting at 12:32 p.m.

Kathy Chandler-Henry, President

ATTEST:

Andrew A. Mueller, Secretary/General Manager

APPENDIX A

**OATH OF OFFICE FOR
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF RIO BLANCO)

I, Alden Vanden Brink, being first duly sworn, do solemnly swear upon my oath that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Colorado, and that I will impartially, without fear or favor, discharge the duties of a Director of the Colorado River Water Conservation District.

Alden Vanden Brink

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF RIO BLANCO)

Alden Vanden Brink, has appeared before me and subscribed and sworn to the foregoing Oath of Office on this 15th day of January 15, 2024.



Brandi Jo Lambros
County Clerk and Recorder

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

This is to certify that the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County has appointed **Alden Vanden Brink** as Director of the Colorado River Water Conservation District for a term ending in January 2027, beginning with the January 16, 2024 first regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of said Colorado River Water Conservation District.

Mr. Vanden Brink has been a resident of Rio Blanco County for at least two years preceding the date of his appointment and is a freeholder who has paid taxes on real property in Rio Blanco County during the preceding year.



Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

APPENDIX B

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

This is to certify that the Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County has appointed Marc Catlin as Director of the Colorado River Water Conservation District for a term ending in January 2027, beginning with the January 16, 2024 first regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of said Colorado River Water Conservation District.

Marc Catlin has been a resident of Montrose County for at least two years preceding the date of his/her appointment and is a freeholder who has paid taxes on real property in Montrose County during the preceding year.



Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

**OATH OF OFFICE FOR
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MONTROSE)

I, Marc Catlin, being first duly sworn, do solemnly swear upon my oath that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Colorado, and that I will impartially, without fear or favor, discharge the duties of a Director of the Colorado River Water Conservation District.

Marc Catlin

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MONTROSE)

Marc Catlin, has appeared before me and subscribed and sworn to the foregoing Oath of Office on this 18 day of January, 2024.

Justin Jones
County Clerk and Recorder



GO BACK TO AGENDA

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND OF THE
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS COLORADO RIVER WATER PROJECTS ENTERPRISE

February 28, 2024

Pursuant to notice duly and properly given, a special joint meeting of the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District (CRWCD) and of the Colorado River Water Conservation District acting by and through its Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise was held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

Directors present during all or part of the meeting:

Marc Catlin, Vice President, Montrose County
Alden Vanden Brink, Rio Blanco County
Doug Monger, Routt County
John Ely, Pitkin County
Mark Roeber, Delta County
Steve Beckley, Garfield County

Tom Gray, Moffat County
Rebie Hazard, Saguache County
Scott McInnis, Mesa County
Sonja Chavez, Gunnison County
Mike Ritschard, Grand County
Cary Denison, Ouray County

Directors not present:

Kathy Chandler-Henry, President, Eagle County
Stan Whinnery, Hinsdale County
Taylor Hawes, Summit County

Others present during all or part of the meeting:

Andrew A. Mueller, General Manager, CRWCD
Peter C. Fleming, General Counsel, CRWCD
Jason V. Turner, Deputy General Counsel, CRWCD
Cindy Klob, Records and Contracts Administrator, CRWCD
Lindsay DeFrates, Deputy Director of Public Relations, CRWCD
Melissa Wills, Community Funding Partnership Program Manager, CRWCD
Brendon Langenhuizen, Director of Technical Advocacy, CRWCD
Hunter Causey, Director of Asset Management & Chief Engineer, CRWCD
Lorra Nichols, Paralegal, CRWCD
Lyzzi Borkenhagen, Administrative Assistant, CRWCD
Ian Philips, Director of Financial & Administrative Services, CRWCD
Audrey Turner, Chief of Operations, CRWCD
Marielle Cowdin, Director of Public Relations, CRWCD
Rebecca Briesmoore, Water Resources Engineer/Project Manager, CRWCD
Stephanie Moore, Executive Assistant, CRWCD
Zane Kessler, Director of Government Relations, CRWCD
Bruce Walters, Associate Counsel, CRWCD
Amy Moyer, Director of Strategic Partnerships, CRWCD
Sam Calahan, Water Resources Data Specialist, CRWCD
Raquel Flinker, Sr. Water Resources Engineer/Project Manager, CRWCD
James Fosnaught, Karp Neu Hanlon
Shoshana Rosenthal, Karp Neu Hanlon

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Quorum.

Vice President Catlin found a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

General Counsel's Report – Executive Session.

Peter Fleming reported that the following matters qualify for discussion in executive session pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b) (legal advice) and (e) (negotiations):

- a. Matters proposed for Executive Session:
 - i. Wolford Mountain Reservoir and Ritschard Dam Operations (An Enterprise Matter).
 - ii. CRCA Implementation Matters.

Director Monger moved, seconded by Director Roeber, to proceed into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b) (legal advice) and (e) (negotiations). Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fleming stated that no further record of the executive session need be kept based on his opinion that the discussion will constitute privileged attorney-client communications.

Vice President Catlin reconvened into public session at 1:32 p.m.

General Counsel's Report, Public Session:

Mr. Fleming reported that during executive session, the Board provided guidance to staff and counsel on the following matters:

- a. Wolford Mountain Reservoir and Ritschard Dam Operations (An Enterprise Matter); and
- b. CRCA Implementation Matters.

Mr. Fleming reported that there were no action items resulting from Executive Session.

General Manager's Report (if any):

Andy Mueller reported that there is no update at this time.

Adjourn.

There being no other business before the Board, Vice President Catlin adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Marc Catlin, Vice President

ATTEST:

Andrew A. Mueller, Secretary/General Manager

Executive Session Attestations.

I hereby attest that the portions of the Executive Session that were not recorded constituted privileged attorney-client communications.

Peter C. Fleming, General Counsel

GO BACK TO AGENDA

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND OF THE
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS COLORADO RIVER WATER PROJECTS ENTERPRISE

March 21, 2024

Pursuant to notice duly and properly given, the Special Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District (CRWCD) and of the Colorado River Water Conservation District acting by and through its Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise was held on Thursday, March 21, 2024.

Directors present during all or part of the meeting:

Kathy Chandler-Henry, President, Eagle County
Tom Gray, Moffat County
Rebie Hazard, Saguache County
Scott McInnis, Mesa County
Steve Beckley, Garfield County
Taylor Hawes, Summit County

Marc Catlin, Vice President, Montrose County
Alden Vanden Brink, Rio Blanco County
Doug Monger, Routt County
Sonja Chavez, Gunnison County
Cary Denison, Ouray County

Directors not present:

John Ely, Pitkin County
Mark Roeber, Delta County
Mike Ritschard, Grand County
Stan Whinnery, Hinsdale County

Others present during all or part of the meeting:

Andrew A. Mueller, General Manager, CRWCD
Peter C. Fleming, General Counsel, CRWCD
Lindsay DeFrates, Deputy Director of Public Relations, CRWCD
Melissa Wills, Community Funding Partnership Program Manager, CRWCD
Lorra Nichols, Paralegal, CRWCD
Lyzzi Borkenhagen, Administrative Assistant, CRWCD
Rebecca Briesmoore, Water Resources Engineer/Project Manager, CRWCD
Stephanie Moore, Executive Assistant, CRWCD
Zane Kessler, Director of Government Relations, CRWCD
Bruce Walters, Associate Counsel, CRWCD
Amy Moyer, Director of Strategic Partnerships, CRWCD
Andrea Wilson, Club 20
Gayle Berry, G. Berry Corp.
Andi Rossi, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
Christopher Votoupal, Votoupal Government Affairs
Josh Kuhn, Conservation Colorado
John McClow, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
James Fosnaught, Karp Neu Hanlon
Shoshana Rosenthal, Karp Neu Hanlon
Kathleen Curry, Ute Water Conservancy District
Holly Kirkpatrick, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
Luke Mecklenburg, Colorado Department of Law
Nancy Fishing, Natural Resource & Agriculture Consulting
Wendell Koontz, Delta County Commissioner

¹An audio recording has been made of the meeting. The motions described herein may not necessarily represent a verbatim transcription. The audio recordings are available for listening at the CRWCD offices during regular office hours. These minutes are the official record of the Colorado River Water Conservation District's meeting.

Claire Noble, Eagle County Government

Quorum.

President Chandler-Henry found a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

External Affairs.

State Affairs:

Zane Kessler presented the following bills for consideration:

HB24-1362: Concerning Measures to Promote the Use of Graywater.

Short Title: Measures to Incentivize Graywater Use.

Recommendation: Support.

Director Hawes moved, seconded by Director Denison, to support HB24-1362. Motion carried unanimously.

HB24-1379: Concerning the Regulation of State Waters in Response to Recent Federal Court Action.

Title: Regulate Dredge & Fill Activities in State Waters.

Recommendation: Monitor.

Director Denison moved, seconded by Director Hawes, to monitor HB24-1379. Motion carried unanimously.

General Counsel's Report – Executive Session.

Peter Fleming reported that the following matters qualify for discussion in Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b)(legal advice) and (e)(negotiations):

- a. Matters Proposed for Executive Session:
 - i. Wolford Mountain Reservoir and Ritschard Dam Operations (An Enterprise Matter).

Director Hazard moved, seconded by Director Monger, to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b)(legal advice) and (e)(negotiations). Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fleming stated that no further record of the Executive Session need be kept based on his opinion that the discussion will constitute privileged attorney-client communications.

President Chandler-Henry reconvened into Public Session at 1:09 p.m.

General Counsel's Report, Public Session:

Peter Fleming reported that during Executive Session, the Board provided guidance to staff and counsel on the following matters:

- a. Summary and Action Items from Executive Session.

Peter Fleming reported that there were no action items resulting from executive session.

General Manager's Report (if any):

Andy Mueller reported that there is no update at this time.

Adjourn.

There being no other business before the Board, President Chandler-Henry adjourned the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

Kathy Chandler-Henry, President

ATTEST:

Andrew A. Mueller, Secretary/General Manager

Executive Session Attestations.

I hereby attest that the portions of the Executive Session that were not recorded constituted privileged attorney-client communications.

Peter C. Fleming, General Counsel

DRAFT

GO BACK TO AGENDA

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE LITIGATION COMMITTEE OF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND OF THE
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS COLORADO RIVER WATER PROJECTS ENTERPRISE

March 27, 2024

Pursuant to notice duly and properly given, a special joint meeting of the Litigation Committee of the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District (CRWCD) and of the Colorado River Water Conservation District acting by and through its Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise was held on Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

Directors present during all or part of the meeting:

Kathy Chandler-Henry, President, Eagle County
Steve Beckley, Garfield County
Scott McInnis, Mesa County
John Ely, Pitkin County
Doug Monger, Routt County
Taylor Hawes, Summit County

Others present during all or part of the meeting:

Andrew A. Mueller, General Manager, CRWCD
Peter C. Fleming, General Counsel, CRWCD
Jason V. Turner, Senior Deputy Counsel, CRWCD
Bruce Walters, Associate Counsel, CRWCD
Lorra Nichols, Paralegal, CRWCD
Hunter Causey, Director of Asset Management & Chief Engineer, CRWCD
James Fosnaught, Karp Neu Hanlon
Shoshana Rosenthal, Karp Neu Hanlon

Quorum.

Chairman Beckley found a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

General Counsel's Report – Executive Session.

Mr. Fleming reported that the following matters qualify for discussion in Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b) (legal advice) and (e) (negotiations):

- a. Matters Proposed for Executive Session:
 - i. Wolford Mountain Reservoir and Ritschard Dam Operations (An Enterprise Matter).

Director Ely moved, seconded by Director Beckley, to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b) (legal advice) and (e) (negotiations). Director Ely's motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fleming stated that no further record of the Executive Session need be kept based on his opinion that the discussion will constitute privileged attorney-client communications.

Chairman Beckley reconvened into Public Session at 12:02 p.m.

¹An audio recording has been made of the meeting. The motions described herein may not necessarily represent a verbatim transcription. The audio recordings are available for listening at the CRWCD offices during regular office hours. These minutes are the official record of the Colorado River Water Conservation District's meeting.

General Counsel’s Report, Public Session:

Mr. Fleming reported that during Executive Session, the Board provided guidance to staff and counsel on the following matters:

- a. Wolford Mountain Reservoir and Ritschard Dam Operations (An Enterprise Matter).

Mr. Fleming reported that there were no action items resulting from executive session.

Adjourn.

There being no other business before the Board, Chairman Beckley adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Steve Beckley, Chairman

ATTEST:

Andrew A. Mueller, Secretary/General Manager

Executive Session Attestations.

I hereby attest that the portions of the Executive Session that were not recorded constituted privileged attorney-client communications.

Peter C. Fleming, General Counsel

GO BACK TO AGENDA

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND OF THE
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS COLORADO RIVER WATER PROJECTS ENTERPRISE

April 4, 2024

Pursuant to notice duly and properly given, a special joint meeting of the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District (CRWCD) and of the Colorado River Water Conservation District acting by and through its Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise was held on Thursday, April 4, 2024.

Directors present during all or part of the meeting:

Marc Catlin, Vice President, Montrose County
Tom Gray, Moffat County
Rebie Hazard, Saguache County
Scott McInnis, Mesa County
Steve Beckley, Garfield County
Taylor Hawes, Summit County
Mike Ritschard, Grand County

Alden Vanden Brink, Rio Blanco County
Doug Monger, Routt County
Sonja Chavez, Gunnison County
Cary Denison, Ouray County
Mark Roeber, Delta County
John Ely, Pitkin County

Directors not present:

Kathy Chandler-Henry, President, Eagle County
Stan Whinnery, Hinsdale County

Others present during all or part of the meeting:

Andrew A. Mueller, General Manager, CRWCD
Peter C. Fleming, General Counsel, CRWCD
Jason V. Turner, Deputy General Counsel, CRWCD
Lindsay DeFrates, Deputy Director of Public Relations, CRWCD
Melissa Wills, Community Funding Partnership Program Manager, CRWCD
Lorra Nichols, Paralegal, CRWCD
Audrey Turner, Chief of Operations, CRWCD
Lyzzi Borkenhagen, Administrative Assistant, CRWCD
Rebecca Briesmoore, Water Resources Engineer/Project Manager, CRWCD
Stephanie Moore, Executive Assistant, CRWCD
Zane Kessler, Director of Government Relations, CRWCD
Brendon Langenhuizen, Director of Technical Advocacy, CRWCD
Bruce Walters, Associate Counsel, CRWCD
Hunter Causey, Director of Asset Management & Chief Engineer, CRWCD
Amy Moyer, Director of Strategic Partnerships, CRWCD
Lorra Nichols, Paralegal, CRWCD
Raquel Flinker, Sr. Water Resources Engineer/Project Manager, CRWCD
Ian Philips, Director of Administration and Financial Services, CRWCD
Jared Petsche, Northwestern Colorado Council of Governments | Water Quality & Quantity
Kathleen Curry, Ute Water Conservancy District
Nancy Fishing, Natural Resource & Agriculture Consulting
Sara Dunn, Balcomb & Green PC
Andrea Wilson, Club 20
Gayle Berry, G. Berry Corp.
David Payne, Ute Water Conservancy District

¹An audio recording has been made of the meeting. The motions described herein may not necessarily represent a verbatim transcription. The audio recordings are available for listening at the CRWCD offices during regular office hours. These minutes are the official record of the Colorado River Water Conservation District's meeting.

Luke Mecklenburg, Colorado Department of Law
Cindy Dozier, Individually
James Fosnaught, Karp Neu Hanlon
Shoshana Rosenthal, Karp Neu Hanlon
Christopher Geiger, Balcomb & Green
Emily Lowell, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
Brittany Dixon, Club 20
Orla Bannan, Western Resource Advocates
Holly Kirkpatrick, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
John McCloy, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Jackie Brown, Tri-State Generation and Transmission
Josh Kuhn, Conservation Colorado
Christopher Votoupal, Votoupal Government Affairs
Madison Muxworthy, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council
Abby Burk, Audubon Rockies
Mike Tilko, Mott MacDonald
Steve Pope, Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association

Quorum.

Vice President Catlin found a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

External Affairs.

State Affairs:

Zane Kessler presented the following bills for action:

HB24-1379: Concerning the Regulation of State Waters in Response to Recent Federal Court Action.

Title: **Regulate Dredge & Fill Activities in State Waters.**

Recommendation: **Amend.**

Director Hawes moved, seconded by Director Chavez, to amend HB24-1379. Motion carried unanimously.

HB24-1435: Concerning the Funding of Colorado Water Conservation Board Projects, and in Connection Therewith, Making an Appropriation.

Title: **Colorado Water Conservation Board Projects.**

Recommendation: **Support.**

Director Monger moved, seconded by Director Gray, to support HB24-1435. Motion carried unanimously.

HB24-1413: Concerning Transfers From Funds That Include Severance Tax Revenue, and, In Connection Therewith, Making an Appropriation.

Title: **Severance Tax Transfers.**

Recommendation: **No Position.**

Director Vanden Brink moved, seconded by Director Gray, to oppose HB24-1413. Motion carried unanimously.

HB24-1436: Concerning the Referral of a Ballot Issue Related to the revenue From the Sports Betting Tax, and, in Connection Therewith, Referring a Ballot Issue to the Voters to Allow the State to Keep and Spend All Sports Betting Tax Revenue in Excess of the Twenty-Nine Million Dollar Estimated Increase in State Tax Revenue Approved by Voters in 2019 for the Purpose of Funding Water Conservation and Protection Projects Rather than Refunding Such Excess Revenue to Casinos.

Title: **Sports Betting Tax Revenue Voter Approval.**

Recommendation: Support.

Director Hawes moved, seconded by Director Monger, to support HB24-1436. Motion carried unanimously.

HB24-1249: Concerning a State Income Tax Credit for Active Agricultural Stewardship Practices.

Title: Tax Credit Agricultural Stewardship Practices.

Recommendation: Support.

Director Denison moved, seconded by Director Roeber, to support HB24-1249. Motion carried unanimously.

HB24-197: Concerning Measures for the Conservation of Water in the State, and, in Connection Therewith, Implementing the Proposals of the Colorado River Drought Task Force.

Title: Water Conservation Measures.

Recommendation: Amend.

Director Gray moved, seconded by Director Vanden Brink, to amend HB24-197. Motion carried unanimously.

General Counsel's Report – Executive Session.

Peter Fleming reported that the following matters qualify for discussion in Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b) (legal advice) and (e) (negotiations):

- a. Matters proposed for Executive Session:
 - i. Wolford Mountain Reservoir and Ritschard Dam Operations (An Enterprise Matter).

Director Hazard moved, seconded by Director Denison, to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b) (legal advice) and (e) (negotiations). Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fleming stated that no further record of the Executive Session need be kept based on his opinion that the discussion will constitute privileged attorney-client communications.

Vice President Catlin reconvened into Public Session at 1:27 p.m.

General Counsel's Report, Public Session:

Mr. Fleming reported that during Executive Session, the Board provided guidance to staff and counsel on the following matters:

- a. Wolford Mountain Reservoir and Ritschard Dam Operations (An Enterprise Matter).

Mr. Fleming reported that there were no action items resulting from executive session.

General Manager's Report (if any):

Andy Mueller reported that there is no update at this time.

Adjourn.

There being no other business before the Board, President Chandler-Henry adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Marc Catlin, Vice President

ATTEST:

Andrew A. Mueller, Secretary/General Manager

Executive Session Attestations.

I hereby attest that the portions of the Executive Session that were not recorded constituted privileged attorney-client communications.

Peter C. Fleming, General Counsel

DRAFT



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CRWCD
ANDY MUELLER, GENERAL MANAGER

FROM: IAN PHILIPS, DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

SUBJECT: DELAYED TREASURER REPORTS, CHECK REGISTERS, AND DRAFT FINANCIALS

DATE: 4/4/2024

No Board action is requested. This memorandum is for informational purposes only.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S):
12. Financial Sustainability

Our Treasurer, Roger Maggard, is still short of staff and has been extremely busy with the spring tax season. Unfortunately, he was not able to fit us into his schedule to complete his review of the months of January and February. Therefore, we are presenting you with the complete draft financials (signed Treasurer Reports, Balance Sheets, Income Statements, and Check Registers) only for the months of November and December. The financials for the months of January and February are incomplete, as they do not contain the signed Treasurer Reports. We will include the January & February signed Treasurer Reports, along with any future months for your consideration at the July quarterly meeting.

GO BACK TO AGENDA

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TREASURER'S REPORT
GENERAL FUND

November 30, 2023

CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF: 10/31/23

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| CASH ON HAND | \$274.25 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD-PETTY CASH-9497 | \$2,697.30 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$3,365,983.93 | |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | \$465,155.65 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | \$1,474,985.55 | |
| INVESTMENTS | \$0.00 | |
| TOTAL | | \$5,309,096.68 |

DEPOSITS:

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| CASH ON HAND | 0.00 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD-PETTY CASH-9497 | 5.48 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | 181,832.73 | |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | 1,997.69 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | 6,755.11 | |
| TOTAL | | 190,591.01 |

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| CASH ON HAND | 0.00 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD-PETTY CASH-9497 | 0.00 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | 586,857.28 | |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | 0.00 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | 0.00 | |
| TOTAL | | 586,857.28 |

INVESTMENTS:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------|-------------|
| NET INCREASE/[DECREASE] | 0.00 | |
| TOTAL | | 0.00 |

CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF: 11/30/23

\$4,912,830.41

SUMMARY:

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|--|
| CASH ON HAND | \$274.25 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD-PETTY CASH-9497 | \$2,702.78 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$2,960,959.38 | |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | \$467,153.34 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | \$1,481,740.66 | |
| INVESTMENTS | \$0.00 | |

SUMMARY TOTAL AS OF: 11/30/23

\$4,912,830.41



Signature Date
ROGER D. MAGGARD, TREASURER
COLORADO RIVER WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TREASURER'S REPORT
ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS
GENERAL FUND

November 30, 2023

| | BALANCE 10/31/23 | ADDITIONS (PURCHASED) | DELETIONS (MATURED) | BALANCE 11/30/23 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| TREASURIES & DISCOUNT AGENCIES | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| SUMMARY: | | | | |
| Additions | \$0.00 | | | |
| Deletions | <u>0.00</u> | | | |
| NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) | <u>\$0.00</u> | | | |

Balance Sheet Colorado River Water Conservation District For 11/30/2023

Unaudited

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 01 General Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 01-00-1000.000 Cash Box - General | 274.25 | 682.44 | (408.19) |
| 01-00-1001.000 Cash In Bank - BoC - Checking | 2,960,959.38 | 1,958,385.55 | 1,002,573.83 |
| 01-00-1002.000 Cash In Bank - Petty Cash | 2,702.78 | 2,052.09 | 650.69 |
| 01-00-1008.000 EFT Clearing Account | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1009.000 Undeposited Funds | 15,221.28 | 82,299.12 | (67,077.84) |
| 01-00-1010.000 Wells Fargo /Colotrue -0100 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1015.000 General ColoTrust Prime | 467,153.34 | 445,416.77 | 21,736.57 |
| 01-00-1016.000 General ColoTrust Plus | 1,481,740.66 | 1,408,140.35 | 73,600.31 |
| 01-00-1020.000 Investments-All | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1021.000 Allow. For Investments+- | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1022.000 Accum Amortization Investments | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1023.000 Accrued Interest | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1101.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 01 | (439.00) | 0.00 | (439.00) |
| 01-00-1102.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1103.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1104.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 04 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1200.000 Accounts Receivable | 182,238.00 | 145,168.27 | 37,069.73 |
| 01-00-1201.000 Accounts Receivable - Spec. | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1205.000 Housing Notes Receivable | 152,516.73 | 164,092.73 | (11,576.00) |
| 01-00-1206.000 Deferred Revenue | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1207.000 457 Loans Receivable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1210.000 Property Tax Receivables | 10,182,625.00 | 9,729,536.00 | 453,089.00 |
| 01-00-1225.000 Allowance Housing Forgiveness | (80,000.00) | (87,500.00) | 7,500.00 |
| 01-00-1300.000 Prepaid Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1505.000 Office Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1599.000 Assets in Fixed Assets Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-02-1990.000 Internal Balances | 14,909.40 | 0.00 | 14,909.40 |
| 01-03-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-04-1990.000 Internal Balances | 750.70 | (42.98) | 793.68 |
| 01-05-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-06-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-07-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-09-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Assets | 15,380,652.52 | 13,848,230.34 | 1,532,422.18 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 01-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 417,390.69 | 78,027.61 | 339,363.08 |
| 01-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2010.000 Wages Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2011.000 FICA/Mdcr Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2012.000 Fwt Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2013.000 Cwt Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2014.000 Sui Payable | 1,049.44 | 926.48 | 122.96 |
| 01-00-2015.000 Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2016.000 Deferred Compenstion Payable | (2,220.36) | 0.00 | (2,220.36) |
| 01-00-2017.000 HSA | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2018.000 Health Insurance Premium Payable | (38.60) | 0.02 | (38.62) |
| 01-00-2019.000 RHS -Payable | 0.00 | 19.41 | (19.41) |
| 01-00-2020.000 Voluntary Life Payable | (600.92) | (367.92) | (233.00) |
| 01-00-2021.000 Accrued Vacation Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2022.000 Accrued Vacation/Comp | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2023.000 Cafeteria Plan - MSA Payable | 191.75 | (109.52) | 301.27 |
| 01-00-2024.000 Cafeteria Plan - DCAP Payable | 2,153.99 | 5,145.50 | (2,991.51) |
| 01-00-2025.000 457 Loan Payable | 463.36 | 0.00 | 463.36 |
| 01-00-2026.000 Roth Payable | 1,757.00 | 0.00 | 1,757.00 |
| 01-00-2040.000 24hourFlex Min Maint Bal | (193.41) | (193.41) | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2200.000 Deferred Property Tax Revenue | 10,182,625.00 | 9,729,536.00 | 453,089.00 |
| 01-00-2998.000 Annual Funds Transfer to CFP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2999.000 Excess Funds Transfer to CPO | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | 10,602,577.94 | 9,812,984.17 | 789,593.77 |
| 01-00-3000.000 Tabor Emergency Reserve | 173,928.00 | 141,525.00 | 32,403.00 |
| 01-00-3010.000 Unappropriated Fund Balance | 3,083,695.53 | 4,711,118.08 | (1,627,422.55) |
| Change in Net Assets | 1,520,451.05 | (817,396.91) | 2,337,847.96 |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 11/30/2023

Unaudited

| | <u>This Year</u> | <u>Last Year</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | <u>15,380,652.52</u> | <u>13,848,230.34</u> | <u>1,532,422.18</u> |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 11/30/2023

Run: 1/22/2024 at 4:53 PM

| General Fund | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Revenues</u> | | | | |
| 4000. County Taxes | 5,241.92 | 10,143,451.01 | 10,182,618.59 | 99.62 |
| 4001. SO And Other Tax | 9,961.58 | 690,170.85 | 775,650.00 | 88.98 |
| 4002. Delinquent Taxes (general) | 0.34 | 2,345.83 | 2,820.00 | 83.19 |
| 4010. Property Tax Interest | 354.20 | 14,227.16 | 9,873.10 | 144.10 |
| 4020. Tax Increment Financing | (36.11) | (64,382.46) | (67,681.49) | 95.13 |
| 4025. Tax Abatements/Credits | 0.00 | (5,287.63) | (6,080.00) | 86.97 |
| 4030. County Treasurers Fees | (240.01) | (357,532.39) | (356,300.00) | 100.35 |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 15,601.69 | 159,892.50 | 173,560.00 | 92.13 |
| 4120. Miscellaneous Income | 0.00 | 9,335.85 | 5,100.00 | 183.06 |
| 4130. Management Fee | 0.00 | 5,482.99 | 8,350.00 | 65.66 |
| 4140. Project Contributions | 0.00 | 556,326.10 | 1,056,029.00 | 52.68 |
| 4401. Cost of Goods Sold | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4500. Charges for Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | 30,883.61 | 11,154,029.81 | 11,783,939.20 | 94.65 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5000. Contingency Salaries | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5001. Salaries | 244,516.21 | 2,415,007.36 | 2,534,271.79 | 95.29 |
| 5010. Accrued Vacation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5011. Fica/Medicare | 13,078.54 | 163,475.86 | 175,052.66 | 93.39 |
| 5014. Unemployment | 467.71 | 4,617.66 | 7,711.95 | 59.88 |
| 5016. Workers Compensation Insurance | 0.00 | 5,338.50 | 5,338.62 | 100.00 |
| 5115. Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5118. Health Insurance | 46,221.90 | 468,040.05 | 515,025.58 | 90.88 |
| 5120. Cafeteria Plan-Employer | 59.50 | 238.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5121. Cafeteria Plan-Administration | 0.00 | 610.00 | 1,200.00 | 50.83 |
| 5122. Retirement - 457 Matching | 2,072.12 | 21,681.84 | 22,840.00 | 94.93 |
| 5123. Retirement - Employer | 20,733.08 | 220,806.04 | 228,931.65 | 96.45 |
| 5124. Retirement - Administration | 0.00 | 1,250.00 | 4,180.56 | 29.90 |
| 5125. RHS- Employer Contribution | 952.90 | 10,804.80 | 11,720.00 | 92.19 |
| 5211. Employee Housing | 0.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 100.00 |
| 5212. Education Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5220. Overhead-C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,150.00 | 0.00 |
| 5310. Travel | 7,247.25 | 113,040.51 | 124,365.00 | 90.89 |
| 5311. Staff Registration | 3,185.00 | 19,254.05 | 33,295.00 | 57.83 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 1,570.89 | 17,868.27 | 20,000.00 | 89.34 |
| 6000. Directors Fees | 0.00 | 8,360.00 | 14,000.00 | 59.71 |
| 6001. Education/Professional Development | 11,705.00 | 16,547.80 | 12,100.00 | 136.76 |
| 6012. Legal Notice | 103.18 | 520.69 | 1,000.00 | 52.07 |
| 6013. Special Counsel | 337.50 | 9,292.61 | 31,000.00 | 29.98 |
| 6014. Legal Engineering | 0.00 | 26,375.20 | 79,200.00 | 33.30 |
| 6015. Legal/Litigation / Adr | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6016. Miscellaneous Legal/Materials | 3,101.22 | 28,467.01 | 30,469.00 | 93.43 |
| 6017. Legal Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 25,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6018. Legal Assistance To Others | 0.00 | 0.00 | 15,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6020. Washington Counsel/Lobbyist | 0.00 | 0.00 | 50,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6021. Colorado Lobbyist | 1,050.00 | 23,750.00 | 27,600.00 | 86.05 |
| 6022. Education Assistance To Others | 0.00 | 18,250.00 | 29,250.00 | 62.39 |
| 6023. External Affairs -C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 27,500.00 | 0.00 |
| 6024. Education Programs | 4,178.75 | 131,185.68 | 294,500.00 | 44.55 |
| 6025. Water Policy Survey | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6026. Education Supplies | 0.00 | 0.00 | 13,500.00 | 0.00 |
| 6100. Projects & Grants | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6101. Project Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6102. Consultant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6103. Accounting Consultant | 254.50 | 2,208.25 | 5,000.00 | 44.17 |
| 6104. Audit | 0.00 | 13,370.00 | 13,370.00 | 100.00 |
| 6105. Investment/Banking Services | 20.65 | 515.64 | 1,000.00 | 51.56 |
| 6110. Admin Services/Expenses-C | 0.00 | 16,048.26 | 35,500.00 | 45.21 |
| 6150. Assessments | 5,195.67 | 55,420.48 | 85,348.04 | 64.93 |
| 6200. Postage | 19.99 | 1,264.31 | 1,500.00 | 84.29 |
| 6201. Office Supplies | 882.47 | 10,669.09 | 8,000.00 | 133.36 |
| 6202. Telephone | 1,725.39 | 19,709.16 | 28,150.00 | 70.01 |
| 6203. Printing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6204. Insurance | 0.00 | 18,619.00 | 18,619.00 | 100.00 |
| 6205. Records | 0.00 | 692.16 | 1,700.00 | 40.72 |
| 6210. Lease Equipment | 432.51 | 4,761.37 | 5,400.00 | 88.17 |

Income Statement Colorado River Water Conservation District For 11/30/2023

| | M-T-D | Y-T-D | Annual | YTD % |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | Actual \$ | Actual \$ | Budget \$ | Budget |
| 6211. Equipment Repairs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6301. Subscriptions | 6,144.04 | 15,244.14 | 11,211.00 | 135.97 |
| 6302. Dues / Memberships | 540.00 | 20,954.36 | 22,136.00 | 94.66 |
| 6310. Computer Licenses/Software & Services | 10,101.95 | 82,103.24 | 81,540.00 | 100.69 |
| 6320. Small Office Equipment | 0.00 | 1,666.86 | 2,000.00 | 83.34 |
| 6340. Vehicle Maintenance | 974.73 | 16,054.18 | 19,600.00 | 81.91 |
| 6500. Bldg Construction/Remodel | 743.92 | 743.92 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6600. Bad Debt Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6601. Technical Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6605. Water Quality/Selenium Coord. | 37.95 | 8,296.81 | 12,600.00 | 65.85 |
| 6606. Colorado Watershed Management | 39,459.37 | 169,885.73 | 303,253.00 | 56.02 |
| 6607. Interstate Watershed Management | 53,979.00 | 375,807.43 | 758,574.00 | 49.54 |
| 6608. Division 4 Work Plan | 190,476.94 | 525,056.35 | 586,976.00 | 89.45 |
| 6609. Division 5 Work Plan | 0.00 | 39,150.00 | 54,420.00 | 71.94 |
| 6610. Division 6 Work Plan | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6611. ESA/Recovery | 0.00 | 11,606.00 | 11,606.00 | 100.00 |
| 6612. Colorado River Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7001. USGS Gaging | 0.00 | 276,061.09 | 527,955.48 | 52.29 |
| 7120. Tabor Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 211,354.81 | 0.00 |
| 8900. Excess Fund Transfer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8910. Annual Fund Transfer to CFP | 0.00 | 4,221,389.00 | 4,221,389.00 | 100.00 |
| 8920. Additional Fund Transfer to CFP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 300,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Expenses | <u>671,569.83</u> | <u>9,633,578.76</u> | <u>11,777,904.14</u> | <u>81.79</u> |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | <u>(640,686.22)</u> | <u>1,520,451.05</u> | <u>6,035.06</u> | <u>25,193.64</u> |

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**TREASURER'S REPORT
GENERAL FUND**

December 31, 2023

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF: | 11/30/23 | | |
| CASH ON HAND | | \$274.25 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD-PETTY CASH-9497 | | \$2,702.78 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | | \$2,960,959.38 | |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | | \$467,153.34 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | | \$1,481,740.66 | |
| INVESTMENTS | | \$0.00 | |
| TOTAL | | <hr/> | \$4,912,830.41 |
| DEPOSITS: | | | |
| CASH ON HAND | | 0.00 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD-PETTY CASH-9497 | | 5.30 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | | 369,214.90 | |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | | 2,079.69 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | | 7,020.25 | |
| TOTAL | | <hr/> | 378,320.14 |
| DISBURSEMENTS: | | | |
| CASH ON HAND | | 0.00 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD-PETTY CASH-9497 | | 0.00 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | | 1,174,070.79 | |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | | 0.00 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | | 0.00 | |
| TOTAL | | <hr/> | 1,174,070.79 |
| INVESTMENTS: | | | |
| NET INCREASE/[DECREASE] | | 0.00 | |
| TOTAL | | <hr/> | 0.00 |
| CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF: | 12/31/23 | | \$4,117,079.76 |

SUMMARY:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| CASH ON HAND | \$274.25 |
| BOC-GLENWOOD-PETTY CASH-9497 | \$2,708.08 |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$2,156,103.49 |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | \$469,233.03 |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | \$1,488,760.91 |
| INVESTMENTS | \$0.00 |

SUMMARY TOTAL AS OF: 12/31/23 \$4,117,079.76



Signature _____ Date _____
 ROGER D. MAGGARD, TREASURER
 COLORADO RIVER WATER
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**TREASURER'S REPORT
ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS
GENERAL FUND**

December 31, 2023

| | BALANCE 11/30/23 | ADDITIONS (PURCHASED) | DELETIONS (MATURED) | BALANCE 12/31/23 |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| TREASURIES & DISCOUNT AGENCIES | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| SUMMARY: | | | | |
| Additions | \$0.00 | | | |
| Deletions | | | 0.00 | |
| NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) | | | | \$0.00 |

Balance Sheet Colorado River Water Conservation District For 12/31/2023

Unaudited

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 01 General Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 01-00-1000.000 Cash Box - General | 274.25 | 682.44 | (408.19) |
| 01-00-1001.000 Cash In Bank - BoC - Checking | 2,156,103.49 | 1,729,530.88 | 426,572.61 |
| 01-00-1002.000 Cash In Bank - Petty Cash | 2,708.08 | 2,052.80 | 655.28 |
| 01-00-1008.000 EFT Clearing Account | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1009.000 Undeposited Funds | 58,732.55 | 52,853.60 | 5,878.95 |
| 01-00-1010.000 Wells Fargo /Colotrue -0100 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1015.000 General ColoTrust Prime | 469,233.03 | 446,940.33 | 22,292.70 |
| 01-00-1016.000 General ColoTrust Plus | 1,488,760.91 | 1,413,291.56 | 75,469.35 |
| 01-00-1020.000 Investments-All | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1021.000 Allow. For Investments+- | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1022.000 Accum Amortization Investments | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1023.000 Accrued Interest | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1101.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 01 | (439.00) | 608.55 | (1,047.55) |
| 01-00-1102.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1103.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1104.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 04 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1200.000 Accounts Receivable | 539,954.05 | 189,554.35 | 350,399.70 |
| 01-00-1201.000 Accounts Receivable - Spec. | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1205.000 Housing Notes Receivable | 152,368.49 | 164,011.98 | (11,643.49) |
| 01-00-1206.000 Deferred Revenue | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1207.000 457 Loans Receivable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1210.000 Property Tax Receivables | 10,182,625.00 | 10,182,625.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1225.000 Allowance Housing Forgiveness | (80,000.00) | (90,000.00) | 10,000.00 |
| 01-00-1300.000 Prepaid Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1505.000 Office Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1599.000 Assets in Fixed Assets Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-02-1990.000 Internal Balances | (123,094.37) | (60,831.25) | (62,263.12) |
| 01-03-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-04-1990.000 Internal Balances | 103,456.40 | 43,649.54 | 59,806.86 |
| 01-05-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-06-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-07-1990.000 Internal Balances | 70.45 | (80.02) | 150.47 |
| 01-09-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Assets | 14,950,753.33 | 14,074,889.76 | 875,863.57 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 01-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 593,185.78 | 631,265.10 | (38,079.32) |
| 01-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2010.000 Wages Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2011.000 FICA/Mdcr Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2012.000 Fwt Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2013.000 Cwt Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2014.000 Sui Payable | (0.02) | (0.01) | (0.01) |
| 01-00-2015.000 Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2016.000 Deferred Compenstion Payable | (2,220.36) | 0.00 | (2,220.36) |
| 01-00-2017.000 HSA | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2018.000 Health Insurance Premium Payable | (185.23) | 0.00 | (185.23) |
| 01-00-2019.000 RHS -Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2020.000 Voluntary Life Payable | (660.67) | (500.13) | (160.54) |
| 01-00-2021.000 Accrued Vacation Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2022.000 Accrued Vacation/Comp | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2023.000 Cafeteria Plan - MSA Payable | 246.75 | 15.48 | 231.27 |
| 01-00-2024.000 Cafeteria Plan - DCAP Payable | 2,924.42 | 4,054.20 | (1,129.78) |
| 01-00-2025.000 457 Loan Payable | 829.44 | 0.00 | 829.44 |
| 01-00-2026.000 Roth Payable | 1,757.00 | 0.00 | 1,757.00 |
| 01-00-2040.000 24hourFlex Min Maint Bal | (193.41) | (193.41) | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2200.000 Deferred Property Tax Revenue | 10,182,625.00 | 10,182,625.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2998.000 Annual Funds Transfer to CFP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2999.000 Excess Funds Transfer to CPO | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | 10,778,308.70 | 10,817,266.23 | (38,957.53) |
| 01-00-3000.000 Tabor Emergency Reserve | 173,928.00 | 173,928.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-3010.000 Unappropriated Fund Balance | 3,083,695.53 | 4,678,715.08 | (1,595,019.55) |
| Change in Net Assets | 914,821.10 | (1,595,019.55) | 2,509,840.65 |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 12/31/2023

Unaudited

| | <u>This Year</u> | <u>Last Year</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | <u>14,950,753.33</u> | <u>14,074,889.76</u> | <u>875,863.57</u> |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District

For 12/31/2023

| General Fund | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Revenues</u> | | | | |
| 4000. County Taxes | 621.65 | 10,170,004.54 | 10,182,618.59 | 99.88 |
| 4001. SO And Other Tax | 52,867.75 | 792,155.30 | 775,650.00 | 102.13 |
| 4002. Delinquent Taxes (general) | 3,709.95 | 6,225.81 | 2,820.00 | 220.77 |
| 4010. Property Tax Interest | 1,867.30 | 17,818.25 | 9,873.10 | 180.47 |
| 4020. Tax Increment Financing | 5.01 | (64,666.29) | (67,681.49) | 95.55 |
| 4025. Tax Abatements/Credits | (208.22) | (6,376.93) | (6,080.00) | 104.88 |
| 4030. County Treasurers Fees | (130.89) | (358,521.54) | (356,300.00) | 100.62 |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 14,997.19 | 174,889.69 | 173,560.00 | 100.77 |
| 4120. Miscellaneous Income | 2,000.00 | 11,335.85 | 5,100.00 | 222.27 |
| 4130. Management Fee | 2,249.75 | 7,732.74 | 8,350.00 | 92.61 |
| 4140. Project Contributions | 537,599.40 | 1,093,925.50 | 1,056,029.00 | 103.59 |
| 4401. Cost of Goods Sold | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4500. Charges for Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | 615,578.89 | 11,844,522.92 | 11,783,939.20 | 100.51 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5000. Contingency Salaries | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5001. Salaries | 246,785.81 | 2,661,793.17 | 2,534,271.79 | 105.03 |
| 5010. Accrued Vacation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5011. Fica/Medicare | 13,265.58 | 176,741.44 | 175,052.66 | 100.96 |
| 5014. Unemployment | 473.08 | 5,090.74 | 7,711.95 | 66.01 |
| 5016. Workers Compensation Insurance | 0.00 | 5,338.50 | 5,338.62 | 100.00 |
| 5115. Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5118. Health Insurance | 47,782.54 | 515,822.59 | 515,025.58 | 100.15 |
| 5120. Cafeteria Plan-Employer | 0.00 | 238.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5121. Cafeteria Plan-Administration | 85.00 | 695.00 | 1,200.00 | 57.92 |
| 5122. Retirement - 457 Matching | 2,057.60 | 23,739.44 | 22,840.00 | 103.94 |
| 5123. Retirement - Employer | 20,516.61 | 241,322.65 | 228,931.65 | 105.41 |
| 5124. Retirement - Administration | 0.00 | 1,250.00 | 4,180.56 | 29.90 |
| 5125. RHS- Employer Contribution | 5,180.81 | 15,985.61 | 11,720.00 | 136.40 |
| 5211. Employee Housing | 0.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 100.00 |
| 5212. Education Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5220. Overhead-C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,150.00 | 0.00 |
| 5310. Travel | 20,164.86 | 133,205.37 | 124,365.00 | 107.11 |
| 5311. Staff Registration | 1,229.00 | 20,483.05 | 33,295.00 | 61.52 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 494.00 | 18,362.27 | 20,000.00 | 91.81 |
| 6000. Directors Fees | 3,080.00 | 11,440.00 | 14,000.00 | 81.71 |
| 6001. Education/Professional Development | 66.00 | 16,613.80 | 12,100.00 | 137.30 |
| 6012. Legal Notice | 0.00 | 520.69 | 1,000.00 | 52.07 |
| 6013. Special Counsel | 609.70 | 9,902.31 | 31,000.00 | 31.94 |
| 6014. Legal Engineering | 31,872.00 | 58,247.20 | 79,200.00 | 73.54 |
| 6015. Legal/Litigation / Adr | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6016. Miscellaneous Legal/Materials | 2,131.94 | 30,598.95 | 30,469.00 | 100.43 |
| 6017. Legal Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 25,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6018. Legal Assistance To Others | 0.00 | 0.00 | 15,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6020. Washington Counsel/Lobbyist | 0.00 | 0.00 | 50,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6021. Colorado Lobbyist | 3,550.00 | 27,300.00 | 27,600.00 | 98.91 |
| 6022. Education Assistance To Others | 500.00 | 18,750.00 | 29,250.00 | 64.10 |
| 6023. External Affairs -C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 27,500.00 | 0.00 |
| 6024. Education Programs | 72,909.86 | 204,513.54 | 294,500.00 | 69.44 |
| 6025. Water Policy Survey | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6026. Education Supplies | 371.00 | 371.00 | 13,500.00 | 2.75 |
| 6100. Projects & Grants | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6101. Project Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6102. Consultant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6103. Accounting Consultant | 318.93 | 2,527.18 | 5,000.00 | 50.54 |
| 6104. Audit | 0.00 | 13,370.00 | 13,370.00 | 100.00 |
| 6105. Investment/Banking Services | 19.95 | 535.59 | 1,000.00 | 53.56 |
| 6110. Admin Services/Expenses-C | 5,130.34 | 21,178.60 | 35,500.00 | 59.66 |
| 6150. Assessments | 5,195.67 | 60,616.15 | 85,348.04 | 71.02 |
| 6200. Postage | 88.23 | 1,352.54 | 1,500.00 | 90.17 |
| 6201. Office Supplies | 758.23 | 11,427.32 | 8,000.00 | 142.84 |
| 6202. Telephone | 881.71 | 20,590.87 | 28,150.00 | 73.15 |
| 6203. Printing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6204. Insurance | 0.00 | 18,619.00 | 18,619.00 | 100.00 |
| 6205. Records | 0.00 | 692.16 | 1,700.00 | 40.72 |
| 6210. Lease Equipment | 508.14 | 5,269.51 | 5,400.00 | 97.58 |

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District

For 12/31/2023

Unaudited

| | M-T-D | Y-T-D | Annual | YTD % |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | Actual \$ | Actual \$ | Budget \$ | Budget |
| 6211. Equipment Repairs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6301. Subscriptions | 531.38 | 15,775.52 | 11,211.00 | 140.71 |
| 6302. Dues / Memberships | 2,008.00 | 22,962.36 | 22,136.00 | 103.73 |
| 6310. Computer Licenses/Software & Services | 8,911.75 | 91,014.99 | 81,540.00 | 111.62 |
| 6320. Small Office Equipment | 0.00 | 1,666.86 | 2,000.00 | 83.34 |
| 6340. Vehicle Maintenance | 262.48 | 17,705.45 | 19,600.00 | 90.33 |
| 6500. Bldg Construction/Remodel | 0.00 | 743.92 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6600. Bad Debt Expense | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6601. Technical Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6605. Water Quality/Selenium Coord. | 8.00 | 8,304.81 | 12,600.00 | 65.91 |
| 6606. Colorado Watershed Management | 138,833.00 | 308,718.73 | 303,253.00 | 101.80 |
| 6607. Interstate Watershed Management | 42,783.30 | 418,590.73 | 758,574.00 | 55.18 |
| 6608. Division 4 Work Plan | 60,568.96 | 585,625.31 | 586,976.00 | 99.77 |
| 6609. Division 5 Work Plan | 488.90 | 39,638.90 | 54,420.00 | 72.84 |
| 6610. Division 6 Work Plan | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6611. ESA/Recovery | 0.00 | 11,606.00 | 11,606.00 | 100.00 |
| 6612. Colorado River Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7001. USGS Gaging | 251,893.91 | 527,955.00 | 527,955.48 | 100.00 |
| 7120. Tabor Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 211,354.81 | 0.00 |
| 8900. Excess Fund Transfer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8910. Annual Fund Transfer to CFP | 0.00 | 4,221,389.00 | 4,221,389.00 | 100.00 |
| 8920. Additional Fund Transfer to CFP | 300,000.00 | 300,000.00 | 300,000.00 | 100.00 |
| Total Expenses | <u>1,294,316.27</u> | <u>10,929,701.82</u> | <u>11,777,904.14</u> | <u>92.80</u> |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | <u>(678,737.38)</u> | <u>914,821.10</u> | <u>6,035.06</u> | <u>15,158.44</u> |

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Check Register from 11/01/2023 to 12/31/2023

1 GEN - BOC

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Report Criteria... 4/04/2024 @ 12:13 PM | | | |
| Form: | Check Register - Check Register | | |
| Sort by | ActivityDate | | |
| activity dates: | From: 11/01/2023 To: 12/31/2023 | | |
| eft95191102 | 11/02/2023 | [WEX] WEX BANK | WMR \$433.64 1,405.20 |
| 0999730 | 11/03/2023 | [ALPINE] ALPINE TECHNOLOGIES, | 4,408.05 |
| 0999731 | 11/03/2023 | [CMU] COLORADO MESA | Budget Workshop & Annual Semin 12,296.36 |
| 0999732 | 11/03/2023 | [COLORIV] COLORADO RIVER | 2,535.00 |
| 0999733 | 11/03/2023 | [MONGERD] DOUGLAS B. MONGER | 163.75 |
| 0999734 | 11/03/2023 | [KDNK] CARBONDALE COMMUNITY | 3,564.00 |
| 0999735 | 11/03/2023 | [KNZZ] KNZZ NEWS RADIO 1100 | 501.00 |
| 0999736 | 11/03/2023 | [PSHCG] PUBLIC SECTOR HEALTH | 51,318.45 |
| 0999737 | 11/03/2023 | [HAWEST] TAYLOR HAWES | 4th Q meeting .. 122.48 |
| 0999738 | 11/03/2023 | [TWORIV] TWO RIVERS PARK | 6,927.56 |
| 0999739 | 11/03/2023 | [VERIZON] VERIZON WIRELESS | 1,103.82 |
| EFT340482e | 11/06/2023 | [CAUSEYH] HUNTER J CAUSEY | 305.98 |
| 0999740 | 11/10/2023 | [GUNNISON TIMES] ALAN WARTES | Budget Notice 44.88 |
| 0999741 | 11/10/2023 | [AMT] ALWAYS MOUNTAIN TIME | KSKE 418.00 |
| 0999742 | 11/10/2023 | [CBN] COMMUNITY BROADBAND | 215.00 |
| 0999743 | 11/10/2023 | [ELYJ] JOHN M ELY | Semiar 177.57 |
| 0999744 | 11/10/2023 | [LIOLP] LINCOLN INSTITUTE OF | 2,500.00 |
| 0999745 | 11/10/2023 | [ROEBERM] MARK J ROEBER | Seminar 196.50 |
| 0999746 | 11/10/2023 | [WHITMOREM] MARTHA P | 237.11 |
| 0999747 | 11/10/2023 | [NAWMC] NORTH AMERICAN | NAWMC MEMBERSHIP DUES 500.00 |
| 0999748 | 11/10/2023 | [MCINNISS] SCOTT MCINNIS | 4th Q 140.98 |
| 0999749 | 11/10/2023 | [WSC] WESTERN SLOPE | 313.50 |
| eft111323 | 11/13/2023 | [ALERUS] ALERUS | LD 600.00 |
| efta814a03a | 11/15/2023 | [WILLSM] MELISSA WILLS | 10/23 - 10/31 Exp Rpt 86.99 |
| 0999750 | 11/17/2023 | [BISHOP] BISHOP-BROGDEN | 1,825.25 |
| 0999751 | 11/17/2023 | [MORGRIDGE COMMONS] | BOD Meeting 105.00 |
| 0999752 | 11/17/2023 | [CML] COLORADO MUNICIPAL | Associate Dues 01/01/2024-12/3 325.00 |
| 0999753 | 11/17/2023 | [COLORIV] COLORADO RIVER | 3,107.00 |
| 0999754 | 11/17/2023 | [COLUMN] COLUMN | THE CITIZEN 272.48 |
| 0999755 | 11/17/2023 | [EPRC] EAGLE PARK RESERVOIR | 26,817.11 |
| 0999756 | 11/17/2023 | [GBERRY] GBERRY CORP (1) | 1,050.00 |
| 0999757 | 11/17/2023 | [GRANFA] GRAN FARNUM | RF and BW business cards 168.00 |
| 0999758 | 11/17/2023 | [HYDROS] HYDROS CONSULTING | 11,411.00 |
| 0999759 | 11/17/2023 | [IMAGENET] IMAGENET | 432.51 |
| 0999760 | 11/17/2023 | [KNZZ] KNZZ NEWS RADIO 1100 | 501.00 |
| 0999761 | 11/17/2023 | [RIGNET] RIGNET | 51.80 |
| 0999762 | 11/17/2023 | [DISCOUNT] THE REINALT-THOMAS | #7 SNOW TIRES 923.40 |
| 0999763 | 11/17/2023 | [WESTPU] THOMSON REUTERS- | 1,991.44 |
| 0999764 | 11/17/2023 | [VGA] VOTOUPAL GOVERNMENTAL | 2,500.00 |
| 0999765 | 11/17/2023 | [HVZ] HVZ DESIGN | 750.00 |
| 0999766 | 11/17/2023 | [CURRIER] CURRIER, JOHN | 840.00 |
| eftd7645469 | 11/17/2023 | [LANGENHUIZENB] BRENDON | 11/14/23 Exp Rpt 424.28 |
| eft52e4a9bc | 11/20/2023 | [MUELLERA] ANDREW A MUELLER | 10/11 - 11/15 Exp Rpt 484.66 |

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Check Register from 11/01/2023 to 12/31/2023

1 GEN - BOC

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|------------------|-------------|--|------------------------|
| eft112123 | 11/21/2023 | [ALERUS] ALERUS LB | 137.78 |
| EFT1-443- | 11/22/2023 | [CODEPREV] COLORADO DEPT OF | 10,541.92 |
| EFT6046063 | 11/22/2023 | [ICMARHS] ICMA - RHS | 4,886.92 |
| EFT6401165 | 11/22/2023 | [ICMA401] ICMA | 24,487.65 |
| EFT6740715 | 11/22/2023 | [ICMA457] ICMA - 457 | 23,119.91 |
| EFT6777312 | 11/22/2023 | [ICMAIRA] ICMA - ROTH IRA | 1,755.00 |
| EFTefb4bd19 | 11/22/2023 | [USBANKHSA] US BANK | 8,194.10 |
| EFT | 11/24/2023 | Pay period ending 11/14/2023 | 184,023.34 |
| eft8e844c2b | 11/24/2023 | [TURNERJ] JASON V TURNER 11/14 exp rpt | 438.89 |
| | 11/27/2023 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 11,313.77 |
| 0999767 | 11/27/2023 | [ALPINE] ALPINE TECHNOLOGIES, | 4,810.44 |
| 0999768 | 11/27/2023 | [CWC] COLORADO WATER | 11,606.00 |
| 0999769 | 11/27/2023 | [EC] EMPLOYERS COUNCIL Annual Dues | 1,600.00 |
| 0999770 | 11/27/2023 | [METLIFE] METLIFE - GROUP | 10,514.26 |
| 0999771 | 11/27/2023 | [PSHCG] PUBLIC SECTOR HEALTH | 53,770.35 |
| 0999772 | 11/27/2023 | [RIGNET] RIGNET | 51.80 |
| 0999773 | 11/27/2023 | [HAWEST] TAYLOR HAWES | 41.92 |
| 2311271801 | 11/27/2023 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 15,981.56 |
| 2311271801 | 11/27/2023 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 1,979.28 |
| 2311271801 | 11/27/2023 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 794.05 |
| eft112723 | 11/27/2023 | [ALERUS] ALERUS RF, BL, SM | 1,250.01 |
| eft0534992b | 11/28/2023 | [MOORES] STEPHANIE MOORE 11/9 Exp Rpt | 220.45 |
| eft112823 | 11/28/2023 | [ALERUS] ALERUS Fee | 85.00 |
| eftac640aba | 11/28/2023 | [KANZERD] DAVID A KANZER 8/28 - 11/16 Exp Rpt | 4,078.20 |
| eft112923 | 11/29/2023 | [ALERUS] ALERUS LD | 303.00 |
| EFT4195252 | 11/30/2023 | [IRS] INTERNAL REVENUE | 66,780.07 |
| eft520949cfb | 12/04/2023 | [FLEMINGP] PETER C FLEMING 11/6 - 11/28 Exp Rpt | 1,225.23 |
| eft95191204 | 12/04/2023 | [WEX] WEX BANK WMR \$559.72 | 1,112.00 |
| eft1205023 | 12/05/2023 | [ALERUS] ALERUS Hunter | 309.64 |
| eft3ae4c459 | 12/05/2023 | [WILLSM] MELISSA WILLS 11/21/23 Exp Rpt | 411.12 |
| 0999774 | 12/08/2023 | [HANSMAN] HEATHER HANSMAN | 418.77 |
| 0999775 | 12/08/2023 | [HYDROS] HYDROS CONSULTING | 11,178.00 |
| 0999776 | 12/08/2023 | [IMAGENET] IMAGENET | 460.25 |
| 0999777 | 12/08/2023 | [QUILL] QUILL | 685.83 |
| 0999778 | 12/08/2023 | [SPECIALTY] SPECIALTY 48 Hydro Flasks, 48 Otterbox T | 2,295.45 |
| 0999779 | 12/08/2023 | [TFT] The Freshwater Trust | 135,833.10 |
| 0999780 | 12/08/2023 | [TWORIV] TWO RIVERS PARK | 6,927.56 |
| 0999781 | 12/08/2023 | [VERIZON] VERIZON WIRELESS | 1,053.56 |
| 0999782 | 12/08/2023 | [ZULTY] ZULTYS INC. | 822.31 |
| eft5a44654a | 12/08/2023 | [DEFRATESL] LINDSAY DEFRATES 10/2 - 11/15 Exp Rpt | 877.02 |
| 0999783 | 12/11/2023 | [CBN] COMMUNITY BROADBAND | 215.00 |
| 0999793 | 12/11/2023 | [KNZZ] KNZZ NEWS RADIO 1100 | 501.00 |
| eft52c4ddb9 | 12/12/2023 | [MUELLERA] ANDREW A MUELLER 11/27 - 12/10 and 9/19 exp rpt | 897.93 |
| 0999784 | 12/15/2023 | [GBERRY] GBERRY CORP (1) | 1,050.00 |
| 0999785 | 12/15/2023 | [HVZ] HVZ DESIGN | 750.00 |
| 0999786 | 12/15/2023 | [CURRYK] KATHLEEN E CURRY | 196.50 |
| 0999787 | 12/15/2023 | [MAGGARD] MAGGARD & HOOD, T-Rpts May - Aug | 2,137.50 |
| 0999788 | 12/15/2023 | [LEXISBENDER] MATTHEW | 837.30 |

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Check Register from 11/01/2023 to 12/31/2023

1 GEN - BOC

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--|----------------------------|
| 0999789 | 12/15/2023 | [TFT] The Freshwater Trust | 102,744.77 |
| 0999790 | 12/15/2023 | [WESTPU] THOMSON REUTERS- | 2,066.44 |
| 0999791 | 12/15/2023 | [VGA] VOTOUPAL GOVERNMENTAL | 1,250.00 |
| 0999792 | 12/15/2023 | [ALPINE] ALPINE TECHNOLOGIES, | 4,420.00 |
| eft73448558 | 12/21/2023 | [TURNERA] AUDREY M TURNER 11/3 - 12/15 Exp Rpt | 1,526.59 |
| 0999806 | 12/22/2023 | [RITSCHARDM] MICHAEL D | 277.05 |
| EFT | 12/22/2023 | Pay period ending 12/14/2023 | 190,109.31 |
| eft5cf4ba18ff | 12/22/2023 | [LANGENHUIZENB] BRENDON 12/7 - 12/21 Exp Rpt | 1,587.12 |
| eft6328152 | 12/22/2023 | [ICMAIRA] ICMA - ROTH IRA (Dec | 1,165.00 |
| eft6373690 | 12/22/2023 | [ICMA457] ICMA - 457 (Dec PR) | 22,753.91 |
| eft6576672 | 12/22/2023 | [ICMA401] ICMA (Dec PR) | 24,261.84 |
| eft6843821 | 12/22/2023 | [ICMARHS] ICMA - RHS (Dec PR) | 4,845.67 |
| eftbc14eb29 | 12/22/2023 | [USBANKHSA] US BANK (Dec PR) | 11,304.76 |
| 0999794 | 12/26/2023 | [BISHOP] BISHOP-BROGDEN | 17,933.81 |
| 0999795 | 12/26/2023 | [FEDEX] FEDEX Books for Sibley | 68.24 |
| 0999796 | 12/26/2023 | [GBSM] GBSM, INC | 18,089.26 |
| 0999797 | 12/26/2023 | [HYDROS] HYDROS CONSULTING | 17,300.11 |
| 0999798 | 12/26/2023 | [CURRYK] KATHLEEN E CURRY CRWUA | 1,325.42 |
| 0999799 | 12/26/2023 | [RITSCHARDM] MICHAEL D | 124.45 |
| 0999800 | 12/26/2023 | [MPS] MOUNTAINSIDE | 5,665.00 |
| 0999801 | 12/26/2023 | [OURAYCO] OURAY COUNTY | 15,000.00 |
| 0999802 | 12/26/2023 | [RIGNET] RIGNET | 51.80 |
| 0999803 | 12/26/2023 | [RIVERRES] RIVER RESTORATION | 28,508.09 |
| 0999804 | 12/26/2023 | [TFT] The Freshwater Trust | 87,732.17 |
| 0999805 | 12/26/2023 | [WSC] WESTERN SLOPE | 313.50 |
| eft0-330- | 12/26/2023 | [CODEPREV] COLORADO DEPT OF | 10,133.11 |
| eft4d440859 | 12/26/2023 | [FLINKERR] RAQUEL FLINKER 10/27 - 12/6 Exp Rpt | 1,256.07 |
| eft6719285 | 12/26/2023 | [ICMARHS] ICMA - RHS (2023 | 10,030.50 |
| eft74676761 | 12/26/2023 | [IRS] INTERNAL REVENUE | 66,380.50 |
| eft122723 | 12/27/2023 | [ALERUS] ALERUS LB | 1,158.25 |
| eft23122722 | 12/27/2023 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 7,197.27 |
| eft23122722 | 12/27/2023 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 579.21 |
| eft23122722 | 12/27/2023 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 7,996.11 |
| eft23122722 | 12/27/2023 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 4,355.43 |
| eft6714249 | 12/27/2023 | [COLOTR] COLO STATE | 1,596.42 |
| 0999807 | 12/29/2023 | [ASO] AIRBORNE SNOW | 21,525.56 |
| 0999808 | 12/29/2023 | [GRANFA] GRAN FARNUM Shoshone banners | 289.00 |
| 0999809 | 12/29/2023 | [HOTELC] HOTEL COLORADO Shoshone | 2,984.80 |
| 0999810 | 12/29/2023 | [LBD] LEARNING BY DOING, INC. | 1,649.71 |
| 0999811 | 12/29/2023 | [WHITMOREM] MARTHA P 12/13 - 12/15 CRWUA exp's | 1,154.76 |
| 0999812 | 12/29/2023 | [QUILL] QUILL hdmi displaports | 423.43 |
| eft0114ad8a | 12/29/2023 | [FLEMINGP] PETER C FLEMING 12/12 - 12/18 Exp Rpt | 1,301.23 |
| eft136450c8 | 12/29/2023 | [COWDINM] MARIELLE T COWDIN 12/7 - 12/15 Exp Rpt | 1,420.02 |
| eft5d849b99 | 12/29/2023 | [DEFRATESL] LINDSAY DEFRATES 12/12 - 12/15 Exp Rpt | 651.95 |
| eft7d94a1ea | 12/29/2023 | [WALTERSB] BRUCE C WALTERS 12/14 - 12/28 Exp Rpt | 996.36 |
| eft7e045788 | 12/29/2023 | [TURNERJ] JASON V TURNER 11/14 - 12/22 Exp Rpt | 1,992.93 |
| <u>Total Checks:</u> | | | <u>1,462,519.78</u> |

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TREASURER'S REPORT
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

November 30, 2023

CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF: 10/31/23

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$1,984,782.79 |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | \$1,144,825.24 |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | \$2,255,149.30 |
| INVESTMENTS | <u>\$0.00</u> |

TOTAL **\$5,384,757.33**

DEPOSITS:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | 3,904.55 |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | 4,916.64 |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | <u>10,328.09</u> |

TOTAL **19,149.28**

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | 247,735.84 |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | 0.00 |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | <u>0.00</u> |

TOTAL **247,735.84**

INVESTMENTS:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| NET INCREASE/[DECREASE] | <u>0.00</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|

TOTAL 0.00


CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF: 11/30/23

\$5,156,170.77

SUMMARY:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$1,740,951.50 |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | 1,149,741.88 |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | 2,265,477.39 |
| INVESTMENTS | <u>0.00</u> |

SUMMARY TOTAL AS OF: 11/30/23 **\$5,156,170.77**



 Signature Date
 ROGER D. MAGGARD, TREASURER
 COLORADO RIVER WATER
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**TREASURER'S REPORT
ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND**

November 30, 2023

| | BALANCE 10/31/23 | ADDITIONS (PURCHASED) | DELETIONS (MATURED) | BALANCE 11/30/23 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| TREASURIES & DISCOUNT AGENCIES | \$0.00 | | | 0.00 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |

SUMMARY:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Additions | 0.00 |
| Deletions | \$0.00 |
| NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) | \$0.00 |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 11/30/2023

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 02 Capital Project Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 02-00-1001.000 Capital Project -BoC | 1,740,951.50 | 2,076,267.22 | (335,315.72) |
| 02-00-1002.000 Peaks - CPO | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1009.000 Undeposit Funds | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1010.000 Wells Fargo /Colotrust -0100 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1011.000 CSAFE - 5604 - Omid | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1015.000 Capital ColoTrust Prime | 1,149,741.88 | 1,096,244.55 | 53,497.33 |
| 02-00-1016.000 Capital ColoTrust Plus | 2,265,477.39 | 2,152,947.68 | 112,529.71 |
| 02-00-1020.000 Investments-All | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1021.000 Allowance For Investments | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1022.000 Accum. Amortization | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1023.000 Accrued Interest | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1200.000 Accounts Receivable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1300.000 Prepaid Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1599.000 Assets | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1999.000 Excess Funds Transfer from GEN | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-01-1990.000 Internal Balances | <u>(14,909.40)</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>(14,909.40)</u> |
| Total Assets | <u>5,141,261.37</u> | <u>5,325,459.45</u> | <u>(184,198.08)</u> |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 02-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 497,952.18 | 33,867.73 | 464,084.45 |
| 02-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| Total Liabilities | 497,952.18 | 33,867.73 | 464,084.45 |
| 02-00-3010.000 Fund Balances | 5,363,171.65 | 4,034,693.54 | 1,328,478.11 |
| Change in Net Assets | <u>(719,862.46)</u> | <u>1,256,898.18</u> | <u>(1,976,760.64)</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | <u>5,141,261.37</u> | <u>5,325,459.45</u> | <u>(184,198.08)</u> |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 11/30/2023

Unaudited

Page: 1

| Capital Project Fund | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Revenues | | | | |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 19,149.28 | 191,108.14 | 170,000.00 | 112.42 |
| 4120. Miscellaneous Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4130. Management Fee | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4201. NEPA Cost Reimbursements | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4900. Excess Funds Transfer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | <u>19,149.28</u> | <u>191,108.14</u> | <u>170,000.00</u> | <u>112.42</u> |
| Expenses | | | | |
| 5212. Education Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6013. Special Counsel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6014. Legal Engineering | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6015. Legal Litigation / Adr | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6016. Miscellaneous Legal/Materials | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6017. Legal Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6101. Project Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6105. Investment/Banking Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6201. Office Supplies | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6310. Computers - Licenses/Software & Services | 19,500.00 | 30,925.35 | 40,000.00 | 77.31 |
| 6500. Bldg Construction/Remodel | 348,558.93 | 446,320.30 | 643,257.00 | 69.38 |
| 6501. Office Equipment | 109.99 | 3,985.36 | 8,000.00 | 49.82 |
| 6502. Computer Equipment | 102.49 | 25,802.49 | 42,000.00 | 61.43 |
| 6503. Office Reconfiguration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6504. Water Conservation & Efficiency Improvements | 37,787.96 | 239,323.75 | 260,000.00 | 92.05 |
| 6600. Bad Debt Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7011. Ruedi Water | 0.00 | 8,149.29 | 8,149.29 | 100.00 |
| 7108. Contingency Planning Implementation (Water Banking) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9000. Fleet Vehicle Acquisition | 0.00 | 31,544.20 | 31,544.00 | 100.00 |
| Total Expenses | <u>406,059.37</u> | <u>786,050.74</u> | <u>1,032,950.29</u> | <u>76.10</u> |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | <u>(386,910.09)</u> | <u>(594,942.60)</u> | <u>(862,950.29)</u> | <u>68.94</u> |

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TREASURER'S REPORT
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

December 31, 2023

CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF: 11/30/23

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$1,740,951.50 |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | \$1,149,741.88 |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | \$2,265,477.39 |
| INVESTMENTS | <u>\$0.00</u> |

TOTAL \$5,156,170.77

DEPOSITS:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | 5,174.90 |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | 5,118.46 |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | <u>10,733.47</u> |

TOTAL 21,026.83

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | 523,393.67 |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | 0.00 |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | <u>0.00</u> |

TOTAL 523,393.67

INVESTMENTS:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| NET INCREASE/[DECREASE] | <u>0.00</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|

TOTAL 0.00


CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF: 12/31/23

\$4,653,803.93

SUMMARY:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$1,222,732.73 |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | 1,154,860.34 |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | 2,276,210.86 |
| INVESTMENTS | <u>0.00</u> |

SUMMARY TOTAL AS OF: 12/31/23 \$4,653,803.93


Signature Date 2/22/24

ROGER D. MAGGARD, TREASURER
COLORADO RIVER WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TREASURER'S REPORT
ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

December 31, 2023

| | BALANCE 11/30/23 | ADDITIONS (PURCHASED) | DELETIONS (MATURED) | BALANCE 12/31/23 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| TREASURIES & DISCOUNT AGENCIES | | | | |
| | \$0.00 | | | 0.00 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | <u>\$0.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> |

SUMMARY:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Additions | 0.00 |
| Deletions | <u>\$0.00</u> |
| NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) | <u><u>\$0.00</u></u> |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 12/31/2023

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 02 Capital Project Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 02-00-1001.000 Capital Project -BoC | 1,222,732.73 | 2,058,945.99 | (836,213.26) |
| 02-00-1002.000 Peaks - CPO | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1009.000 Undeposit Funds | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1010.000 Wells Fargo /Colotrust -0100 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1011.000 CSAFE - 5604 - Omid | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1015.000 Capital ColoTrust Prime | 1,154,860.34 | 1,099,994.30 | 54,866.04 |
| 02-00-1016.000 Capital ColoTrust Plus | 2,276,210.86 | 2,160,823.52 | 115,387.34 |
| 02-00-1020.000 Investments-All | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1021.000 Allowance For Investments | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1022.000 Accum. Amortization | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1023.000 Accrued Interest | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1200.000 Accounts Receivable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1300.000 Prepaid Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1599.000 Assets | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1999.000 Excess Funds Transfer from GEN | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-01-1990.000 Internal Balances | 123,094.37 | 60,831.25 | 62,263.12 |
| Total Assets | 4,776,898.30 | 5,380,595.06 | (603,696.76) |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 02-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 113,964.93 | 17,423.41 | 96,541.52 |
| 02-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | 113,964.93 | 17,423.41 | 96,541.52 |
| 02-00-3010.000 Fund Balances | 5,363,171.65 | 4,034,693.54 | 1,328,478.11 |
| Change in Net Assets | (700,238.28) | 1,328,478.11 | (2,028,716.39) |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | 4,776,898.30 | 5,380,595.06 | (603,696.76) |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District

For 12/31/2023

Unaudited

| | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Capital Project Fund | | | | |
| Revenues | | | | |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 19,026.83 | 210,134.97 | 170,000.00 | 123.61 |
| 4120. Miscellaneous Income | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4130. Management Fee | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4201. NEPA Cost Reimbursements | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4900. Excess Funds Transfer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | 21,026.83 | 212,134.97 | 170,000.00 | 124.79 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| 5212. Education Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6013. Special Counsel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6014. Legal Engineering | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6015. Legal Litigation / Adr | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6016. Miscellaneous Legal/Materials | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6017. Legal Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6101. Project Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6105. Investment/Banking Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6201. Office Supplies | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6310. Computers - Licenses/Software & Services | 0.00 | 30,925.35 | 40,000.00 | 77.31 |
| 6500. Bldg Construction/Remodel | 126,002.51 | 572,642.81 | 643,257.00 | 89.02 |
| 6501. Office Equipment | 0.00 | 3,985.36 | 8,000.00 | 49.82 |
| 6502. Computer Equipment | 0.00 | 25,802.49 | 42,000.00 | 61.43 |
| 6503. Office Reconfiguration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6504. Water Conservation & Efficiency Improvements | 0.00 | 239,323.75 | 260,000.00 | 92.05 |
| 6600. Bad Debt Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7011. Ruedi Water | 0.00 | 8,149.29 | 8,149.29 | 100.00 |
| 7108. Contingency Planning Implementation (Water Banking) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9000. Fleet Vehicle Acquisition | 0.00 | 31,544.20 | 31,544.00 | 100.00 |
| Total Expenses | 126,002.51 | 912,373.25 | 1,032,950.29 | 88.33 |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | (104,975.68) | (700,238.28) | (862,950.29) | 81.14 |

Colorado River Water Conservation District
Check Register from 11/01/2023 to 12/31/2023
3 CPO - BOC

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Report Criteria... 4/04/2024 @ 12:14 PM | | | |
| Form: | Check Register - Check Register | | |
| Sort by | ActivityDate | | |
| activity dates: | From: 11/01/2023 To: 12/31/2023 | | |
| 0995157 | 11/10/2023 | [RMCL] Rocky Mountain Custom | 151,151.84 |
| 0995158 | 11/10/2023 | [STORMS] STORM'S SPECIALITY | 2,400.56 |
| 0995159 | 11/10/2023 | [TRPP] TWO RIVERS PARK PLAZA | 3,500.00 |
| 0995160 | 11/10/2023 | [FLUXX LABS] FLUXX LABS, INC. One year Subscription (Nov 202 | 19,500.00 |
| 0995161 | 11/27/2023 | [ALPINE] ALPINE TECHNOLOGIES, | 2,358.55 |
| 0995162 | 11/27/2023 | [F&MA] F&M ARCHITECTS LLC | 7,900.00 |
| 0995163 | 11/27/2023 | [RUDD] Rudd Construction, Inc. | 47,488.55 |
| 0995164 | 12/08/2023 | [HANOVER] The Hanover Insurance | 5,805.00 |
| 0995165 | 12/08/2023 | [TRPP] TWO RIVERS PARK PLAZA | 3,500.00 |
| 0995166 | 12/15/2023 | [ALPINE] ALPINE TECHNOLOGIES, | 5,283.41 |
| 0995167 | 12/15/2023 | [F&MA] F&M ARCHITECTS LLC | 3,917.03 |
| efte774f37b0 | 12/22/2023 | [RUDD] Rudd Construction, Inc. Pmt App #2 | 452,190.87 |
| 0995168 | 12/26/2023 | [KARP] KARP, NEU, HANLON, P.C. | 3,667.50 |
| 0995169 | 12/26/2023 | [RMCL] Rocky Mountain Custom | 37,787.96 |
| <u>Total Checks:</u> | | | <u>746,451.27</u> |

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TREASURER'S REPORT
COMMUNITY FUNDING PARTNERSHIP FUND

November 30, 2023

CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF: 10/31/23

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$5,594,376.98 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | <u>\$5,198,109.47</u> | |
| TOTAL | | \$10,792,486.45 |

DEPOSITS:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | 11,213.25 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | <u>23,806.21</u> | |
| TOTAL | | 35,019.46 |

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | 259,512.00 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | <u>0.00</u> | |
| TOTAL | | 259,512.00 |

INVESTMENTS:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| NET INCREASE/[DECREASE] | <u>0.00</u> | |
| TOTAL | | <u>0.00</u> |

CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF: 11/30/23

\$10,567,993.91

SUMMARY:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$5,346,078.23 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | <u>\$5,221,915.68</u> | |

SUMMARY TOTAL AS OF: 11/30/23

\$10,567,993.91


Signature Date 2/22/24

ROGER D. MAGGARD, TREASURER
COLORADO RIVER WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TREASURER'S REPORT
ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS
COMMUNITY FUNDING PARTNERSHIP FUND

November 30, 2023

| | BALANCE 10/31/23 | ADDITIONS (PURCHASED) | DELETIONS (MATURED) | BALANCE 11/30/23 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| TREASURIES & DISCOUNT AGENCIES | | | | 0.00 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | <u>\$0.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> |

SUMMARY:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Additions | 0.00 |
| Deletions | <u>\$0.00</u> |
| NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) | <u><u>\$0.00</u></u> |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 11/30/2023

Unaudited

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|--|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| 09 Community Funding Partnership Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 09-00-1001.000 Cash In Bank - BoC - Checking | 5,346,078.23 | 8,172,733.20 | (2,826,654.97) |
| 09-00-1016.000 ColoTrust Plus | 5,221,915.68 | 0.00 | 5,221,915.68 |
| 09-01-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Assets | 10,567,993.91 | 8,172,733.20 | 2,395,260.71 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 09-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 27,987.50 | 145,283.50 | (117,296.00) |
| Total Liabilities | 27,987.50 | 145,283.50 | (117,296.00) |
| 09-00-3010.000 Fund Balances | 7,945,173.82 | 4,452,246.47 | 3,492,927.35 |
| Change in Net Assets | 2,594,832.59 | 3,575,203.23 | (980,370.64) |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | 10,567,993.91 | 8,172,733.20 | 2,395,260.71 |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District

For 11/30/2023

Unaudited

| | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Community Funding Partnership Fund | | | | |
| <u>Revenues</u> | | | | |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 35,019.46 | 309,800.18 | 250,000.00 | 123.92 |
| 4900. Annual Funds Transfer | 0.00 | 4,221,389.00 | 4,221,389.00 | 100.00 |
| 4910. Additional Funds Transfer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 300,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | <u>35,019.46</u> | <u>4,531,189.18</u> | <u>4,771,389.00</u> | <u>94.97</u> |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5001. Salaries | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5010. Accrued Vacation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5011. Fica/Medicare | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5014. Unemployment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5016. Workers Compensation Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5115. Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5118. Health Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5120. Cafeteria Plan-Employer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5121. Cafeteria Plan-Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5122. Retirement - 457 Matching | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5123. Retirement - Employer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5124. Retirement - Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5125. RHS - Employer Contribution | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5310. Travel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5311. Staff Registration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6024. Education Programs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6101. Project Assistance | 287,499.50 | 1,936,356.59 | 3,747,743.00 | 51.67 |
| 6310. Computer Licenses/Software & Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Expenses | <u>287,499.50</u> | <u>1,936,356.59</u> | <u>3,747,743.00</u> | <u>51.67</u> |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | <u>(252,480.04)</u> | <u>2,594,832.59</u> | <u>1,023,646.00</u> | <u>253.49</u> |

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TREASURER'S REPORT
COMMUNITY FUNDING PARTNERSHIP FUND

December 31, 2023

CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF: 11/30/23

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$5,346,078.23 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | <u>\$5,221,915.68</u> | |
| TOTAL | | \$10,567,993.91 |

DEPOSITS:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | 310,525.59 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | <u>24,740.60</u> | |
| TOTAL | | 335,266.19 |

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | 239,742.70 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | <u>0.00</u> | |
| TOTAL | | 239,742.70 |

INVESTMENTS:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| NET INCREASE/[DECREASE] | <u>0.00</u> | |
| TOTAL | | <u>0.00</u> |

CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF: 12/31/23

\$10,663,517.40

SUMMARY:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$5,416,861.12 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | <u>\$5,246,656.28</u> | |

SUMMARY TOTAL AS OF: 12/31/23

\$10,663,517.40



Signature Date 2/20/24

ROGER D. MAGGARD, TREASURER
COLORADO RIVER WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TREASURER'S REPORT
ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS
COMMUNITY FUNDING PARTNERSHIP FUND

December 31, 2023

| | BALANCE 11/30/23 | ADDITIONS (PURCHASED) | DELETIONS (MATURED) | BALANCE 12/31/23 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| TREASURIES & DISCOUNT AGENCIES | | | | 0.00 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | <u>\$0.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> |

SUMMARY:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Additions | 0.00 |
| Deletions | <u>\$0.00</u> |
| NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) | <u><u>\$0.00</u></u> |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 12/31/2023

Unaudited

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 09 Community Funding Partnership Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 09-00-1001.000 Cash In Bank - BoC - Checking | 5,416,861.12 | 7,956,923.82 | (2,540,062.70) |
| 09-00-1016.000 ColoTrust Plus | 5,246,656.28 | 0.00 | 5,246,656.28 |
| 09-01-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Assets | 10,663,517.40 | 7,956,923.82 | 2,706,593.58 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 09-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 204,118.75 | 11,750.00 | 192,368.75 |
| 09-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | 204,118.75 | 11,750.00 | 192,368.75 |
| 09-00-3010.000 Fund Balances | 7,945,173.82 | 4,452,246.47 | 3,492,927.35 |
| Change in Net Assets | 2,514,224.83 | 3,492,927.35 | (978,702.52) |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | 10,663,517.40 | 7,956,923.82 | 2,706,593.58 |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District

For 12/31/2023

Unaudited

| | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Community Funding Partnership Fund | | | | |
| <u>Revenues</u> | | | | |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 35,266.19 | 345,066.37 | 250,000.00 | 138.03 |
| 4900. Annual Funds Transfer | 0.00 | 4,221,389.00 | 4,221,389.00 | 100.00 |
| 4910. Additional Funds Transfer | 300,000.00 | 300,000.00 | 300,000.00 | 100.00 |
| Total Revenues | <u>335,266.19</u> | <u>4,866,455.37</u> | <u>4,771,389.00</u> | <u>101.99</u> |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5001. Salaries | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5010. Accrued Vacation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5011. Fica/Medicare | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5014. Unemployment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5016. Workers Compensation Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5115. Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5118. Health Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5120. Cafeteria Plan-Employer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5121. Cafeteria Plan-Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5122. Retirement - 457 Matching | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5123. Retirement - Employer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5124. Retirement - Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5125. RHS - Employer Contribution | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5310. Travel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5311. Staff Registration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6024. Education Programs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6101. Project Assistance | 415,873.95 | 2,352,230.54 | 3,747,743.00 | 62.76 |
| 6310. Computer Licenses/Software & Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Expenses | <u>415,873.95</u> | <u>2,352,230.54</u> | <u>3,747,743.00</u> | <u>62.76</u> |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | <u>(80,607.76)</u> | <u>2,514,224.83</u> | <u>1,023,646.00</u> | <u>245.61</u> |

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Check Register from 11/01/2023 to 12/31/2023

6 CFP - BOC

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Report Criteria... 4/04/2024 @ 12:12 PM | | | |
| Form: | Check Register - Check Register | | |
| Sort by | ActivityDate | | |
| activity dates: | From: 11/01/2023 To: 12/31/2023 | | |
| 0995144 | 11/10/2023 | [GRANDWP] GRAND COUNTY | 250,000.00 |
| 0995145 | 11/10/2023 | [HARTLAND] HARTLAND DITCH | 1,200.00 |
| 0995146 | 11/27/2023 | [NCCG] NORTHWEST COLORADO | 8,312.00 |
| 0995147 | 12/15/2023 | [PROJECT7] PROJECT 7 WATER | 11,900.00 |
| 0995148 | 12/26/2023 | [CTU] COLORADO TROUT | 37,500.00 |
| 0995149 | 12/26/2023 | [PILOT ROCK] PILOT ROCK DITCH | 24,995.00 |
| 0995150 | 12/26/2023 | [RFCD] ROARING FORK | 10,325.00 |
| 0995151 | 12/26/2023 | [BLUE STONE] THE BLUE STONE | 1,250.00 |
| 0995152 | 12/26/2023 | [BASALT] TOWN OF BASALT | 6,250.00 |
| 0995153 | 12/26/2023 | [WHITE RIVER] WHITE RIVER | 16,087.50 |
| 0995154 | 12/29/2023 | [RBWCD] RIO BLANCO WATER | 82,490.00 |
| 0995155 | 12/29/2023 | [SDWD] SOMERSET DOMESTIC | 9,170.20 |
| 0995156 | 12/29/2023 | [MINTURN] TOWN OF MINTURN CO | 39,775.00 |
| | | Final Pmt | |
| | | Final payment | |
| | | <u>Total Checks:</u> | <u>499,254.70</u> |

**COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
TREASURER'S REPORT
ENTERPRISE FUND**

November 30, 2023

CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF:

10/31/23

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| CASH ON HAND | \$200.00 | |
| BANK OF THE WEST-PETTY CASH-2163 | \$1,217.18 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$3,367,417.34 | |
| BOC-WMR SPECIAL | \$571,361.83 | |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | \$5,196,932.89 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | \$8,349,635.60 | |
| CSAFE-5610 | \$3,440,750.64 | |
| LPL FINANCIAL | \$128,439.15 | |
| INVESTMENTS | \$11,469,000.00 | |
| TOTAL | \$32,524,954.63 | \$32,524,954.63 |

DEPOSITS:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| CASH ON HAND | 0.00 | |
| BANK OF THE WEST-PETTY CASH-2163 | 0.00 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | 13,293.24 | |
| BOC-WMR SPECIAL | 54,876.38 | |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | 22,319.05 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | 38,239.52 | |
| CSAFE-5610 | 15,788.58 | |
| LPL FINANCIAL | 1,654,051.90 | |
| TOTAL | 1,798,568.67 | 1,798,568.67 |

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| CASH ON HAND | 0.00 | |
| BANK OF THE WEST-PETTY CASH-2163 | -159.53 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | 127,154.77 | |
| BOC-WMR SPECIAL | 76,366.43 | |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | 0.00 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | 0.00 | |
| CSAFE-5610 | 0.00 | |
| LPL FINANCIAL | 1,517,685.24 | |
| TOTAL | 1,721,046.91 | 1,721,046.91 |

INVESTMENTS:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) | (105,314.76) | |
| TOTAL | (105,314.76) | (105,314.76) |

CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF:

11/30/23

\$32,497,161.63


SUMMARY:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| CASH ON HAND | \$200.00 |
| BANK OF THE WEST-PETTY CASH-2163 | \$1,376.71 |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$3,253,555.81 |
| BOC-WMR SPECIAL | \$549,871.78 |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | \$5,219,251.94 |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | \$8,387,875.12 |
| CSAFE-5610 | \$3,456,539.22 |
| LPL FINANCIAL | \$264,805.81 |
| INVESTMENTS | \$11,363,685.24 |

SUMMARY TOTAL AS OF:

11/30/23

\$32,497,161.63


 Signature _____ Date 11/30/23
 ROGER D. MAGGARD, TREASURER
 COLORADO RIVER WATER
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TREASURER'S REPORT
ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS
ENTERPRISE FUND

November 30, 2023

| | BALANCE 10/31/2023 | ADDITIONS (PURCHASED) | DELETIONS (MATURED) | BALANCE 11/30/2023 |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| TREASURIES & DISCOUNT AGENCIES | | | | |
| Morgan Stanley #61690UEH9 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| Morgan Stanley #61760AVS5 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| TIAA #87270BU6 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| EnerBank #29278TMD9 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| Enterprise #29367SJR6 | \$245,000.00 | | \$245,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| Third Federal S&L #88413QC�6 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| HSBC #44329ME33 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| FFCB #3133EMHL9 | \$1,135,000.00 | | \$1,135,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| BMO Harris Bank #05600XCP3 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| FHLB #3130AMJN3 | \$1,000,000.00 | | | \$1,000,000.00 |
| Sallie Mae #795451AW3 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| State Bank of India #856285YK1 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| US Treasury Note #91282CDH1 | \$500,000.00 | | | \$500,000.00 |
| WebBank #947547NN1 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| US Treasury Note #91282CDN8 | \$300,000.00 | | | \$300,000.00 |
| FHLB #3130ARN72 | \$285,000.00 | | | \$285,000.00 |
| Discover #254673E69 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| Goldman Sachs #38150VAT6 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| FHLMC #3134GXYM0 | \$400,000.00 | | | \$400,000.00 |
| US Treasury Note #91282CFG1 | \$1,000,000.00 | | | \$1,000,000.00 |
| FEDL #3130ATCT2 | \$1,000,000.00 | | | \$1,000,000.00 |
| Synovus Bank #87164DUZ1 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| Wells Fargo #9497636F8 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| FHLMC #3134GYP55 | \$800,000.00 | | | \$800,000.00 |
| FHLB #3130AVQF2 | \$250,000.00 | | | \$250,000.00 |
| NexBank #653344CE9 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| First Foundation Bank #32026US72 | \$150,000.00 | | | \$150,000.00 |
| Synchrony Bank #87165H3H1 | \$243,000.00 | | | \$243,000.00 |
| First Foundation Bank #32026U2H8 | \$243,000.00 | | \$243,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| Cross River Bank #227563EJ8 | \$243,000.00 | | | \$243,000.00 |
| Upper Penninsula #91630PBB6 | \$0.00 | \$243,000.00 | | \$243,000.00 |
| US Treasury Note #912828Z78 | \$0.00 | \$1,274,685.24 | | \$1,274,685.24 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | \$11,469,000.00 | \$ 1,517,685.24 | 1,623,000.00 | \$11,363,685.24 |

SUMMARY:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Additions | \$1,517,685.24 |
| Deletions | 1,623,000.00 |
| NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) | (\$105,314.76) |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 11/30/2023

Unaudited

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 04 Enterprise Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 04-00-1000.000 Cash Box | 200.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1001.000 Peaks - ENT | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1002.000 Petty Cash | 1,376.71 | 1,188.32 | 188.39 |
| 04-00-1003.000 Cash In Bank-BoC -Checking | 3,253,555.81 | 4,153,726.70 | (900,170.89) |
| 04-00-1004.000 Alpine Bank | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1005.000 Bank CD's | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1006.000 First Bank CD | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1007.000 Mountain View Bank CD | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1008.000 NBH Bank CD | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1009.000 Undeposited Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1010.000 Wells Fargo /Colotrust -0100 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1011.000 CSAFE - 5603 - Elkhead Escrow | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1012.000 Csafe-5601 | 3,456,539.22 | 3,284,772.38 | 171,766.84 |
| 04-00-1013.000 Aim-0045 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1014.000 RESTRICTED CWCB/ELKHEAD PAYMENT | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1015.000 Enterprise ColoTrust Prime | 5,219,251.94 | 4,976,400.91 | 242,851.03 |
| 04-00-1016.000 Us Bank Money Market | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1017.000 Enterprise ColoTrust Plus | 8,387,875.12 | 7,971,236.62 | 416,638.50 |
| 04-00-1018.000 LPL Financial - ENT | 264,805.81 | 31,427.24 | 233,378.57 |
| 04-00-1019.000 Cash in Bank - BOC WMR Special Acct | 549,871.78 | 482,885.76 | 66,986.02 |
| 04-00-1020.000 Investments-All | 11,363,685.24 | 10,390,000.00 | 973,685.24 |
| 04-00-1021.000 Allowance For Investments+- | (453,274.78) | 35,477.99 | (488,752.77) |
| 04-00-1022.000 Accum Amortization Investments | (17,384.96) | (192.38) | (17,192.58) |
| 04-00-1023.000 Accrued Interest | 44,483.75 | 20,541.46 | 23,942.29 |
| 04-00-1200.000 Accounts Receivable | 49,315.81 | 438,375.56 | (389,059.75) |
| 04-00-1205.000 Housing Notes Receivable | 41,606.49 | 41,788.17 | (181.68) |
| 04-00-1206.000 Deferred Revenue | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1225.000 Allowance Housing Forgiveness | (20,000.00) | (22,500.00) | 2,500.00 |
| 04-00-1300.000 Prepaid Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1400.000 ST Invest In Sales-Type Lease | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1401.000 LT Investment Sales-Type Lease | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1500.000 Land | 3,091,477.22 | 3,091,477.22 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1501.000 Vehicles | 262,985.81 | 262,985.81 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1502.000 Dam Projects | 66,238,927.92 | 66,238,927.92 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1503.000 Recreation Area | 1,274,285.25 | 1,274,285.25 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1504.000 Equipment | 300,116.15 | 286,249.90 | 13,866.25 |
| 04-00-1505.000 Reservoir Co Stock | 2,587,265.65 | 2,584,726.32 | 2,539.33 |
| 04-00-1506.000 Computer Equipment | 16,801.79 | 16,801.79 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1507.000 Office Building | 1,527,053.00 | 1,527,053.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1508.000 Software/Upgrade | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1509.000 Equipment/Tools | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1510.000 GWS Office Building | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1511.000 Water Treatment Plant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1520.000 Construction In Progress | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1599.000 Assets in Fixed Assets Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1601.000 A/D-Vehicles | (238,096.94) | (225,618.15) | (12,478.79) |
| 04-00-1602.000 A/D-Dam Project | (18,015,793.19) | (17,066,289.28) | (949,503.91) |
| 04-00-1603.000 A/D-Recreation Area | (744,498.61) | (691,111.12) | (53,387.49) |
| 04-00-1604.000 A/D-Furniture & Fixtures | (143,454.81) | (122,393.70) | (21,061.11) |
| 04-00-1605.000 A/D-Office Equipment | (9,271.00) | (9,271.00) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1606.000 A/D-Computer Equipment | (12,972.14) | (11,933.01) | (1,039.13) |
| 04-00-1607.000 A/D-Office Building | (486,720.46) | (435,589.99) | (51,130.47) |
| 04-00-1608.000 A/D-Software/Upgrade | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1609.000 A/D-Equipment/Tools | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1610.000 A/D-GWS Office Building | (19,401.00) | (19,401.00) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1611.000 A/D-Water Treatment Plant | (13,724.12) | (13,724.12) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1620.000 Accumulated Depreciation | (921,910.26) | (921,910.26) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1700.000 Reservoir Company Stock | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1800.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA03053 (5000 AF) | 2,011,248.00 | 2,234,720.00 | (223,472.00) |
| 04-00-1801.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA00034 (500AF) | 44,955.60 | 59,940.80 | (14,985.20) |
| 04-00-1802.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA00036 (700AF) | 62,937.84 | 83,917.12 | (20,979.28) |
| 04-00-1803.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA02027 (530AF) | 107,007.24 | 126,463.12 | (19,455.88) |
| 04-01-1990.000 Internal Balances | (750.70) | 42.98 | (793.68) |
| 04-06-1501.001 WMP Vehicles | 6.22 | 6.22 | 0.00 |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 11/30/2023

Unaudited

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Total Assets | 89,060,382.40 | 90,075,684.55 | (1,015,302.15) |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 04-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 233,161.97 | 287,355.30 | (54,193.33) |
| 04-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2005.000 Project Faciliation Passthrough | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2011.000 FICA/Mdcr Payable | 6,574.46 | 6,283.94 | 290.52 |
| 04-00-2019.000 RHS -Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2021.000 Accrued Vacation Payable | 82,697.59 | 79,043.32 | 3,654.27 |
| 04-00-2101.000 Note/Contract Payable - Short Term | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2110.000 Deferred Water Revenue | 725,744.31 | 938,671.83 | (212,927.52) |
| 04-00-2120.000 Accrued Interest Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2201.000 N/P Cwcb - Wolford | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2202.000 N/P CWCB - Elkhead | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2203.000 Long Term Ruedi Contracts Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | 1,048,178.33 | 1,311,354.39 | (263,176.06) |
| 04-00-3000.000 EXTRAORDINARY MAINTENANCE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-3010.000 Net Position | 86,885,239.21 | 87,727,537.49 | (842,298.28) |
| Change in Net Assets | 1,126,964.86 | 1,036,792.67 | 90,172.19 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | 89,060,382.40 | 90,075,684.55 | (1,015,302.15) |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District

For 11/30/2023

| Enterprise Fund | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Revenues | | | | |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 115,451.19 | 1,082,960.70 | 1,084,000.00 | 99.90 |
| 4120. Rent & Misc. Income | 1,366.42 | 9,780.62 | 32,789.50 | 29.83 |
| 4130. Management Fee | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4140. Other Fees & Rec Area | 2,357.00 | 170,671.90 | 168,000.00 | 101.59 |
| 4150. Project Contribution (other) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4160. Grants | 0.00 | 40,937.80 | 108,562.00 | 37.71 |
| 4200. Elkhead OM&R Reimbursements | 0.00 | 86,661.38 | 86,661.38 | 100.00 |
| 4201. NEPA Cost Reimbursements | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4300. Joint Venture Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4301. Sale Of Capital Asset | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4303. Sale Of Water | 400.50 | 1,629,340.37 | 1,650,000.00 | 98.75 |
| 4304. Denver Water | 0.00 | 563,348.00 | 697,421.00 | 80.78 |
| 4305. Water Application/Change | 1,200.00 | 5,200.00 | 5,600.00 | 92.86 |
| 4306. Up-Front Sale Of Water | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4307. Project Contributions | 24,562.19 | 97,015.19 | 152,840.00 | 63.48 |
| 4308. Federal Contributions | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | 145,337.30 | 3,685,915.96 | 3,997,873.88 | 92.20 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| 5000. Contingency Salaries | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5001. Salaries | 37,031.62 | 422,586.48 | 599,994.51 | 70.43 |
| 5004. Accrued Vacation Adjustment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 15,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 5010. Accrued Vacation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5011. Fica/Medicare | 2,517.43 | 28,662.55 | 43,199.50 | 66.35 |
| 5014. Unemployment | 68.88 | 790.65 | 1,801.20 | 43.90 |
| 5016. Workers Compensation Insurance | 0.00 | 1,779.50 | 1,779.51 | 100.00 |
| 5115. Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,559.42 | 0.00 |
| 5118. Health Insurance | 10,511.64 | 106,185.18 | 125,068.49 | 84.90 |
| 5120. Cafeteria Plan-Employer | 25.50 | 102.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5121. Cafeteria Plan-Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5122. Retirement - 457 Matching | 125.36 | 1,711.34 | 2,813.00 | 60.84 |
| 5123. Retirement - Employer | 3,694.73 | 42,015.36 | 56,519.35 | 74.34 |
| 5124. Retirement - Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 819.44 | 0.00 |
| 5125. RHS- Employer Contribution | 437.74 | 4,645.92 | 9,280.00 | 50.06 |
| 5211. Employee Housing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5212. Education Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5220. Overhead-C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5310. Travel | 0.00 | 3,483.59 | 32,000.00 | 10.89 |
| 5311. Registration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,100.00 | 0.00 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 0.00 | 404.69 | 11,400.00 | 3.55 |
| 5313. Travel Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6000. Directors Fees | 0.00 | 4,940.00 | 6,000.00 | 82.33 |
| 6001. Education/Professional Development | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6012. Legal Notice | 0.00 | 139.17 | 500.00 | 27.83 |
| 6013. Special Counsel | 0.00 | 1,185.39 | 8,333.00 | 14.23 |
| 6014. Legal Engineering | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6015. Legal Litigation / Adr | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6016. Miscellaneous Legal/Materials | 144.00 | 800.55 | 1,000.00 | 80.00 |
| 6017. Legal Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6019. Legal WMR CRD only | 0.00 | 622,461.36 | 1,030,700.00 | 60.39 |
| 6020. Washington Counsel/Lobbyist | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6021. Colorado Lobbyist | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6022. Education Assistance To Others | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6023. External Affairs -C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6024. Education Programs | 0.00 | 2,440.80 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6025. Water Policy Survey | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6026. Education Supplies | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6102. Consultant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6103. Accounting Consultant | 1,303.60 | 2,753.60 | 4,000.00 | 68.84 |
| 6104. Audit | 0.00 | 5,730.00 | 5,730.00 | 100.00 |
| 6105. Investment/Banking Services | 29.32 | 198.88 | 200.00 | 99.44 |
| 6110. Admin Services/Expenses-C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6150. Assessments | 4,650.16 | 52,883.65 | 81,965.42 | 64.52 |
| 6200. Postage | 0.00 | 98.00 | 200.00 | 49.00 |
| 6201. Office Supplies | 0.00 | 2,857.95 | 2,000.00 | 142.90 |
| 6202. Telephone | 110.47 | 1,382.40 | 1,810.00 | 76.38 |
| 6203. Printing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District For 11/30/2023

Unaudited

Run: 1/22/2024 at 4:54 PM

Page: 2

| Enterprise Fund | M-T-D | Y-T-D | Annual | YTD % |
|---|------------|------------|--------------|--------|
| | Actual \$ | Actual \$ | Budget \$ | Budget |
| 6204. Insurance | 0.00 | 17,727.00 | 18,000.00 | 98.48 |
| 6205. Records | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6210. Lease Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6211. Equipment Repairs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6301. Subscriptions | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6302. Dues / Memberships | 0.00 | 1,511.74 | 3,300.00 | 45.81 |
| 6310. Computer Licenses/Software & Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6320. Small Office Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6330. Utilities | 2,741.58 | 38,995.20 | 43,068.00 | 90.54 |
| 6340. Vehicle Maintenance | 4,069.32 | 39,727.95 | 39,000.00 | 101.87 |
| 6350. Roads/Buildings Maintences | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6401. Cleaning/Janitorial | 1,080.00 | 3,880.00 | 6,000.00 | 64.67 |
| 6402. Small Tools/Supplies | 2,021.44 | 9,354.48 | 10,000.00 | 93.54 |
| 6403. Water System Operation | 0.00 | 31,404.51 | 40,000.00 | 78.51 |
| 6410. Recreation Area O&M | (520.00) | 73,009.86 | 115,000.00 | 63.49 |
| 6411. Dam/Project Maintenance | 38,768.65 | 196,446.56 | 220,081.00 | 89.26 |
| 6412. Weed Control WMP | 0.00 | 57,652.45 | 68,000.00 | 84.78 |
| 6413. Water Quality - In House | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6414. USGS Gaging - Water Quality | 0.00 | 49,783.59 | 95,209.00 | 52.29 |
| 6415. USGS Streamflow Gaging | 0.00 | 14,539.95 | 27,807.00 | 52.29 |
| 6416. Dam & Reservoir OM&R Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6417. RD Facilities OM&R | 695.00 | 8,995.00 | 113,960.00 | 7.89 |
| 6418. Dam Deformation | 50,501.65 | 407,802.83 | 910,832.00 | 44.77 |
| 6500. Bldg Construction/Remodel | 124,919.86 | 124,919.86 | 180,401.00 | 69.25 |
| 6501. Project Permit Compliance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6600. Bad Debt Expense | 0.00 | 18,052.53 | 20,000.00 | 90.26 |
| 6602. Surveying & Mapping | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6603. Archeology | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6604. Water Marketing (Modeling) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6720. Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7001. USGS Guaging | 0.00 | 19,971.67 | 32,263.92 | 61.90 |
| 7002. Water Quality | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| 7009. WMP Weather Station (CoAgMet) | 0.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 100.00 |
| 7010. Vehicle & asset upgrades for WMP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 7011. Watershed Management | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7012. Ruedi Contract-(700) Capital | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7013. Ruedi Contract-(5,000) O&M | 0.00 | 8,700.00 | 8,700.00 | 100.00 |
| 7014. Ruedi Contract-(530) Capital | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7015. Ruedi Contract-(500) O&M | 0.00 | 870.00 | 870.00 | 100.00 |
| 7016. Ruedi Contract-(5,000) Capital | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7017. Ruedi Contract-(530) O&M | 0.00 | 922.20 | 922.00 | 100.02 |
| 7018. Ruedi Contract-(700) O&M | 0.00 | 1,218.00 | 1,218.00 | 100.00 |
| 7020. Hydro Plant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7021. Old Dillon Reserv. Enlargement | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7022. Elkhead Dam & Reservoir Op. | 891.37 | 57,550.62 | 190,000.00 | 30.29 |
| 7023. Elkhead Net | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7100. Projects | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7101. River Mou | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7102. 15-Mile Reach/Recovery Program | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7103. Vail Ditch | 0.00 | 6,700.00 | 6,700.00 | 100.00 |
| 7104. WR & Project Development | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,500.00 | 0.00 |
| 7105. Op. Wetland & Other Mitigation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7106. Mitigation Maintenance | 8,495.90 | 13,755.04 | 6,000.00 | 229.25 |
| 7107. Mitigation Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7110. River Projects Contingency | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 100.00 |
| 7120. Elkhead Ops Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7200. Ruedi 15 MR PBO Compliance | 0.00 | 12,897.75 | 12,898.00 | 100.00 |
| 7201. Fisheries/Stocking | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7202. Elkhead Fish Screen | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7203. Annual Assessment | 0.00 | 55,408.37 | 55,408.00 | 100.00 |
| 7204. Special Assessment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7500. Cooperative Management | 9,732.62 | 109,783.29 | 127,186.00 | 86.32 |
| 7510. RCPP | 0.00 | 77.00 | 100.00 | 77.00 |
| 7600. Technical Study - Risk Management | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8000. Principal - CWCB (Elkhead) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8001. Interest - CWCB (Elkhead) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8002. Amortization Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 278,892.00 | 0.00 |
| 9000. Acquisition | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9010. Depreciation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 9020. Gain/Loss Of Disposal | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Income Statement
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 11/30/2023

Unaudited

| Enterprise Fund | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Total Expenses | <u>304,047.84</u> | <u>2,703,896.46</u> | <u>5,919,588.76</u> | <u>45.68</u> |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | <u>(158,710.54)</u> | <u>982,019.50</u> | <u>(1,921,714.88)</u> | <u>(51.10)</u> |

**COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
TREASURER'S REPORT
ENTERPRISE FUND**

December 31, 2023

CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF:

11/30/23

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| CASH ON HAND | \$200.00 | |
| BANK OF THE WEST-PETTY CASH-2163 | \$1,376.71 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$3,253,555.81 | |
| BOC-WMR SPECIAL | \$549,871.78 | |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | \$5,219,251.94 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | \$8,387,875.12 | |
| CSAFE-5610 | \$3,456,539.22 | |
| LPL FINANCIAL | \$264,805.81 | |
| INVESTMENTS | \$11,363,685.24 | |
| TOTAL | \$32,497,161.63 | \$32,497,161.63 |

DEPOSITS:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| CASH ON HAND | 0.00 | |
| BANK OF THE WEST-PETTY CASH-2163 | 0.83 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | 9,785.40 | |
| BOC-WMR SPECIAL | 9,784.43 | |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | 23,235.25 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | 39,740.41 | |
| CSAFE-5610 | 16,414.12 | |
| LPL FINANCIAL | 13,942.87 | |
| TOTAL | 112,903.31 | 112,903.31 |

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| CASH ON HAND | 0.00 | |
| BANK OF THE WEST-PETTY CASH-2163 | 20.42 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | 254,095.27 | |
| BOC-WMR SPECIAL | 107,884.62 | |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | 0.00 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | 0.00 | |
| CSAFE-5610 | 0.00 | |
| LPL FINANCIAL | 245,000.00 | |
| TOTAL | 607,000.31 | 607,000.31 |

INVESTMENTS:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) | 245,000.00 | |
| TOTAL | 245,000.00 | 245,000.00 |

CASH AND EQUIVALENTS AS OF:

12/31/23

\$32,248,064.63

SUMMARY:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| CASH ON HAND | \$200.00 | |
| BANK OF THE WEST-PETTY CASH-2163 | \$1,357.12 | |
| BOC-GLENWOOD - CHECKING | \$3,009,245.94 | |
| BOC-WMR SPECIAL | \$451,771.59 | |
| COLOTRUST PRIME | \$5,242,487.19 | |
| COLOTRUST PLUS | \$8,427,615.53 | |
| CSAFE-5610 | \$3,472,953.34 | |
| LPL FINANCIAL | \$33,748.68 | |
| INVESTMENTS | \$11,608,685.24 | |

SUMMARY TOTAL AS OF:

12/31/23

\$32,248,064.63



Signature
ROGER D. MAGGARD, TREASURER
COLORADO RIVER WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Date

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TREASURER'S REPORT
ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS
ENTERPRISE FUND

December 31, 2023

| | BALANCE 11/30/2023 | ADDITIONS (PURCHASED) | DELETIONS (MATURED) | BALANCE 12/31/2023 |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| TREASURIES & DISCOUNT AGENCIES | | | | |
| Morgan Stanley #61690UEH9 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| Morgan Stanley #61760AVS5 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| TIAA #87270BU6 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| EnerBank #29278TMD9 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| Third Federal S&L #88413QC�6 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| HSBC #44329ME33 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| BMO Harris Bank #05600XCP3 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| FHLB #3130AMJN3 | \$1,000,000.00 | | | \$1,000,000.00 |
| Sallie Mae #795451AW3 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| State Bank of India #856285YK1 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| US Treasury Note #91282CDH1 | \$500,000.00 | | | \$500,000.00 |
| WebBank #947547NN1 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| US Treasury Note #91282CDN8 | \$300,000.00 | | | \$300,000.00 |
| FHLB #3130ARN72 | \$285,000.00 | | | \$285,000.00 |
| Discover #254673E69 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| Goldman Sachs #38150VAT6 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| FHLMC #3134GXMO | \$400,000.00 | | | \$400,000.00 |
| US Treasury Note #91282CFG1 | \$1,000,000.00 | | | \$1,000,000.00 |
| FEDL #3130ATCT2 | \$1,000,000.00 | | | \$1,000,000.00 |
| Synovus Bank #87164DUZ1 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| Wells Fargo #9497636F8 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| FHLMC #3134GYP55 | \$800,000.00 | | | \$800,000.00 |
| FHLB #3130AVQF2 | \$250,000.00 | | | \$250,000.00 |
| NexBank #653344CE9 | \$245,000.00 | | | \$245,000.00 |
| First Foundation Bank #32026US72 | \$150,000.00 | | | \$150,000.00 |
| Synchrony Bank #87165H3H1 | \$243,000.00 | | | \$243,000.00 |
| Cross River Bank #227563EJ8 | \$243,000.00 | | | \$243,000.00 |
| Upper Peninsula #91630PBB6 | \$243,000.00 | | | \$243,000.00 |
| US Treasury Note #912828Z78 | \$1,274,685.24 | | | \$1,274,685.24 |
| DMB Community Bank #23322GT72 | | \$245,000.00 | | \$245,000.00 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | \$9,846,000.00 | \$ 245,000.00 | - | \$11,608,685.24 |

SUMMARY:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Additions | \$245,000.00 |
| Deletions | 0.00 |
| NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) | \$245,000.00 |

Balance Sheet Colorado River Water Conservation District For 12/31/2023

Unaudited

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 04 Enterprise Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 04-00-1000.000 Cash Box | 200.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1001.000 Peaks - ENT | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1002.000 Petty Cash | 1,357.12 | 1,168.32 | 188.80 |
| 04-00-1003.000 Cash In Bank-BoC -Checking | 3,009,245.94 | 3,169,027.34 | (159,781.40) |
| 04-00-1004.000 Alpine Bank | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1005.000 Bank CD's | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1006.000 First Bank CD | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1007.000 Mountain View Bank CD | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1008.000 NBH Bank CD | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1009.000 Undeposited Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1010.000 Wells Fargo /Colotrust -0100 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1011.000 CSAFE - 5603 - Elkhead Escrow | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1012.000 Csafe-5601 | 3,472,953.34 | 3,296,550.14 | 176,403.20 |
| 04-00-1013.000 Aim-0045 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1014.000 RESTRICTED CWCB/ELKHEAD PAYMENT | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1015.000 Enterprise ColoTrust Prime | 5,242,487.19 | 4,993,422.88 | 249,064.31 |
| 04-00-1016.000 Us Bank Money Market | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1017.000 Enterprise ColoTrust Plus | 8,427,615.53 | 8,000,396.71 | 427,218.82 |
| 04-00-1018.000 LPL Financial - ENT | 33,748.68 | 6,613.35 | 27,135.33 |
| 04-00-1019.000 Cash in Bank - BOC WMR Special Acct | 451,771.59 | 862,190.59 | (410,419.00) |
| 04-00-1020.000 Investments-All | 11,608,685.24 | 11,390,000.00 | 218,685.24 |
| 04-00-1021.000 Allowance For Investments+- | (453,274.78) | (453,274.78) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1022.000 Accum Amortization Investments | (17,384.96) | (16,838.21) | (546.75) |
| 04-00-1023.000 Accrued Interest | 44,483.75 | 44,483.75 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1200.000 Accounts Receivable | 46,886.33 | 43,887.86 | 2,998.47 |
| 04-00-1205.000 Housing Notes Receivable | 41,584.61 | 41,788.17 | (203.56) |
| 04-00-1206.000 Deferred Revenue | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1225.000 Allowance Housing Forgiveness | (20,000.00) | (20,000.00) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1300.000 Prepaid Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1400.000 ST Invest In Sales-Type Lease | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1401.000 LT Investment Sales-Type Lease | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1500.000 Land | 3,091,477.22 | 3,091,477.22 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1501.000 Vehicles | 262,985.81 | 262,985.81 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1502.000 Dam Projects | 66,238,927.92 | 66,238,927.92 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1503.000 Recreation Area | 1,274,285.25 | 1,274,285.25 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1504.000 Equipment | 300,116.15 | 300,116.15 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1505.000 Reservoir Co Stock | 2,587,265.65 | 2,587,265.65 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1506.000 Computer Equipment | 16,801.79 | 16,801.79 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1507.000 Office Building | 1,527,053.00 | 1,527,053.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1508.000 Software/Upgrade | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1509.000 Equipment/Tools | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1510.000 GWS Office Building | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1511.000 Water Treatment Plant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1520.000 Construction In Progress | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1599.000 Assets in Fixed Assets Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1601.000 A/D-Vehicles | (238,096.94) | (238,096.94) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1602.000 A/D-Dam Project | (18,015,793.19) | (18,015,793.19) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1603.000 A/D-Recreation Area | (744,498.61) | (744,498.61) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1604.000 A/D-Furniture & Fixtures | (143,454.81) | (143,454.81) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1605.000 A/D-Office Equipment | (9,271.00) | (9,271.00) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1606.000 A/D-Computer Equipment | (12,972.14) | (12,972.14) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1607.000 A/D-Office Building | (486,720.46) | (486,720.46) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1608.000 A/D-Software/Upgrade | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1609.000 A/D-Equipment/Tools | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1610.000 A/D-GWS Office Building | (19,401.00) | (19,401.00) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1611.000 A/D-Water Treatment Plant | (13,724.12) | (13,724.12) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1620.000 Accumulated Depreciation | (921,910.26) | (921,910.26) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1700.000 Reservoir Company Stock | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1800.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA03053 (5000 AF) | 2,011,248.00 | 2,011,248.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1801.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA00034 (500AF) | 44,955.60 | 44,955.60 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1802.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA00036 (700AF) | 62,937.84 | 62,937.84 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1803.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA02027 (530AF) | 107,007.24 | 107,007.24 | 0.00 |
| 04-01-1990.000 Internal Balances | (103,456.40) | (43,649.54) | (59,806.86) |
| 04-06-1501.001 WMP Vehicles | 6.22 | 6.22 | 0.00 |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 12/31/2023

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Total Assets | 88,706,128.34 | 88,235,191.74 | 470,936.60 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 04-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 264,657.37 | 534,936.17 | (270,278.80) |
| 04-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2005.000 Project Faciliation Passthrough | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2011.000 FICA/Mdcr Payable | 6,574.46 | 6,574.46 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2019.000 RHS -Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2021.000 Accrued Vacation Payable | 82,697.59 | 82,697.59 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2101.000 Note/Contract Payable - Short Term | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2110.000 Deferred Water Revenue | 725,744.31 | 725,744.31 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2120.000 Accrued Interest Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2201.000 N/P Cwcb - Wolford | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2202.000 N/P CWCB - Elkhead | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2203.000 Long Term Ruedi Contracts Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | 1,079,673.73 | 1,349,952.53 | (270,278.80) |
| 04-00-3000.000 EXTRAORDINARY MAINTENANCE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-3010.000 Net Position | 86,885,239.21 | 87,727,537.49 | (842,298.28) |
| Change in Net Assets | 741,215.40 | (842,298.28) | 1,583,513.68 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | 88,706,128.34 | 88,235,191.74 | 470,936.60 |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District

For 12/31/2023

Unaudited

Page: 1

| Enterprise Fund | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Revenues</u> | | | | |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 100,775.36 | 1,183,736.06 | 1,084,000.00 | 109.20 |
| 4120. Rent & Misc. Income | 841.42 | 10,622.04 | 32,789.50 | 32.39 |
| 4130. Management Fee | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4140. Other Fees & Rec Area | 0.00 | 170,671.90 | 168,000.00 | 101.59 |
| 4150. Project Contribution (other) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4160. Grants | 0.00 | 40,937.80 | 108,562.00 | 37.71 |
| 4200. Elkhead OM&R Reimbursements | 0.00 | 86,661.38 | 86,661.38 | 100.00 |
| 4201. NEPA Cost Reimbursements | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4300. Joint Venture Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4301. Sale Of Capital Asset | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4303. Sale Of Water | 2,182.90 | 1,631,523.27 | 1,650,000.00 | 98.88 |
| 4304. Denver Water | 0.00 | 563,348.00 | 697,421.00 | 80.78 |
| 4305. Water Application/Change | 0.00 | 5,200.00 | 5,600.00 | 92.86 |
| 4306. Up-Front Sale Of Water | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4307. Project Contributions | 0.00 | 118,339.71 | 152,840.00 | 77.43 |
| 4308. Federal Contributions | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | 103,799.68 | 3,811,040.16 | 3,997,873.88 | 95.33 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5000. Contingency Salaries | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5001. Salaries | 36,852.43 | 459,438.91 | 599,994.51 | 76.57 |
| 5004. Accrued Vacation Adjustment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 15,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 5010. Accrued Vacation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5011. Fica/Medicare | 2,596.07 | 31,258.62 | 43,199.50 | 72.36 |
| 5014. Unemployment | 70.38 | 861.03 | 1,801.20 | 47.80 |
| 5016. Workers Compensation Insurance | 0.00 | 1,779.50 | 1,779.51 | 100.00 |
| 5115. Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,559.42 | 0.00 |
| 5118. Health Insurance | 11,127.81 | 117,312.99 | 125,068.49 | 93.80 |
| 5120. Cafeteria Plan-Employer | 0.00 | 102.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5121. Cafeteria Plan-Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5122. Retirement - 457 Matching | 137.96 | 1,849.30 | 2,813.00 | 65.74 |
| 5123. Retirement - Employer | 3,662.00 | 45,677.36 | 56,519.35 | 80.82 |
| 5124. Retirement - Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 819.44 | 0.00 |
| 5125. RHS- Employer Contribution | 6,237.89 | 10,883.81 | 9,280.00 | 117.28 |
| 5211. Employee Housing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5212. Education Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5220. Overhead-C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5310. Travel | 0.00 | 3,483.59 | 32,000.00 | 10.89 |
| 5311. Registration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,100.00 | 0.00 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 0.00 | 404.69 | 11,400.00 | 3.55 |
| 5313. Travel Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6000. Directors Fees | 1,320.00 | 6,260.00 | 6,000.00 | 104.33 |
| 6001. Education/Professional Development | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6012. Legal Notice | 0.00 | 139.17 | 500.00 | 27.83 |
| 6013. Special Counsel | 261.30 | 1,446.69 | 8,333.00 | 17.36 |
| 6014. Legal Engineering | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6015. Legal Litigation / Adr | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6016. Miscellaneous Legal/Materials | (1,254.00) | (453.45) | 1,000.00 | (45.35) |
| 6017. Legal Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6019. Legal WMR CRD only | 154,315.31 | 776,776.67 | 1,030,700.00 | 75.36 |
| 6020. Washington Counsel/Lobbyist | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6021. Colorado Lobbyist | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6022. Education Assistance To Others | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6023. External Affairs -C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6024. Education Programs | (2,440.80) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6025. Water Policy Survey | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6026. Education Supplies | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6102. Consultant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6103. Accounting Consultant | 136.69 | 2,890.29 | 4,000.00 | 72.26 |
| 6104. Audit | 0.00 | 5,730.00 | 5,730.00 | 100.00 |
| 6105. Investment/Banking Services | 38.97 | 237.85 | 200.00 | 118.93 |
| 6110. Admin Services/Expenses-C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6150. Assessments | 4,650.16 | 57,533.81 | 81,965.42 | 70.19 |
| 6200. Postage | 0.00 | 98.00 | 200.00 | 49.00 |
| 6201. Office Supplies | 17.95 | 2,875.90 | 2,000.00 | 143.80 |
| 6202. Telephone | 121.87 | 1,504.27 | 1,810.00 | 83.11 |
| 6203. Printing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Income Statement

Unaudited

Run: 2/13/2024 at 2:57 PM

**Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 12/31/2023**

Page: 2

| Enterprise Fund | M-T-D | Y-T-D | Annual | YTD % |
|---|-----------|------------|--------------|--------|
| | Actual \$ | Actual \$ | Budget \$ | Budget |
| 6204. Insurance | 0.00 | 17,727.00 | 18,000.00 | 98.48 |
| 6205. Records | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6210. Lease Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6211. Equipment Repairs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6301. Subscriptions | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6302. Dues / Memberships | 0.00 | 1,511.74 | 3,300.00 | 45.81 |
| 6310. Computer Licenses/Software & Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6320. Small Office Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6330. Utilities | 1,583.80 | 40,579.00 | 43,068.00 | 94.22 |
| 6340. Vehicle Maintenance | 1,030.87 | 41,107.03 | 39,000.00 | 105.40 |
| 6350. Roads/Buildings Maintences | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6401. Cleaning/Janitorial | 280.00 | 4,160.00 | 6,000.00 | 69.33 |
| 6402. Small Tools/Supplies | 158.19 | 9,512.67 | 10,000.00 | 95.13 |
| 6403. Water System Operation | 864.02 | 33,996.57 | 40,000.00 | 84.99 |
| 6410. Recreation Area O&M | 230.00 | 73,239.86 | 115,000.00 | 63.69 |
| 6411. Dam/Project Maintenance | 12,188.04 | 209,600.03 | 220,081.00 | 95.24 |
| 6412. Weed Control WMP | 0.00 | 57,652.45 | 68,000.00 | 84.78 |
| 6413. Water Quality - In House | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6414. USGS Gaging - Water Quality | 45,425.40 | 95,208.99 | 95,209.00 | 100.00 |
| 6415. USGS Streamflow Gaging | 13,267.06 | 27,807.01 | 27,807.00 | 100.00 |
| 6416. Dam & Reservoir OM&R Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6417. RD Facilities OM&R | 10,000.00 | 18,995.00 | 113,960.00 | 16.67 |
| 6418. Dam Deformation | 10,330.85 | 418,133.68 | 910,832.00 | 45.91 |
| 6500. Bldg Construction/Remodel | 33,275.66 | 158,195.52 | 180,401.00 | 87.69 |
| 6501. Project Permit Compliance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6600. Bad Debt Expense | 0.00 | 18,052.53 | 20,000.00 | 90.26 |
| 6602. Surveying & Mapping | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6603. Archeology | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6604. Water Marketing (Modeling) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6720. Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7001. USGS Guaging | 12,292.33 | 32,264.00 | 32,263.92 | 100.00 |
| 7002. Water Quality | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| 7009. WMP Weather Station (CoAgMet) | 0.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 100.00 |
| 7010. Vehicle & asset upgrades for WMP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 7011. Watershed Management | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7012. Ruedi Contract-(700) Capital | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7013. Ruedi Contract-(5,000) O&M | 0.00 | 8,700.00 | 8,700.00 | 100.00 |
| 7014. Ruedi Contract-(530) Capital | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7015. Ruedi Contract-(500) O&M | 0.00 | 870.00 | 870.00 | 100.00 |
| 7016. Ruedi Contract-(5,000) Capital | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7017. Ruedi Contract-(530) O&M | 0.00 | 922.20 | 922.00 | 100.02 |
| 7018. Ruedi Contract-(700) O&M | 0.00 | 1,218.00 | 1,218.00 | 100.00 |
| 7020. Hydro Plant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7021. Old Dillon Reserv. Enlargement | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7022. Elkhead Dam & Reservoir Op. | 1,715.00 | 59,265.62 | 190,000.00 | 31.19 |
| 7023. Elkhead Net | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7100. Projects | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7101. River Mou | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7102. 15-Mile Reach/Recovery Program | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7103. Vail Ditch | 0.00 | 6,700.00 | 6,700.00 | 100.00 |
| 7104. WR & Project Development | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,500.00 | 0.00 |
| 7105. Op. Wetland & Other Mitigation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7106. Mitigation Maintenance | 0.00 | 13,755.04 | 6,000.00 | 229.25 |
| 7107. Mitigation Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7110. River Projects Contingency | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 100.00 |
| 7120. Elkhead Ops Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7200. Ruedi 15 MR PBO Compliance | 0.00 | 12,897.75 | 12,898.00 | 100.00 |
| 7201. Fisheries/Stocking | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7202. Elkhead Fish Screen | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7203. Annual Assessment | 0.00 | 55,408.37 | 55,408.00 | 100.00 |
| 7204. Special Assessment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7500. Cooperative Management | 0.00 | 109,783.29 | 127,186.00 | 86.32 |
| 7510. RCPP | 0.00 | 77.00 | 100.00 | 77.00 |
| 7600. Technical Study - Risk Management | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8000. Principal - CWCB (Elkhead) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8001. Interest - CWCB (Elkhead) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8002. Amortization Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 278,892.00 | 0.00 |
| 9000. Acquisition | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9010. Depreciation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 9020. Gain/Loss Of Disposal | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Income Statement
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 12/31/2023

| Enterprise Fund | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Total Expenses | <u>360,493.21</u> | <u>3,067,431.35</u> | <u>5,919,588.76</u> | <u>51.82</u> |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | <u>(256,693.53)</u> | <u>743,608.81</u> | <u>(1,921,714.88)</u> | <u>(38.70)</u> |

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Check Register from 11/01/2023 to 12/31/2023

2 ENT - BOC

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Report Criteria... 4/04/2024 @ 12:13 PM | | | |
| Form: | Check Register - Check Register | | |
| Sort by | ActivityDate | | |
| activity dates: | From: 11/01/2023 To: 12/31/2023 | | |
| 0995213 | 11/03/2023 | [CO INTER] COLORADO | 54.00 |
| 0995214 | 11/03/2023 | [HML] Hinkemeyer Mining LLC | 7,084.82 |
| 0995215 | 11/03/2023 | [TWORIV] TWO RIVERS PARK | 2,918.27 |
| 0995216 | 11/03/2023 | [YVEA] YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC | 156.00 |
| 0995217 | 11/10/2023 | [ERO] ERO RESOURCES | 18,068.68 |
| 0995218 | 11/17/2023 | [CO INTER] COLORADO | 84.71 |
| 0995219 | 11/17/2023 | [CBI] CONSENSUS BUILDING | 920.00 |
| 0995220 | 11/17/2023 | [RUEDI WPA] RUEDI WATER & | 10,000.00 |
| 0995221 | 11/17/2023 | [SHC] Small Hydro Consulting, LLC | 9,800.00 |
| 0995222 | 11/17/2023 | [KREMMCHAMBER] KREMMLING | 100.00 |
| | | 2023 Dues | |
| 0995223 | 12/08/2023 | [HML] Hinkemeyer Mining LLC | 3,320.03 |
| 0995224 | 12/08/2023 | [TWORIV] TWO RIVERS PARK | 2,918.27 |
| 0995225 | 12/08/2023 | [YVEA] YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC | 384.00 |
| 0995226 | 12/26/2023 | [CO INTER] COLORADO | 144.00 |
| 0995227 | 12/26/2023 | [CAA] COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE | 4,118.21 |
| 0995228 | 12/26/2023 | [GCWIN] GRAND COUNTY WATER | 1,000.00 |
| | | 2023 COST SHARE | |
| 0995229 | 12/26/2023 | [HML] Hinkemeyer Mining LLC | 2,507.41 |
| 0995230 | 12/26/2023 | [KARP] KARP, NEU, HANLON, P.C. | 177,865.91 |
| <u>Total Checks:</u> | | | <u>241,444.31</u> |

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Check Register from 11/01/2023 to 12/31/2023

5 ENT - WMR Special

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Report Criteria... 4/04/2024 @ 12:24 PM | | | |
| Form: | Check Register - Check Register | | |
| Sort by | ActivityDate | | |
| activity dates: | From: 11/01/2023 To: 12/31/2023 | | |
| 0995435 | 11/03/2023 | [KLEENW] KLEEN AS A WHISTLE | 560.00 |
| 0995437 | 11/03/2023 | [WASTEMGT] WASTE | 731.20 |
| 0995438 | 11/03/2023 | [WSP] WSP USA Inc. | 2,950.00 |
| 0995439 | 11/10/2023 | [BUCKEYE] BUCKEYE WELDING | 30.60 |
| 0995440 | 11/10/2023 | [ECORXINC] ECO-RX, INC (3) Wolford | 36,549.45 |
| 0995441 | 11/10/2023 | [EDGE] EDGE INTERNET | 149.99 |
| 0995442 | 11/10/2023 | [NWSPLY] NORTHWEST RANCH | 1,908.28 |
| 0995443 | 11/10/2023 | [THREEL] THREE LAKES WATER & | 210.00 |
| 0995444 | 11/17/2023 | [CGEO] CYGANIEWICZ | 6,711.35 |
| 0995445 | 11/17/2023 | [HDR] HDR ENGINEERING INC | 3,312.50 |
| 0995446 | 11/17/2023 | [PRYOR] PRYOR EXCAVATING | 8,495.90 |
| 0995447 | 11/17/2023 | [WWWHEELER] W.W. WHEELER & | 6,341.25 |
| 0995448 | 11/17/2023 | [ALPMTR] ALPINE MOTOR SPORTS Repair to the Ranger UTV | 1,326.49 |
| 0995449 | 11/17/2023 | [EDGE] EDGE INTERNET | 39.99 |
| 0995450 | 11/17/2023 | [KTOWN] K-TOWN NAPA | 159.74 |
| 0995451 | 11/17/2023 | [WASTEMGT] WASTE | 730.28 |
| 0995452 | 11/27/2023 | [KNIGHT] KNIGHT PIESOLD AND | 4,729.40 |
| 0995453 | 11/27/2023 | [MTNPKS] MOUNTAIN PARKS | 1,430.01 |
| 0995454 | 12/08/2023 | [EDGE] EDGE INTERNET | 149.99 |
| 0995455 | 12/08/2023 | [GANNETT] GANNETT FLEMING, | 32,478.75 |
| 0995456 | 12/08/2023 | [CA23001] GrandP and Plumbing | 695.00 |
| 0995457 | 12/08/2023 | [KLEENW] KLEEN AS A WHISTLE | 1,640.00 |
| 0995458 | 12/08/2023 | [NWSPLY] NORTHWEST RANCH | 1,469.50 |
| 0995459 | 12/08/2023 | [RAINDROP] RAINDROP WATER | 2,160.06 |
| 0995460 | 12/08/2023 | [RENEGADE] RENEGADE AUTO F250 Oil Change | 272.46 |
| 0995461 | 12/08/2023 | [WWWHEELER] W.W. WHEELER & | 15,809.40 |
| 0995462 | 12/15/2023 | [EDGE] EDGE INTERNET | 39.99 |
| 0995463 | 12/15/2023 | [MFCP] MOTION AND FLOW | 7,325.32 |
| 0995464 | 12/15/2023 | [WASTEMGT] WASTE | 735.63 |
| 0995465 | 12/26/2023 | [CPW] COLORADO PARKS AND Grumman Reg | 70.25 |
| 0995466 | 12/26/2023 | [HDR] HDR ENGINEERING INC | 1,355.00 |
| 0995467 | 12/26/2023 | [HESTER] HESTER DIESEL REPAIR Service on the Kubota (changed | 981.11 |
| 0995468 | 12/26/2023 | [KTOWN] K-TOWN NAPA | 706.64 |
| 0995469 | 12/26/2023 | [KNIGHT] KNIGHT PIESOLD AND | 979.05 |
| 0995470 | 12/26/2023 | [LANDMARK] LANDMARK | 9,296.00 |
| 0995471 | 12/26/2023 | [MARINE] MARINE DIVING | 17,000.00 |
| 0995472 | 12/26/2023 | [MTNPKS] MOUNTAIN PARKS | 1,815.97 |
| 0995473 | 12/26/2023 | [MSEC INC] MSEC, INC. | 5,634.50 |
| 0995474 | 12/26/2023 | [WOLFORD CAMPGROUND] PASS 2023 Boat Fuel | 250.00 |
| 0995475 | 12/26/2023 | [SOILENGINEERING] SOIL geotechnical laboratory testin | 7,020.00 |
| 0995476 | 12/29/2023 | [RENEGADE] RENEGADE AUTO Tires for F-150 | 1,635.64 |
| 0995476 | 12/29/2023 | [RENEGADE] RENEGADE AUTO Tires for F-150 | 1,635.64 |
| Total Checks: | | | 187,522.33 |

Balance Sheet Colorado River Water Conservation District For 1/31/2024

Unaudited

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 01 General Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 01-00-1000.000 Cash Box - General | 274.25 | 682.44 | (408.19) |
| 01-00-1001.000 Cash In Bank - BoC - Checking | 1,776,912.00 | 1,317,890.87 | 459,021.13 |
| 01-00-1002.000 Cash In Bank - Petty Cash | 2,714.13 | 2,054.58 | 659.55 |
| 01-00-1008.000 EFT Clearing Account | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1009.000 Undeposited Funds | 171,092.74 | 518,093.55 | (347,000.81) |
| 01-00-1010.000 Wells Fargo /Colotrue-0100 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1015.000 General ColoTrust Prime | 471,320.22 | 448,542.46 | 22,777.76 |
| 01-00-1016.000 General ColoTrust Plus | 1,495,782.36 | 1,418,771.15 | 77,011.21 |
| 01-00-1020.000 Investments-All | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1021.000 Allow. For Investments+- | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1022.000 Accum Amortization Investments | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1023.000 Accrued Interest | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1101.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 01 | (439.00) | (439.00) | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1102.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1103.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1104.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 04 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1200.000 Accounts Receivable | 468,717.38 | 215,643.76 | 253,073.62 |
| 01-00-1201.000 Accounts Receivable - Spec. | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1205.000 Housing Notes Receivable | 152,302.40 | 164,011.98 | (11,709.58) |
| 01-00-1206.000 Deferred Revenue | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1207.000 457 Loans Receivable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1210.000 Property Tax Receivables | 14,106,596.00 | 10,182,625.00 | 3,923,971.00 |
| 01-00-1225.000 Allowance Housing Forgiveness | (80,000.00) | (90,000.00) | 10,000.00 |
| 01-00-1300.000 Prepaid Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1505.000 Office Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1599.000 Assets in Fixed Assets Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-02-1990.000 Internal Balances | 549.99 | (52,033.84) | 52,583.83 |
| 01-03-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-04-1990.000 Internal Balances | (2,636.05) | 132,621.47 | (135,257.52) |
| 01-05-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-06-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-07-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-09-1990.000 Internal Balances | 9,672.50 | 0.00 | 9,672.50 |
| Total Assets | 18,572,858.92 | 14,258,464.42 | 4,314,394.50 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 01-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 586,535.67 | 659,961.29 | (73,425.62) |
| 01-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2010.000 Wages Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2011.000 FICA/Mdcr Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2012.000 Fwt Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2013.000 Cwt Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2014.000 Sui Payable | 558.30 | 459.84 | 98.46 |
| 01-00-2015.000 Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2016.000 Deferred Compension Payable | (2,220.36) | 0.00 | (2,220.36) |
| 01-00-2017.000 HSA | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2018.000 Health Insurance Premium Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2019.000 RHS -Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2020.000 Voluntary Life Payable | (750.42) | (500.13) | (250.29) |
| 01-00-2021.000 Accrued Vacation Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2022.000 Accrued Vacation/Comp | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2023.000 Cafeteria Plan - MSA Payable | 373.53 | 10.48 | 363.05 |
| 01-00-2024.000 Cafeteria Plan - DCAP Payable | 2,948.60 | 5,304.19 | (2,355.59) |
| 01-00-2025.000 457 Loan Payable | 1,292.80 | 0.00 | 1,292.80 |
| 01-00-2026.000 Roth Payable | 1,757.00 | 0.00 | 1,757.00 |
| 01-00-2040.000 24hourFlex Min Maint Bal | (193.41) | (193.41) | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2200.000 Deferred Property Tax Revenue | 14,106,596.00 | 10,182,625.00 | 3,923,971.00 |
| 01-00-2998.000 Annual Funds Transfer to CFP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2999.000 Excess Funds Transfer to CPO | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | 14,696,897.71 | 10,847,667.26 | 3,849,230.45 |
| 01-00-3000.000 Tabor Emergency Reserve | 211,355.00 | 173,928.00 | 37,427.00 |
| 01-00-3010.000 Unappropriated Fund Balance | 3,979,550.49 | 3,083,695.53 | 895,854.96 |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 1/31/2024

Unaudited

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Change in Net Assets | <u>(314,944.28)</u> | <u>153,173.63</u> | <u>(468,117.91)</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | <u>18,572,858.92</u> | <u>14,258,464.42</u> | <u>4,314,394.50</u> |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 1/31/2024

Unaudited

Page: 1

| General Fund | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Revenues | | | | |
| 4000. County Taxes | 112,056.38 | 112,056.38 | 14,680,656.52 | 0.76 |
| 4001. SO And Other Tax | 64,572.67 | 64,572.67 | 775,650.00 | 8.32 |
| 4002. Delinquent Taxes (general) | (22.98) | (22.98) | 2,820.00 | (0.81) |
| 4010. Property Tax Interest | 1.68 | 1.68 | 9,873.52 | 0.02 |
| 4020. Tax Increment Financing | (1,003.87) | (1,003.87) | (105,364.33) | 0.95 |
| 4025. Tax Abatements/Credits | (197.74) | (197.74) | (6,080.00) | 3.25 |
| 4030. County Treasurers Fees | (4,313.40) | (4,313.40) | (516,750.00) | 0.83 |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 13,758.73 | 13,758.73 | 180,000.00 | 7.64 |
| 4120. Miscellaneous Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4130. Management Fee | 0.00 | 0.00 | 6,750.00 | 0.00 |
| 4140. Project Contributions | 951.00 | 951.00 | 825,199.00 | 0.12 |
| 4401. Cost of Goods Sold | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4500. Charges for Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | 185,802.47 | 185,802.47 | 15,855,754.71 | 1.17 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| 5000. Contingency Salaries | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5001. Salaries | 252,391.88 | 252,391.88 | 2,914,921.22 | 8.66 |
| 5010. Accrued Vacation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5011. Fica/Medicare | 18,353.40 | 18,353.40 | 191,282.09 | 9.59 |
| 5014. Unemployment | 479.85 | 479.85 | 8,372.41 | 5.73 |
| 5016. Workers Compensation Insurance | 5,786.20 | 5,786.20 | 4,598.07 | 125.84 |
| 5115. Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5118. Health Insurance | 47,549.12 | 47,549.12 | 598,701.69 | 7.94 |
| 5120. Cafeteria Plan-Employer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5121. Cafeteria Plan-Administration | 85.00 | 85.00 | 1,200.00 | 7.08 |
| 5122. Retirement - 457 Matching | 2,126.58 | 2,126.58 | 33,720.00 | 6.31 |
| 5123. Retirement - Employer | 21,901.89 | 21,901.89 | 226,501.00 | 9.67 |
| 5124. Retirement - Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,180.56 | 0.00 |
| 5125. RHS- Employer Contribution | 1,065.56 | 1,065.56 | 14,020.00 | 7.60 |
| 5211. Employee Housing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 76,500.00 | 0.00 |
| 5212. Education Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 5220. Overhead-C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 31,303.13 | 0.00 |
| 5310. Travel | 7,554.07 | 7,554.07 | 160,100.00 | 4.72 |
| 5311. Staff Registration | 8,215.00 | 8,215.00 | 42,195.00 | 19.47 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 6,824.02 | 6,824.02 | 20,900.00 | 32.65 |
| 6000. Directors Fees | 0.00 | 0.00 | 14,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6001. Education/Professional Development | 0.00 | 0.00 | 16,250.00 | 0.00 |
| 6012. Legal Notice | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6013. Special Counsel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 61,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6014. Legal Engineering | 8,337.00 | 8,337.00 | 53,100.00 | 15.70 |
| 6015. Legal/Litigation / Adr | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6016. Miscellaneous Legal/Materials | 2,627.63 | 2,627.63 | 32,939.00 | 7.98 |
| 6017. Legal Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 25,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6018. Legal Assistance To Others | 0.00 | 0.00 | 15,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6020. Washington Counsel/Lobbyist | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6021. Colorado Lobbyist | 5,000.66 | 5,000.66 | 27,600.00 | 18.12 |
| 6022. Education Assistance To Others | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | 19,250.00 | 12.99 |
| 6023. External Affairs -C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6024. Education Programs | 14,997.37 | 14,997.37 | 281,350.00 | 5.33 |
| 6025. Water Policy Survey | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6026. Education Supplies | 0.00 | 0.00 | 13,500.00 | 0.00 |
| 6100. Projects & Grants | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6101. Project Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6102. Consultant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 85,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6103. Accounting Consultant | 354.38 | 354.38 | 5,000.00 | 7.09 |
| 6104. Audit | 0.00 | 0.00 | 17,500.00 | 0.00 |
| 6105. Investment/Banking Services | 19.78 | 19.78 | 1,000.00 | 1.98 |
| 6110. Admin Services/Expenses-C | 342.66 | 342.66 | 30,500.00 | 1.12 |
| 6150. Assessments | 4,849.29 | 4,849.29 | 85,348.04 | 5.68 |
| 6200. Postage | 119.99 | 119.99 | 1,500.00 | 8.00 |
| 6201. Office Supplies | 321.59 | 321.59 | 9,000.00 | 3.57 |
| 6202. Telephone | 1,736.81 | 1,736.81 | 25,000.00 | 6.95 |
| 6203. Printing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6204. Insurance | 21,434.00 | 21,434.00 | 19,550.00 | 109.64 |
| 6205. Records | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6210. Lease Equipment | 394.08 | 394.08 | 5,400.00 | 7.30 |

Income Statement

Unaudited

Run: 3/21/2024 at 5:17 PM

Colorado River Water Conservation District For 1/31/2024

Page: 2

| | M-T-D | Y-T-D | Annual | YTD % |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| General Fund | Actual \$ | Actual \$ | Budget \$ | Budget |
| 6211. Equipment Repairs | 192.63 | 192.63 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6301. Subscriptions | 954.98 | 954.98 | 11,176.00 | 8.54 |
| 6302. Dues / Memberships | 12,477.50 | 12,477.50 | 24,299.00 | 51.35 |
| 6310. Computer Licenses/Software & Services | 5,079.84 | 5,079.84 | 86,340.00 | 5.88 |
| 6320. Small Office Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| 6340. Vehicle Maintenance | 1,880.27 | 1,880.27 | 19,500.00 | 9.64 |
| 6500. Bldg Construction/Remodel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6600. Bad Debt Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6601. Technical Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6605. Water Quality/Selenium Coord. | 8.00 | 8.00 | 15,600.00 | 0.05 |
| 6606. Colorado Watershed Management | 15,433.75 | 15,433.75 | 576,984.00 | 2.67 |
| 6607. Interstate Watershed Management | 22,150.97 | 22,150.97 | 436,600.00 | 5.07 |
| 6608. Division 4 Work Plan | 951.00 | 951.00 | 8,500.00 | 11.19 |
| 6609. Division 5 Work Plan | 6,250.00 | 6,250.00 | 130,100.00 | 4.80 |
| 6610. Division 6 Work Plan | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6611. ESA/Recovery | 0.00 | 0.00 | 12,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6612. Colorado River Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7001. USGS Gaging | 0.00 | 0.00 | 554,352.75 | 0.00 |
| 7120. Tabor Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 218,227.02 | 0.00 |
| 8900. Excess Fund Transfer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8910. Annual Fund Transfer to CFP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,221,389.00 | 0.00 |
| 8920. Additional Fund Transfer to CFP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Expenses | <u>500,746.75</u> | <u>500,746.75</u> | <u>15,813,849.98</u> | <u>3.17</u> |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | <u>(314,944.28)</u> | <u>(314,944.28)</u> | <u>41,904.73</u> | <u>(751.57)</u> |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 2/29/2024

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 01 General Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 01-00-1000.000 Cash Box - General | 274.25 | 1,132.44 | (858.19) |
| 01-00-1001.000 Cash In Bank - BoC - Checking | 1,309,976.70 | 983,393.96 | 326,582.74 |
| 01-00-1002.000 Cash In Bank - Petty Cash | 2,719.46 | 2,056.61 | 662.85 |
| 01-00-1008.000 EFT Clearing Account | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1009.000 Undeposited Funds | 4,023,650.19 | 3,004,508.44 | 1,019,141.75 |
| 01-00-1010.000 Wells Fargo /Colotrue-0100 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1015.000 General ColoTrust Prime | 473,281.31 | 450,033.49 | 23,247.82 |
| 01-00-1016.000 General ColoTrust Plus | 1,502,333.27 | 1,423,882.54 | 78,450.73 |
| 01-00-1020.000 Investments-All | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1021.000 Allow. For Investments+- | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1022.000 Accum Amortization Investments | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1023.000 Accrued Interest | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1101.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 01 | (439.00) | 4,103.28 | (4,542.28) |
| 01-00-1102.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 02 | (0.01) | 954.92 | (954.93) |
| 01-00-1103.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 03 | 0.00 | 444.51 | (444.51) |
| 01-00-1104.000 Credit Card Clearing Account 04 | 0.00 | 606.10 | (606.10) |
| 01-00-1200.000 Accounts Receivable | 427,277.84 | 71,425.76 | 355,852.08 |
| 01-00-1201.000 Accounts Receivable - Spec. | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1205.000 Housing Notes Receivable | 152,070.66 | 163,811.31 | (11,740.65) |
| 01-00-1206.000 Deferred Revenue | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1207.000 457 Loans Receivable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1210.000 Property Tax Receivables | 14,106,596.00 | 10,182,625.00 | 3,923,971.00 |
| 01-00-1225.000 Allowance Housing Forgiveness | (80,000.00) | (90,000.00) | 10,000.00 |
| 01-00-1300.000 Prepaid Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1505.000 Office Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-1599.000 Assets in Fixed Assets Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-02-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | (43,971.25) | 43,971.25 |
| 01-03-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-04-1990.000 Internal Balances | (22,728.95) | 406,638.38 | (429,367.33) |
| 01-05-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-06-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-07-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 662.56 | (662.56) |
| 01-09-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Assets | 21,895,011.72 | 16,562,308.05 | 5,332,703.67 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 01-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 310,792.64 | 335,611.37 | (24,818.73) |
| 01-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2010.000 Wages Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2011.000 FICA/Mdcr Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2012.000 Fwt Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2013.000 Cwt Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2014.000 Sui Payable | 1,110.36 | 920.24 | 190.12 |
| 01-00-2015.000 Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2016.000 Deferred Compension Payable | (2,220.36) | 0.00 | (2,220.36) |
| 01-00-2017.000 HSA | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2018.000 Health Insurance Premium Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2019.000 RHS -Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2020.000 Voluntary Life Payable | (840.17) | (500.13) | (340.04) |
| 01-00-2021.000 Accrued Vacation Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2022.000 Accrued Vacation/Comp | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2023.000 Cafeteria Plan - MSA Payable | 436.86 | (4.51) | 441.37 |
| 01-00-2024.000 Cafeteria Plan - DCAP Payable | 3,741.92 | 5,143.37 | (1,401.45) |
| 01-00-2025.000 457 Loan Payable | 1,292.80 | 0.00 | 1,292.80 |
| 01-00-2026.000 Roth Payable | 1,757.00 | 0.00 | 1,757.00 |
| 01-00-2040.000 24hourFlex Min Maint Bal | (193.41) | (193.41) | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2200.000 Deferred Property Tax Revenue | 14,106,596.00 | 10,182,625.00 | 3,923,971.00 |
| 01-00-2998.000 Annual Funds Transfer to CFP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01-00-2999.000 Excess Funds Transfer to CPO | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Liabilities | 14,422,473.64 | 10,523,601.93 | 3,898,871.71 |
| 01-00-3000.000 Tabor Emergency Reserve | 211,355.00 | 173,928.00 | 37,427.00 |
| 01-00-3010.000 Unappropriated Fund Balance | 3,979,550.49 | 3,083,695.53 | 895,854.96 |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 2/29/2024

Unaudited

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Change in Net Assets | <u>3,304,325.06</u> | <u>2,781,082.59</u> | <u>523,242.47</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | <u>21,917,704.19</u> | <u>16,562,308.05</u> | <u>5,355,396.14</u> |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District

For 2/29/2024

Unaudited

| General Fund | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Revenues</u> | | | | |
| 4000. County Taxes | 4,134,333.50 | 4,246,389.88 | 14,680,656.52 | 28.93 |
| 4001. SO And Other Tax | 69,517.48 | 134,090.15 | 775,650.00 | 17.29 |
| 4002. Delinquent Taxes (general) | 160.83 | 137.85 | 2,820.00 | 4.89 |
| 4010. Property Tax Interest | 20.85 | 22.53 | 9,873.52 | 0.23 |
| 4020. Tax Increment Financing | (25,913.83) | (26,917.70) | (105,364.33) | 25.55 |
| 4025. Tax Abatements/Credits | (465.27) | (663.01) | (6,080.00) | 10.90 |
| 4030. County Treasurers Fees | (153,231.91) | (157,545.31) | (516,750.00) | 30.49 |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 12,068.27 | 25,827.00 | 180,000.00 | 14.35 |
| 4120. Miscellaneous Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4130. Management Fee | 0.00 | 0.00 | 6,750.00 | 0.00 |
| 4140. Project Contributions | 0.00 | 951.00 | 825,199.00 | 0.12 |
| 4401. Cost of Goods Sold | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4500. Charges for Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | 4,036,489.92 | 4,222,292.39 | 15,855,754.71 | 26.63 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5000. Contingency Salaries | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5001. Salaries | 244,554.55 | 496,946.43 | 2,914,921.22 | 17.05 |
| 5010. Accrued Vacation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5011. Fica/Medicare | 17,797.91 | 36,151.31 | 191,282.09 | 18.90 |
| 5014. Unemployment | 465.31 | 945.16 | 8,372.41 | 11.29 |
| 5016. Workers Compensation Insurance | 0.00 | 5,786.20 | 4,598.07 | 125.84 |
| 5115. Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5118. Health Insurance | 40,267.99 | 87,817.11 | 598,701.69 | 14.67 |
| 5120. Cafeteria Plan-Employer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5121. Cafeteria Plan-Administration | 85.00 | 170.00 | 1,200.00 | 14.17 |
| 5122. Retirement - 457 Matching | 2,134.58 | 4,261.16 | 33,720.00 | 12.64 |
| 5123. Retirement - Employer | 21,456.10 | 43,357.99 | 226,501.00 | 19.14 |
| 5124. Retirement - Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,180.56 | 0.00 |
| 5125. RHS- Employer Contribution | 985.32 | 2,050.88 | 14,020.00 | 14.63 |
| 5211. Employee Housing | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 76,500.00 | 1.96 |
| 5212. Education Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 5220. Overhead-C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 31,303.13 | 0.00 |
| 5310. Travel | 12,452.61 | 20,006.68 | 160,100.00 | 12.50 |
| 5311. Staff Registration | 0.00 | 8,215.00 | 42,195.00 | 19.47 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 162.26 | 6,986.28 | 20,900.00 | 33.43 |
| 6000. Directors Fees | 0.00 | 0.00 | 14,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6001. Education/Professional Development | 75.00 | 75.00 | 16,250.00 | 0.46 |
| 6012. Legal Notice | 335.17 | 335.17 | 1,000.00 | 33.52 |
| 6013. Special Counsel | 2,828.41 | 2,828.41 | 61,000.00 | 4.64 |
| 6014. Legal Engineering | 0.00 | 8,337.00 | 53,100.00 | 15.70 |
| 6015. Legal/Litigation / Adr | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6016. Miscellaneous Legal/Materials | 2,732.95 | 5,360.58 | 32,939.00 | 16.27 |
| 6017. Legal Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 25,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6018. Legal Assistance To Others | 0.00 | 0.00 | 15,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6020. Washington Counsel/Lobbyist | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6021. Colorado Lobbyist | 1,666.66 | 6,667.32 | 27,600.00 | 24.16 |
| 6022. Education Assistance To Others | 1,000.00 | 3,500.00 | 19,250.00 | 18.18 |
| 6023. External Affairs -C | 619.00 | 619.00 | 2,000.00 | 30.95 |
| 6024. Education Programs | 10,873.10 | 25,870.47 | 281,350.00 | 9.20 |
| 6025. Water Policy Survey | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6026. Education Supplies | 402.00 | 402.00 | 13,500.00 | 2.98 |
| 6100. Projects & Grants | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6101. Project Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6102. Consultant | 9,405.00 | 9,405.00 | 85,000.00 | 11.06 |
| 6103. Accounting Consultant | 0.00 | 354.38 | 5,000.00 | 7.09 |
| 6104. Audit | 0.00 | 0.00 | 17,500.00 | 0.00 |
| 6105. Investment/Banking Services | 16.80 | 36.58 | 1,000.00 | 3.66 |
| 6110. Admin Services/Expenses-C | 7,300.95 | 7,643.61 | 30,500.00 | 25.06 |
| 6150. Assessments | 4,849.29 | 9,698.58 | 85,348.04 | 11.36 |
| 6200. Postage | 69.99 | 189.98 | 1,500.00 | 12.67 |
| 6201. Office Supplies | 908.65 | 1,230.24 | 9,000.00 | 13.67 |
| 6202. Telephone | 1,947.89 | 3,684.70 | 25,000.00 | 14.74 |
| 6203. Printing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6204. Insurance | 0.00 | 21,434.00 | 19,550.00 | 109.64 |
| 6205. Records | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6210. Lease Equipment | 394.08 | 788.16 | 5,400.00 | 14.60 |

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District

For 2/29/2024

Unaudited

| | M-T-D | Y-T-D | Annual | YTD % |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| General Fund | Actual \$ | Actual \$ | Budget \$ | Budget |
| 6211. Equipment Repairs | 0.00 | 192.63 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6301. Subscriptions | 322.06 | 1,277.04 | 11,176.00 | 11.43 |
| 6302. Dues / Memberships | 500.00 | 12,977.50 | 24,299.00 | 53.41 |
| 6310. Computer Licenses/Software & Services | 5,158.85 | 10,238.69 | 86,340.00 | 11.86 |
| 6320. Small Office Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| 6340. Vehicle Maintenance | 2,272.55 | 4,152.82 | 19,500.00 | 21.30 |
| 6500. Bldg Construction/Remodel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6600. Bad Debt Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6601. Technical Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6605. Water Quality/Selenium Coord. | 8.00 | 16.00 | 15,600.00 | 0.10 |
| 6606. Colorado Watershed Management | 3,811.75 | 19,245.50 | 576,984.00 | 3.34 |
| 6607. Interstate Watershed Management | 16,860.80 | 39,011.77 | 436,600.00 | 8.94 |
| 6608. Division 4 Work Plan | 0.00 | 951.00 | 8,500.00 | 11.19 |
| 6609. Division 5 Work Plan | 1,000.00 | 7,250.00 | 130,100.00 | 5.57 |
| 6610. Division 6 Work Plan | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6611. ESA/Recovery | 0.00 | 0.00 | 12,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6612. Colorado River Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7001. USGS Gaging | 0.00 | 0.00 | 554,352.75 | 0.00 |
| 7120. Tabor Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 218,227.02 | 0.00 |
| 8900. Excess Fund Transfer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8910. Annual Fund Transfer to CFP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,221,389.00 | 0.00 |
| 8920. Additional Fund Transfer to CFP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Expenses | <u>417,220.58</u> | <u>917,967.33</u> | <u>15,813,849.98</u> | <u>5.80</u> |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | <u>3,619,269.34</u> | <u>3,304,325.06</u> | <u>41,904.73</u> | <u>7,885.33</u> |

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Check Register from 1/01/2024 to 2/29/2024

1 GEN - BOC

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Report Criteria... 4/04/2024 @ 2:48 PM | | | |
| Form: | Check Register - Check Register | | |
| Sort by | ActivityDate | | |
| activity dates: | From: 1/01/2024 To: 2/29/2024 | | |
| 0999813 | 1/02/2024 | [TWORIV] TWO RIVERS PARK | 6,927.56 |
| eft95190103 | 1/03/2024 | [WEX] WEX BANK | 841.14 |
| eft97d47a0a | 1/03/2024 | [MUELLERA] ANDREW A MUELLER 12/12 - 12/22 Exp Rpt | 1,517.30 |
| eft2494515b | 1/03/2024 | [MUELLERA] ANDREW A MUELLER 12/9/23 Exp Rpt | 140.00 |
| eft31011801 | 1/04/2024 | [CO SD] COLORADO SPECIAL 2024 P&L | 51,134.00 |
| eft45349298 | 1/05/2024 | [KANZERD] DAVID A KANZER (11/20 - 12/20 Exp Rpt | 2,632.87 |
| 0999815 | 1/05/2024 | [NCCG] NORTHWEST COLORADO 2024 W&S Contribution | 1,320.00 |
| 0999814 | 1/05/2024 | [GRANFA] GRAN FARNUM foam core | 60.00 |
| 0999817 | 1/05/2024 | [VERIZON] VERIZON WIRELESS | 1,043.59 |
| 0999818 | 1/05/2024 | [WMA] WEATHER MODIFICATION 2024 membership dues | 500.00 |
| 0999816 | 1/05/2024 | [PSHCG] PUBLIC SECTOR HEALTH | 53,313.89 |
| kip | 1/08/2024 | [ALERUS] ALERUS ZK | 1,765.00 |
| eft21f4f9695 | 1/10/2024 | [PHILIPSI] IAN PHILIPS 12/9/23 Exp Rpt | 100.00 |
| 0999820 | 1/12/2024 | [BISHOP] BISHOP-BROGDEN | 3,467.50 |
| 0999821 | 1/12/2024 | [CMC] COLORADO MOUNTAIN 1/16 & 1/17 BOD mtg | 1,090.00 |
| 0999822 | 1/12/2024 | [CMNM] COLORADO MOUNTAIN Accountant ad | 1,134.84 |
| 0999836 | 1/12/2024 | [HAZARDR] REBIE S HAZARD Shoshone 12/19 | 269.21 |
| 0999823 | 1/12/2024 | [CWC] COLORADO WATER winter conference registration | 9,450.00 |
| 0999827 | 1/12/2024 | [ESRI] E.S.R.I., INC. Subscription for Mapping Softw | 3,300.00 |
| 0999828 | 1/12/2024 | [FAMILYA] FAMILY FARM ALLIANCE 2024 annual contribution | 500.00 |
| 0999832 | 1/12/2024 | [MAGGARD] MAGGARD & HOOD, Sept | 506.25 |
| 0999838 | 1/12/2024 | [WESTPU] THOMSON REUTERS- | 2,066.44 |
| 0999835 | 1/12/2024 | [NCCG] NORTHWEST COLORADO Crystal River W&S Coalition fa | 20,590.43 |
| 0999819 | 1/12/2024 | [AMT] ALWAYS MOUNTAIN TIME KSKE | 418.00 |
| 0999825 | 1/12/2024 | [CONFLUENCE] CONFLUENCE | 488.90 |
| 0999826 | 1/12/2024 | [CA14032] DIETZE & DAVIS, PC | 871.00 |
| 0999834 | 1/12/2024 | [METLIFE] METLIFE - GROUP | 5,216.50 |
| 0999831 | 1/12/2024 | [IMAGENET] IMAGENET | 332.55 |
| 0999839 | 1/12/2024 | [VGA] VOTOUPAL GOVERNMENTAL | 1,250.00 |
| 0999830 | 1/12/2024 | [HVZ] HVZ DESIGN Shoshone Pull-Up Banners | 2,890.00 |
| 0999837 | 1/12/2024 | [MCINNISS] SCOTT MCINNIS CRWUA exp rpt | 1,183.00 |
| 0999824 | 1/12/2024 | [CBN] COMMUNITY BROADBAND | 215.00 |
| 0999833 | 1/12/2024 | [ROEBERM] MARK J ROEBER Shoshone 12/19 | 98.25 |
| 0999829 | 1/12/2024 | [FWC] FRESHWATER | 7,500.00 |
| eftb2440bfaa | 1/16/2024 | [KESSLERZ] ZANE M KESSLER 1/3/24 - 1/9/24 | 3,191.67 |
| eft8bb40138 | 1/16/2024 | [CAUSEYH] HUNTER J CAUSEY 11/30 - 12/20 | 148.14 |
| kip | 1/17/2024 | [ALERUS] ALERUS LB | 1.55 |
| kip | 1/19/2024 | [ALERUS] ALERUS RF | 246.64 |
| 0999844 | 1/22/2024 | [KNZZ] KNZZ NEWS RADIO 1100 255 | 501.00 |
| 0999846 | 1/22/2024 | [PACER] PUBLIC ACCESS TO | 65.50 |
| 0999842 | 1/22/2024 | [ECCD] EAGLE COUNTY | 2,500.00 |
| 0999840 | 1/22/2024 | [F&MA] F&M ARCHITECTS LLC | 1,965.72 |

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Check Register from 1/01/2024 to 2/29/2024

1 GEN - BOC

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|------------------|-------------|--|------------------------|
| 0999841 | 1/22/2024 | [WESTECH] WESTECH LLC Took down and moved TV to down | 342.86 |
| 0999845 | 1/22/2024 | [RIGNET] RIGNET | 57.09 |
| 0999847 | 1/22/2024 | [WSC] WESTERN SLOPE | 313.50 |
| 0999843 | 1/22/2024 | [HYDROS] HYDROS CONSULTING 343-111 | 1,424.00 |
| eft6328392 | 1/24/2024 | [ICMA401] ICMA (Jan PR) | 25,769.06 |
| eft6720938 | 1/24/2024 | [ICMA457] ICMA - 457 (Jan PR) | 23,319.36 |
| eft6661718 | 1/24/2024 | [ICMAIRA] ICMA - ROTH IRA (Jan | 2,825.00 |
| EFT | 1/24/2024 | Pay period ending 1/14/2024 | 185,897.55 |
| eftfa944b8a4 | 1/24/2024 | [USBANKHSA] US BANK | 10,452.60 |
| eft6729547 | 1/24/2024 | [ICMARHS] ICMA - RHS (January | 5,059.26 |
| eft1-307- | 1/25/2024 | [CODEPREV] COLORADO DEPT OF | 11,024.38 |
| eft60959991 | 1/25/2024 | [IRS] INTERNAL REVENUE | 79,362.83 |
| 0999848 | 1/26/2024 | [ALPINE] ALPINE TECHNOLOGIES, | 4,355.00 |
| 0999849 | 1/26/2024 | [PSHCG] PUBLIC SECTOR HEALTH | 47,757.05 |
| 0999850 | 1/26/2024 | [RIVERRES] RIVER RESTORATION | 12,472.21 |
| 0999851 | 1/26/2024 | [CHAVEZS] SONJA CHAVEZ first qtrly | 268.16 |
| kip | 1/26/2024 | [ALERUS] ALERUS Fee | 85.00 |
| kip | 1/26/2024 | [ALERUS] ALERUS HC | 1,370.36 |
| eft24012226 | 1/27/2024 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 3,967.56 |
| eft24012226 | 1/27/2024 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 4,417.79 |
| eft24012226 | 1/27/2024 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 1,229.86 |
| eft24012226 | 1/27/2024 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 983.38 |
| eft95190201 | 2/01/2024 | [WEX] WEX BANK | 1,197.06 |
| 0999862 | 2/02/2024 | [VERIZON] VERIZON WIRELESS 9954332248 | 1,081.90 |
| 0999860 | 2/02/2024 | [TWRORIV] TWO RIVERS PARK | 6,927.56 |
| 0999852 | 2/02/2024 | [MONGERD] DOUGLAS B. MONGER | 163.75 |
| 0999861 | 2/02/2024 | [USGS] DOI - USGS | 149,983.50 |
| 0999857 | 2/02/2024 | [MICROPLASTIC] MICROPLASTICS, Dir. Hazard name tag | 9.88 |
| 0999856 | 2/02/2024 | [RITSCHARDM] MICHAEL D | 124.45 |
| 0999858 | 2/02/2024 | [HAWEST] TAYLOR HAWES | 144.75 |
| 0999853 | 2/02/2024 | [GBSM] GBSM, INC | 23,518.58 |
| 0999855 | 2/02/2024 | [ROEBERM] MARK J ROEBER 1st qaurterly mileage | 98.25 |
| 0999859 | 2/02/2024 | [TFT] The Freshwater Trust | 60,568.96 |
| 0999854 | 2/02/2024 | [IMAGENET] IMAGENET | 394.08 |
| eftaff44e9b0 | 2/08/2024 | [COWDINM] MARIELLE T COWDIN 1/26 - 2/2 exp rpt | 741.63 |
| eft6264ec9a | 2/08/2024 | [WALTERSB] BRUCE C WALTERS 2/2 Exp Rpt | 1,009.69 |
| efta2c437a8 | 2/08/2024 | [PHILIPS] IAN PHILIPS 1/31/24 exp rpt | 402.70 |
| eft030483e9 | 2/08/2024 | [TURNERJ] JASON V TURNER 1/29 - 2/6 exp rpt | 1,092.88 |
| eft6c34e328 | 2/08/2024 | [TURNERA] AUDREY M TURNER 1/22 - 2/5 Exp Rpt | 1,326.90 |
| eft6e94e6fa2 | 2/13/2024 | [FLINKERR] RAQUEL FLINKER 1/25 - 2/5 Exp Rpt | 570.20 |
| LB | 2/13/2024 | [ALERUS] ALERUS Lyzzi | 70.00 |
| 0999881 | 2/16/2024 | [METLIFE] METLIFE - GROUP | 4,827.42 |
| 0999886 | 2/16/2024 | [SDA] SPECIAL DISTRICT 2024 membership | 1,237.50 |
| 0999877 | 2/16/2024 | [IDF] IMPACT DEVELOPMENT FUND Annual Servicing Fee | 1,500.00 |
| 0999883 | 2/16/2024 | [RIGNET] RIGNET | 51.80 |
| 0999863 | 2/16/2024 | [AMT] ALWAYS MOUNTAIN TIME Lift | 836.00 |
| 0999884 | 2/16/2024 | [RIVERSEDGE] RIVERSEDGE | 625.00 |
| 0999878 | 2/16/2024 | [KNZZ] KNZZ NEWS RADIO 1100 | 501.00 |

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Check Register from 1/01/2024 to 2/29/2024

1 GEN - BOC

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 0999888 | 2/16/2024 | [VGA] VOTOUPAL GOVERNMENTAL | 1,666.66 |
| 0999871 | 2/16/2024 | [GBERRY] GBERRY CORP (1) | 3,334.00 |
| 0999876 | 2/16/2024 | [HVZ] HVZ DESIGN | 750.00 |
| 0999885 | 2/16/2024 | [MCINNISS] SCOTT MCINNIS | 1,344.47 |
| 0999868 | 2/16/2024 | [CBN] COMMUNITY BROADBAND | 215.00 |
| 0999866 | 2/16/2024 | [CLOVETWINE] CLOVE & TWINE, | 5,697.94 |
| 0999870 | 2/16/2024 | [FWC] FRESHWATER | 9,000.00 |
| 0999873 | 2/16/2024 | [GOTCHA] WESTERN COLORADO | 192.63 |
| 0999882 | 2/16/2024 | [NBP] Noble Bison Productions | 4,267.80 |
| 0999864 | 2/16/2024 | [BISHOP] BISHOP-BROGDEN | 8,950.75 |
| 0999865 | 2/16/2024 | [CITYGWS] CITY OF GLENWOOD | 1,000.00 |
| 0999872 | 2/16/2024 | [GSCRA] GLENWOOD SPRINGS | 540.00 |
| 0999874 | 2/16/2024 | [GRANFA] GRAN FARNUM | 355.00 |
| 0999869 | 2/16/2024 | [EPRC] EAGLE PARK RESERVOIR | 22,685.36 |
| 0999867 | 2/16/2024 | [CWC] COLORADO WATER | 7,104.00 |
| 0999879 | 2/16/2024 | [MAGGARD] MAGGARD & HOOD, | 562.50 |
| 0999880 | 2/16/2024 | [LEXISBENDER] MATTHEW | 561.19 |
| 0999875 | 2/16/2024 | [GCWIN] GRAND COUNTY WATER | 13,500.00 |
| 0999887 | 2/16/2024 | [WESTPU] THOMSON REUTERS- | 2,099.13 |
| eftcad418fab | 2/21/2024 | [FLEMINGP] PETER C FLEMING | 688.13 |
| efta2144409 | 2/21/2024 | [MUELLERA] ANDREW A MUELLER | 1,585.65 |
| HC | 2/22/2024 | [ALERUS] ALERUS (HC) | 800.00 |
| eft7aa48b78 | 2/23/2024 | [MOYERA] AMY G MOYER | 2,077.57 |
| EFT | 2/23/2024 | Pay period ending 2/14/2024 | 181,446.94 |
| eft6658165 | 2/23/2024 | [ICMAIRA] ICMA - ROTH IRA (Feb | 2,875.00 |
| eft6538303 | 2/23/2024 | [ICMARHS] ICMA - RHS (Feb PR) | 5,051.11 |
| eft6654975 | 2/23/2024 | [ICMA401] ICMA (Feb PR) | 25,842.05 |
| eft6702804 | 2/23/2024 | [ICMA457] ICMA - 457 (Feb PR) | 25,419.36 |
| ef2424a83bc | 2/23/2024 | [USBANKHSA] US BANK | 10,124.60 |
| eft24022331 | 2/23/2024 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 3,482.32 |
| eft24022331 | 2/23/2024 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 32.48 |
| eft24022331 | 2/23/2024 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 15,936.55 |
| eft24022331 | 2/23/2024 | [VISA] VISA-PINNACLE BANK OF | 3,507.18 |
| 0999897 | 2/26/2024 | [WTRRPT] THE WATER REPORT | 299.00 |
| eft70777578 | 2/26/2024 | [IRS] INTERNAL REVENUE | 78,499.62 |
| 0999895 | 2/26/2024 | [QUILL] QUILL | 295.66 |
| eft0-212- | 2/26/2024 | [CODEPREV] COLORADO DEPT OF | 10,818.63 |
| 0999890 | 2/26/2024 | [CAA] COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE | 1,000.00 |
| 0999891 | 2/26/2024 | [USGS] DOI - USGS | 322,878.70 |
| 0999889 | 2/26/2024 | [ALPINE] ALPINE TECHNOLOGIES, | 4,160.00 |
| 0999894 | 2/26/2024 | [PSHCG] PUBLIC SECTOR HEALTH | 50,535.47 |
| 0999896 | 2/26/2024 | [SPECIALTY] SPECIALTY | 78.36 |
| 0999899 | 2/26/2024 | [ZULTY] ZULTYS INC. | 2,467.74 |
| 0999898 | 2/26/2024 | [WSC] WESTERN SLOPE | 313.50 |
| 0999892 | 2/26/2024 | [NAWMC] NORTH AMERICAN | 500.00 |
| 0999893 | 2/26/2024 | [NAWC] NORTH AMERICAN | 21,330.00 |
| kip | 2/27/2024 | [ALERUS] ALERUS (Fee) | 85.00 |

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Check Register from 1/01/2024 to 2/29/2024

1 GEN - BOC

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|------------------|-------------|--|----------------------------|
| eftaa743f6ac | 2/29/2024 | [BRIESMOORER] REBECCA 1/11 - 1/30 exp rpt | 483.81 |
| | | <u>Total Checks:</u> | <u>1,730,953.60</u> |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 1/31/2024

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 02 Capital Project Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 02-00-1001.000 Capital Project -BoC | 1,233,389.83 | 2,043,654.87 | (810,265.04) |
| 02-00-1002.000 Peaks - CPO | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1009.000 Undeposit Funds | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1010.000 Wells Fargo /Colotrust -0100 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1011.000 CSAFE - 5604 - Omid | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1015.000 Capital ColoTrust Prime | 1,159,997.25 | 1,103,937.41 | 56,059.84 |
| 02-00-1016.000 Capital ColoTrust Plus | 2,286,946.17 | 2,169,201.43 | 117,744.74 |
| 02-00-1020.000 Investments-All | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1021.000 Allowance For Investments | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1022.000 Accum. Amortization | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1023.000 Accrued Interest | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1200.000 Accounts Receivable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1300.000 Prepaid Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1599.000 Assets | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1999.000 Excess Funds Transfer from GEN | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-01-1990.000 Internal Balances | <u>(549.99)</u> | <u>52,033.84</u> | <u>(52,583.83)</u> |
| Total Assets | <u>4,679,783.26</u> | <u>5,368,827.55</u> | <u>(689,044.29)</u> |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 02-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 266,839.03 | 6,082.02 | 260,757.01 |
| 02-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| Total Liabilities | 266,839.03 | 6,082.02 | 260,757.01 |
| 02-00-3010.000 Fund Balances | 4,662,933.37 | 5,363,171.65 | (700,238.28) |
| Change in Net Assets | <u>(249,989.14)</u> | <u>(426.12)</u> | <u>(249,563.02)</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | <u>4,679,783.26</u> | <u>5,368,827.55</u> | <u>(689,044.29)</u> |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District

For 1/31/2024

Unaudited

| | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Capital Project Fund | | | | |
| <u>Revenues</u> | | | | |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 18,589.89 | 18,589.89 | 150,000.00 | 12.39 |
| 4120. Miscellaneous Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4130. Management Fee | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4201. NEPA Cost Reimbursements | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4900. Excess Funds Transfer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | 18,589.89 | 18,589.89 | 150,000.00 | 12.39 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5212. Education Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6013. Special Counsel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6014. Legal Engineering | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6015. Legal Litigation / Adr | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6016. Miscellaneous Legal/Materials | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6017. Legal Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6101. Project Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6105. Investment/Banking Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6201. Office Supplies | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6310. Computers - Licenses/Software & Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 20,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6500. Bldg Construction/Remodel | 258,371.54 | 258,371.54 | 927,505.00 | 27.86 |
| 6501. Office Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6502. Computer Equipment | 3,229.07 | 3,229.07 | 25,000.00 | 12.92 |
| 6503. Office Reconfiguration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6504. Water Conservation & Efficiency Improvements | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6600. Bad Debt Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7011. Ruedi Water | 6,978.42 | 6,978.42 | 20,000.00 | 34.89 |
| 7108. Contingency Planning Implementation (Water Banking) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9000. Fleet Vehicle Acquisition | 0.00 | 0.00 | 35,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Expenses | 268,579.03 | 268,579.03 | 1,227,505.00 | 21.88 |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | (249,989.14) | (249,989.14) | (1,077,505.00) | 23.20 |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 2/29/2024

Unaudited

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 02 Capital Project Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 02-00-1001.000 Capital Project -BoC | 1,213,719.72 | 2,045,677.25 | (831,957.53) |
| 02-00-1002.000 Peaks - CPO | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1009.000 Undeposit Funds | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1010.000 Wells Fargo /Colostrust -0100 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1011.000 CSAFE - 5604 - Omid | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1015.000 Capital ColoTrust Prime | 1,164,823.82 | 1,107,607.09 | 57,216.73 |
| 02-00-1016.000 Capital ColoTrust Plus | 2,296,962.06 | 2,177,016.39 | 119,945.67 |
| 02-00-1020.000 Investments-All | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1021.000 Allowance For Investments | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1022.000 Accum. Amortization | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1023.000 Accrued Interest | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1200.000 Accounts Receivable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1300.000 Prepaid Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1599.000 Assets | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-00-1999.000 Excess Funds Transfer from GEN | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02-01-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 43,971.25 | (43,971.25) |
| | <u>4,675,505.60</u> | <u>5,374,271.98</u> | <u>(698,766.38)</u> |
| Total Assets | | | |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 02-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 401,819.88 | 1,188.99 | 400,630.89 |
| 02-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | <u>401,819.88</u> | <u>1,188.99</u> | <u>400,630.89</u> |
| Total Liabilities | | | |
| 02-00-3010.000 Fund Balances | 4,662,933.37 | 5,363,171.65 | (700,238.28) |
| Change in Net Assets | (389,247.65) | 9,911.34 | (399,158.99) |
| | <u>(389,247.65)</u> | <u>9,911.34</u> | <u>(399,158.99)</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| | <u>4,675,505.60</u> | <u>5,374,271.98</u> | <u>(698,766.38)</u> |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Run: 4/03/2024 at 7:31 PM

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District

For 2/29/2024

| | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Capital Project Fund | | | | |
| <u>Revenues</u> | | | | |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 17,255.91 | 35,845.80 | 150,000.00 | 23.90 |
| 4120. Miscellaneous Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4130. Management Fee | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4201. NEPA Cost Reimbursements | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4900. Excess Funds Transfer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | 17,255.91 | 35,845.80 | 150,000.00 | 23.90 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5212. Education Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6013. Special Counsel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6014. Legal Engineering | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6015. Legal Litigation / Adr | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6016. Miscellaneous Legal/Materials | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6017. Legal Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6101. Project Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6105. Investment/Banking Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6201. Office Supplies | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6310. Computers - Licenses/Software & Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 20,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6500. Bldg Construction/Remodel | 152,733.65 | 411,105.19 | 927,505.00 | 44.32 |
| 6501. Office Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6502. Computer Equipment | 3,780.77 | 7,009.84 | 25,000.00 | 28.04 |
| 6503. Office Reconfiguration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6504. Water Conservation & Efficiency Improvements | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6600. Bad Debt Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7011. Ruedi Water | 0.00 | 6,978.42 | 20,000.00 | 34.89 |
| 7108. Contingency Planning Implementation (Water Banking) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9000. Fleet Vehicle Acquisition | 0.00 | 0.00 | 35,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Expenses | 156,514.42 | 425,093.45 | 1,227,505.00 | 34.63 |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | (139,258.51) | (389,247.65) | (1,077,505.00) | 36.12 |

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Check Register from 1/01/2024 to 2/29/2024

3 CPO - BOC

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Report Criteria... 4/04/2024 @ 2:50 PM | | | |
| Form: | Check Register - Check Register | | |
| Sort by | ActivityDate | | |
| activity dates: | From: 1/01/2024 To: 2/29/2024 | | |
| 0995170 | 1/12/2024 | [CONNECT] CONNECT ONE | 5,770.00 |
| 0995171 | 1/12/2024 | [TRPP] TWO RIVERS PARK PLAZA | 3,500.00 |
| 0995172 | 1/22/2024 | [F&MA] F&M ARCHITECTS LLC | 1,965.72 |
| 0995173 | 1/22/2024 | [WESTECH] WESTECH LLC Took down and moved TV to down | 342.86 |
| 0995174 | 1/26/2024 | [ALPINE] ALPINE TECHNOLOGIES, | 3,749.40 |
| 0995175 | 1/26/2024 | [RUDD] Rudd Construction, Inc. pay app #3 | 133,102.62 |
| 0995176 | 2/02/2024 | [KARP] KARP, NEU, HANLON, P.C. | 1,140.00 |
| 0995177 | 2/16/2024 | [BOR] DOI - BOR - REGION: 4583.5 AF | 6,978.42 |
| 0995178 | 2/16/2024 | [STORMS] STORM'S SPECIALITY | 1,220.00 |
| 0995179 | 2/16/2024 | [TRPP] TWO RIVERS PARK PLAZA | 3,500.00 |
| 0995180 | 2/26/2024 | [ALPINE] ALPINE TECHNOLOGIES, | 3,610.01 |
| 0995181 | 2/26/2024 | [F&MA] F&M ARCHITECTS LLC | 1,316.08 |
| <u>Total Checks:</u> | | | <u>166,195.11</u> |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 1/31/2024

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 09 Community Funding Partnership Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 09-00-1001.000 Cash In Bank - BoC - Checking | 4,182,287.89 | 7,579,661.79 | (3,397,373.90) |
| 09-00-1016.000 ColoTrust Plus | 5,271,401.12 | 0.00 | 5,271,401.12 |
| 09-01-1990.000 Internal Balances | <u>(9,672.50)</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>(9,672.50)</u> |
| Total Assets | <u><u>9,444,016.51</u></u> | <u><u>7,579,661.79</u></u> | <u><u>1,864,354.72</u></u> |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 09-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 254,785.36 | 18,750.00 | 236,035.36 |
| 09-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| Total Liabilities | 254,785.36 | 18,750.00 | 236,035.36 |
| 09-00-3010.000 Fund Balances | 10,459,398.65 | 7,945,173.82 | 2,514,224.83 |
| Change in Net Assets | <u>(1,270,167.50)</u> | <u>(384,262.03)</u> | <u>(885,905.47)</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | <u><u>9,444,016.51</u></u> | <u><u>7,579,661.79</u></u> | <u><u>1,864,354.72</u></u> |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District

For 1/31/2024

Unaudited

| | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Community Funding Partnership Fund | | | | |
| <u>Revenues</u> | | | | |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 35,320.36 | 35,320.36 | 300,000.00 | 11.77 |
| 4900. Annual Funds Transfer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,221,389.00 | 0.00 |
| 4910. Additional Funds Transfer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | 35,320.36 | 35,320.36 | 8,621,389.00 | 0.41 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5001. Salaries | 7,105.73 | 7,105.73 | 105,309.75 | 6.75 |
| 5010. Accrued Vacation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5011. Fica/Medicare | 532.05 | 532.05 | 8,372.13 | 6.36 |
| 5014. Unemployment | 13.91 | 13.91 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5016. Workers Compensation Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5115. Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5118. Health Insurance | 64.87 | 64.87 | 16,385.72 | 0.40 |
| 5120. Cafeteria Plan-Employer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5121. Cafeteria Plan-Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5122. Retirement - 457 Matching | 155.70 | 155.70 | 2,400.00 | 6.49 |
| 5123. Retirement - Employer | 726.10 | 726.10 | 10,531.00 | 6.89 |
| 5124. Retirement - Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5125. RHS - Employer Contribution | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5310. Travel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 16,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 5311. Staff Registration | 386.25 | 386.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6024. Education Programs | 2,230.00 | 2,230.00 | 7,000.00 | 31.86 |
| 6101. Project Assistance | 1,294,273.25 | 1,294,273.25 | 4,111,604.63 | 31.48 |
| 6310. Computer Licenses/Software & Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 20,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Expenses | 1,305,487.86 | 1,305,487.86 | 4,297,603.23 | 30.38 |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | (1,270,167.50) | (1,270,167.50) | 4,323,785.77 | (29.38) |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 2/29/2024

Unaudited

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 09 Community Funding Partnership Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 09-00-1001.000 Cash In Bank - BoC - Checking | 3,861,778.68 | 2,452,235.93 | 1,409,542.75 |
| 09-00-1016.000 ColoTrust Plus | 5,294,487.70 | 5,018,013.44 | 276,474.26 |
| 09-01-1990.000 Internal Balances | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Assets | 9,156,266.38 | 7,470,249.37 | 1,686,017.01 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 09-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 70,563.36 | 40,073.25 | 30,490.11 |
| 09-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | 70,563.36 | 40,073.25 | 30,490.11 |
| 09-00-3010.000 Fund Balances | 10,459,398.65 | 7,945,173.82 | 2,514,224.83 |
| Change in Net Assets | <u>(1,373,695.63)</u> | <u>(514,997.70)</u> | <u>(858,697.93)</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | 9,156,266.38 | 7,470,249.37 | 1,686,017.01 |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District

For 2/29/2024

Unaudited

| Community Funding Partnership Fund | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Revenues</u> | | | | |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 31,076.43 | 66,396.79 | 300,000.00 | 22.13 |
| 4900. Annual Funds Transfer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,221,389.00 | 0.00 |
| 4910. Additional Funds Transfer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | 31,076.43 | 66,396.79 | 8,621,389.00 | 0.77 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5001. Salaries | 7,114.69 | 14,220.42 | 105,309.75 | 13.50 |
| 5010. Accrued Vacation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5011. Fica/Medicare | 532.73 | 1,064.78 | 8,372.13 | 12.72 |
| 5014. Unemployment | 13.92 | 27.83 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5016. Workers Compensation Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5115. Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5118. Health Insurance | 1,139.10 | 1,203.97 | 16,385.72 | 7.35 |
| 5120. Cafeteria Plan-Employer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5121. Cafeteria Plan-Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5122. Retirement - 457 Matching | 155.90 | 311.60 | 2,400.00 | 12.98 |
| 5123. Retirement - Employer | 727.03 | 1,453.13 | 10,531.00 | 13.80 |
| 5124. Retirement - Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5125. RHS - Employer Contribution | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5310. Travel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 16,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 5311. Staff Registration | 0.00 | 386.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6024. Education Programs | 0.00 | 2,230.00 | 7,000.00 | 31.86 |
| 6101. Project Assistance | 124,921.19 | 1,419,194.44 | 4,111,604.63 | 34.52 |
| 6310. Computer Licenses/Software & Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 20,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Expenses | 134,604.56 | 1,440,092.42 | 4,297,603.23 | 33.51 |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | (103,528.13) | (1,373,695.63) | 4,323,785.77 | (31.77) |

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Check Register from 1/01/2024 to 2/29/2024

6 CFP - BOC

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Report Criteria... 4/04/2024 @ 2:50 PM | | | |
| Form: | Check Register - Check Register | | |
| Sort by | ActivityDate | | |
| activity dates: | From: 1/01/2024 To: 2/29/2024 | | |
| eft20240090 | 1/09/2024 | [FIRSTAM] FIRST AMERICAN TITLE Escrow for Shoshone | 500,000.00 |
| eft20240090 | 1/09/2024 | [XCEL] PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY General Counsel Fees | 500,000.00 |
| 0995157 | 1/12/2024 | [BRRC] BEAR RIVER RESERVOIR final pmt | 23,750.00 |
| 0995158 | 1/12/2024 | [HCCC] HIGH COUNTRY | 19,118.75 |
| 0995159 | 1/12/2024 | [CARBONDALE] TOWN OF Progress pmt #1 | 50,000.00 |
| 0995160 | 1/12/2024 | [WSCC] WESTERN SLOPE progress pmt #1 | 11,250.00 |
| 0995161 | 1/22/2024 | [SDRC] STEWART MESA DITCH & | 100,000.00 |
| 0995162 | 1/26/2024 | [GRANFA] GRAN FARNUM Printng CFP Annual Reports | 2,230.00 |
| 0995163 | 1/26/2024 | [MESA] MESA COUNTY Final Pmt | 23,700.00 |
| 0995164 | 1/26/2024 | [RMWU] REDLANDS MESA WATER | 2,600.00 |
| 0995165 | 1/26/2024 | [CRAWFORD] TOWN OF | 12,500.00 |
| 0995166 | 2/02/2024 | [GRANDWP] GRAND COUNTY progress pmt #3 | 200,000.00 |
| 0995167 | 2/02/2024 | [GCILC] GRAND COUNTY final pmt | 2,900.00 |
| 0995168 | 2/16/2024 | [AGCI] Aspen Global Change | 15,073.25 |
| 0995169 | 2/16/2024 | [CTYSTEAM] CITY OF STEAMBOAT | 37,500.00 |
| 0995170 | 2/26/2024 | [AMERICANR] AMERICAN RIVERS | 18,750.00 |
| 0995171 | 2/26/2024 | [BLUE RIVER] BLUE RIVER | 25,000.00 |
| 0995172 | 2/26/2024 | [MOFFAT] COUNTY OF MOFFAT | 9,533.69 |
| <u>Total Checks:</u> | | | <u>1,553,905.69</u> |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 1/31/2024

Run: 3/21/2024 at 5:08 PM

Page: 1

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 04 Enterprise Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 04-00-1000.000 Cash Box | 200.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1001.000 Peaks - ENT | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1002.000 Petty Cash | 1,337.72 | 1,327.62 | 10.10 |
| 04-00-1003.000 Cash In Bank-BoC -Checking | 2,873,010.82 | 3,319,467.03 | (446,456.21) |
| 04-00-1004.000 Alpine Bank | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1005.000 Bank CD's | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1006.000 First Bank CD | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1007.000 Mountain View Bank CD | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1008.000 NBH Bank CD | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1009.000 Undeposited Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1010.000 Wells Fargo /Colotrust -0100 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1011.000 CSAFE - 5603 - Elkhead Escrow | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1012.000 Csafe-5601 | 3,489,413.98 | 3,309,307.56 | 180,106.42 |
| 04-00-1013.000 Aim-0045 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1014.000 RESTRICTED CWCB/ELKHEAD PAYMENT | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1015.000 Enterprise ColoTrust Prime | 5,265,806.19 | 5,011,322.65 | 254,483.54 |
| 04-00-1016.000 Us Bank Money Market | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1017.000 Enterprise ColoTrust Plus | 8,467,362.74 | 8,031,415.71 | 435,947.03 |
| 04-00-1018.000 LPL Financial - ENT | 57,985.25 | 15,565.36 | 42,419.89 |
| 04-00-1019.000 Cash in Bank - BOC WMR Special Acct | 406,914.37 | 640,818.00 | (233,903.63) |
| 04-00-1020.000 Investments-All | 11,724,000.00 | 11,390,000.00 | 334,000.00 |
| 04-00-1021.000 Allowance For Investments+- | (190,294.88) | (453,274.78) | 262,979.90 |
| 04-00-1022.000 Accum Amortization Investments | (126,299.76) | (16,838.21) | (109,461.55) |
| 04-00-1023.000 Accrued Interest | 70,594.24 | 44,483.75 | 26,110.49 |
| 04-00-1200.000 Accounts Receivable | 72,380.65 | 32,550.86 | 39,829.79 |
| 04-00-1205.000 Housing Notes Receivable | 41,562.59 | 41,788.17 | (225.58) |
| 04-00-1206.000 Deferred Revenue | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1225.000 Allowance Housing Forgiveness | (20,000.00) | (20,000.00) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1300.000 Prepaid Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1400.000 ST Invest In Sales-Type Lease | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1401.000 LT Investment Sales-Type Lease | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1500.000 Land | 3,091,477.22 | 3,091,477.22 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1501.000 Vehicles | 262,985.81 | 262,985.81 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1502.000 Dam Projects | 66,272,765.71 | 66,238,927.92 | 33,837.79 |
| 04-00-1503.000 Recreation Area | 1,284,089.01 | 1,274,285.25 | 9,803.76 |
| 04-00-1504.000 Equipment | 300,116.15 | 300,116.15 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1505.000 Reservoir Co Stock | 2,590,230.43 | 2,587,265.65 | 2,964.78 |
| 04-00-1506.000 Computer Equipment | 16,801.79 | 16,801.79 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1507.000 Office Building | 1,527,053.00 | 1,527,053.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1508.000 Software/Upgrade | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1509.000 Equipment/Tools | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1510.000 GWS Office Building | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1511.000 Water Treatment Plant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1520.000 Construction In Progress | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1599.000 Assets in Fixed Assets Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1601.000 A/D-Vehicles | (245,388.35) | (238,096.94) | (7,291.41) |
| 04-00-1602.000 A/D-Dam Project | (18,966,287.69) | (18,015,793.19) | (950,494.50) |
| 04-00-1603.000 A/D-Recreation Area | (798,995.38) | (744,498.61) | (54,496.77) |
| 04-00-1604.000 A/D-Furniture & Fixtures | (164,893.73) | (143,454.81) | (21,438.92) |
| 04-00-1605.000 A/D-Office Equipment | (9,271.00) | (9,271.00) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1606.000 A/D-Computer Equipment | (13,940.82) | (12,972.14) | (968.68) |
| 04-00-1607.000 A/D-Office Building | (536,150.66) | (486,720.46) | (49,430.20) |
| 04-00-1608.000 A/D-Software/Upgrade | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1609.000 A/D-Equipment/Tools | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1610.000 A/D-GWS Office Building | (19,401.00) | (19,401.00) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1611.000 A/D-Water Treatment Plant | (13,724.12) | (13,724.12) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1620.000 Accumulated Depreciation | (921,910.26) | (921,910.26) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1700.000 Reservoir Company Stock | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1800.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA03053 (5000 AF) | 1,787,776.00 | 2,011,248.00 | (223,472.00) |
| 04-00-1801.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA00034 (500AF) | 29,970.40 | 44,955.60 | (14,985.20) |
| 04-00-1802.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA00036 (700AF) | 41,958.56 | 62,937.84 | (20,979.28) |
| 04-00-1803.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA02027 (530AF) | 87,551.36 | 107,007.24 | (19,455.88) |
| 04-01-1990.000 Internal Balances | 2,636.05 | (132,621.47) | 135,257.52 |
| 04-06-1501.001 WMP Vehicles | 6.22 | 6.22 | 0.00 |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 1/31/2024

Unaudited

| | <u>This Year</u> | <u>Last Year</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|---|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Total Assets | 87,739,428.61 | 88,134,737.41 | (395,308.80) |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 04-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 494,733.76 | 390,638.02 | 104,095.74 |
| 04-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2005.000 Project Faciliation Passthrough | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2011.000 FICA/Mdcr Payable | 8,288.61 | 6,574.46 | 1,714.15 |
| 04-00-2019.000 RHS -Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2021.000 Accrued Vacation Payable | 104,259.26 | 82,697.59 | 21,561.67 |
| 04-00-2101.000 Note/Contract Payable - Short Term | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2110.000 Deferred Water Revenue | 815,761.64 | 725,744.31 | 90,017.33 |
| 04-00-2120.000 Accrued Interest Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2201.000 N/P Cwcb - Wolford | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2202.000 N/P CWCB - Elkhead | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2203.000 Long Term Ruedi Contracts Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | 1,423,043.27 | 1,205,654.38 | 217,388.89 |
| 04-00-3000.000 EXTRAORDINARY MAINTENANCE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-3010.000 Net Position | 86,515,819.79 | 86,885,239.21 | (369,419.42) |
| Change in Net Assets | (199,434.45) | 43,843.82 | (243,278.27) |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | 87,739,428.61 | 88,134,737.41 | (395,308.80) |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement

Unaudited

Run: 3/21/2024 at 5:18 PM

Colorado River Water Conservation District For 1/31/2024

Page: 1

| Enterprise Fund | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Revenues</u> | | | | |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 111,488.30 | 111,488.30 | 1,000,000.00 | 11.15 |
| 4120. Rent & Misc. Income | 1,582.09 | 1,582.09 | 32,789.51 | 4.82 |
| 4130. Management Fee | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4140. Other Fees & Rec Area | 0.00 | 0.00 | 168,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4150. Project Contribution (other) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4160. Grants | 0.00 | 0.00 | 23,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4200. Elkhead OM&R Reimbursements | 0.00 | 0.00 | 122,882.00 | 0.00 |
| 4201. NEPA Cost Reimbursements | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4300. Joint Venture Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4301. Sale Of Capital Asset | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4303. Sale Of Water | 89,150.00 | 89,150.00 | 1,650,000.00 | 5.40 |
| 4304. Denver Water | 0.00 | 0.00 | 581,794.00 | 0.00 |
| 4305. Water Application/Change | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4306. Up-Front Sale Of Water | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4307. Project Contributions | 0.00 | 0.00 | 50,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4308. Federal Contributions | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | 202,220.39 | 202,220.39 | 3,645,465.51 | 5.55 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5000. Contingency Salaries | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5001. Salaries | 36,059.20 | 36,059.20 | 678,658.18 | 5.31 |
| 5004. Accrued Vacation Adjustment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 15,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 5010. Accrued Vacation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5011. Fica/Medicare | 2,463.60 | 2,463.60 | 49,006.28 | 5.03 |
| 5014. Unemployment | 64.39 | 64.39 | 2,035.68 | 3.16 |
| 5016. Workers Compensation Insurance | 2,479.80 | 2,479.80 | 5,255.48 | 47.19 |
| 5115. Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,593.41 | 0.00 |
| 5118. Health Insurance | 10,476.19 | 10,476.19 | 152,073.08 | 6.89 |
| 5120. Cafeteria Plan-Employer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5121. Cafeteria Plan-Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5122. Retirement - 457 Matching | 116.32 | 116.32 | 4,680.00 | 2.49 |
| 5123. Retirement - Employer | 3,131.40 | 3,131.40 | 61,915.75 | 5.06 |
| 5124. Retirement - Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 819.44 | 0.00 |
| 5125. RHS- Employer Contribution | 334.44 | 334.44 | 5,280.00 | 6.33 |
| 5211. Employee Housing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5212. Education Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5220. Overhead-C | 17,565.00 | 17,565.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5310. Travel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 38,700.00 | 0.00 |
| 5311. Registration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,100.00 | 0.00 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 1,186.20 | 1,186.20 | 11,400.00 | 10.41 |
| 5313. Travel Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6000. Directors Fees | 0.00 | 0.00 | 6,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6001. Education/Professional Development | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6012. Legal Notice | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| 6013. Special Counsel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 18,333.00 | 0.00 |
| 6014. Legal Engineering | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6015. Legal Litigation / Adr | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6016. Miscellaneous Legal/Materials | 779.52 | 779.52 | 1,000.00 | 77.95 |
| 6017. Legal Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6019. Legal WMR CRD only | 113,607.25 | 113,607.25 | 1,275,700.00 | 8.91 |
| 6020. Washington Counsel/Lobbyist | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6021. Colorado Lobbyist | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6022. Education Assistance To Others | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6023. External Affairs -C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6024. Education Programs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6025. Water Policy Survey | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6026. Education Supplies | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6102. Consultant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6103. Accounting Consultant | 151.87 | 151.87 | 4,000.00 | 3.80 |
| 6104. Audit | 0.00 | 0.00 | 7,500.00 | 0.00 |
| 6105. Investment/Banking Services | 28.69 | 28.69 | 250.00 | 11.48 |
| 6110. Admin Services/Expenses-C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6150. Assessments | 4,996.54 | 4,996.54 | 86,801.92 | 5.76 |
| 6200. Postage | 0.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 |
| 6201. Office Supplies | 32.48 | 32.48 | 1,000.00 | 3.25 |
| 6202. Telephone | 121.63 | 121.63 | 2,000.00 | 6.08 |
| 6203. Printing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Income Statement

Unaudited

Run: 3/21/2024 at 5:18 PM

**Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 1/31/2024**

Page: 2

| | M-T-D | Y-T-D | Annual | YTD % |
|---|-----------|-----------|--------------|--------|
| Enterprise Fund | Actual \$ | Actual \$ | Budget \$ | Budget |
| 6204. Insurance | 21,434.00 | 21,434.00 | 18,000.00 | 119.08 |
| 6205. Records | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6210. Lease Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6211. Equipment Repairs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6301. Subscriptions | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6302. Dues / Memberships | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,300.00 | 0.00 |
| 6310. Computer Licenses/Software & Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6320. Small Office Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6330. Utilities | 3,264.50 | 3,264.50 | 41,280.00 | 7.91 |
| 6340. Vehicle Maintenance | 1,346.89 | 1,346.89 | 24,000.00 | 5.61 |
| 6350. Roads/Buildings Maintences | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6401. Cleaning/Janitorial | 280.00 | 280.00 | 6,000.00 | 4.67 |
| 6402. Small Tools/Supplies | 4,565.13 | 4,565.13 | 10,000.00 | 45.65 |
| 6403. Water System Operation | 1,039.02 | 1,039.02 | 40,000.00 | 2.60 |
| 6410. Recreation Area O&M | 0.00 | 0.00 | 180,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6411. Dam/Project Maintenance | 3,293.50 | 3,293.50 | 85,000.00 | 3.87 |
| 6412. Weed Control WMP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6413. Water Quality - In House | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6414. USGS Gaging - Water Quality | 0.00 | 0.00 | 99,969.45 | 0.00 |
| 6415. USGS Streamflow Gaging | 0.00 | 0.00 | 29,197.35 | 0.00 |
| 6416. Dam & Reservoir OM&R Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6417. RD Facilities OM&R | 0.00 | 0.00 | 103,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6418. Dam Deformation | 33,352.43 | 33,352.43 | 240,000.00 | 13.90 |
| 6500. Bldg Construction/Remodel | 83,035.16 | 83,035.16 | 270,602.00 | 30.69 |
| 6501. Project Permit Compliance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6600. Bad Debt Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 20,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6602. Surveying & Mapping | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6603. Archeology | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6604. Water Marketing (Modeling) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6720. Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7001. USGS Guaging | 0.00 | 0.00 | 33,552.20 | 0.00 |
| 7002. Water Quality | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| 7009. WMP Weather Station (CoAgMet) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 7010. Vehicle & asset upgrades for WMP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 50,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 7011. Watershed Management | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7012. Ruedi Contract-(700) Capital | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7013. Ruedi Contract-(5,000) O&M | 7,450.00 | 7,450.00 | 10,000.00 | 74.50 |
| 7014. Ruedi Contract-(530) Capital | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7015. Ruedi Contract-(500) O&M | 745.00 | 745.00 | 1,000.00 | 74.50 |
| 7016. Ruedi Contract-(5,000) Capital | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7017. Ruedi Contract-(530) O&M | 789.70 | 789.70 | 1,000.00 | 78.97 |
| 7018. Ruedi Contract-(700) O&M | 1,043.00 | 1,043.00 | 1,500.00 | 69.53 |
| 7020. Hydro Plant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7021. Old Dillon Reserv. Enlargement | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7022. Elkhead Dam & Reservoir Op. | 2,242.00 | 2,242.00 | 175,500.00 | 1.28 |
| 7023. Elkhead Net | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7100. Projects | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7101. River Mou | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7102. 15-Mile Reach/Recovery Program | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7103. Vail Ditch | 6,700.00 | 6,700.00 | 6,700.00 | 100.00 |
| 7104. WR & Project Development | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,500.00 | 0.00 |
| 7105. Op. Wetland & Other Mitigation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7106. Mitigation Maintenance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 7107. Mitigation Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 7110. River Projects Contingency | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 100.00 |
| 7120. Elkhead Ops Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7200. Ruedi 15 MR PBO Compliance | 11,044.63 | 11,044.63 | 14,999.68 | 73.63 |
| 7201. Fisheries/Stocking | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7202. Elkhead Fish Screen | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7203. Annual Assessment | 16,435.36 | 16,435.36 | 60,000.00 | 27.39 |
| 7204. Special Assessment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7500. Cooperative Management | 0.00 | 0.00 | 23,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 7510. RCPP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7600. Technical Study - Risk Management | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8000. Principal - CWCB (Elkhead) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8001. Interest - CWCB (Elkhead) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8002. Amortization Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 278,892.00 | 0.00 |
| 9000. Acquisition | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9010. Depreciation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 9020. Gain/Loss Of Disposal | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Income Statement
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 1/31/2024

Unaudited

| Enterprise Fund | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total Expenses | <u>401,654.84</u> | <u>401,654.84</u> | <u>5,585,294.90</u> | <u>7.19</u> |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | <u><u>(199,434.45)</u></u> | <u><u>(199,434.45)</u></u> | <u><u>(1,939,829.39)</u></u> | <u><u>10.28</u></u> |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 2/29/2024

| | This Year | Last Year | Change |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 04 Enterprise Fund | | | |
| Assets | | | |
| 04-00-1000.000 Cash Box | 200.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1001.000 Peaks - ENT | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1002.000 Petty Cash | 3,454.39 | 1,597.62 | 1,856.77 |
| 04-00-1003.000 Cash In Bank-BoC -Checking | 2,725,166.09 | 3,454,394.88 | (729,228.79) |
| 04-00-1004.000 Alpine Bank | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1005.000 Bank CD's | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1006.000 First Bank CD | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1007.000 Mountain View Bank CD | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1008.000 NBH Bank CD | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1009.000 Undeposited Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1010.000 Wells Fargo /Colotrust -0100 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1011.000 CSAFE - 5603 - Elkhead Escrow | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1012.000 Csafe-5601 | 3,504,884.80 | 3,321,543.46 | 183,341.34 |
| 04-00-1013.000 Aim-0045 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1014.000 RESTRICTED CWCB/ELKHEAD PAYMENT | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1015.000 Enterprise ColoTrust Prime | 5,287,716.39 | 5,027,981.15 | 259,735.24 |
| 04-00-1016.000 Us Bank Money Market | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1017.000 Enterprise ColoTrust Plus | 8,504,446.33 | 8,060,350.40 | 444,095.93 |
| 04-00-1018.000 LPL Financial - ENT | 16,265.57 | 45,370.27 | (29,104.70) |
| 04-00-1019.000 Cash in Bank - BOC WMR Special Acct | 338,133.09 | 439,884.04 | (101,750.95) |
| 04-00-1020.000 Investments-All | 11,734,000.00 | 11,390,000.00 | 344,000.00 |
| 04-00-1021.000 Allowance For Investments+- | (190,294.88) | (453,274.78) | 262,979.90 |
| 04-00-1022.000 Accum Amortization Investments | (130,417.09) | (16,838.21) | (113,578.88) |
| 04-00-1023.000 Accrued Interest | 70,594.24 | 44,483.75 | 26,110.49 |
| 04-00-1200.000 Accounts Receivable | 107,719.77 | 102,084.64 | 5,635.13 |
| 04-00-1205.000 Housing Notes Receivable | 41,540.56 | 41,775.28 | (234.72) |
| 04-00-1206.000 Deferred Revenue | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1225.000 Allowance Housing Forgiveness | (20,000.00) | (20,000.00) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1300.000 Prepaid Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1400.000 ST Invest In Sales-Type Lease | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1401.000 LT Investment Sales-Type Lease | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1500.000 Land | 3,091,477.22 | 3,091,477.22 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1501.000 Vehicles | 262,985.81 | 262,985.81 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1502.000 Dam Projects | 66,272,765.71 | 66,238,927.92 | 33,837.79 |
| 04-00-1503.000 Recreation Area | 1,284,089.01 | 1,274,285.25 | 9,803.76 |
| 04-00-1504.000 Equipment | 300,116.15 | 300,116.15 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1505.000 Reservoir Co Stock | 2,590,230.43 | 2,587,265.65 | 2,964.78 |
| 04-00-1506.000 Computer Equipment | 16,801.79 | 16,801.79 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1507.000 Office Building | 1,527,053.00 | 1,527,053.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1508.000 Software/Upgrade | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1509.000 Equipment/Tools | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1510.000 GWS Office Building | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1511.000 Water Treatment Plant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1520.000 Construction In Progress | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1599.000 Assets in Fixed Assets Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1601.000 A/D-Vehicles | (245,388.35) | (238,096.94) | (7,291.41) |
| 04-00-1602.000 A/D-Dam Project | (18,966,287.69) | (18,015,793.19) | (950,494.50) |
| 04-00-1603.000 A/D-Recreation Area | (798,995.38) | (744,498.61) | (54,496.77) |
| 04-00-1604.000 A/D-Furniture & Fixtures | (164,893.73) | (143,454.81) | (21,438.92) |
| 04-00-1605.000 A/D-Office Equipment | (9,271.00) | (9,271.00) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1606.000 A/D-Computer Equipment | (13,940.82) | (12,972.14) | (968.68) |
| 04-00-1607.000 A/D-Office Building | (536,150.66) | (486,720.46) | (49,430.20) |
| 04-00-1608.000 A/D-Software/Upgrade | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1609.000 A/D-Equipment/Tools | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1610.000 A/D-GWS Office Building | (19,401.00) | (19,401.00) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1611.000 A/D-Water Treatment Plant | (13,724.12) | (13,724.12) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1620.000 Accumulated Depreciation | (921,910.26) | (921,910.26) | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1700.000 Reservoir Company Stock | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-1800.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA03053 (5000 AF) | 1,787,776.00 | 2,011,248.00 | (223,472.00) |
| 04-00-1801.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA00034 (500AF) | 29,970.40 | 44,955.60 | (14,985.20) |
| 04-00-1802.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA00036 (700AF) | 41,958.56 | 62,937.84 | (20,979.28) |
| 04-00-1803.000 Ruedi Reservoir CA02027 (530AF) | 87,551.36 | 107,007.24 | (19,455.88) |
| 04-01-1990.000 Internal Balances | 22,728.95 | (406,638.38) | 429,367.33 |
| 04-06-1501.001 WMP Vehicles | 6.22 | 6.22 | 0.00 |

Balance Sheet
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 2/29/2024

Unaudited

| | <u>This Year</u> | <u>Last Year</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Total Assets | <u>87,618,956.86</u> | <u>87,952,139.28</u> | <u>(333,182.42)</u> |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| 04-00-2000.000 Accounts Payable | 575,912.59 | 241,733.35 | 334,179.24 |
| 04-00-2001.000 Encumbrance Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2005.000 Project Facilitation Passthrough | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2011.000 FICA/Mdcr Payable | 8,288.61 | 6,574.46 | 1,714.15 |
| 04-00-2019.000 RHS -Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2021.000 Accrued Vacation Payable | 104,259.26 | 82,697.59 | 21,561.67 |
| 04-00-2101.000 Note/Contract Payable - Short Term | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2110.000 Deferred Water Revenue | 815,761.64 | 725,744.31 | 90,017.33 |
| 04-00-2120.000 Accrued Interest Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2201.000 N/P Cwcb - Wolford | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2202.000 N/P CWCB - Elkhead | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-2203.000 Long Term Ruedi Contracts Payable | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| Total Liabilities | 1,504,222.10 | 1,056,749.71 | 447,472.39 |
| 04-00-3000.000 EXTRAORDINARY MAINTENANCE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04-00-3010.000 Net Position | 86,515,819.79 | 86,885,239.21 | (369,419.42) |
| Change in Net Assets | <u>(423,777.50)</u> | <u>10,150.36</u> | <u>(433,927.86)</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | <u>87,596,264.39</u> | <u>87,952,139.28</u> | <u>(355,874.89)</u> |

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Income Statement

Colorado River Water Conservation District

For 2/29/2024

| Enterprise Fund | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Revenues</u> | | | | |
| 4110. Investment Interest | 111,770.72 | 223,259.02 | 1,000,000.00 | 22.33 |
| 4120. Rent & Misc. Income | 3,482.54 | 5,064.63 | 32,789.51 | 15.45 |
| 4130. Management Fee | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4140. Other Fees & Rec Area | 1,455.00 | 2,143.00 | 168,000.00 | 1.28 |
| 4150. Project Contribution (other) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4160. Grants | 0.00 | 0.00 | 23,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4200. Elkhead OM&R Reimbursements | 78,245.83 | 78,245.83 | 122,882.00 | 63.68 |
| 4201. NEPA Cost Reimbursements | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4300. Joint Venture Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4301. Sale Of Capital Asset | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4303. Sale Of Water | 0.00 | 89,150.00 | 1,650,000.00 | 5.40 |
| 4304. Denver Water | 0.00 | 0.00 | 581,794.00 | 0.00 |
| 4305. Water Application/Change | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4306. Up-Front Sale Of Water | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4307. Project Contributions | 2,980.00 | 2,980.00 | 50,000.00 | 5.96 |
| 4308. Federal Contributions | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Revenues | 197,934.09 | 400,842.48 | 3,645,465.51 | 11.00 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | |
| 5000. Contingency Salaries | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5001. Salaries | 39,337.20 | 75,396.40 | 678,658.18 | 11.11 |
| 5004. Accrued Vacation Adjustment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 15,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 5010. Accrued Vacation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5011. Fica/Medicare | 2,785.63 | 5,249.23 | 49,006.28 | 10.71 |
| 5014. Unemployment | 72.83 | 137.22 | 2,035.68 | 6.74 |
| 5016. Workers Compensation Insurance | 0.00 | 2,479.80 | 5,255.48 | 47.19 |
| 5115. Disability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,593.41 | 0.00 |
| 5118. Health Insurance | 11,338.62 | 21,814.81 | 152,073.08 | 14.34 |
| 5120. Cafeteria Plan-Employer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5121. Cafeteria Plan-Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5122. Retirement - 457 Matching | 109.52 | 225.84 | 4,680.00 | 4.83 |
| 5123. Retirement - Employer | 3,658.92 | 6,790.32 | 61,915.75 | 10.97 |
| 5124. Retirement - Administration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 819.44 | 0.00 |
| 5125. RHS- Employer Contribution | 414.68 | 749.12 | 5,280.00 | 14.19 |
| 5211. Employee Housing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5212. Education Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5220. Overhead-C | 49,208.17 | 66,773.17 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5310. Travel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 38,700.00 | 0.00 |
| 5311. Registration | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,100.00 | 0.00 |
| 5312. Meeting Expense | 0.00 | 1,186.20 | 11,400.00 | 10.41 |
| 5313. Travel Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6000. Directors Fees | 0.00 | 0.00 | 6,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6001. Education/Professional Development | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6012. Legal Notice | 804.12 | 804.12 | 500.00 | 160.82 |
| 6013. Special Counsel | 1,100.74 | 1,100.74 | 18,333.00 | 6.00 |
| 6014. Legal Engineering | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6015. Legal Litigation / Adr | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6016. Miscellaneous Legal/Materials | 731.96 | 1,511.48 | 1,000.00 | 151.15 |
| 6017. Legal Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6019. Legal WMR CRD only | 135,395.59 | 249,002.84 | 1,275,700.00 | 19.52 |
| 6020. Washington Counsel/Lobbyist | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6021. Colorado Lobbyist | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6022. Education Assistance To Others | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6023. External Affairs -C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6024. Education Programs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6025. Water Policy Survey | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6026. Education Supplies | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6102. Consultant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6103. Accounting Consultant | 0.00 | 151.87 | 4,000.00 | 3.80 |
| 6104. Audit | 0.00 | 0.00 | 7,500.00 | 0.00 |
| 6105. Investment/Banking Services | 34.77 | 63.46 | 250.00 | 25.38 |
| 6110. Admin Services/Expenses-C | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6150. Assessments | 4,996.54 | 9,993.08 | 86,801.92 | 11.51 |
| 6200. Postage | 92.72 | 92.72 | 200.00 | 46.36 |
| 6201. Office Supplies | 0.00 | 32.48 | 1,000.00 | 3.25 |
| 6202. Telephone | 146.75 | 268.38 | 2,000.00 | 13.42 |
| 6203. Printing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Income Statement

Unaudited

Run: 4/03/2024 at 7:32 PM

Colorado River Water Conservation District For 2/29/2024

Page: 2

| Enterprise Fund | M-T-D | Y-T-D | Annual | YTD % |
|---|------------|------------|--------------|--------|
| | Actual \$ | Actual \$ | Budget \$ | Budget |
| 6204. Insurance | 0.00 | 21,434.00 | 18,000.00 | 119.08 |
| 6205. Records | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6210. Lease Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6211. Equipment Repairs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6301. Subscriptions | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6302. Dues / Memberships | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,300.00 | 0.00 |
| 6310. Computer Licenses/Software & Services | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6320. Small Office Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6330. Utilities | 3,453.36 | 6,717.86 | 41,280.00 | 16.27 |
| 6340. Vehicle Maintenance | 516.10 | 1,862.99 | 24,000.00 | 7.76 |
| 6350. Roads/Buildings Maintences | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6401. Cleaning/Janitorial | 280.00 | 560.00 | 6,000.00 | 9.33 |
| 6402. Small Tools/Supplies | 322.30 | 4,887.43 | 10,000.00 | 48.87 |
| 6403. Water System Operation | 0.00 | 1,039.02 | 40,000.00 | 2.60 |
| 6410. Recreation Area O&M | 0.00 | 0.00 | 180,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6411. Dam/Project Maintenance | 3,204.75 | 6,498.25 | 85,000.00 | 7.65 |
| 6412. Weed Control WMP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6413. Water Quality - In House | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6414. USGS Gaging - Water Quality | 0.00 | 0.00 | 99,969.45 | 0.00 |
| 6415. USGS Streamflow Gaging | 0.00 | 0.00 | 29,197.35 | 0.00 |
| 6416. Dam & Reservoir OM&R Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6417. RD Facilities OM&R | 0.00 | 0.00 | 103,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6418. Dam Deformation | 101,749.54 | 135,101.97 | 240,000.00 | 56.29 |
| 6500. Bldg Construction/Remodel | 45,991.33 | 129,026.49 | 270,602.00 | 47.68 |
| 6501. Project Permit Compliance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6600. Bad Debt Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 20,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 6602. Surveying & Mapping | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6603. Archeology | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6604. Water Marketing (Modeling) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6720. Equipment | 881.00 | 881.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7001. USGS Guaging | 0.00 | 0.00 | 33,552.20 | 0.00 |
| 7002. Water Quality | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| 7009. WMP Weather Station (CoAgMet) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 7010. Vehicle & asset upgrades for WMP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 50,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 7011. Watershed Management | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7012. Ruedi Contract-(700) Capital | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7013. Ruedi Contract-(5,000) O&M | 0.00 | 7,450.00 | 10,000.00 | 74.50 |
| 7014. Ruedi Contract-(530) Capital | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7015. Ruedi Contract-(500) O&M | 0.00 | 745.00 | 1,000.00 | 74.50 |
| 7016. Ruedi Contract-(5,000) Capital | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7017. Ruedi Contract-(530) O&M | 0.00 | 789.70 | 1,000.00 | 78.97 |
| 7018. Ruedi Contract-(700) O&M | 0.00 | 1,043.00 | 1,500.00 | 69.53 |
| 7020. Hydro Plant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7021. Old Dillon Reserv. Enlargement | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7022. Elkhead Dam & Reservoir Op. | 16,338.00 | 18,580.00 | 175,500.00 | 10.59 |
| 7023. Elkhead Net | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7100. Projects | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7101. River Mou | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7102. 15-Mile Reach/Recovery Program | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7103. Vail Ditch | 0.00 | 6,700.00 | 6,700.00 | 100.00 |
| 7104. WR & Project Development | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,500.00 | 0.00 |
| 7105. Op. Wetland & Other Mitigation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7106. Mitigation Maintenance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 7107. Mitigation Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 7110. River Projects Contingency | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 100.00 |
| 7120. Elkhead Ops Contingency | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7200. Ruedi 15 MR PBO Compliance | 0.00 | 11,044.63 | 14,999.68 | 73.63 |
| 7201. Fisheries/Stocking | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7202. Elkhead Fish Screen | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7203. Annual Assessment | 0.00 | 16,435.36 | 60,000.00 | 27.39 |
| 7204. Special Assessment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7500. Cooperative Management | 0.00 | 0.00 | 23,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 7510. RCPP | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7600. Technical Study - Risk Management | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8000. Principal - CWCB (Elkhead) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8001. Interest - CWCB (Elkhead) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8002. Amortization Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 | 278,892.00 | 0.00 |
| 9000. Acquisition | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9010. Depreciation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,100,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 9020. Gain/Loss Of Disposal | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Income Statement
Colorado River Water Conservation District
For 2/29/2024

Unaudited

| Enterprise Fund | M-T-D Actual \$ | Y-T-D Actual \$ | Annual Budget \$ | YTD % Budget |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Total Expenses | <u>422,965.14</u> | <u>824,619.98</u> | <u>5,585,294.90</u> | <u>14.76</u> |
| Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures | <u>(225,031.05)</u> | <u>(423,777.50)</u> | <u>(1,939,829.39)</u> | <u>21.85</u> |

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Check Register from 1/01/2024 to 2/29/2024

2 ENT - BOC

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Report Criteria... 4/04/2024 @ 2:51 PM | | | |
| Form: | Check Register - Check Register | | |
| Sort by | ActivityDate | | |
| activity dates: | From: 1/01/2024 To: 2/29/2024 | | |
| 0995231 | 1/02/2024 | [TWORIV] TWO RIVERS PARK | 2,918.27 |
| 0995232 | 2/02/2024 | [GCMDRC] GRAND COUNTY | 6,700.00 |
| 0995233 | 2/02/2024 | [KARP] KARP, NEU, HANLON, P.C. | 86,906.46 |
| 0995234 | 2/02/2024 | [TWORIV] TWO RIVERS PARK | 2,918.27 |
| 0995235 | 2/02/2024 | [YVEA] YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC | 3,957.00 |
| 0995236 | 2/16/2024 | [BOR] DOI - BOR - REGION: 5412.5 AF | 21,072.33 |
| <u>Total Checks:</u> | | | <u>124,472.33</u> |

Colorado River Water Conservation District

Check Register from 1/01/2024 to 2/29/2024

5 ENT - WMR Special

| <u>Check/EFT</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Vendor / Description</u> | <u>Check / Payment</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Report Criteria... 4/04/2024 @ 2:50 PM | | | |
| Form: | Check Register - Check Register | | |
| Sort by | ActivityDate | | |
| activity dates: | From: 1/01/2024 To: 2/29/2024 | | |
| 0995477 | 1/05/2024 | [BUCKEYE] BUCKEYE WELDING | 61.20 |
| 0995478 | 1/05/2024 | [EDGE] EDGE INTERNET | 149.99 |
| 0995479 | 1/05/2024 | [GANNETTF] GANNETT FLEMING, | 4,808.25 |
| 0995480 | 1/05/2024 | [MFCP] MOTION AND FLOW Ritschard Dam FCV hydraulic cy | 3,954.65 |
| 0995481 | 1/05/2024 | [NWSPLY] NORTHWEST RANCH | 103.88 |
| 0995482 | 1/05/2024 | [WWWHEELER] W.W. WHEELER & | 5,959.25 |
| 0995483 | 1/12/2024 | [EDGE] EDGE INTERNET | 39.99 |
| 0995484 | 1/12/2024 | [IPC] INDEPENDENT PROPANE | 1,071.35 |
| 0995485 | 1/12/2024 | [KTOWN] K-TOWN NAPA | 173.67 |
| 0995486 | 1/12/2024 | [THREEL] THREE LAKES WATER & 5 water system testing bottles | 175.00 |
| 0995487 | 1/22/2024 | [KLEENW] KLEEN AS A WHISTLE | 280.00 |
| 0995488 | 1/22/2024 | [MCFARMS] MCDONALD FARMS | 4,499.00 |
| 0995489 | 1/22/2024 | [MTNPKS] MOUNTAIN PARKS | 2,031.07 |
| 0995490 | 1/22/2024 | [MSEC INC] MSEC, INC. | 2,592.00 |
| 0995491 | 1/22/2024 | [WASTEMGT] WASTE | 566.01 |
| 0995492 | 1/26/2024 | [KNIGHT] KNIGHT PIESOLD AND | 192.60 |
| 0995493 | 1/26/2024 | [MCFARMS] MCDONALD FARMS | 17,565.00 |
| 0995494 | 2/02/2024 | [WSP] WSP USA Inc. | 3,975.00 |
| 0995495 | 2/09/2024 | [BUCKEYE] BUCKEYE WELDING | 30.60 |
| 0995496 | 2/09/2024 | [EDGE] EDGE INTERNET | 149.99 |
| 0995497 | 2/09/2024 | [NWSPLY] NORTHWEST RANCH | 1,654.55 |
| 0995498 | 2/09/2024 | [RENEGADE] RENEGADE AUTO F150 Oil Change and servicing | 348.21 |
| 0995499 | 2/16/2024 | [EDGE] EDGE INTERNET | 39.99 |
| 0995500 | 2/16/2024 | [GANNETTF] GANNETT FLEMING, | 12,308.75 |
| 0995501 | 2/16/2024 | [HDR] HDR ENGINEERING INC | 18,216.50 |
| 0995502 | 2/16/2024 | [IPC] INDEPENDENT PROPANE | 581.32 |
| 0995503 | 2/16/2024 | [KLEENW] KLEEN AS A WHISTLE | 280.00 |
| 0995504 | 2/16/2024 | [KNIGHT] KNIGHT PIESOLD AND | 1,852.18 |
| 0995505 | 2/16/2024 | [MSS] MSS SOLUTIONS, LLC | 10,000.00 |
| 0995506 | 2/16/2024 | [RAINDROP] RAINDROP WATER | 2,592.06 |
| 0995507 | 2/16/2024 | [WASTEMGT] WASTE | 462.13 |
| 0995508 | 2/26/2024 | [ATT] ADVANCED TERRA TESTING | 25,150.00 |
| 0995509 | 2/26/2024 | [FEDEX] FEDEX ship computer to Kem | 92.72 |
| 0995510 | 2/26/2024 | [HDR] HDR ENGINEERING INC | 975.00 |
| 0995511 | 2/26/2024 | [MCFARMS] MCDONALD FARMS | 9,243.00 |
| 0995512 | 2/26/2024 | [MTNPKS] MOUNTAIN PARKS | 2,188.50 |
| <u>Total Checks:</u> | | | <u>134,363.41</u> |

GO BACK TO AGENDA

- 3. General Counsel's Report - Executive Session - No Material Available**



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

ATTORNEY REPORT
JOINT QUARTERLY MEETING
GENERAL and ENTERPRISE
April 2024

TO: CRWCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: PETER C. FLEMING, GENERAL COUNSEL
JASON V. TURNER, DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL
BRUCE C. WALTERS, ASSOCIATE COUNSEL

Dear Directors:

This report identifies matters for discussion at the April 16-17, 2024, joint quarterly meeting of the River District and its Enterprise. A separate Confidential Report addresses confidential matters. The information in this report is current as of April 5, 2024, and will be supplemented as necessary before or at the Board meeting.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The following is a list of matters that qualify for discussion in executive session pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b) and (e).

- A. Woford Mountain Reservoir and Ritschard Dam Operations (An Enterprise Matter).
- B. Colorado River Cooperative Agreement (CRCA) Implementation.
- C. Proposed Deep Creek Wild and Scenic Designation.
- D. Colorado River District Conditional Water Rights.
- E. Application of Colorado River District, Ouray County, Ouray County Water Users Association, and Tri-County Water Conservancy District for Ram's Horn Reservoir Project, Case No. 19CW3098, Water Division 4.
- F. Shoshone Permanency.
- G. Colorado River Compact and Interstate Negotiations, including System Conservation Pilot Project.

II. RIVER DISTRICT WATER MATTERS AND GENERAL MATTERS.

- A. **Woford Mountain Reservoir and Ritschard Dam Operations (an Enterprise Matter.)**

ACTION: Update only. No action requested at this time.





STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S): 13.A. (Operation and maintenance of District assets).

Denver Water is now a 40% owner of the Woford Mountain Reservoir storage space and water rights. We continue to work with River District staff on matters related to the Ritschard Dam and as co-owners with Denver Water of the storage space and associated water rights.

This matter is discussed in the Confidential Report. We recommend that the Board discuss it in executive session.

B. Colorado River Cooperative Agreement (CRCA) Implementation.

ACTION: Update only.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S): 5A (Shoshone permanency), 5C (transmountain diversions), and 9A (wise and efficient water use).

At the CRCA meeting held on January 31st, Denver pledged to provide technical analysis and concepts for proposed resolution of the Dillon yield-reliability dispute. West Slope CRCA signatories, including the River District, continue to wait for Denver to provide that information and to set a meeting date for continued discussions on that and other CRCA issues (including the payment of funds to West Slope entities due upon Denver's acceptance of permits for its Gross Reservoir Enlargement Project).

The Board may wish to discuss this subject in executive session.

C. Shoshone Permanency.

ACTION: Update and proposed action after discussion in executive session.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S): 5.A (Shoshone Permanency).

River District legal staff continues to spend significant time working on the Shoshone permanency efforts. We are pleased with progress to date on most fronts but are anxious for the Front Range Water Council entities to engage in discussions about their respective concerns about the project. Andy Mueller's General Manager report [\[HERE\]](#) contains more detail about the Shoshone progress.

The Board may wish to discuss this subject in executive session.

D. Colorado River Compact, Interstate Negotiations, and Related Matters, Including System Conservation Pilot Project.

ACTION: Update and potential action following discussion in executive session.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S): 4 (Colorado River Water Supplies), 6 (Agricultural Water Use), and 8 (Colorado Water Plan – compact risk and conceptual framework).



Andy Mueller’s General Manager report [\[HERE\]](#) contains a detailed discussion regarding the Upper and Lower Basin’s respective proposed alternatives for post-2026 operations of the Colorado River system. Dave Kanzer has prepared a memo [\[HERE\]](#) and also linked within Andy’s General Manager report regarding implementation of the 2024 System Conservation Pilot Project.

The Board may wish to discuss any legal questions or sensitive negotiation matters in executive session.

E. Application of the Colorado River District, Ouray County, Ouray County Water Users Association, and Tri-County Water Conservancy District, Case No. 19CW3098, Water Division 4.

ACTION: Update only.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S): 4.A. (full use of Colorado River basin water supplies), 7.B. (identifying water needs and use of River District’s conditional and absolute rights to meet those needs).

We continue to work cooperatively with the River District’s co-applicants in this case with the goal of securing a conditional decree for water rights, including appropriative rights of exchange, to be used as a source of supplemental supply for water users in the Cow Creek and upper Uncompahgre River basins. The proposed project also will be operated to preserve and improve low flows for environmental and piscatorial purposes.

There are numerous objectors in the case, including the CWCB, CPW, local water users, and local and regional environmental organizations. We continue to hold settlement discussions in the hope of resolving the opposition to the case.

This matter is discussed in the Confidential Report, we recommend that the Board discuss this matter in executive session.

F. Proposed Deep Creek Wild and Scenic Designation.

ACTION: Update only.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S): 4 (Colorado River Water Supplies), 6 (Agricultural Water Use).

River District staff and counsel continue to participate actively in Deep Creek Wild & Scenic River proposal stakeholder group. The group is making slow but steady progress in negotiating terms and conditions for the proposed Wild and Scenic designation that would protect the identified “outstandingly remarkable [resource] values” while also protecting existing and future ranching, water rights, and small-scale residential development in the vicinity of the proposed designated lands

This matter is discussed in the Confidential Report. The Board may wish to discuss this subject in executive session.



G. Colorado River District Conditional Water Rights.

ACTION: Update only.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S): 4.A. (Colorado River supplies) and 7.B. (River District conditional water rights).

The River District maintains a number of conditional water rights for which periodic filings for findings of reasonable diligence are required in order to maintain the rights. Staff and counsel regularly provide updates to the Board on the development of the River District’s portfolio of conditional water rights.

This matter is discussed in the Confidential Report. The Board may wish to discuss this matter in executive session.

H. Proposed Ratification of Statement of Opposition in the Application for Water Rights and Plan for Augmentation of Sun River Run Ranch, LLC and the Town of Granby, Case No. 23CW3218, Water Division 5 (an Enterprise Matter).

ACTION: Staff requests that the Board ratify the River District’s Statement of Opposition filed in Case No. 23CW3218, Water Division No. 5.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S): 4.A. (Colorado River Supplies).

We filed a statement of opposition in Case No. 23CW3218, Water Division No. 5, with respect to the water court application of Sun River Run Ranch RV, LLC, and the Town of Granby (together, “Co-Applicants”). The Co-Applicants identified the Colorado River District’s water marketing supplies as a source of augmentation, but the Co-Applicants do not presently have an existing water supply contract to cover the out-of-priority depletions associated with the conditional storage and surface rights requested in the application. The River District’s statement of opposition is included with your Board packet and can be accessed [HERE](#).

We recommend that the Board ratify the River District’s statement of opposition in Case No. 23CW3218, Water Division No. 5.

J. Proposed Stipulation to the Application of City and County of Denver, acting by and through its Board of Water Commissioners, Case No. 22CW3215, Water Division 1.

ACTION: We request that the Board authorize a stipulation with Denver Water in Case No. 22CW3215, Water Division 1.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S): 5.C. (Transmountain Diversion Policy).

In February of 2023, the River District filed a statement of opposition to a water rights application filed by Denver Water in Water Division 1. Pursuant to the CRCA, Denver agreed to limit the place of use of its water rights to a defined service area depicted in the CRCA. The River District and Summit County filed statements of opposition in Case No. 22CW3215 because the application proposed to use CRCA-restricted water rights outside of Denver’s defined service area. We worked

GO BACK TO AGENDA



with Summit County to ensure that Denver agreed to add a term in the decree that the use of the subject water rights will be subject to the restrictions specified in the CRCA.

We recommend that the Board authorize counsel to enter a stipulation with Denver Water resolving the River District's opposition to Case No. 22CW3215, Water Division 1.

K. Diligence Decree for Colorado River District Conditional Water Right for Gunsight Pass Reservoir Power Plant (a/k/a Wolford Mountain Reservoir Power Plant), Case No. 23CW3040, Water Division 5. (an Enterprise Matter).

ACTION: Update only.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S): 7.B. (Colorado River District Conditional Water Rights).

We are pleased to report that, in February, the District Court, Water Division No. 5, granted the River District's water court application for a finding a reasonable diligence, and entered a final judgment and decree in Case No. 23CW3040, finding that the River District was reasonably diligent in developing the water right for the Gunsight Pass Reservoir Power Plant (a/k/a Wolford Mountain Reservoir Power Plant).

An application for a finding of reasonable diligence for the conditional power right is due in February of 2030. Failure to file a timely water court application for a finding of reasonable diligence—or failure to continue work with reasonable diligence in the completion of the appropriation for the subject water right—will result in cancellation of the Gunsight Pass Reservoir Power Plant (a/k/a Wolford Mountain Reservoir Power Plant). The legal team has instructed Colorado River District staff to calendar periodic reminders of the pertinent diligence deadlines.

GO BACK TO MEMO

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| GARFIELD COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 5, COLORADO | | DATE FILED: February 28, 2024 5:24 PM FILING ID: 781A133084DA7 CASE NUMBER: 2023CW3218 |
| Court Address: Garfield County Courthouse 109 8th Street, Suite 104 Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 (970) 928-3062 | | |
| CONCERNING THE APPLICATION FOR WATER RIGHTS AND PLAN FOR AUGMENTATION OF: SUN RIVER RUN RANCH RV, LLC, and the TOWN OF GRANBY, COLORADO, IN GRAND, EAGLE, AND GARFIELD COUNTIES, COLORADO. | | ▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲ |
| <i>Attorneys for Opposer the Colorado River Water Conservation District:</i> Name: Peter C. Fleming, #20805 Jason V. Turner, #35665 Bruce C. Walters, #50235 Address: 201 Centennial Street, Suite 200 Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 Telephone: (970) 945-8522 Fax: (970) 945-8799 E-mail: pfleming@crwcd.org jturner@crwcd.org bwalters@crwcd.org | | Case Number: 23CW3218 Div.: Ctrm.: |
| STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION | | |

1. Name, Address, and Telephone Number of Opposer:

Colorado River Water Conservation District, acting by and through its Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise (“River District”)
201 Centennial Street, Suite 200
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601
Telephone: (970) 945-8522
Facsimile: (970) 945-8799

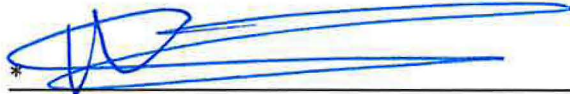
Please direct all pleadings and correspondence in this matter to Peter C. Fleming, Jason V. Turner, and Bruce C. Walters, counsel for the River District, to the foregoing address.

2. Names of ditches or other structures: As referenced in the Application.

3. State facts as to why the application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions:
 - a. The River District owns and operates the Wolford Mountain Reservoir Project located on Muddy Creek, tributary to the Colorado River, and has a contractual right to water deliveries from Ruedi Reservoir.
 - b. Applicants must be held to the standard of strict proof with respect to each claim made in the Application.
 - c. The River District's water supplies in Wolford Mountain Reservoir are identified in the Application as a source of augmentation water. Pursuant to the River District's policies, use of those supplies must be made pursuant to a water supply contract between the user and the River District. Use of the River District's supplies must be denied unless a water supply contract is made and adhered to in a manner consistent with the River District's Water Marketing Policy.
 - d. The River District's Wolford Mountain Reservoir supply may be operationally bundled with the River District's Ruedi Reservoir supply. The release of water based exclusively on Wolford Mountain Reservoir water is not available under the River District's Water Marketing Policy in the absence of a water supply contract that identifies Wolford Mountain Reservoir as the sole source of supply.
 - e. Applicants must prove that they have a legal right to utilize the structures named in the Application and that the claimed augmentation and exchange sources can be utilized for the intended purposes.
 - f. The River District reserves the right to raise additional objections at a later date based on information not readily ascertainable from the Application.
 - g. This Statement of Opposition is intended to be continuing in nature and to apply to all further amendments to the Application, regardless of form. The River District requests leave of the Water Court for this Statement of Opposition to apply equally to any such amendments that may be filed in this case, without the necessity of filing any additional statements of opposition.

District Court, Water Division 5, Colorado
Case No. 23CW3218; Sun River Run Ranch RV, LLC & Town of Granby
Statement of Opposition
Page 3

Respectfully submitted this 28th day of February 2024.



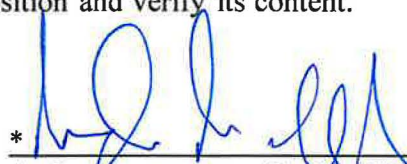
Peter C. Fleming, General Counsel, #20805
Jason V. Turner, Deputy General Counsel, #35665
Bruce C. Walters, Associate Counsel, #50235
*Attorneys for the Colorado River Water
Conservation District, acting by and through its
Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise*

**In accordance with C.R.C.P. 121 §1-26(9), this document has been electronically filed via www.jbits.courts.state.co.us.com. A printed copy of this document with original signatures is maintained by the filing party and will be made available for inspection by other parties or the Court upon request.*

VERIFICATION

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF GARFIELD)

I, Andrew A Mueller, General Manager for the Colorado River Water Conservation District, acting by and through its Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise, state that I have read the foregoing Statement of Opposition and verify its content.


* _____
Andrew A. Mueller, General Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me on February 28, 2024.

WITNESS my official hand and seal. My commission expires: _____

LORRA NICHOLS
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF COLORADO
NOTARY ID 19954010058
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 11, 2027


* _____
Notary Public

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing **STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION** was filed and served electronically upon all parties of record as identified in the Colorado Courts E-filing (“CCEF”) record through www.jbits.courts.state.co.us.com within twenty-four (24) hours of this date, February 28, 2024, in accordance with C.R.C.P. Rule 121, Section 1-26(6).


* _____
Lorra Nichols, Paralegal

**In accordance with C.R.C.P. 121 §1-26(9), this document has been electronically filed via www.jbits.courts.state.co.us.com. A printed copy of this document with original signatures is maintained by the filing party and will be made available for inspection by other parties or the Court upon request.*

GO BACK TO AGENDA

- 5. Public Comment – No Material Available.**



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CRWCD

FROM: ANDY MUELLER, GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: 2024 SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING, GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

DATE: APRIL 7, 2024

List of Actions Requested Under General Manager's Report:

g. Staff requests Board authorization for the General Manager, subject to review and approval by counsel, to execute a professional services contract funded from the General Fund, to support an update to the River District's Strategic Plan, associated 2025 Implementation Plan, leadership trainings and organizational development. Staff will provide a revised action item with a specific recommendation and funding amount during the River District's Second Joint Quarterly Meeting in April 2024.

a. Interstate Colorado River Updates.

ACTION(S): Informational only, no action is requested.

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S):

1. Outreach and Advocacy: *As the entity in the State of Colorado, statutorily charged to protect, develop, manage, and safeguard the water resources of the Colorado River Basin for the welfare of the District and for all citizens of Colorado, the River District has a basic responsibility to inform our constituents of statewide and basin-wide issues affecting water users of the Colorado River. In order to achieve the various strategic initiatives outlined in this Plan, the River District recognizes that public support will be required.*

The District maintains a robust public education and outreach effort through an evolving variety of media and public meetings it either organizes or co-sponsors. Through pro-active involvement and dedication of resources, the District seeks to shape and influence public policy and legislation affecting Colorado River water resources, District water users, and operations of the District.

1.A. The River District will continue to enhance and expand partnerships and



working relationships with key elected and appointed officials to advance western Colorado's perspectives on proposed legislation and regulations affecting western Colorado water resources at both the state and federal levels.

4. Colorado River Supplies: *Colorado may be closer to full use of its Colorado River supplies than commonly thought. Absent good planning, education, outreach, and mitigation measures to address regional water supply issues, Colorado risks overdevelopment of its Colorado River supplies to the detriment of existing water users. At some level of additional development, all existing uses junior to the compact (more than 500,000 acre feet) are at risk of curtailment under compact administration. The River District's will work on Colorado River Basin contingency planning and compact risk management, both related to low reservoir levels at Lake Powell that threaten power generation and the ability to meet Colorado River Compact obligations, be reflected in the Colorado Water Planning efforts.*

- 4. A. The River District will advocate for full use of its Colorado River Basin water supplies for the benefit of the District's inhabitants, without undue risk of overdevelopment.*
- 4. B. The River District will advocate for full protection and preservation of water rights perfected by use prior to the effective date of the 1922 Compact and thereby excluded from curtailment in the event of compact administration.*
- 4. C. The River District will continue to study mechanisms, such as a Compact Water Bank and Contingency Planning that include demand management, drought operations of CRSP reservoirs, and water supply augmentation to address the risk of overdevelopment.*

6. Agricultural Water Use: *Most West Slope agricultural water use is senior to the Colorado River Compact. As Colorado nears full development of its Colorado River system water there will be pressure for temporary and permanent conversion of senior agricultural water rights to other uses. The Colorado River Compact Water Bank may provide a mechanism to protect agricultural water uses.*

- 6. A. The River District will continue to study the concept of a voluntary and compensated compact water bank in collaboration with other stakeholders to best preserve western Colorado agriculture.*
 - 6. B. The River District will explore alternative transfer methods that allow agricultural water users to benefit from the value of their water rights without the permanent transfer of the rights, and without adverse impacts to the local communities and the regional economy.*
 - 6. C. Although the River District recognizes that some reductions in demands of agricultural water rights may be necessary to protect existing water uses in the basin, the District will work to ensure that the burden of demand reduction is shared across all types of water use sectors, and that agricultural water rights, and agriculture itself, are not injured.*
 - 6. D. The River District will protect the integrity of senior agricultural water rights within Colorado's prior appropriation system, recognizing the potential risks to those rights posed by the constitution's municipal right of condemnation.*
-



It has been a busy few months in the interstate and federal arena on the Colorado River. As you will recall, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) requested that the seven basin states present a consensus based proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation containing the states' collective desire for future operational guidelines for Lakes Powell and Mead. The Commissioner had requested that this consensus modeling proposal be submitted no later than March 11, 2024. Unfortunately, the seven states were unable to reach a consensus. In fact, the Lower Division States stopped showing up to meetings with the Upper Division States back in mid-January, making it very hard to reach a seven state consensus. The Upper Division States and the Lower Division States submitted modeling proposals the week before the March 11 deadline. Those proposals can be found [HERE](#) (Upper Division) and [HERE](#) (Lower Division) respectively. More recently, at least three other proposals of note were submitted to the BOR for consideration:

1. A group of 20 of the Colorado River basin tribes submitted a set of guiding principles to be considered ([HERE](#));
2. Seven environmental organizations submitted a proposal ([HERE](#)); and
3. Professors Jack Schmidt and John Fleck teamed up with CRD's former General Manager to submit a proposal ([HERE](#)).

Much of the discussion since their submittal has been about how far apart the Lower and Upper basin water managers are from one another in their vision for future operations of the River. Staff and counsel for the River District have been involved in multiple discussions with our state representatives and other major water users in the state both prior to and after the submission by the Upper Division States.

We will have a detailed discussion of these alternative management strategies at the Board meeting, but our essential takeaways on the Upper and Lower Division proposals can be summarized as follows:

- The Upper Division States propose operating Lake Powell based on observed hydrologic conditions and how full Lakes Mead and Powell are on October 1st. In their proposal, reductions in the Lower Basin use are dependent on an October 1 Combined Storage Trigger for Lakes Powell and Mead.¹
- The Upper Division States also discuss “parallel activities” within the Upper Basin which are not part of the federal action or alternatives recommended to be modeled as part of the Post-2026 NEPA process but which may complement the proposal in the future. These include:
 - Releases from Flaming Gorge, Navajo, and Aspinall Unit; and
 - Pursuing a voluntary, temporary, and compensated conserved consumptive use program.

¹ The Trigger is calculated using Lake Powell and Lake Mead's Storage volume (live storage below flood control elevations) by subtracting a threshold volume from the total live storage. The threshold volume for Lake Powell is 4.2 MAF. The threshold volume for Lake Mead is 4.5 MAF. The threshold volume for the two reservoirs combined is 8.7 MAF.



- The Lower Basin proposes a “total system contents method” which bases reductions on volumes of water contained within seven Upper and Lower basin reservoirs² rather than solely on Lake Mead and Lake Powell elevations.
- The Lower Basin proposal acknowledges current system losses resulting from evaporation and seepage and commits to reducing Lower Basin water use by 1.5 million acre-feet each year when system storage is between 38% and 69%. However, when combined system storage dips below 38%, the Lower Basin proposal asks that additional cuts (up to a total reduction to 3.9 MAF) be split evenly between the Upper and Lower Basins.
- The Lower Basin also requested the BOR to model a 2.4 MAF reduction in consumptive use in the Upper Basin (this is essentially indicating that the Lower Basin thinks it is appropriate for the Upper Basin which consumes approximately 4.5 MAF annually (including evaporation losses) to reduce its consumption by over 53% down to approximately 2 MAF annually).
- The Lower Basin proposal's release criteria for Lake Powell are also based primarily on reservoir contents in the Upper Basin (Flaming Gorge, Navajo, Blue Mesa, and Lake Powell).

Upper Division vs Lower Basin Proposals:

River District staff and counsel provide the following thoughts regarding the two state driven proposals and will provide a comparative analysis of all of the proposals at the April Quarterly meeting:

- The Lower Basin proposal under most likely future hydrologic futures appears to run the system storage at exceptionally low levels, thereby threatening water security for all basin water users.
- The Lower Basin proposal would unfairly burden the Upper Basin when storage volumes are low by forcing reductions in use in the Upper Basin that are equivalent to reductions in the Lower Basin – even though the Lower Basin's consumptive use far exceeds use in the Upper Basin by millions of acre-feet. It therefore does not recognize the essence of the equitable apportionment created by the 1922 Compact or the imperative on all who depend upon the Colorado River to live within hydrologic reality. This approach continues to use failed and outdated math and is unrealistic about the future of the river under the impacts of climate change.
- The Lower Basin's proposal for mandatory cuts in the Upper Basin ignores the legal impossibility of such a proposal posed by the fact that Upper Basin states have not ceded their authority over the waters of their states to the federal government. By way of

² For purposes of this Lower Basin Alternative, “total system contents” is the total volume of water in live storage within Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Blue Mesa Reservoir, Navajo Reservoir, Lake Powell, Lake Mead, Lake Mojave, and Lake Havasu.



example, there is no legal mechanism available within the state of Colorado for the Division of Water Resources to curtail water diversion or consumption on the Colorado River for interstate purposes for any purpose other than compact compliance (which can only occur after a number of procedural and substantive steps including action by the UCRC).

- The Lower Basin proposal ignores the primary purpose of the Upper Initial Colorado River Storage Project Act reservoirs (Flaming Gorge, Blue Mesa and Navajo), i.e., to protect Upper Basin Consumptive Uses in times of shortage. Instead, the Lower Basin proposes to turn those reservoirs into additional storage to support Lower Basin overuse.
- The Upper Basin proposal charts a reasonable path forward that acknowledges the hydrologic realities of the river as well as the long-standing impacts to communities and industries who have dealt with decades of involuntary reductions by living within what the river provides each year.
- In comparing both proposals, the seven basin states are far from consensus. However, both entities express a continued desire for additional dialogue and appear to have their first seven state meeting since January scheduled for the week of our Board meeting.

Parallel Activities within the Upper Division State Proposal:

- The Upper Division State Proposal includes a potential parallel activity of pursuing a voluntary, temporary, and compensated conserved consumptive use program.
- The River District's core positions and concerns regarding any conserved consumptive use ("CCU") program remain:
 - Without appropriate sideboards and thoughtful design, any CCU program could result in disproportionate impacts and cause irreversible harm to communities – particularly on the Western Slope. (See, the discussion regarding the System Conservation Pilot Program below).
 - The District continues to advocate that any future program must be operated in a manner that avoids disproportionate negative economic or environmental impacts to any single subbasin or region within Colorado. This requires that any future program be designed to require proportionate contributions of water from all basins, regions and water user sectors which currently consume the waters of the Colorado River.
 - We look forward to working with the State and participating in future dialogue regarding the review and potential operation of a future program.

We are still analyzing the proposals/strategies submitted by the Tribes, the environmental NGO's and the group of academics and we will present additional information at the April Quarterly meeting. We look forward to a robust discussion on these items.

b. System Conservation Pilot Project.

Please see attached memo in the electronic packet by [clicking here](#).



c. **Shoshone Water Rights Preservation Campaign Update.**

ACTION(S): Informational only, no action is requested.

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S):

3. Climate and Hydrologic Uncertainty: *Climate and hydrologic uncertainty should be a major driver of what the River District does in the mid- to long-term. The impacts to precipitation are not clear. However, the overwhelming evidence indicates a warming and increasingly variable climate. Hotter temperatures will certainly result in increased demands for agricultural and municipal water supplies due to longer and warmer growing seasons. Patterns of snowpack accumulation and runoff will change. Runoff is projected to occur earlier and quicker, and there will be an earlier return to possibly lower base flows after runoff. These factors will stress storage supplies. On a local and regional basis, storage supplies may prove inadequate.*

4. Colorado River Supplies: *Colorado may be closer to full use of its Colorado River supplies than commonly thought. Absent good planning, education, outreach, and mitigation measures to address regional water supply issues, Colorado risks overdevelopment of its Colorado River supplies to the detriment of existing water users. At some level of additional development, all existing uses junior to the compact (more than 500,000 acre feet) are at risk of curtailment under compact administration. The River District's will work on Colorado River Basin contingency planning and compact risk management, both related to low reservoir levels at Lake Powell that threaten power generation and the ability to meet Colorado River Compact obligations, be reflected in the Colorado Water Planning efforts.*

4.A. *The River District will advocate for full use of its Colorado River Basin water supplies for the benefit of the District's inhabitants, without undue risk of overdevelopment.*

4.B. *The River District will advocate for full protection and preservation of water rights perfected by use prior to the effective date of the 1922 Compact and thereby excluded from curtailment in the event of compact administration.*

4.C. *The River District will continue to study mechanisms, such as a Compact Water Bank and Contingency Planning that include demand management, drought operations of CRSP reservoirs, and water supply augmentation to address the risk of overdevelopment.*

4.D. *The River District will work with the State Engineer's Office and other interested parties to develop an equitable mechanism for potential compact administration.*

6. Agricultural Water Use: *Most West Slope agricultural water use is senior to the Colorado River Compact. As Colorado nears full development of its Colorado River system water there will be pressure for temporary and permanent conversion of senior agricultural water rights to other uses. The Colorado River Compact Water Bank may provide a mechanism to protect agricultural water uses.*

6.A. *The River District will continue to study the concept of a voluntary and compensated compact water bank in collaboration with other stakeholders to best preserve western Colorado agriculture.*

6.B. *The River District will explore alternative transfer methods that allow agricultural water users to benefit from the value of their water rights without the permanent transfer of the rights, and without adverse impacts to the local communities and the regional economy.*



6.C. Although the River District recognizes that some reductions in demands of agricultural water rights may be necessary to protect existing water uses in the basin, the District will work to ensure that the burden of demand reduction is shared across all types of water use sectors, and that agricultural water rights, and agriculture itself, are not injured.

6.D. The River District will protect the integrity of senior agricultural water rights within Colorado’s prior appropriation system, recognizing the potential risks to those rights posed by the constitution’s municipal right of condemnation.

7. Water Needs/Project Development: Through Colorado’s Water Plan and the Basin Implementation Plans, water needs within the River District have been, and will continue to be, refined and prioritized. The River District owns a large portfolio of conditional water rights that may be suitable for meeting a portion of the identified water demands. However, developments in judicial case law have made it more difficult for all water users, including the River District, to maintain conditional water rights.

The work of the Shoshone Water Rights Permanency Campaign continues in full force with activity on multiple facets of the effort.

1. Funding Commitments.

• **State of Colorado:**

On January 29, 2024, the Colorado Water Conservation Board voted unanimously to match the River District’s contribution by recommending a \$20 million appropriation to the legislature as part of the Colorado Water Conservation Board Projects Bill. As Zane previously informed the Board, the Projects Bill was introduced in the house on April 1 and has a hearing before the state scheduled for April 8. I will be providing the District’s brief testimony in support of the bill. While anything can happen to a bill on its way through the General Assembly, we believe that this bill is on a path to success in the near future.

• **Local Partners:**

District staff and counsel have attended over a dozen meetings to discuss funding commitments for Shoshone with our local, West Slope coalition partners in the first quarter of 2024. The response has been fantastic and the enthusiasm for attaining this shared goal has never been higher on the West Slope. Below is a summary of the local commitments and pending requests with our partners:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Ute Water Conservancy District | \$2 million |
| City of Grand Junction | \$1 million |
| Clifton Water District | \$250,000 |
| Grand Valley Irrigation Company | \$250,000 |
| Grand Valley Water Users Association | \$100,000 |



| | |
|---|--------------------|
| City of Rifle | \$100,000 |
| Orchard Mesa Irrigation District | \$100,000 |
| Basalt Water Conservancy District | \$100,000 |
| Palisade Irrigation District* | \$50,000* |
| <u>West Divide Water Conservancy District</u> | <u>\$50,000</u> |
| Total: | \$4 Million |

Additionally, we have pending discussions with the following partners regarding the anticipated commitments listed below:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Garfield County | \$4 million |
| Mesa County | \$2 million |
| Eagle County | \$2 million |
| City of Glenwood Springs | \$2 million |
| Summit County | \$1 million |
| Grand County | \$1 million |
| Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority | \$750,000 |
| Eagle River Water and Sanitation District | \$750,000 |
| Clinton Ditch and Reservoir Company | \$100,000 |
| <u>Mesa County Irrigation District</u> | <u>\$50,000</u> |
| Total: | \$13.65 Mill |

- **Federal Funding efforts.**

We continue to have frequent meetings with the Bureau of Reclamation and other federal agencies regarding our upcoming request to the federal government for funding through the Inflation Reduction Act. Staff is preparing information for submittal to the federal government for this anticipated request related to hydrologic modeling and benefit to federal interests in the basin.

- **Instream Flow Agreement.**

Staff and counsel for the District and Public Service Company of Colorado continue to make progress on the terms and conditions for the proposed Instream Flow Agreement which the parties will need to approve and execute before a water court change case is initiated to add the additional beneficial use of instream flow to the Shoshone water rights. Staff and counsel continue to work with the state and contractors to develop the appropriate biological and hydrological information which will support the environmental basis for the instream flow right.



d. Staffing Update.

ACTION REQUESTED: No action, just informational.

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S):

11. River District Staff Resources: For the River District to successfully fulfill its mission and meet strategic initiatives of the organization, it is imperative to attract and retain a highly qualified staff. The River District values each employee and their contributions and recognizes that the success of the organization depends heavily on the success of its employees.

11. A. The River District will seek to be an attractive and competitive employer in the region, state, and water community. This includes maintaining, to the best of its ability, a highly competitive compensation package and supporting the work-life balance that is valued by the District and its employees.

11. B. The River District will have an excellent workforce that is talented and adaptable. The District will focus on effective hiring for new employees, professional development for existing employees and management to ensure that the proper expertise and leadership attributes are maintained and developed in all staff positions.

11. D. The District will strive for efficient and effective communication that facilitates collaboration and teamwork. The District will continue to involve, empower, and support all staff in the fulfillment of the District's mission.

I wanted to update the Board on some staffing transitions here at the District. While the Board does receive notices of position openings, I thought it would be helpful to provide a brief comprehensive update on three staffing transitions which we are currently experiencing:

- **Senior Accountant.**

This position was vacated by Betty Diaz who left the District so that she could spend more time with her family. We are excited to announce that we have filled this position, and on April 29, 2024, Diana Cardenas will be joining the District team. Ms. Cardenas comes to us from Pitkin county and has significant work experience and educational background to help the District continue its long history of transparent management of taxpayer funds.

- **Senior Water Rights Engineer.**

After 25 years of amazing contributions, Don Meyer has informed the District that he will be retiring this year from our team. Don is a fantastic colleague and significant contributor to the District's success. Don will be missed by all of us. With the addition of Sam Calahan, we are reorganizing the engineering staff just a bit and are currently advertising for an engineer with significant geotechnical and dam safety experience. The listing on our website can be accessed [HERE](#), please share it with any qualified people you know.



- **Director of Public Relations.**

Marielle Cowdin, our Director of Public Relations for the last three years announced her departure from the District in the first quarter of the year. Marielle contributed significantly to the District's public relations and communications efforts while she was here and she will be missed by all. We are utilizing Marielle's departure to internally evaluate the best structure for the External Affairs team and anticipate posting a position in our public relations department in the near future.

- e. **Colorado River Basin Hydrology Report - Update.**

Please see attached memo in the electronic packet by [clicking here.](#)

- f. **Presentation of the Water Conservation Decision Support Tool.**

Please see attached memo in the electronic packet by [clicking here.](#)

- g. **Contract Approval with Strategic Planning Consultant.**

Please see attached memo in the electronic packet by [clicking here.](#)

- h. **Service Anniversary.**

ACTION REQUESTED: No action, just informational.

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S):

11. River District Staff Resources: For the River District to successfully fulfill its mission and meet strategic initiatives of the organization, it is imperative to attract and retain a highly qualified staff. The River District values each employee and their contributions and recognizes that the success of the organization depends heavily on the success of its employees.

11. A. The River District will seek to be an attractive and competitive employer in the region, state, and water community. This includes maintaining, to the best of its ability, a highly competitive compensation package and supporting the work-life balance that is valued by the District and its employees.

11. B. The River District will have an excellent workforce that is talented and adaptable. The District will focus on effective hiring for new employees, professional development for existing employees and management to ensure that the proper expertise and leadership attributes are maintained and developed in all staff positions.

11. D. The District will strive for efficient and effective communication that facilitates collaboration and teamwork. The District will continue to involve, empower, and support all staff in the fulfillment of the District's mission.



The District is pleased to recognize our Sr. Water Resources Engineer, Don Meyer, for his dedicated and exceptional service who celebrated his 25th anniversary on April 1st of this year!

GO BACK TO MEMO



Colorado River Upper Division State Representatives of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming

MEDIA RELEASE

March 5, 2024

Upper Division Colorado River States Propose Alternative for Sustainable Operations of Post-2026 Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead

This week, the Upper Division States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation an Alternative for Post-2026 Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The UDS Alternative proposes operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead designed to help provide water supply certainty and sustainability in the face of a drying and uncertain future.

The purpose of the Upper Division States Alternative is to provide a set of modeling assumptions and operating parameters to the Bureau of Reclamation for Post-2026 Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead as part of the review process required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Separate from this NEPA process, the Upper Division States (UDS) will also pursue Parallel Activities. Parallel Activities are other activities the Upper Division States might take under certain conditions. Examples include potential releases and recovery at the Colorado River Storage Project Act (CRSPA) Initial Units and voluntary water conservation programs that would help to protect the ability of Lake Powell to make releases.

The Upper Division States Alternative provides:

- Management of the reservoirs to address the existing imbalance between water supply and demands in the Lower Basin;
- Operations based on actual conditions—instead of unreliable forecasts—to ensure that Lake Powell and Lake Mead are operated sustainably;
- Efforts to rebuild storage at Lake Powell to protect the reservoir's ability to provide water to Lake Mead;
- Reliance on the best available science and information, including impacts caused by climate change;
- Consistency with the Law of the River;

- Accounting of Upper Basin’s hydrologic shortages, which average an estimated 1.2 million acre-feet each year; and
- Acknowledgement of the settled but undeveloped Tribal water rights in the Upper Basin.

“We can no longer accept the status quo of Colorado River operations,” said Becky Mitchell, Colorado’s Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission. “If we want to protect the system and ensure certainty for the 40 million people who rely on this water source, then we need to address the existing imbalance between supply and demand. That means using the best available science to work within reality and the actual conditions of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. We must plan for the river we have - not the river we dream for.”

Estevan Lopez, New Mexico’s Commissioner, said, “The Colorado River Basin is at a critical juncture. The UDS Alternative seeks to acknowledge the Upper Basin’s realities, including hydrologic shortages, protect Upper Basin interests, and contribute towards future sustainability of the entire basin. We look forward to working with our sister Lower Basin States to resolve differences in approach and create a 7-state consensus alternative.”

“This is a pivotal moment for Utah and the entire Upper Basin,” said Gene Shawcroft, Utah’s Upper Colorado River Commissioner. “Our proposal represents a balanced approach, combining immediate action with long-term planning to ensure the sustainability of both Lake Powell and Lake Mead. It’s about adapting to the realities we face today and securing a water-resilient future for our region.”

Wyoming’s Commissioner, Brandon Gebhart, said, “Our Alternative focuses on building storage in Lake Powell to help provide a sustainable water supply into the drying future, and avoid the constant crisis of recent years. It’s a response to the lessons we’ve learned, and acknowledges the uncertain future we face. Although our proposal can stand on its own, it was also designed to promote the development of a seven-state consensus alternative which is a goal we all still seek to achieve.”

The Upper Division States are committed to working with partners in developing a preferred alternative. The UDS Alternative is available in detail on the Upper Colorado River Commission’s website, along with an infographic.



Colorado River Upper Division State Representatives of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming

March 5, 2024

The Honorable Camille Touton
Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
mtouton@usbr.gov
crbpost2026@usbr.gov

Dear Commissioner Touton:

The undersigned Governor Representatives for the Upper Division States (UDS) submit the following Upper Division States' Alternative (UDS Alternative). We request that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) evaluate the UDS Alternative in conjunction with its June 16, 2023, Notice of Intent to "Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Development of Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead," 88 FR 3945 (Notice), and its October 20, 2023 Notice of Availability for the "Colorado River Reservoir Operations: Development of Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead," 88 FR 72535 (Scoping Summary Report).

We submit this UDS Alternative as a set of modeling assumptions and operating parameters. This is an effective alternative to sustain Lake Powell and Lake Mead into the future. We request that this submittal be considered and evaluated as an alternative for the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines (Post-2026 Operations) NEPA process. This UDS Alternative meets Reclamation's preliminary assessment of the purpose and need described in the Scoping Summary Report and broadly aims to describe the coordinated operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead in a manner that: (1) Is consistent with the Law of the River; (2) Reduces the risks caused by depleted storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead; (3) Reflects the best available science and information including impacts caused by climate change; (4) Addresses the existing imbalance between water supply and demands in the Basin which depend on storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead; (5) Operates Lake

Powell and Lake Mead based on observed conditions instead of projected conditions; (6) Accounts for hydrologic shortages in the Upper Basin. The UDS also acknowledge settled but undeveloped Tribal water rights in the Upper Basin although those are not specifically described in the UDS Alternative.

Modeling assumptions for the UDS Alternative include the following key parameters for operations at Lakes Powell and Mead:

- 1) CRSS Model Version. The August release of CRSS v.6 with November 2023 initial conditions has been used to develop the UDS Alternative. This version of CRSS incorporates:
 - a. Upper Basin current and future water uses based on the Updated 2016 Upper Division States Depletion Demand Schedule (June 2022) and estimated Upper Basin hydrologic shortages; and
 - b. Lower Basin water uses as characterized in the model.
- 2) Combined Storage Trigger (Trigger). The purpose of the Trigger described in this section is to determine reductions in modeled Lower Basin water use. The UDS Alternative includes a calculation of a Combined Storage Trigger for Lake Powell and Lake Mead on October 1. The Trigger is calculated using Lake Powell and Lake Mead’s Storage volume (live storage below flood control elevations) by subtracting a threshold volume from the total live storage. The threshold volume for Lake Powell is 4.2 MAF. The threshold volume for Lake Mead is 4.5 MAF. The threshold volume for the two reservoirs combined is 8.7 MAF. The UDS Alternative does not explicitly protect any reservoir elevations and is agnostic as to how modeled reductions are attributed below Lee Ferry. The calculation of the Trigger is as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Current Live Storage} - \text{Threshold Volume}}{\text{Total Live Storage} - \text{Threshold Volume}} \times 100$$

Lake Powell Operations

The UDS Alternative includes the Lake Powell release curve as described in the table below based on observed conditions at the start of the Water Year beginning on October 1.

| Lake Powell Elevation (October 1) | Lake Powell Percent Full (live storage) | Lake Powell Water Year Release |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| > 3,700' | 100% | As required by dam safety regulations |
| 3,670' - 3,700' | 81% – 100% | Linear Rule Curve - 8.1 - 9.0 MAFY |
| 3,510' - 3,670' | 20% – 81% | Linear Rule Curve - 6.0 - 8.1 MAFY |
| < 3,510' | < 20% | 6.0 MAFY |

Lake Mead Operations

Lake Mead operations are adapted from a concept first proposed by the Lower Division States. The reduction curve described below identifies water use reductions as a function of the Trigger. All reductions are assumed to be applied to Lower Basin mainstem consumptive use of 7.5 MAFY, defined as diversions from the mainstem minus return flows. The operating year reductions are determined based on the October 1 Trigger each year. Based on the Trigger values below, this reduction curve results in the following volumes being unavailable for release from Lake Mead or for delivery in the Lower Basin.

| October 1 Trigger | Lower Basin Reductions | Description |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| > 90% | 0 MAFY | No Lower Basin Reductions |
| 90% - 70% | 0 – 1.5 MAFY | Lower Basin Reductions linearly increase up to a maximum of 1.5 MAFY |
| 70% - 20% | 1.5 MAFY | Lower Basin 1.5 MAFY Reduction remains static |
| 20% - 0% | > 1.5 MAFY | In addition to the static 1.5 MAFY Reductions, Lower Basin Reductions linearly increase up to an additional 2.4 MAFY |

No Action Alternative

As of the date of this submittal, Reclamation has not disclosed the No Action Alternative for this EIS. The No Action Alternative must acknowledge that, upon expiration of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the operating criteria for Lake Powell and Lake Mead will revert to the Long-Range Operating Criteria (LROC) used to model baseline conditions in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Interim Surplus Guidelines dated December 2000. However, details regarding potential implementation of the LROC are unclear. We request that the Secretary consult with the Basin States for input on the development of the No Action Alternative.

Term of Post-2026 Operations

The Post-2026 Operations must be interim in duration. In the Notice, Reclamation states that the Post-2026 Operations will be approximately twenty years in duration. However, due to uncertain future hydrologic conditions, and the uncertainty of future actions, the UDS assert that a shorter interim period may be warranted.

Hydrologic Shortages

The water supply available to the UDS is uncertain every year due to hydrologic variability. UDS water users are subject to hydrologic shortages each year which are involuntary reductions in consumptive water use due to the lack of physical and legal availability of water. As the water available is uncertain each year, the volume of water that can be derived from Parallel Activities defined below is limited.

Parallel Activities

In the event that this UDS Alternative is adopted, the UDS will undertake parallel but separate activities *that are not a part of this federal action or part of the UDS Alternative*. Parallel activities refer to actions in the Upper Basin that are beyond the scope of the Post-2026 Operations, but may complement those operations.

The UDS will take additional actions to help preserve the ability to release water from Lake Powell including potential releases of water from CRSPA Upstream Initial Units (Flaming Gorge, Aspinnall, Navajo). Any releases from the CRSPA Upstream Initial Units to help maintain Lake Powell releases must occur within existing authorities, will take place outside of this NEPA process and will be subject to separate criteria.

The UDS will also pursue voluntary, temporary, and compensated reductions of consumptive use. Conserved volumes will vary based on multiple factors, including hydrologic conditions. Temporary conservation would occur without impairing the right to exercise existing water rights. Conserved water would be credited to, and be available for, the benefit of the UDS, including helping to maintain Lake Powell releases under certain conditions. These activities may also provide benefits for environmental resources.

Continued Collaboration

Since Reclamation issued the Notice on June 16, 2023, the seven Basin States have consulted among themselves and with Reclamation to explore potential Post-2026 Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, together with potential parallel activities. The UDS have also engaged with Upper Basin Tribes, water users, and non-governmental organizations on these topics. While we are submitting this UDS Alternative as four states, we recognize the value of Basin-wide collaboration in order to achieve the flexibility and innovation needed in the face of an uncertain

future. Accordingly, we welcome future opportunities to explore a seven-state consensus alternative.

Reservation of Rights

Operations proposed under this UDS Alternative do not represent interpretations of existing law by the undersigned. The UDS expressly reserve their rights under applicable law, including, but not limited to the Law of the River. Nothing in this submittal is intended, nor shall be construed, to interpret, diminish, or modify the rights of the UDS or the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC) under federal or state law or administrative rule, regulation, or guideline. This submittal is not intended to be, and shall not be construed in any way as, a waiver of any such rights. Moreover, we reserve the right to provide further comments, consult with the Secretary, take any other necessary steps, and engage with Reclamation as it proceeds with subsequent phases of the Post-2026 Operations NEPA process.

Conclusion

The UDS Alternative protects Lake Powell storage for the benefit of both the Upper and Lower Basins, mitigates the risk of either Lake Powell or Lake Mead reaching dead pool, and is consistent with the Law of the River.

We ask that Reclamation advance this UDS Alternative through the NEPA process and that Reclamation model and evaluate the impacts of this Alternative in its Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Post-2026 Operations. The UDS are willing to work with Reclamation to optimize the UDS Alternative in order to facilitate Reclamation's development of a preferred alternative.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Mitchell
Governor's Representative
State of Colorado



Gene Shawcroft
Governor's Representative
State of Utah



Estevan Lopez
Governor's Representative
State of New Mexico



Brandon Gebhart
Governor's Representative
State of Wyoming



Colorado River Upper Division State Representatives of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

March 5, 2024

1. What is the purpose of the Upper Division States Post-2026 Alternative?

This Upper Division States Alternative (UDS Alternative) provides an effective approach for the Post-2026 Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead that responds to hydrologic conditions, rebuilds storage in the reservoirs, and protects water users and resources. The current guidelines expire in 2026. By submitting this package, the Upper Division States request the Bureau of Reclamation model and consider the UDS Alternative in the NEPA process for Post-2026 Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

2. What are the main components of the Upper Division States Alternative?

The UDS Alternative includes:

- A UDS commitment to help preserve the ability to make releases from Lake Powell.
- Lake Powell: Modeled releases from Lake Powell that are based on hydrologic conditions and designed to rebuild storage to protect Lake Powell's ability to make releases consistent with the Law of the River.
- Lake Mead: Modeled Lower Basin operations that are adapted from a concept first provided by the Lower Basin States based on the combined storage of Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

3. What are the goals of the UDS Alternative?

The UDS Alternative is designed to:

- Be consistent with the Law of the River and applicable environmental laws;
- Reduce risks to water supplies and operations caused by depleted storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead;
- Address the imbalance between water supply and demands in the Lower Basin and rebuild storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead;
- Provide greater predictability and reliability for reservoir operations under a wide range of potential future conditions due to climate change and depleted storage;

- Operate Lake Powell and Lake Mead based on observed conditions instead of unreliable forecasts;
- Recognize and account for hydrologic shortages in the Upper Basin.

4. Parallel Activities

The UDS will consider, through agreements separate from the post-2026 NEPA process, parallel activities to support Upper Basin interests:

- Voluntary conservation
- Flexible reservoir operations
- Acknowledge settled but undeveloped Tribal water rights in the Upper Basin

5. What is the status of the Basin State discussions?

While the Upper Division States submitted the Upper Division States' own Alternative, all Upper Division States remain committed to working with the Lower Basin States to develop a consensus alternative.



Colorado River Upper Division State Representatives of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming

March 11, 2024

Additional Information Regarding the Upper Division States Alternative

As part of the ongoing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to develop new operating guidelines for Lakes Powell and Mead, the Upper Division States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming (collectively, UDS) submitted an alternative (UDS Alternative) to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation on March 5th, 2024. The UDS requested that Reclamation advance the UDS Alternative through the Post-2026 NEPA process for modeling and evaluation as an effective plan to operate Lake Powell and Lake Mead in the coming years that will both protect those reservoirs and provide benefits to the entire Colorado River Basin.

Developing new operating guidelines for Lake Powell and Lake Mead presents an opportunity to use the lessons learned from past operations. The current operating guidelines have proven to be insufficient to address current and future risks to the system caused by climate change and current water uses from Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

Since 2000, there has been a growing imbalance with water use significantly exceeding supply. As a result, water stored in Lake Powell and Lake Mead has been significantly depleted. Climate science indicates the Colorado River Basin should expect continued long-term and sustained drought, increasing temperatures, low soil moisture and low runoff conditions. Post-2026 Operations must sustain Lake Powell and Lake Mead into the future through a wide range of water supply conditions.

The UDS Alternative proposes operations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead that are based on actual annual water supply conditions and focus on rebuilding reservoir storage. Those operations will help to sustain a reliable water supply in the face of the uncertainty created by drought, increased temperatures, low runoff conditions, low soil moisture and depleted reservoirs. Further, the UDS Alternative identifies activities that are separate from, but parallel to, the UDS Alternative. Parallel

activities include flexible operations first at Lake Powell, and then in Flaming Gorge, Aspinall, and Navajo Reservoirs (Colorado River Storage Project Act Initial Units) as well as voluntary water conservation programs in the Upper Basin. Even though these parallel activities are not a part of the UDS Alternative, they are designed to help protect the ability of Lake Powell to make water releases.

We provide this letter as additional explanation of the considerations that helped shape the UDS Alternative, the separate but parallel activities mentioned above, and considerations of the Upper Basin Tribes' settled but undeveloped water rights. This letter also explains some of the limiting conditions faced by Upper Basin water users, which in turn limits the UDS options.

Key Considerations for the UDS Alternative

Generally, the UDS Alternative establishes the coordinated operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead in a manner that: (1) Ties releases of water from Lake Powell to its observed storage contents at the beginning of each water year (October 1). This is a more reliable indicator of available water supply than the current forecasting method; (2) Uses a rule curve to establish Lake Powell releases. This rule curve specifies how much water will be released from Lake Powell each year as a function of the amount of water available in storage at the start of that water year. This promotes building storage in Lake Powell and avoids large variations in release volumes from year to year, providing greater certainty; and (3) Determines Lower Basin water use reductions based on the combined storage volumes of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Using combined storage of Lake Powell and Lake Mead more reliably indicates available water supply than the current method of unreliable forecasts. This also avoids the potential to influence shortage triggers.

In developing the UDS Alternative, we considered, among other things, the following:

A. Water Supply Uncertainty in the Upper Basin

The Upper Basin does not have large reservoirs to provide a reliable water supply. Instead, it is dependent on snowmelt runoff and precipitation. As a result, the Upper Basin has been and will continue to be on the front lines of climate change. This means that water users in the Upper Basin often do not know how much water they will receive year-to-year. Therefore, consumptive uses vary widely. Largely because of this supply uncertainty and variability, the Upper Basin has substantial annual swings in available water supply. As a result, for the last twenty years, on average, the Upper Basin consistently uses 3 to 4 million acre-feet (MAF) less than its Compact apportionment of 7.5 MAF per year.

The UDS mitigate these challenges through their respective water management frameworks and water rights administration that adapt to changing water supplies. When supplies are low, water uses are involuntarily reduced. These shortages occur to varying degrees each year and increase

as water supplies diminish. They are referred to as “hydrologic shortages”. These shortages result from natural hydrologic variability and are quantified as the difference between the amount of water the Upper Basin has demonstrated it would use if a plentiful water supply were available and the actual use. Though shortage quantification is complex and unique to each sub-basin each year, using the best available science and modeling yields shortage estimates that vary between 0.6 and 2.3 MAF per year and average 1.2 MAF per year. These shortages must be considered.

In the Upper Basin, use is balanced with available supply every year independently of the conditions at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. That practice will continue. The UDS Alternative acknowledges the fact that the Upper Basin routinely suffers hydrologic shortages.

B. Addressing Unsustainable Operations and Depleted Storage

Lake Mead has a storage capacity of about 25 MAF, which has provided significant water supply certainty to Lower Basin water users for decades. Current operations have relied on this storage to avoid shorting uses in the Lower Basin during drought periods. The existing operating rules tie Lake Powell releases to the conditions at Lake Mead. When Lake Mead releases exceed available supply, Lake Powell releases are increased and storage decreases. As a result, storage in both reservoirs has been largely exhausted over the last 20 years. Lower Basin shortage and water use reductions under current operations are not sufficient to avoid the risk of both Lake Mead and Lake Powell falling below critical elevations.

Lake Powell releases can no longer sustain current levels of Lower Basin use. The cumulative flow at Lee Ferry over the last ten years is approximately 86 million acre-feet. Despite this large inflow to Lake Mead, Lake Mead has dropped to historically low elevations. This is because, as explained above, the existing operating rules allow releases from Lake Mead to regularly exceed supply. Depletion of reservoir storage, prolonged drought since 2000, and the expectation of drought and low runoff conditions in the future due to climate change create unacceptable risk for the entire Basin. To address this risk, the UDS Alternative focuses on rebuilding storage to help maintain a sustainable water supply into the future.

C. Addressing Imbalances Between Supply and Demand

Matching consumptive uses and depletions with available supply must be the foundation for sustainable management under Post-2026 Operations. As mentioned above, in the Upper Basin, when supplies are low, water uses are necessarily reduced. Lower Basin consumptive uses and depletions from evaporation and losses must likewise be balanced with actual supply.

The Post-2026 Operations must address the Lower Basin’s supply-demand imbalance. The Lower Division States have acknowledged the need and responsibility to address the Lower Basin imbalance in various circumstances. Additional details about how this will be accomplished have not yet been provided. However, addressing this imbalance will likely not be enough to rebuild

storage and system resiliency in the face of a changing climate, and more reductions will probably be necessary.

D. Avoiding Uncertainty from Unreliable Forecasts

The current operating rules for Lake Powell and Lake Mead depend on unreliable forecasts which have contributed to depleted water storage conditions. Existing operations rely on forecasts performed six months in advance. This forecasting consistently overestimates Lake Powell elevations and underestimates Lake Mead elevations, resulting in greater releases from Lake Powell. Reclamation has explained that even small discrepancies between forecasts and actual conditions can have large impacts on operations. Lake Powell is heavily impacted by these inaccurate forecasts. Further, current operating rules lack any mechanism to make corrections or mitigate impacts when a forecast error results in excessive Lake Powell releases.

Under the UDS Alternative, Lake Powell releases rely on actual water supply conditions in Lake Powell at the start of the water year and avoid the negative impact of inaccurate forecasts on the system.

E. Lower Basin Conservation

The UDS continue to support water conservation across the Basin. However, balancing releases from Lake Powell under existing operations has negatively impacted Lake Powell. Lower Basin water uses and conservation programs must not adversely affect releases from Lake Powell to the detriment of Lake Powell. The UDS Alternative does not preclude flexibility for Lower Basin water conservation but ensures that Lower Basin conservation does not adversely affect Lake Powell releases.

Parallel Activities

Parallel activities refer to activities in the Upper Basin to complement Post-2026 Operations but are beyond the scope of the Post-2026 Operations NEPA process and will be subject to separate criteria. We are committed to pursuing these parallel activities upon adoption of the UDS Alternative. Presently foreseeable parallel but separate activities to help protect the ability of Lake Powell to make water releases include:

- A. Flexibility in the Operations in Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge, Aspinall, and Navajo (Colorado River Storage Project Act Initial Units)

If the UDS Alternative is adopted, the UDS will pursue additional activities to help preserve the ability to release water from Lake Powell. These could include flexible operations of Lake Powell and supplemental releases from upstream Initial Units if needed. While outside of this NEPA process, those supplemental releases must occur within existing authorities for those Initial Units without impairing existing obligations. The UDS Alternative contemplates that this supplemental

water would be available to help protect the ability of Lake Powell to make water releases subject to certain conditions, including accounting for this water separately and recovery of the water at the upstream Initial Units as appropriate.

Water stored in the upstream Initial Units is limited and should only be released if agreed to between the UDS and Reclamation. In addition to consumptive uses, storage and releases from the upstream Initial Units serve environmental purposes which must be considered when planning releases to Lake Powell. Releases of water from the upstream Initial Units pursuant to their respective authorities are critical to meet, among other things, endangered fish recovery goals under the Endangered Species Act. All releases from the upstream Initial Units must continue to comply with those authorities. Additional benefits to having more water stored at Lake Powell include greater flexibility for preserving the natural systems in the Grand Canyon, endangered species management, and hydropower generation.

B. Voluntary Water Conservation Programs

If the UDS Alternative is adopted, the UDS will pursue voluntary, temporary, and compensated reductions of consumptive use. Volumes will vary based on multiple factors, including hydrologic conditions. Such conservation would occur without impairing the right to exercise existing water rights. Conserved water would be credited to the UDS, and available to help maintain Lake Powell releases under certain conditions. Any conservation program must be a state-based effort implemented under state law.

Other Considerations

A. Tribes

The Upper Division States acknowledge settled but undeveloped Tribal water rights in the Upper Basin. Post-2026 Operations should preserve the ability for Upper Basin Tribes to develop their decreed or settled water rights. The UDS also support opportunities for the Upper Basin Tribes to participate in the Parallel Activities described above.

B. Collaboration

Since June of 2023, the seven Basin States have consulted among themselves and with Reclamation to explore potential Post-2026 Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, together with potential parallel activities. The UDS have also engaged with Upper Basin Tribes, water users, and non-governmental organizations on these topics. While we submitted the UDS Alternative as four states, we recognize the value of Basin-wide collaboration to achieve the flexibility and innovation needed in the face of an uncertain future. Accordingly, we welcome opportunities to explore a seven-state consensus alternative.

GO BACK TO MEMO



The Colorado River Basin States Representatives of Arizona, California, and Nevada

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Lower Basin Alternative for the Post-2026 Coordinated Operation of the Colorado River Basin

Dear Commissioner Touton:

The undersigned Governors' Representatives of Arizona, California, and Nevada (Lower Division States) appreciate the opportunity to submit the attached alternative (Lower Basin Alternative) for the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to analyze as part of Reclamation's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review to adopt guidelines and coordinated reservoir management strategies to address future operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. These new guidelines will take effect when the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (2007 Interim Guidelines) expire in 2026 as described in the Scoping Report for Post-2026 Colorado River Reservoir Operations (88 FR 72535, October 20, 2023) (Scoping Report).

This Lower Basin Alternative is designed to provide for the sustainable management of the Colorado River system and its resources under a wide range of potential future system conditions due to a changing climate, consistent with the Scoping Report. Since Reclamation initiated this action in June 2023, the Colorado River Basin States (Basin States) have been working to develop a consensus alternative, as noted in the Basin States' August 15, 2023, scoping letter. Although there is agreement among the Basin States regarding the need to provide for operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead under a wide range of potential future system conditions due to a changing climate, at this point the seven Basin States have been unable to agree on a consensus alternative. The Lower Division States look forward to further discussions with the Upper Division States, as well as Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders, to develop a consensus while Reclamation evaluates alternatives.

Participation by Mexico

The Lower Basin Alternative includes assumptions regarding participation by Mexico in reductions; surplus deliveries; and the conservation, augmentation, and storage program commensurate with prior Treaty Minutes. We recognize that any participation by Mexico will be determined in a separate process with Mexico. However, to provide sufficient information for analysis of the full range of impacts within the United States, changes in flows associated with Mexico's potential participation in surpluses, reductions, conservation and storage need to be analyzed. We look forward to future collaboration with Mexico in this work through the International Water and Boundary Commission and Reclamation.

Background and Key Alternative Concepts

When the Basin States worked with Reclamation and the Department of the Interior (Department) to develop the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the Colorado River Basin had been in drought for seven years and Lake Powell and Lake Mead - nearly full in 2000 - had started to decline. To address the drought and declining reservoirs, the 2007 Interim Guidelines incentivized conservation through the creation of Intentionally Created Surplus and established Lower Basin shortage provisions. But it soon became clear that the 2007 Interim Guidelines were insufficient to reduce the risks of Lake Powell and Lake Mead declining to critically low elevations. In response, the Basin States, Tribes, Mexico, water managers, Reclamation, the Department, and Congress took action through a range of voluntary measures and the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan. These efforts were successful in stabilizing reservoir elevations some of the time, but they have not adequately reduced the risk of the reservoirs declining to critical elevations.

The 2007 Interim Guidelines are expiring as the Colorado River now enters the twenty-fifth year of drought – conditions that have been exacerbated by climate change. Hotter and drier conditions have resulted in reduced run-off into the River that has led to significant declines in Colorado River system storage. The Lower Basin Alternative is designed to address the impacts of drought and climate change through a holistic and sustainable approach to the coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead that improves predictability for water users by:

1. Addressing the structural deficit in the Lower Basin. This Alternative includes reductions from Lower Basin state apportionments and deliveries to Mexico by 1.5 million acre-feet (maf) (static reduction) under most system conditions. The static reduction is larger than the structural deficit in the Lower Basin regardless of the various ways that the structural deficit may be calculated.
2. Operating the reservoirs based on system contents rather than elevations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The Lower Basin Alternative shifts to a more holistic, system wide, approach that is based on actual hydrology and total system contents instead of forecasts and individual reservoir elevations.

3. Sharing water use reductions broadly. This Alternative recognizes the need to make water use reductions from state apportionments under most system conditions and shares those reductions predictably among the Lower Basin water users and Mexico. Under the most critical system conditions, the Alternative shares water use reductions between the Upper Basin and Lower Basin including Mexico.
4. Including provisions for storage and delivery of stored water. The Lower Basin Alternative's approach includes opportunities for storage and augmentation that will encourage innovation and investment.
5. Establishing releases from Lake Powell that are adaptable to a broad range of hydrologies and respond to "hydrologic shortages." This Alternative adjusts releases to respond to factors impacting Upper Basin use. Additionally, most balancing conditions are removed to avoid conflict between the Upper and Lower Basins.

The Lower Basin Alternative is designed to achieve a sustainable volume of water in system storage. That storage will help to protect infrastructure and habitat and provide predictability for water users. The Alternative's reduction framework is triggered by total system contents (as opposed to forecasts) to determine the operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The Alternative also includes opportunities for storage, augmentation, demand management, and other water management strategies.

The Lower Basin Alternative represents a compilation of strategies based on the lessons learned from the 2007 Interim Guidelines as well as hydrologic supply and demand information gleaned over recent decades. The elements of this Alternative are related and interdependent; removing or replacing one or more of these elements without full consideration of the entire Alternative would likely diminish the management value.

This letter describes various aspects of the Lower Basin Alternative and should be read in conjunction with the attached technical document.

Total System Contents

The Lower Basin Alternative shifts away from the reliance in the 2007 Interim Guidelines on the 24-Month Study forecasts and elevations in Lake Powell and Lake Mead to determine reservoir releases and Lower Basin shortages. This Alternative instead primarily uses actual hydrology and total system contents—a recognition that, whatever the elevation of a particular reservoir in the system may be, sustainable management must be focused on contents that are actually available in the system as a whole. "Total system contents" includes the contents of Flaming Gorge, Blue Mesa, Navajo, Powell, Mead, Mohave, and Havasu.¹ In addition to more holistically

¹ For purposes of this Lower Basin Alternative, "total system contents" is the total volume of water in live storage within Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Blue Mesa Reservoir, Navajo Reservoir, Lake Powell, Lake Mead, Lake Mojave, and Lake Havasu. Inclusion of the Colorado River Storage Project Act Initial Units is not intended to open the Records of Decision for those facilities.

managing the system, moving away from forecasts and reservoir elevations and instead relying on actual hydrology and system contents should reduce disagreements among and between the Basins that have resulted from reliance on Lake Powell and Lake Mead elevations and 24-Month Study forecasts in the past.

Water Use Reductions

The Lower Basin Alternative proposes a new framework for determining annual water use reductions when total system contents are:

- 69% - 58%: cuts to Lower Basin water uses increasing from 0 to 1.5 maf
- <58% - 38%: static cut to Lower Basin water uses of 1.5 maf
- <38% - 23%: static cut to Lower Basin water uses of 1.5 maf plus additional, evenly split cuts to Upper Basin and Lower Basin water uses as total system reductions increase from 1.5 maf to 3.9 maf.² Reductions would remain at 3.9 maf below 23%.

This approach resolves the structural deficit in the system between Lee Ferry and the U.S.-Mexico border, reduces the risk of the system declining to critical levels, shares water use reductions broadly, improves predictability for water users, and includes the Upper Basin in water reductions under the most critical system conditions. Most fundamentally, this framework commits stakeholders to the simple principle that when less water is available in the system, less water should be taken from the system.

Releases from Glen Canyon Dam

Linking Lower Basin water use reductions to total system storage rather than the elevation of Lake Mead reduces the significance of the relative volumes of water in Lakes Powell and Mead. The Lower Basin Alternative includes a Glen Canyon Dam release regime designed to minimize risk of noncompliance with the 1922 Compact while providing benefits to power generation, in-stream resources at the Grand Canyon and habitat below Lake Powell, and the recreational attributes of Lakes Powell and Mead.

Like Lower Basin water use reductions, annual release volumes from Lake Powell are set based on live storage in the Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) Initial Units: Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Blue Mesa Reservoir, Navajo Reservoir, and Lake Powell (described in this Alternative as “Total UB System Contents”). In most years, Glen Canyon Dam releases will be determined by a combination of Total UB System Contents and Upper Basin depletions in the previous three years. When Upper Basin depletions decrease due to aridification and/or “hydrologic shortage,” releases from Lake Powell decrease as well.

² The Lower Division States are also requesting that Reclamation model a range of reductions in the Upper Basin up to 2.4 maf in this zone to provide a full range of analysis.

The attached technical document provides more detail, but in general the Glen Canyon Dam annual release regime is based on four bands of Total UB System Contents, with a potential April adjustment to protect Lake Mead elevation 1000 ft. When Total UB System Contents are:

Greater than 80% (“Equalization Release”). Balance the contents of Lakes Powell and Mead as closely as practicable with releases between 8.5 maf to 11.0 maf.

Greater than 30% and less than or equal to 80% (“Hydrologic Shortage-Based Release”). Releases vary in a stepwise fashion between 7.0 maf and 8.5 maf depending on the extent of Upper Basin “hydrologic shortage.”

Greater than 20% and less than or equal to 30% (“Reduced Release Ramp”). Releases of 6.0 maf to 7.0 maf determined as a linear function.

Total UB System Contents less than or equal to 20% (“Static Release”). Release of 6.0 maf.

Conservation, Innovation, and Investment

Since the 2007 Interim Guidelines were adopted, water managers in the Lower Division States have been working individually and in partnership to adapt to the stresses on the Colorado River system resulting from drought and climate change. The Lower Basin, in partnership with the United States and Mexico, has invested billions of dollars over the interim period to conserve water for the benefit of the Colorado River system and the development of intentionally created surplus. Many of these investments are ongoing and will continue well beyond 2026.

As a result of that investment, water users in the Lower Basin and Mexico have conserved enough water to bolster the elevation in Lake Mead by 91 feet. The success of these collaborative efforts enabled the Lower Division States to propose the Lower Basin Plan to conserve 3 million acre-feet over 4 years to address short-term protection of the Colorado River system, adopted as the preferred alternative in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement released yesterday. In 2023 alone, the Lower Basin reduced its consumptive use to 5.8 million acre-feet – leaving 1.7 million acre-feet in the system.

The Lower Basin Alternative seeks to retain the core concepts of conservation, augmentation, and storage from the 2007 Interim Guidelines but will include updates to the program based on operational experience. The Lower Basin Alternative recommends a broad range of parameters for evaluation at this time. We are still developing the details and expect to narrow the range as we work with our respective stakeholders in the coming months. Ultimately, we support a program that allows for the storage of conserved and augmentation water to incentivize

conservation, innovation, and investment that does not influence the coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

Intrastate Processes and Federal Support

Although we have proposed the Lower Basin Alternative, we still have work to achieve consensus support within our respective states, allocate reductions within our states, and seek support from the Upper Division States, Basin Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and Mexico. Throughout the Lower Basin both tribal and non-tribal water users will be significantly affected by water supply reductions.

To achieve the necessary stakeholder support within our respective states, we will likely need to work together to find partnership and funding opportunities to further the conservation programs and augmentation projects necessary to achieve the Alternative's water use reductions. We are seeking federal support in those intrastate conversations, including federal resources to reduce the impacts to both tribal and non-tribal water users.

Analysis of Alternatives with Respect to Glen Canyon Dam Infrastructure

The Lower Basin Alternative was designed to meet the purpose and need as described by Reclamation in the Scoping Report. Reclamation more recently has articulated concerns regarding potential cavitation in the river outlet works and scouring in the river bottom below the river outlet works that may occur with greater intensity at lower Lake Powell elevations. We understand the following based on the 38 Sovereigns webinar discussion led by Reclamation on February 28, 2024:

- i. Reclamation continues to evaluate the extent of its Glen Canyon Dam infrastructure concerns through both physical and computer modeling and will invite stakeholder technical support in completing its reviews.
- ii. For purposes of the Post-2026 coordinated river operations NEPA process, Reclamation will neither set a floor for Lake Powell operations in its "No-Action" alternative nor screen any reasonable alternative from consideration that does not maintain Lake Powell above any particular elevation.
- iii. Reclamation is considering several potential infrastructure modifications that may mitigate or eliminate concerns with operations occurring at Lake Powell elevations requiring use of the river outlet works.

We look forward to working with Reclamation to evaluate the infrastructure vulnerabilities mentioned and help develop solutions. We anticipate that protecting Glen Canyon Infrastructure may involve a host of strategies including infrastructure modifications, strategic releases from CRSP units, and water use reductions in both the Upper and Lower Basins.

Importantly, however, based on our preliminary reviews, the Lower Basin Alternative is highly effective at keeping Lake Powell above critical elevations. Even during drier hydrologies, when

Lake Powell's elevation may temporarily fall below 3500 feet, the use of total system contents in the Lower Basin Alternative improves flexibility to protect critical infrastructure by enabling the movement of water through the system as necessary for infrastructure protection and environmental flows while satisfying water delivery requirements and Compact obligations.

Reservation of Rights

By providing this alternative, we do not waive any rights, including any claims or defenses, we may have or that may accrue under federal or state law. Recommendation by the undersigned that Reclamation analyze the Lower Basin Alternative shall not be construed as an endorsement or an admission with respect to any factual or legal issue for the purposes of any future legal, administrative, or other proceeding. Moreover, we reserve the right to provide further comments and engage with Reclamation as it proceeds with subsequent phases of the NEPA process.

Conclusion

We appreciate your consideration of the attached Lower Basin Alternative, and we are available to discuss the details with you and with other stakeholders as appropriate. We remain committed to collaborating with other stakeholders, including the Upper Division States, the Republic of Mexico through the International Boundary and Water Commission, Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and other water users in the Colorado River Basin. The Lower Basin States look forward to working with Reclamation through the next steps of developing the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas Buschatzke, Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources



J.B. Hamby, Chairman & Commissioner
Colorado River Board of California



John J. Entsminger, General Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority

Attachment: Lower Basin Alternative

1. Introduction

Arizona, California, and Nevada (collectively referred to as the Lower Division States) have developed this alternative for analysis and consideration as part of the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development of the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. This alternative meets the purpose and need of the EIS by updating and expanding management guidelines for Colorado River reservoirs, improving predictability of reductions for Lower Basin water users and water supply reliability, and providing additional mechanisms for conservation, storage, and delivery under a wide range of potential future system conditions due to a changing climate. Moreover, this alternative takes into consideration the imbalance between water supply and demand below Lee Ferry, as climate change continues to impact temperatures, precipitation, and run-off in the Basin. This document should be read and considered in conjunction with the letter to which it is attached.

As explained in the letter, the Lower Basin Alternative incorporates assumptions regarding Mexico's participation in reductions, surplus deliveries, and the conservation, augmentation, and storage program. The assumptions regarding Mexico are commensurate with provisions in past minutes to the 1944 Treaty. While we recognize that any participation by Mexico in these components will be determined in a separate process through the International Boundary and Water Commission with Reclamation's assistance, the impact analysis must consider the cumulative effects of the contemplated actions.

2. Lower Basin Alternative

The Lower Basin Alternative proposes total system contents as a trigger mechanism for water use (including reductions) to provide predictability to Colorado River water users and to address the structural deficit.

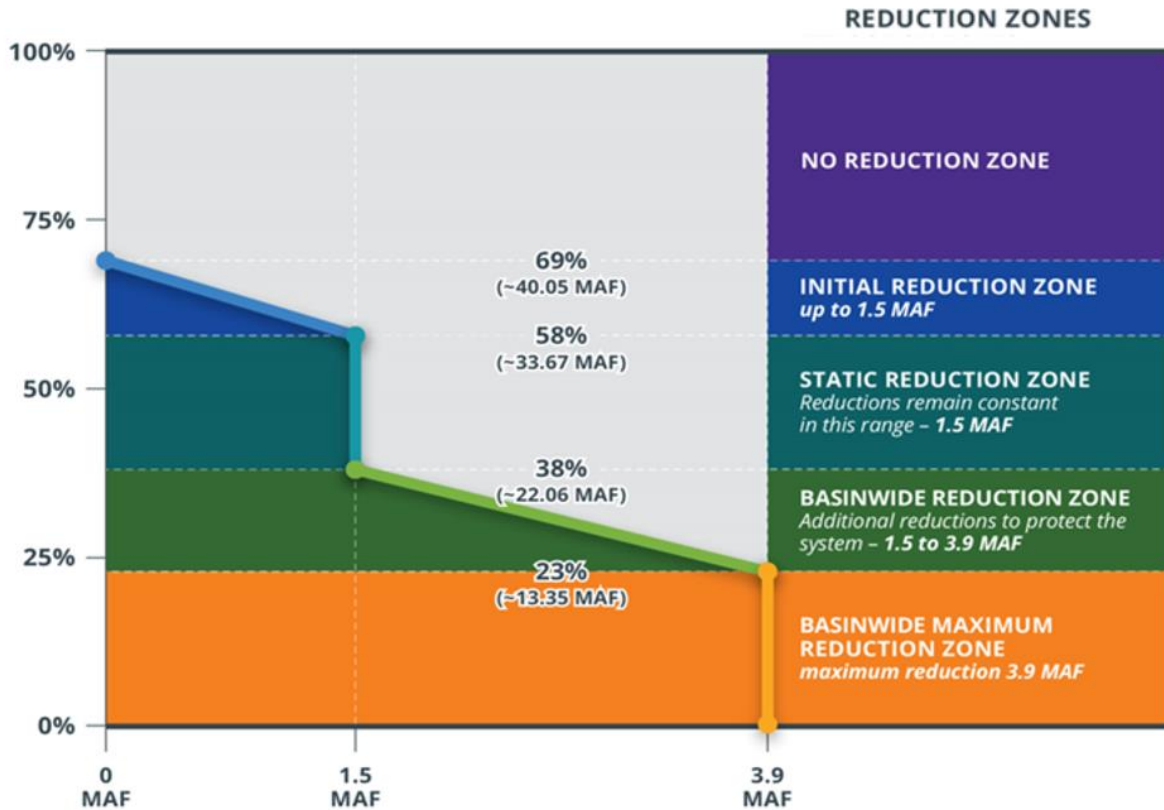
Total System Contents Approach

Under the Lower Basin Alternative, the permitted consumptive use of Colorado River water is a function of the total volume of water in live storage (water above deadpool) within Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Blue Mesa Reservoir, Navajo Reservoir, Lake Powell, Lake Mead, Lake Mojave, and Lake Havasu (hereinafter referred to as "total system contents") so that hydrology and system contents dictate water availability rather than forecasts and individual reservoir elevations. Under most hydrologic conditions, these actions are sufficient to protect approximately 13 million acre-feet of water in live storage (23% of total system contents), a necessary buffer against future hydrologic and operational uncertainties, including potential infrastructure issues.

The Lower Basin Alternative will address water use at all reservoir conditions: Surplus, Normal, and during reductions. The formulation of the three operational elements of the proposed federal action are as follows:

a. Reductions

The Lower Basin Alternative provides discrete levels of reductions associated with specific levels of total system contents as presented below. These reductions are based on decreases in consumptive use for the specified state¹ or reductions in deliveries to Mexico. In some cases, these reductions may be “pre-conserved,” as discussed in section (e). The alternative provides criteria for annual basin-wide reductions up to a maximum of 3.9 million acre-feet (MAF). Reductions under the Lower Basin Alternative follow a rule curve (colloquially referred to as the “Z-curve”) illustrated below.



¹ At this time, we are proposing reductions to the apportionment of each of the Lower Division States. Intra-state discussion will be necessary to determine how reductions are distributed among water users.

The Z-curve identifies the total system contents of the reservoirs and five distinct reduction zones: No Reduction, Initial Reduction, Static Reduction, Basin-wide Reduction, and Basin-wide Maximum Reduction. Each reduction zone is described below. Reduction volumes should be rounded to the nearest acre-foot and two decimal places should be used to compute total system contents. Reductions in consumptive use resulting from “Bucket 2” projects should also count towards the reductions described below.

i. Initial Reduction Zone

When the total system contents are at or below 69% on August 1, but at or above 58%, the reduction volume for water users in the Lower Division States and Mexico for the subsequent calendar year would be a linear function of total system contents increasing from 0 at 69% to 1.5 million acre-feet at 58%.

The reductions in this zone would be shared as follows: Once the total reduction has been calculated, AZ, NV, and Mexico would share proportionally in reductions up to 300,000 acre-feet, distributed 80.00%, 3.33%, and 16.67%, respectively. For reduction volumes above 300,000 acre-feet, the first 300,000 acre-feet would be calculated as previously mentioned and the incremental reduction above 300,000 acre-feet would be shared proportionally among AZ, CA, NV, and Mexico at a rate of 43.33%, 36.67%, 3.33%, and 16.67%, respectively.

ii. Static Reduction Zone

When the total system contents are below 58% on August 1, but at or above 38% the reduction volume imposed on water users in the Lower Division States and Mexico for the subsequent calendar year would be 1.5 million acre-feet, distributed as follows:

| State/Country | Reduction Volume (AF) |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Arizona | 760,000 |
| California | 440,000 |
| Nevada | 50,000 |
| Mexico | 250,000 |

iii. Basin-wide Reduction Zone

When the total system contents are below 38% on August 1, but at or above 23%, the reduction volume that would be imposed on water users in the Lower Division States, the Upper Division States, and Mexico for the subsequent calendar year would be a linear function of total system contents increasing from 1.5 million acre-feet at 38% to 3.9 million acre-feet at 23%.

The reductions in this zone above 1.5 million acre-feet would be shared so that 50% is allocated to the Lower Division States and Mexico and 50% is allocated to the Upper Division States. For example, if the calculated reduction is 2.0 million acre-feet, the first 1.5 million acre-feet would be contributed as described in section ii above. The additional 500,000 acre-feet would be shared with the Lower Division States and Mexico reducing use by 250,000 acre-feet and the Upper Division States reducing use by 250,000 acre-feet. At this time, we are not proposing a distribution of the Lower Basin and Mexico share of the additional reduction volume.

Additionally, the Lower Division States request that Reclamation model reductions in the Upper Basin of up to 2.4 million acre-feet per year on the Second Linear Ramp. This will provide a full range of analysis for compliance purposes.

iv. Basin-wide Maximum Reduction Zone

When the total system contents are below 23% on August 1, the reduction volume imposed on water users in the Lower Division States, the Upper Division States, and Mexico for the subsequent calendar year would be 3.9 million acre-feet, to be distributed as described in part 2(a)(iii).

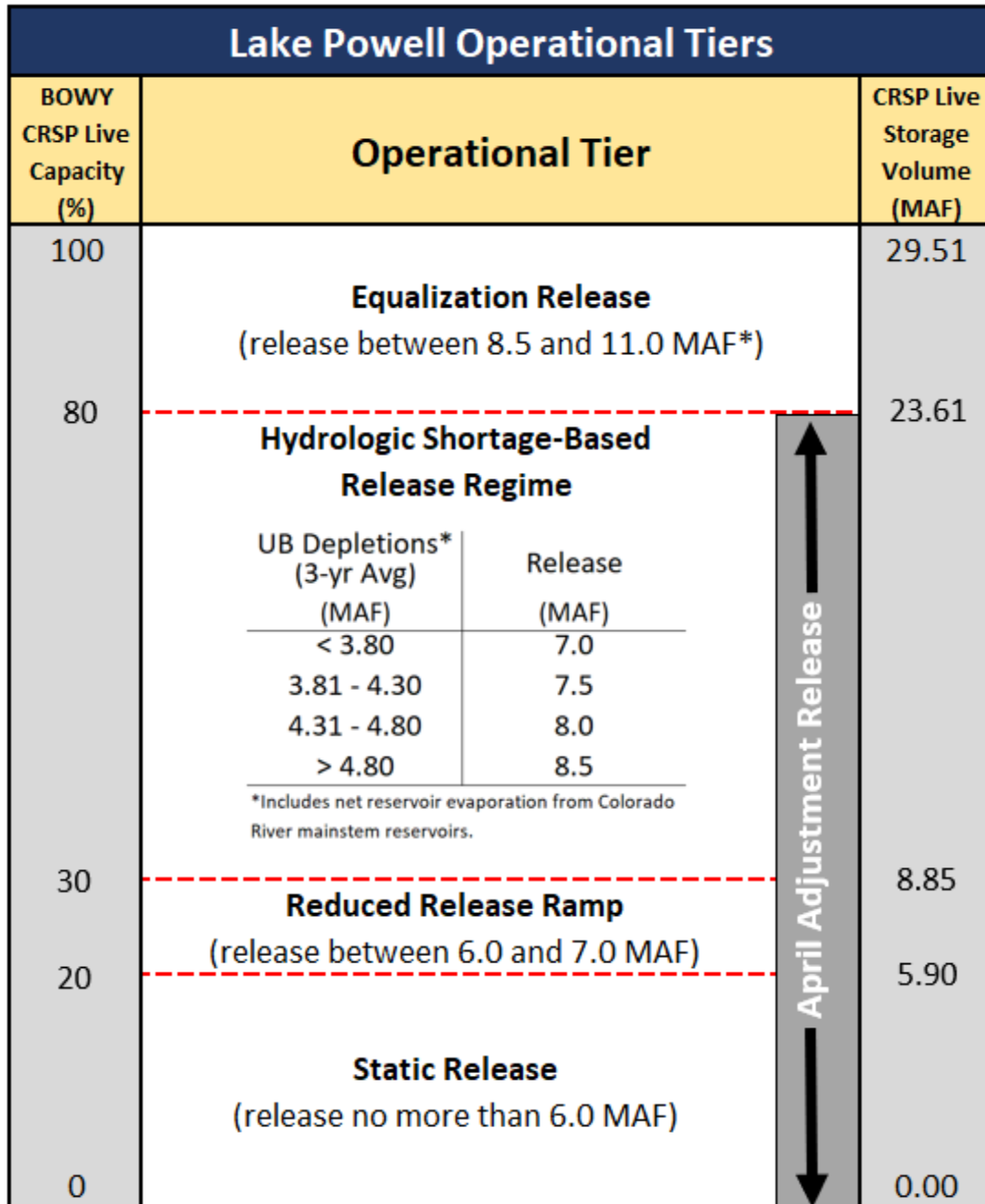
b. Lower Division States and Mexico Surplus

Surplus would occur under a narrower range of conditions than the current operating rules. These rules need further refinement. However, the Lower Basin Alternative envisions surplus would increase as a part of a linear function instead of in step-wise fashion. Surplus would also start occurring with more water in storage. During these surplus conditions, Arizona will receive 240,000 acre-feet of surplus before California receives access to surplus. The Lower Basin Alternative assumes that Mexico will participate in surplus volumes commensurate with Minutes 319 and 323 to the 1944 Treaty.

The Lower Basin States would like Reclamation's assistance in further refining the proposed surplus criteria to evaluate the appropriate triggers, given the total system contents approach for reductions. Because surplus is, at least in part, intended to offset the risk of spilling water, it is important to fully explore how Lake Mead's elevation relates to total system contents and surplus triggers and volumes. We would also like to explore and understand the drivers of the 70R criteria to ensure they are appropriate for our current understanding of hydrologic projections and associated risks.

c. Coordinated Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead

Lake Powell's release to Lake Mead will also use a broader system contents approach than the current guidelines that is more consistent with section 602(a) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act. The elements of these releases are described below the following summary table.



*Flood control operations occur when Powell elevation is greater than 3,700-ft.

April Adjustment Release: Reservoirs balance when Mead's forecasted EOWY elevation is less than 1,000-ft while Powell's forecasted EOWY elevation is greater than 3,510-ft. Releases from Powell are constrained between 6.0 MAF and 11.0 MAF. The balancing determination is made each April and lasts through September.

i. Equalization release

The total system contents approach to reductions reduces the urgency of equalization as it no longer directly affects the Lower Basin’s shortage risk. As such, equalization rules could be simplified to provide more flexibility for releases to protect water deliveries, critical infrastructure, power, and Glen and Grand Canyon resources.

If the live storage in the Colorado River Storage Project (“CRSP”) Initial Units (Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Blue Mesa Reservoir, Navajo Reservoir, and Lake Powell) on October 1 exceeds 80%, the water-year release will range between 8.5 million acre-feet and 11.0 million acre-feet to equalize live contents in Lake Powell and Lake Mead at the end of the water year to the greatest extent practicable. Should flood control criteria be activated, that criteria will then control the release.

ii. Hydrologic Shortage-Based Release Regime

The Lower Basin Alternative would result in most releases occurring in the “Hydrologic shortage-based release regime.” During this operating condition, Upper Basin use is a proxy for ongoing aridification and “hydrologic shortages”² occurring within the Upper Basin. As Upper Basin use decreases due to aridification and/or “hydrologic shortages” the volume of water released from Lake Powell decreases as well. If conditions are dry, releases will be less, holding other variables constant.

When the live storage in the CRSP Initial Units on October 1 is greater than 30% but less than or equal to 80%, the release from Lake Powell will vary between 7.0 and 8.5 million acre-feet per water- year based on the average amount of Upper Basin depletions over the three prior water years (including net evaporation from reservoirs) as described further in the table below:

| UB Depletions* (3-yr Avg) (MAF) | Release (MAF) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| < 3.80 | 7.0 |
| 3.81 - 4.30 | 7.5 |
| 4.31 - 4.80 | 8.0 |
| > 4.80 | 8.5 |

² There is no agreed upon definition of the term “hydrologic shortage.” It is used colloquially herein to describe a broad range of factors that affect water supply availability in the Upper Division states without taking a position on which of these factors are “shortages.”

iii. Reduced Release Ramp

When the live storage in CRSP Initial Units on October 1 is greater than 20% but less than or equal to 30%, the water year release volume from Lake Powell shall be a linear function of live storage in the CRSP Initial Units increasing from 6.0 million acre-feet at 20% to 7.0 million acre-feet at 30%.

iv. Static Releases

When the live storage in the CRSP Initial Units on October 1 is less than or equal to 20%, the water year release volume from Lake Powell shall be 6.0 million acre-feet unless such release volume is not physically possible.

v. April Adjustment

Except during equalization conditions, if on April 1 Lake Mead is projected to end the water-year below elevation 1,000 feet and Lake Powell is projected to end the water-year above elevation 3,510 feet, the water-year release will be adjusted to range between 8.5 million acre-feet and 11.0 million acre-feet to achieve as practicable equal live contents in Lake Powell and Lake Mead at the end of the water year. Once triggered, the release shall be adjusted monthly and occur through the end of the water year.

vi. Emergency Response Actions

The Lower Basin Alternative assumes that the United States will incorporate response operations at upstream Colorado River reservoirs, consistent with their statutory purposes, to protect critical infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam.

d. Storage and Delivery

The current Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) Program has proven to be a valuable tool by encouraging water conservation and helping to bolster reservoir elevations. However, there are also inequities (both real and perceived) in access to and accounting for ICS. As such, the Lower Basin Alternative proposes concluding the ICS program and developing a new set of rules for future conservation, augmentation and storage.

i. Existing ICS

There are existing provisions for the post-2026 management of ICS created prior to 2026 ("Existing ICS"). The Lower Basin Alternative also contemplates additional rules to allow Existing ICS to be used to offset a portion of the required reductions. The Lower Division

States would like to work with Reclamation to analyze different approaches to the outstanding variables.

ii. Post-2026 Conservation, Augmentation and Storage Program

The Lower Basin Alternative proposes a new program to incentivize conservation and augmentation by allowing storage of that water. The Lower Division States have identified certain parameters for consideration, while others remain under discussion.

The Lower Basin Alternative includes the following parameters for conservation, augmentation and storage:

- The Lower Division States propose that Reclamation analyze accumulation volumes ranging from 5.0 – 10.0 million acre-feet of water for storage by water users in the Lower Division States and Mexico based on conservation and augmentation. The Lower Division States intend to continue our discussions with Reclamation and Mexico, as we determine the appropriate parameters for storage based on conservation and augmentation.
- This stored water will provide flexibility in managing reductions, including allowing for the “pre-conservation” of reductions so that water stored in a previous year could be delivered to offset reduction volumes and/or to avoid inadvertent overruns.
- Delivery of stored water should not allow any state to exceed its basic apportionment when reductions apply in the Lower Basin (except limited inadvertent overruns, augmentation, and tributary conservation water).
- The volume of water stored should be subtracted from the total system contents before reductions are calculated so as not to diminish the volume of reduction that would otherwise occur absent the stored water.

GO BACK TO MEMO



March 25, 2024

Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
US Department of the Interior

Dear Commissioner Touton:

On November 15, 2021, twenty Colorado River Basin Tribes sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland outlining key “Guiding Principles” for developing the next framework for long-term management of the Colorado River. That letter also insisted on greater inclusion of Basin Tribes in the development and implementation of what replaces the 2007 Interim Guidelines (the Post-2026 Guidelines). Although 20 Basin Tribes expressed common views in the November 2021 letter, each of the undersigned Basin Tribes has individual issues of specific relevance to its own rights and interests that will be communicated throughout this process, including but not necessarily limited to individual government-to-government consultation with the United States. This letter is intended to inform the United States and the Colorado River Basin States of our common views and expectations regarding how Basin Tribes’ water rights should be treated and protected under any alternative that will be analyzed and considered for inclusion in any draft or final environmental impact statement (EIS) and what ultimately becomes the Post-2026 Guidelines.

The November 2021 letter expressed the expectation that the United States would fully protect Basin Tribes’ water rights throughout the process of developing and promulgating the Post-2026 Guidelines. Both alternatives proposed in Reclamation’s since-withdrawn draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) analyzing operational alternatives to bridge us to the Post-2026 period, however, directly threatened the rights of Basin Tribes. Although good hydrology in 2023 and the development of the Lower Basin States plan helped avoid the need for Reclamation to proceed with implementing either of the alternatives in the now-withdrawn draft SEIS, the need for major reductions of water use in the Basin remains and the Post-2026 Guidelines

will undoubtedly result in cuts to the existing water supplies of at least some Basin Tribes. We are aware of ongoing efforts among the Basin States to develop one or more alternatives for Reclamation to consider. We, the undersigned tribal leaders, believe it is now time to more specifically explain the Basin Tribes' **key principles** that must be adhered to if the United States, as our trustee, and the Basin States expect our support of any proposed or preferred alternative for the Post-2026 Guidelines.

We appreciate Reclamation's efforts to develop an approach during the Post-2026 EIS process that enhances tribal engagement and inclusivity by establishing the Federal-Tribes-States Group and explicitly including in the purpose and need statement for the Post-2026 EIS the need to consider Tribes' interests. *See Colorado River Reservoir Operations: Development of Post-2026 Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead*, 88 Fed. Reg. 72535 (Oct. 20, 2023) (Scoping Summary Report). The Scoping Summary Report expressly identifies the need for Post-2026 Guidelines "that provide flexibility and predictability for Basin Tribes to remain able to benefit from their water rights and have an opportunity to participate in voluntary conservation programs[.]" and includes a stated purpose to "provide new or enhanced opportunities for Basin Tribes to benefit from their water rights[.]" We offer these **key principles** regarding the development of Post-2026 Guidelines and future management of the Colorado River not as a "Tribal alternative" per se, but as a joint statement of tribal consensus independent of federal and/or Basin State action that clarifies what the Basin Tribes expect from the United States in order to satisfy these aspects of the stated purpose and need.

We expect the United States and the Basin States to incorporate these principles into whatever alternatives emerge during the Post-2026 EIS process, recognizing that some of the principles may require additional action outside the Post-2026 EIS process and Post-2026 Guidelines. We are committed to developing proposals and negotiating agreements to supplement the Post-2026 EIS process as necessary for the realization of the principles below that do not fall squarely within the scope of Post-2026 Guidelines. We call on the United States to do the same to ensure that these principles are fully incorporated into the Basin's post-2026 management framework.

Our **key principles** are as follows:

1. To meet its trust responsibility to Basin Tribes, the United States must take actions to actively protect Tribal water rights (irrespective of whether they have already been finally quantified – hereinafter referred to collectively as "Tribal Water Rights").

Basin Tribes cannot benefit from their Tribal Water Rights – and thus a critical portion of the purpose and need for the post-2026 cannot be achieved – if the Post-2026 Guidelines jeopardize Tribal Water Rights through curtailment or development caps on Tribes, or exacerbate already existing barriers to Basin Tribes' ability to fully develop and benefit from their water rights. More specifically, to meet its trust responsibility to Basin Tribes the United States must:

- Reject any alternative that would impose involuntary or uncompensated out-of-priority cuts on the five Tribes whose rights were finally decreed in *Arizona v. California*, 547 U.S. 150 (2006), and ensure that these Tribes will be included as beneficiaries of alternative water supplies if their ability to use their water rights is disrupted by the Post-2026 Guidelines;
 - For CAP Tribes with congressionally approved settlements, finding alternative water supplies that are equivalent in value to the water rights lost due to cuts required under the Post-2026 Guidelines;
 - Find alternative supplies for Tribes for whom CAP Water (whether Indian or NIA priority) is a source of supply or had been identified as a source of supply to be made available through their future water settlements that are equivalent in value to the CAP water lost due to any cuts required under the Post-2026 Guidelines;
 - Reject any alternative that would impose development caps on Basin Tribes;
 - Fully analyze all potential adverse impacts to Tribal Water Rights and all other Tribal trust assets from any and all alternatives being considered for inclusion in the post-2026 Guidelines;
 - Identify all potential adverse impacts, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative, to Tribal Water Rights, whether such water is being presently put to use or is as yet unused, when analyzing alternatives considered for incorporation into the Post-2026 Guidelines.
 - Consult with affected Tribes to identify and implement mutually agreed-upon actions to avoid or mitigate impacts to Tribes caused by the Post-2026 Guidelines;
 - Seek and secure adequate funding to ensure the United States effectively protects Tribal Water Rights as described above through mutually-agreed upon mitigation, voluntary conservation, creative and durable compensation mechanisms, and/or developing alternative water supplies, as well as through infrastructure development.
2. Empower Tribes to determine how and when to use their water rights by adopting and supporting a portfolio of flexible tools.

Basin Tribes have long faced systemic barriers to developing and benefiting from their water rights. Through the Post-2026 EIS process and by supporting legislation as necessary, Reclamation should help develop ways to empower Basin Tribes to use their water rights in more flexible ways, such as:

- Ensure that the eligibility and participation requirements of any conservation programs included in the Post-2026 Guidelines are established and operated in a

manner that maximizes Basin Tribes' ability to participate in them without triggering onerous financial burdens. This will further the Post-2026 EIS process' identified need of "provid[ing] Colorado River water users, including Basin Tribes, expanded opportunities to conserve, store, and take subsequent delivery of water in and from Lake Mead and/or Lake Powell." (*Scoping Summary Report*, 88 Fed. Reg. 72536).

- Clarify legal authority and address water accounting issues to enhance Tribes' ability to lease or otherwise market or use water off their Reservations, including for environmental and in-stream flow purposes.
 - Facilitate the creation of compensated forbearance agreements that enable Basin Tribes to benefit from their water rights in a manner that avoids increasing cumulative consumptive demand.
3. Provide for a permanent, formalized structure for Tribal participation in implementing Post-2026 Guidelines, and in any future Colorado River policy and governance.

One of the shortcomings of the 2007 Interim Guidelines was that lack of formal tribal inclusion in their implementation. Consistent with its stated goal of designing a process that "enhances Tribal engagement and inclusivity," 88 Fed. Reg. 39457 (June 16, 2023), Reclamation should build off positive progress such as the Federal-Tribes-States Group and develop a governance structure that formally and permanently includes Basin Tribes as governmental partners in the implementation of the Post-2026 Guidelines and other policy and governance discussions concerning the management of the Colorado River. And at a minimum, anything in the Post-2026 Guidelines that formally triggers an obligation on the part of Reclamation to consult with the Basin States should trigger a similar obligation to the Basin Tribes (in addition to and not as a replacement for ongoing government-to-government consultation between the United States and individual Basin tribes).

We look forward to working with the United States and Basin States to ensure that Basin Tribes' water rights are adequately considered and protected in the development and implementation of the Post-2026 Guidelines.

Sincerely,

Melvin Baker, Chairman, Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Corrina Bow, Chairwoman, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah

Martin Harvier, President, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Manuel Heart, Chairman, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Calvin Johnson, Chairman, Tonto Apache Tribe

Jordan D. Joaquin, Chairman, Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe

Arden Kucate, Governor, Pueblo of Zuni Tribe

Stephen R. Lewis, Governor, Gila River Indian Community

Tanya Lewis, Chairwoman, Yavapai-Apache Nation

Robert Miguel, Chairman, Ak Chin Indian Community

Julius Murray, Chairman, Ute Indian Tribe

Sonja Newton, Vice President, Jicarilla Apache Nation

Robert Ogo, President, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

Deryn Pete, Chairwoman, Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute

Terry Rambler, Chairman, San Carlos Apache Tribe

Edward D. Smith, Vice Chairman, Chemehuevi Tribe

Kasey Velasquez, Chairman, White Mountain Apache Tribe

cc:

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Jacklynn Gould, Regional Director, Lower Colorado River, Bureau of Reclamation

Wayne Pullan, Regional Director, Upper Colorado River, Bureau of Reclamation

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KayLee Nelson, Native American Affairs Program Manager, Lower Colorado Basin Region

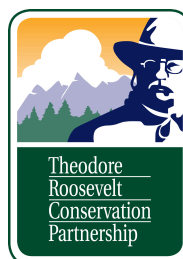
Ernie Rheaume, Native American Affairs Program Manager, Upper Colorado Basin Region

Rod Smith, Attorney, US Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor



Cooperative Conservation GO BACK TO MEMO
NEPA Alternative

Post-2026 Colorado River Operations and Strategies



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Cover Photo 1. (Top) Aerial view of Reflection Canyon, Glen Canyon, Lake Powell, Arizona. Credit: Justin Reznick

Cover Photo 2. (Bottom) Lake Mead at critically low elevations with “bathtub” rings. Credit: Colleen Miniuk-Sperry

A. Introduction

On behalf of our respective organizations, the undersigned conservation groups (Conservation Groups or Groups) submit the Cooperative Conservation Alternative (Cooperative Conservation) to contribute to the ongoing dialogue shaping the future of the Colorado River through the post-2026 NEPA process for developing Colorado River Guidelines and Strategies.

The Groups request the Bureau of Reclamation include Cooperative Conservation in its analysis of post-2026 Colorado River Guideline Operations and Strategies as a forward-looking, comprehensive approach for addressing the pressing and evolving challenges facing the Colorado River Basin, its ecosystems, and the diverse community of sovereigns and stakeholders who rely upon its resources.

Cooperative Conservation is designed to inform and enhance one or more alternatives for consideration in developing the post-2026 Colorado River Operations and Strategies Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It emerges from a synthesis of lessons learned, a deep understanding of the Basin's environmental dynamics, and a commitment to collaborative, equitable water management, and endeavors to introduce innovative strategies that balance the needs of human and natural systems under the shadow of climate change and increasing water scarcity.

The urgency to redefine the framework for Colorado River operations cannot be overstated. The Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) notice of intent to prepare an EIS for the post-2026 Colorado River marks a critical step toward addressing the Basin's future needs ("Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Post-2026 Colorado River Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead," 88 Fed. Reg. 12345 (June 16, 2023)). The existing guidelines, while pioneering at the time of their inception, are now recognized as insufficient to navigate the complexities of prolonged drought, escalating impacts of climate change, and pressing needs of a diverse array of sovereigns and stakeholders. Cooperative Conservation is rooted in the recognition that the Colorado River Basin has entered an era of uncertainty, where traditional management approaches must be reevaluated in light of scientific advancements, changing hydrological patterns, and the imperative of sustainability.

The significance of this Alternative lies not only in its aim to expand consideration of ways to address the immediate challenges, but also in its vision for a resilient and adaptive future that honors the interdependence of all who share this vital river. By embracing a holistic perspective that integrates scientific insight, stakeholder inclusivity, and environmental stewardship, our alternative is a framework for optimizing every drop of the Colorado River to better ensure it can remain a life-sustaining resource for future generations.

As the Conservation Groups submit this Alternative, we are mindful of the collective effort required to steward the Colorado River through the challenges ahead. We look forward to engaging in a constructive dialogue with Reclamation, the Basin States and Tribes, and all interested stakeholders involved in this essential process, united by our shared commitment to the River that sustains us all.

B. Background/Context

The binational Colorado River Basin confronts an unparalleled challenge: reconciling the water demands of over 35 million people and millions of acres of agricultural land with the ecological needs of the natural river system under siege by climate change and over-allocation. Reclamation's acknowledgment of the need to prepare an EIS for post-2026 operations and strategies sets the stage for a comprehensive evaluation of the river's future management. A confluence of factors necessitates this consideration, including:

- **Crisis of Hydrological Imbalance:** The Basin is experiencing a dire mismatch between the growing water demands of agricultural, urban, and ecological needs and the decreasing supplies due to over-allocation and reduced inflows. This imbalance has put the Basin in a state of decreasing reservoir levels, emergency operations, environmental damage, and less reliability in water supply from year to year, compelling a reevaluation of water management strategies to ensure sustainability.
- **Reliance on Depleting Storage:** Historically, the Colorado River Basin has relied on its vast storage capacity, epitomized by reservoirs such as Lake Powell and Lake Mead, to buffer against variability in annual water supply. Despite implementation of the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (2007 Guidelines) and 2019 Drought Contingency Plans (DCPs), these storage reserves have been depleted to critically low levels, signaling the unsustainability of current operational paradigms.
- **Climate Change Impacts:** The experience of the past two decades, augmented by scientific studies, projects a likelihood of a hotter and drier climate for the Colorado River Basin. This emerging reality is characterized by a long-term decline in hydrology, compounded by highly variable and uncertain precipitation patterns from year to year. The evolving climate scenario necessitates a proactive and adaptive operational approach that anticipates rather than reacts to future challenges.
- **Integrated Basin Management:** The complexities of the Colorado River Basin's hydrology and the interdependencies of its water users (including the environment) demand a holistic management perspective. Lessons learned from the implementation of the 2007 Guidelines and DCPs highlight the need for a basin-wide approach that transcends political and geographical boundaries to foster resilience and sustainability.

Our pre-scoping comment letter underscores these challenges, emphasizing the urgent need for new operational strategies that reflect a realistic appraisal of the river's hydrology, the imperative of system-wide management, and the protection of critical environmental resources (Joint Pre-Scoping Comments Letter for Post-2026 Colorado River Operations, June 24, 2023).

Amidst these challenges, there are emerging positive factors that also lay a foundation for the innovative strategies proposed through Cooperative Conservation, including but not limited to:

- **Increasing Recognition of the Need to Adapt:** There is a growing consensus among sovereigns and stakeholders, including federal, state, tribal, and local entities, on the urgent need for flexible and adaptable management strategies that can accommodate the dynamic nature of climate variability and water demand pressures.
- **Advances in Water Conservation Policy/Technology and Forecasting:** Policy and technological advancements in water conservation and efficiency, along with

improved hydrologic and climate forecasting models, are enhancing our ability to use water more judiciously and to plan for variability and change with greater precision.

- **Increased Understanding of the Relationship Between Watershed Health and River Flows:** Recent research underscores the critical link between watershed health and resilience of river flows. This knowledge supports integrated water management practices that benefit both human and ecological communities.
- **Federal Recognition of the Need for Additional Funding:** The federal government has acknowledged the necessity for increased investment in water infrastructure, conservation, and river health initiatives that support the long-term resilience of the system as a whole. This recognition is paving the way for greater financial support for sustainable water management efforts across the Colorado River Basin.¹

These positive factors contribute to a promising context for our proposed solutions, suggesting that, despite significant challenges ahead, there are reasons to be optimistic about our collective capacity to forge a sustainable path forward for the Colorado River Basin.

C. Cooperative Conservation

Cooperative Conservation is an operating alternative that synthesizes lessons learned from past management experiences and current scientific understandings. Most alternatives proposed for the post-2026 Colorado River NEPA process center on potential changes in reservoir releases and water uses based on different legal and negotiating positions held by the Upper and Lower Division States. Our proposal broadens these alternatives to consider additional proactive responses, targeted reservoir management strategies, and innovative and flexible tools in the face of uncertain and changing future water supply conditions. Specifically, Cooperative Conservation emphasizes approaches (summarized below) to help:

- Stabilize system storage and avoid crisis management;
- Target reservoir management to integrate stewardship and mitigation in storage and release operations;
- Maintain opportunities for Colorado River Delta flows; and
- Incentivize flexible tools and water management.

1. Stabilize Storage and Avoid Crisis Management - Dual Indicator Operations

Cooperative Conservation proposes “**Dual Indicator Operations**” for determining annual releases from Lakes Powell and Mead to better stabilize storage and avoid crisis to crisis management. This approach predicates annual reservoir operations at Lakes Powell and Mead first on combined storage at relevant system reservoirs and second on climate trends affecting Basin water supplies.

Rationale: *The 2007 Guidelines inform operation of Lakes Powell and Mead to withstand a normal drought cycle. They are based on an overly optimistic estimate of future hydrology, limited forecasts/modeling that do not account for climate trends, and a primary goal of limiting shortages and avoiding curtailment of water users. This has resulted in reduced reservoir releases only after significant storage declines when reservoirs risk reaching critically low levels. This has led to effectively "mining" storage and increasing risks of catastrophic shortages by allowing reservoirs to*

¹ See e.g., Colorado River Resilience at <https://resilientcoriver.org/>

dangerously approach the point where they cannot reliably release water. The Dual Indicator Operations advance operations that provide a proactive yet relatively predictable strategy to setting annual water release determinations to avoid crisis management and stabilize storage to reduce the threat to Colorado River Basin ecosystems and allow water users to assess the amount of water likely to be available with a greater degree of confidence over the life of the new guidelines.

i. Indicator 1 - Combined Storage

Although Lakes Powell and Mead are the powerhouse reservoirs driving the Colorado River system, their operations can still be influenced by conditions and operations at other system reservoirs (Flaming Gorge, Blue Mesa, Navajo Reservoirs, Lake Mohave and Lake Havasu). For the first reservoir release indicator (combined storage), Cooperative Conservation proposes introducing continuous rule curves for baseline releases from Lake Powell based on the available live storage at Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge, Blue Mesa, Navajo Reservoir (Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) Initial Unit storage) and for deliveries from Lake Mead based on available live storage from Lake Mead, Lake Mohave and Lake Havasu in addition to the CRSP Initial Units (whole system storage). The Lake Powell curve would be based on available CRSP Initial Unit storage in recognition of the upstream facilities' potential influence on Lake Powell, while acknowledging the need to delink the influence of Lower Basin conditions on Upper Basin actions/operations.² Similarly, the Lake Mead rule curve would be based on available whole system storage in recognition that such storage will inform current and future water availability for downstream water users.

Assessing the health of the Colorado River's relevant system storage to inform operations at Lakes Powell and Mead allows the Colorado River community to move away from unreliable forecasting and reservoir elevation triggers that have challenged relationships and operations. It also avoids concern over where water is stored in the system or the appearance of "hiding" storage outside of Lakes Powell and Mead that leads to conflict and debates. It further removes incentives for acting just enough to hover slightly above or below the specific reservoir elevation triggers, and opens the door for the possibility of greater flexibility and adaptability in reservoir management (see Flexible and Innovative Tools - Conservation Reserve, Section C.4).

ii. Indicator 2 - Climate Response

Storage by itself, however, is not enough to prepare the Colorado River community for the water supply challenges that may come as a result of climate trends in the Basin. Adding a near-term climate response trend introduces a much needed proactive measure to anticipate the impacts of known conditions on future system storage.

Cooperative Conservation proposes applying near-term, observed trends over the baseline storage/release curves for the second release determination indicator. This "Climate

² By proposing Powell and Mead operations to consider relevant system storage conditions, the Dual Indicator Operations do NOT aim to make storage above Powell or below Mead readily available for release outside the normal course of operations under existing Records of Decisions and Biological Opinions for those respective facilities. Nonetheless, such storage is still an important indicator of system health to inform what to expect from operations at Powell and Mead both in the current year and in years to come. For example, if hydrology has been so impacted by climate change during the course of the post-2026 Guidelines that CRSP Initial Units do not fill to normal/typical volumes in a given year, that would inform expectations of how much water would be released to Powell through the normal course of operations which in turn would inform expectations of subsequent conditions at Powell and Mead, respectively.

Response” indicator would be used to anticipate any potential loss in net storage of CRSP Initial Units (for Lake Powell) and whole system storage (for Lake Mead) based on recent hydrology trends in the Basin. It would help the Basin adjust to expected conditions (i.e., lower runoff because of dry soils that results in less storage in the upcoming year) by avoiding making larger releases than the system can support. This Climate Response indicator is not a forecast, and should be distinguished from predictions of seasonal precipitation and flow that have been used to inform current reservoir operations and have led to less confidence in the functionality of operational triggers.

For the post-2026 NEPA process, Cooperative Conservation applies the 3-year hydrologic adjustment that is embedded in Reclamation’s Colorado River Basin Post-2026 Operations Exploration Webtool, which factors temperature, precipitation, snow, etc. into the natural flow calculation at Lee Ferry. We recognize, however, that any trends used to inform annual reservoir operations must be reliable and would ideally be agreed to by consensus. We are interested in discussing with Reclamation, the Basin States and Tribes as well as the rest of the Colorado River community the appropriate trends to rely on, including the possibility of recent temperature-related indicators that have a demonstrated correlation to water supply availability.³ Other trends to possibly consider may relate to other drivers of positive or negative change, such as shifts in recent hydrology or uses, soil moisture trends, dust on snow, groundwater storage levels and trends, or evolving patterns of regional precipitation. Modeling assumptions for the Dual Indicator Operations are outlined as reservoir regimes in Section D below.

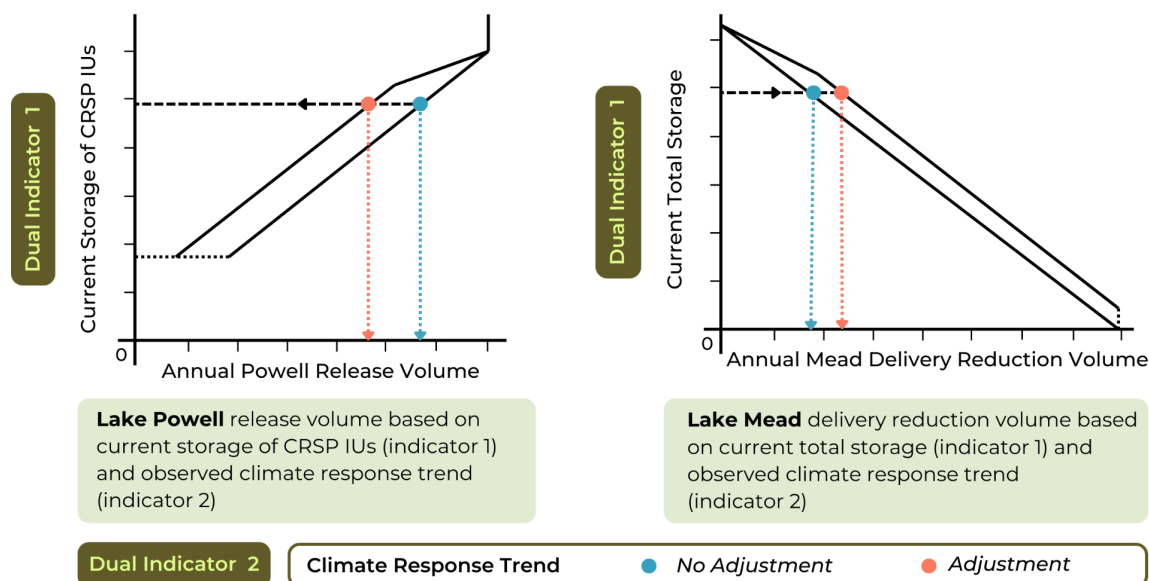


Figure 1. Dual Indicator Operations - conceptual illustration. In Dual Indicators Operations, annual release volumes are based on Colorado River Storage Project Units (CRSP) and a climate response trend and annual delivery reduction volumes are based on CRSP units plus Lakes Mead, Mojave and

³ Recent investigations of the “hot drought” phenomenon have shown that higher temperatures do correlate closely with the reduced runoff efficiency that has been observed in the Basin due to higher EvapoTranspiration values changes in vegetation, and longer growing seasons (e.g. estimated by one study as ~9.5% at present, potentially increasing to ~20% by 2050). Udall, B., & Overpeck, J. (2017). The twenty-first century Colorado River hot drought and implications for the future. *Water Resources Research*, 53(3), 2404-2418. <https://doi.org/10.1002/2016WR019638>.

Havasu (Total System Storage) and a climate response trend. The black lines show the relationship between storage, release volume, and adjustments based on indicators.

2. Targeted Management of Operations to Include Stewardship and Mitigation

Cooperative Conservation proposes targeting reservoir management to take a multi-benefit approach by incorporating stewardship and mitigation principles into reservoir operations that help maintain the integrity of the Colorado River Basin's ecosystems.

Rationale: Climate change and reservoir management decisions are indisputably impacting natural resources and systems throughout the Basin. Yet, environmental considerations have oftentimes had to be separated from Colorado River decision making from year to year. For example:

- **Recovery Programs in the Upper Colorado River, San Juan River Basin, and on the Virgin River** that provide for ongoing water uses in conjunction with recovery of threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act are separated by independent records of decisions or biological opinions, which in some cases, have not been updated to reflect current Basin conditions.
- Management of the **Grand Canyon and its resources** frequently fall under the framework of the Grand Canyon Protection Act, which does not account for flow effects based on annual operational considerations at Glen Canyon Dam.
- The **Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP)** has been successful in achieving restoration goals identified as of 2006. Conditions over the past 20 years reveal a need for similar actions in response to changing conditions or the potential need for increased reductions in deliveries from Lake Mead along the Lower Colorado River corridor in years to come.
- The environmental and health effects of the **Salton Sea's** declining inflow are directly connected to delivery reductions in the Lower Basin but sometimes considered beyond the geographic scope of annual reservoir operations.
- **Impacts from climate change** are being felt in the Basin but are not yet fully incorporated into some federal reservoir operations as they work to implement the Law of the River.
- Effects of annual operations at Lake Mead on flows to the **Cienega de Santa Clara** and **Colorado River Delta** are sometimes determined to be beyond the purview of NEPA for reservoir operations.

As a result, the historic processes to establish rules governing annual operation of the two largest Colorado River reservoirs have not always been able to fully contemplate storage and release measures that could help forestall the degradation of the Basin's natural systems. Cooperative Conservation proposes to rectify this outcome in part by targeting reservoir management, where possible and consistent with the Law of the River, to integrate stewardship and mitigation considerations into the annual operations at Lakes Powell and Mead under the post-2026 Guidelines.

i. Stewardship Target⁴ - Grand Canyon Example

Nowhere in the Colorado River Basin is the need for environmental stewardship better exemplified than the Grand Canyon. As the natural conduit between Lakes Powell and Mead along the Colorado River mainstem, the health of the Grand Canyon ecosystem is tied to management decisions for coordinating operations between the two reservoirs. At the same time, the Grand Canyon National Park is an essential Colorado River resource that supports biologically diverse communities, including many rare, endangered, and endemic species as well as several ecosystems, ranging from the lower canyon's Sonoran Desert to the North Rim's coniferous forest. The park also contains important cultural resources, and more than ten Tribes ascribe substantial cultural significance to the Grand Canyon, the Colorado River, and various sites and resources through the park's boundaries. Not to be overlooked, the Grand Canyon also provides opportunities for a range of recreational experiences that attract millions of visitors annually as one of the crown jewels of the National Park system and one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

The post-2026 Guidelines provide both a need and opportunity to consider Grand Canyon flow needs as part of the rules for Lake Powell's annual storage and release operations.⁵ Specifically, annual storage considerations at Lake Powell that influence water temperature, invasive species, high flow experiments, and minimum flow priorities can help create the conditions for Powell releases to ensure ongoing compliance with the Endangered Species Act and continued operation of the Long-Term Experimental Management Plan (even if adjusted at a later date) under the Grand Canyon Protection Act, and the sustainability of Grand Canyon's resources through changes in climate and annual reservoir operations during the life of the post-2026 Guidelines.

In light of these resource considerations, which are further summarized in Table 1, Cooperative Conservation identifies Grand Canyon flow targets to inform the rule curve for annual storage and release of water at Lake Powell. These targets inform when would be beneficial to increase or decrease releases from Powell but do NOT serve as hard floors or ceilings to protect Powell storage (See Section D). Moreover, Cooperative Conservation recognizes that such storage targets may have implications for water supply, hydropower production and other resources which will be important to analyze and assess to determine viable tradeoffs and mitigation responses as part of Reclamation's NEPA process.

⁴ Stewardship refers to responsible use of natural systems through conservation and sustainable practices. Chapin, F. S., Stephen R. Carpenter, Gary P. Kofinas, et al. 2010. Ecosystem Stewardship: Sustainability Strategies for a Rapidly Changing Planet." *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*. 25 (4):241-249.

⁵ Currently, hourly, daily, and monthly operational decisions at Glen Canyon Dam fit squarely within the management framework set forth in the Grand Canyon Protection Act, but annual operations do not. Because annual operations still have the potential to impact Grand Canyon resources, the post-2026 Guidelines present the chance to consider impacts to Grand Canyon resources through the full cycle of reservoir operations (Annual ops - post-2026 Guidelines and hourly, daily, monthly ops - GCPA authorities). See Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992, Pub. L. No. 102-575, Title XVIII, 106 Stat. 4669.

Table 1. Resource considerations and targets related to Lake Powell storage and release operations.

| Resource | Annual Operations Influence | General Objective | Storage/Release Target |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|
| System Integrity/Continuity | Releases from Powell influence the minimum flows achievable to avoid the devastation of Grand Canyon resources under significantly dry hydrologies. | Prevent Powell releases that are so low they compromise the integrity of the Grand Canyon corridor. | <p><u>Preferred min Grand Canyon flow:</u> 6,000 cfs (~4.34 maf/year) Ensures integrity of natural resources and considers the Grand Canyon recreation economy.</p> <p><u>Critical min Grand Canyon flow:</u> 5,000 cfs (~3.23 maf/year) Ensures annual connectivity of River system; Avoids flat flow/provides variation of flows to mimic a more natural Grand Canyon hydrograph.</p> |
| Water Temperature | Powell storage and release volumes and the volume of inflow to Lake Powell have the potential to influence water temps below Glen Canyon Dam. ⁱ | Strive to support Glen Canyon Dam releases that are warm enough (> 12°C) to allow for Humpback Chub reproduction and growth but cool enough (< 20°C) to preserve Trout and deter reproduction, growth of invasive species. | <p><u>Target 1:</u> Powell Elevation above 3,600 ft - release temps become too cold for Grand Canyon flows (< 12°C)</p> <p><u>Target 2:</u> Powell Elevation within 3,570-3,575 ft - release temps fit the 12-20°C window that helps avoid invasives bypassing infrastructure and preserves opportunity for HFE (if sediment is present)</p> <p><u>Target 3:</u> Powell Elevation below 3,525 ft - release temps become too warm (> 17-20°C) and potential for HFE significantly diminished</p> |
| Invasive Species | At low Powell elevations, invasive fish species have greater opportunity to pass through the Glen Canyon Dam's facilities and establish populations that impact Blue Ribbon Trout Fisheries and Native Fish at/below Lee Ferry. ⁱⁱ | Strive to maintain Powell storage elevations that prevent invasive species from entering the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam/Lee's Ferry. | |
| High Flow Experiments | Experience over the last few years reveals that when Powell storage is low, the opportunity and flexibility to accomplish HFEs (for optics or operational reasons) is significantly diminished. | Strive to maintain Powell elevations that support HFEs (over 24 hours) occurring once every 3 years (if sediment is present in the system), allow for interannual release adjustments (when sediment is present) to support mimicry of natural hydrograph and preserve HFE benefit in upcoming season. | |

ⁱMihalevich, B. A., Neilson, B., Buahin, C. A., Yackulic, C., & Schmidt, J. C. (2020). Water temperature controls for regulated canyon-bound rivers. *Water Resources Research*, 56(10), e2020WR027566. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2020WR027566>.

ⁱⁱ Melis, T. S., ed., 2011, Effects of three high-flow experiments on the Colorado River ecosystem downstream from Glen Canyon Dam, Arizona: U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1366, 147 p. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1366/c1366.pdf>

ii. Stewardship Target – Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs Example

If any Alternative analyzed by Reclamation for the post-2026 NEPA process contemplates operations upstream of Powell, then it would be important to include additional stewardship targets for the Upper Basin. For example, The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (Programs) are critical to the river system's integrity as it continues to experience changes due to climate conditions. The recovery of listed species has been a long-term effort that provides streamlined ESA compliance for thousands of Upper Basin water users by providing benefits to four species of warm-water fish found nowhere else in the world. Climate change has impacted these endangered fish as hotter and drier conditions have lowered river flows in many of the Colorado River's major tributaries. Management strategies can benefit listed fish through both improving management of reservoirs and focusing conservation efforts above critical habitat reaches.

Specifically, water releases from reservoirs can and should be timed to maximize ecological benefits, including meeting recommended flows for endangered fish and wildlife and providing appropriate water temperatures. This is especially true when operations are changed to address drought or unanticipated circumstances. For example, when the 2019 Drought Response Operations Agreement was implemented, it included timing releases to improve flows in priority reaches.

Similarly, any updates to the DROA or future conservation programs that enable water conservation that are contemplated with or alongside the post-2026 Guidelines could include criteria to prioritize projects that will benefit river reaches with specific environmental needs. This might include a new DROA, additional System Conservation Pilot Program projects or other Upper Basin water conservation programs developed in the future. Such water could be provided at times and in volumes that materially benefit river health while that same water provides greater security for basin-wide management: a classic win-win.

iii. Mitigation⁶ Goals

The post-2026 Guidelines will inevitably result in resource impacts throughout the Basin. The NEPA process is intended to inform decision makers of what those impacts may be and consider whether and how new guidelines can be implemented in a manner that mitigates significant effects to the environment.⁷ Cooperative Conservation proposes Reclamation define, where possible in the NEPA process, affirmative mitigation measures to be included as part of the post-2026 Guidelines to address impacts identified in Draft EIS. Presumed areas for mitigation consideration (which may evolve based on the EIS analyses) include:

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program - The success of the LCR MSCP in creating Colorado River habitats over the past 20+ years is a testament to the collaborative efforts taken to address habitat risks to valuable species of birds and wildlife and cultural heritage while providing greater water security for thousands of water users. As the post-2026 Guidelines consider ways to manage the potential for reduced water deliveries from Lake

⁶ Mitigation refers to “[a]ctions taken to avoid, reduce the severity of, or eliminate an adverse impact.” It can include implementing measures to avoid or minimize the degree or magnitude of identified impacts, or rectifying those impacts by restoration, rehabilitation, repair or offsets to the affected environment. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. 2022. *Reclamation Library: Glossary*. <https://www.usbr.gov/library/glossary/>

⁷ National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq. (1970).

Mead, possibly resulting in reduced flows and availability of water in the Lower Colorado River, Cooperative Conservation calls for increased restoration actions in line with anticipated impacts to address increased risks to habitat and cultural heritage along the Lower Colorado River corridor, including those established by LCR MSCP.

ESA Compliance/Recovery Programs - Recovery programs throughout the Basin remain important to the river system's integrity. It will, therefore, be important to identify if and how the post-2026 Guidelines will implicate any recovery program and provide opportunity to apply innovative solutions that accommodate continued protection, mitigation, and recovery of species and habitats at a broad scale within the Colorado River Basin.

Tribal Water Rights and Trust Assets - Colorado River Basin Tribes have recognized rights to use approximately twenty-five percent of the Colorado River water supply, and many of these Tribal Nations are in the process of quantifying additional rights to Colorado River water. Given this volume of Tribal water, it is imperative to identify relevant "adverse impacts, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative, to Tribal Water Rights [and Tribal trust assets], whether such water is being presently put to use or is as yet unused, when analyzing alternatives considered for incorporation into the post-2026 Guidelines."⁸

Reduced Supply Impacts - Having to reduce releases/deliveries from Colorado River reservoirs under different conditions will have inevitable impacts on both the human environment (communities, economies, cultural values, livelihoods) and natural resources (soils, surface and groundwater sources, air, vegetation, wildlife, habitats, etc.). Cooperative Conservation expects the post-2026 EIS to acknowledge the impacts that are the consequence of reduced supplies and demand reductions and outline the possible mechanisms or programs that can work to minimize effects to water users, communities and resources going forward.

Salton Sea - The Imperial Valley's participation in innovative Colorado River strategies is key to the successful development of workable solutions to a dwindling water supply in the Basin. Such participation, however, will only be secured by identifying a workable path for addressing the impacts to public health and wildlife associated with reduced flows to the Salton Sea. Cooperative Conservation expects Reclamation to anticipate the impacts of post-2026 Colorado River operations to the Salton Sea (including biological resources and air quality changes expected from changes to shoreline dust emissions) and identify the mitigation measures that will be contemplated going forward.

Salinity changes on Lake Mead storage or water deliveries to Mexico - Post-2026 operations may affect salinity in the Lower Colorado River, and deliveries to Mexico or storage conditions at Lake Mead may be influenced as a result. Cooperative Conservation expects the post-2026 NEPA analysis to include mitigation measures as needed to ensure: (a) the United States' ongoing compliance with Minute 242; (b) Reclamation's ability to use Yuma-area pumped return flows as a component of delivery to Mexico; (c) Reclamation's ability to deliver the volume of water to Mexico at the rates and times requested (a key area of binational cooperation identified in Minute 323). Reclamation will need to identify, analyze, and describe these impacts to ensure the United States and Mexico can continue to work collaboratively, with shared information, to maintain the benefits achieved under the terms of recent binational Colorado River agreements.

⁸ Colorado River Basin Tribes. (2024, March 11). *Letter to Commissioner Touton, Bureau of Reclamation, regarding common views and expectations regarding alternative(s) that will be analyzed and considered for the Post-2026 Guidelines.*

Changes in water deliveries or management that impact water quantity in the MODE canal - The post-2026 Guidelines may affect water deliveries in the Yuma area that drain into the Main Outlet Drain Extension (MODE)⁹ canal and are delivered in Mexico to the Cienega de Santa Clara. This Cienega is a large, important wetland that supports rare and endangered species. It is a nesting and feeding site for shorebirds and marsh birds on the Pacific Flyway, and provides habitat for 75% of the remaining population of the Yuma Ridgway's Rail, an endangered marsh bird. Reclamation's NEPA analyses will need to consider impacts of Colorado River operations in the United States on the Cienega de Santa Clara to allow the US and Mexico to identify suitable mitigation opportunities.

Interconnected systems - The Colorado River system cannot effectively operate to stabilize conditions at the expense of other watersheds or groundwater resources. Additionally, understanding the demands and constraints of adjacent watersheds/systems could directly or indirectly impact supplies (i.e., transbasin diversions, groundwater supplies) and inform the stability of the Colorado River Basin going forward. As Basin stakeholders work to implement river policies and management decisions to sustain the Colorado River system over the long-term, it will be important to consider ways to minimize harm to systems that are interconnected and/or dependent on, but separate from, the consideration of the annual water supplies within the Colorado River Basin. Such interconnected systems include: (a) groundwater supplies; and (b) transbasin connections like the San Juan Chama/Rio Grande; Colorado River/South Platte/Arkansas to name a few.

3. Maintaining Opportunities for Colorado River Delta Flows

Cooperative Conservation includes releases from Colorado River reservoirs that will aid in accomplishing environmentally beneficial flows through the Colorado River Delta. The purpose of this approach is to: (a) ensure that a full range of options are available to consider when engaging in binational solutions through a separate US - Mexico negotiation process; (b) understand the benefits and impacts of potential Delta flows on reservoir operations in the US; and (c) inform the mitigation strategies that will be needed to effectively minimize effects going forward.

***Rationale:** Although Mexico's participation is essential to effective Colorado River management, the process for developing the post-2026 Guidelines is separate from binational collaboration through Treaty Minute negotiations. To avoid precluding opportunities to achieve useful binational agreement, Cooperative Conservation incorporates Delta Flow releases for EIS modeling considerations consistent with existing Colorado River binational frameworks between the U.S. and Mexico.*

Cooperative Conservation proposes a possible 45 thousand acre feet (kaf) Delta flow release each year. Recognizing that such flow would not likely occur each year, the approach also proposes a maximum possible release of 135 kaf in any given year. Actual availability of water for environmental flows, however, would be determined based on agreements between the U.S. and Mexico that have yet to be negotiated.

⁹ The MODE canal is a concrete structure that removes drainage water from farms in Arizona.

4. Flexible and Innovative Tools - Conservation Reserve

Cooperative Conservation includes a “**Conservation Reserve**” tool to replace the existing Lower Basin Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) program as an innovative mechanism for incentivizing meaningful water conservation and enabling much needed flexibility in annual water use.

Rationale: *ICS under the 2007 Guidelines has been successful in encouraging water users to conserve water and boost storage elevations in Lake Mead. However, because ICS “counts” as part of the Lake Mead elevations, the timing of ICS creation and withdrawal has risked influencing Powell releases under coordinated reservoir operations and the extent of shortages applied to Lower Basin water users. At the same time, allowing stored ICS to be used to offset shortages potentially increases the amount of water withdrawn in times of shortage, reducing the effectiveness of shortages in arresting reservoir declines.*

Cooperative Conservation proposes the ICS program transition after 2026 into a Conservation Reserve that authorizes storage and movement of conserved water on top of the normal system operating pools in an operationally neutral manner. This program would maintain benefits of the ICS program, including incentivizing conservation to allow participating water users to offset shortages in particular years. It would also allow the actions to occur without increasing risks to others. Because the reservoirs’ system water would be unaffected by water in a Conservation Reserve pool, the program would also provide flexible opportunities for moving conserved water where it can provide the most operational and environmental benefits without affecting available water supplies to Upper or Lower Basin water users. In this way, the program can offer an incentive structure for conserving Colorado River water that can also help protect critical infrastructure, meet important environmental targets, improve hydropower generation, and/or provide other resilience benefits.

***** Because the Conservation Reserve tool has the potential to provide flexibilities and mitigation benefits beyond environmental priorities identified in this proposal, the Conservation Groups requests that Reclamation treat the Conservation Reserve as a standalone tool to be analyzed for impacts and mitigation benefits as part of other alternatives and/or as the sensitivity analyses for each of the alternatives in the post-2026 EIS. *****

i. Conservation Reserve Framework

To be effective, the Conservation Reserve tool must encourage water users to conserve water that can be stored and delivered as needed without affecting regular reservoir operations. A Conservation Reserve framework must allow for the reserved water to be:

- (1) **Invisible to available system storage.** Colorado River reservoir release determinations would not be influenced by storage or movement of water reserved under the Conservation Reserve. Instead, the water conserved in the program would be reserved as “top storage” that would be invisible when assessing the available storage within the system.
- (2) **Operationally neutral, but still beneficial.** Because water reserved under the Conservation Reserve would not be counted in setting reservoir release volumes, supplemental deliveries would not impact the amount of storage available to other users – it would be “operationally neutral” as if it was never stored or withdrawn.

However, stored water under the program would still be allowed to keep reservoir levels higher than they would otherwise have been (consistent with #6 below). To manage this effectively, Reclamation would need to maintain and publish clear records that account for system storage as the basis for annual operations as well as for reserve bank storage as the basis for flexible management on top of system storage within the reservoirs.

- (3) **Typically created via reduced use/increased supply.** Reserved conservation water would continue to be created by measurably reducing consumptive uses or augmenting the Colorado River system in a particular year. Once created, reserved water would be retained in the Conservation Reserve pool until delivered at the request of the water user who created it. **NOTE:** Upon future negotiation and agreement, the Conservation Reserve may also work to accommodate the unique characteristics of Tribal water rights and empower Tribes to use their water in more flexible ways.
- (4) **Available for delivery on top of normal entitlements.** Water users with water in the Conservation Reserve could choose to deliver their reserved conservation water “on top” of their normal entitlements, including to supplement deliveries in shortage years or to meet compact obligations.
- (5) **Subject to an evaporation/system assessment and spill.** All water reserved in a Conservation Reserve would be subject to an evaporation/system assessment. In the event the reservoir fills (ie. there is no longer enough remaining empty active storage space to retain Conservation Reserve water), the water reserved in the program would be spilled on a 1:1 basis.
- (6) **Stored and moved where needed for operational and environmental benefits.** Because water reserved under the Conservation Reserve would be invisible and operationally neutral to calculations of storage available for release from Lake Powell and delivery from Lake Mead (See Dual Indicator Operations, above), there can be greater flexibility to provide operational and environmental benefits as needed.

ii. Benefits of the Conservation Reserve Tool

Reclamation’s ability to flexibly manage the reserve water to provide greater resiliencies within the Basin is essential to long-term stability of the Basin. By making the creation (“puts”) and withdrawals (“takes”) of water reserved in a Conservation Reserve “operationally neutral,” the top storage approach of the Conservation Reserve tool could allow the amount in a reserve to be increased substantially without increasing interbasin or water user risks. Similarly, greater flexibility could potentially be allowed in the volume of “puts” and “takes” permitted from the reserve pool in any particular year.

While rules would need to be adopted to protect water user interests and prevent undesirable impacts, Reclamation could also gain useful management flexibility by enabling the water reserved under a Conservation Reserve to either be stored or moved without affecting water users in either the Upper or Lower Basins. For example, Reclamation could move conservation reserved water as needed to assist in:

- Ensuring river connectivity through the Grand Canyon;
- Striving to maintaining temperature condition windows that aid native fish and deter invasive species; and
- Accomplishing HFEs that would otherwise not be achievable due to Basin conditions

Reclamation also could move water in the Conservation Reserved water between reservoirs for operational benefits such as:

- Protecting human health and safety under extreme dry conditions;
- Holding additional water in Powell to protect critical infrastructure;
- Holding additional water in Mead to protect intake levels and critical elevations; or
- Boosting hydropower production during particular periods.

If Reclamation temporarily moves Conservation Reserve water from upstream (i.e. Powell) for operational and environmental benefits, it could be recaptured at the next reservoir (i.e. Mead), and moved back upstream by reducing flows in subsequent water years. When the Conservation Reserve water is finally ordered for delivery by the water user who created it, Reclamation could adjust the relative deliveries accordingly (within the limits of permitted operations). Because all water reserved in the Conservation Reserve would be invisible to the determination of system water available for release under normal reservoir operations, adjusting reservoir releases to deliver the Conservation Reserve water does not change water availability or create risk for any upstream or downstream water user.

Initial rules and priorities to guide modeling of the Conservation Reserve for the post-2026 NEPA process are listed in Section D.3. We would like to explore these and other variables with the Colorado River community to evaluate the benefits and impacts of the Conservation Reserve tool as applied to various alternatives evaluated through the post-2026 NEPA process.

iii. Additional Conservation Reserve Opportunities

The Conservation Reserve does not have to be limited to Lower Division water users. An Upper Basin Conservation Reserve pool could similarly be treated as operationally neutral, without affecting the releases of water from the Upper to the Lower Basin. It could work to help provide compact compliance benefits if it was deemed necessary during low-flow sequences by the appropriate decision makers. Even if compact compliance is not at issue, an Upper Basin Conservation Reserve pool could be used to promote temporary and voluntary conservation that helps increase the flexibility of water uses within the Upper Basin from year-to-year water.

Similar Conservation Reserve rules could also be applied to water stored in the Mexican Water Reserve, which could allow for expanded international use of voluntary storage on the same terms. Such rules could also extend to aid in providing flows through the Colorado River Delta (if agreed to in US - Mexico agreements).

As alluded to above, if future negotiations result in relevant agreements, the Conservation Reserve may also be structured to include the range of Tribal water rights in the Colorado River Basin, providing a mechanism to “[e]nsure that the eligibility and participation requirements of any conservation programs included in the post-2026 Guidelines are established and operated in a manner that maximizes Basin Tribes’ ability to participate in them without triggering onerous financial burdens.”¹⁰

¹⁰ Colorado River Basin Tribes. (2024, March 11). *Letter to Commissioner Touton, Bureau of Reclamation, regarding common views and expectations regarding alternative(s) that will be analyzed and considered for the Post-2026 Guidelines.*

D. Cooperative Conservation Modeling Considerations

Taking all the elements and priorities outlined above, Cooperative Conservation proposes the following continuous curve management approach for Lakes Powell and Mead under different storage conditions, to which we apply the flexible Conservation Reserve as a tool. Importantly, this Cooperative Conservation management approach is intentionally distinct and different from those presented in the current Upper Division and Lower Division State proposals. We have taken this approach primarily to propose operations that achieve greater reliability for water supplies AND improved outcomes for river-related ecosystems. We have also taken this approach to aid Reclamation's efforts to build out a reasonable range of management options to evaluate, and thereby provide greater confidence and credibility to this important NEPA process.

To be clear, our use of the following "continuous-response curve" management approach does not reflect any shared position among the Conservation Groups as to the reasonableness of other proposals submitted to Reclamation or how changes in available water supplies should be absorbed within the Basin. We understand and respect that changes to reservoir release regimes at Lakes Powell and Mead implicate the rights and authorities of federal, state and Tribal entities as well as stakeholders throughout the Basin, and that ongoing negotiation and discussions with a goal of reaching workable solutions for sustaining the Basin will continue to be important during each phase of the NEPA process.

1. *Lake Powell Reservoir Regime for EIS Modeling Purposes*

Cooperative Conservation proposes modeling a Lake Powell reservoir management regime that involves a "continuous-response" storage and release curve based on observed conditions of available live CRSP Initial Unit Storage on October 1 of each year. This curve gradually alters annual releases from Lake Powell in response to system storage,¹¹ applying the Dual Indicator Operations and incorporating the stewardship considerations for Lake Powell storage as described above and based on the steps outlined below. Table 2 summarizes the Lake Powell Reservoir Regime and Figure 2 provides a conceptual illustration.

Step 1. Develop a baseline continuous release curve relating Lake Powell releases to the observed storage conditions at the CRSP Initial Units on October 1, providing larger releases when the CRSP storage is above 60% (Powell storage is likely to be above 3,600 feet.) Calculated baseline releases are continuously and smoothly reduced until the CRSP storage reaches 40% (and Powell storage is likely to be near 3,525 feet). When combined storage is less than 40%, follow run-of-river operations.

Step 2. Apply a known, reliable, agreed-to Climate Response Indicator adjustment to account for anticipated loss in net storage that may occur in out years (see Dual Indicator Operations, Section C.1).

Step 3. Adjust the potential release volume to proactively account for the likely future condition of storage at the CRSP Initial Units as dictated by the Dual Indicator Operations. The adjusted point on the curve would establish the water available for release for the Water Year.

¹¹ Combined storage refers to Lake Powell and the CRSP Initial Units, as well as Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, and Lake Havasu.

Table 2. Lake Powell Reservoir Regime

| Observed Pool Elevation at Powell on Oct. 1 (As approx. CRSP % full) | Lake Powell Water Year Release | 3-year Average Hydrologic Adjustmentⁱ |
|--|---|---|
| 100% (Assumes Upper CRSP IU Storage mostly full and Powell at elevation 3,700 feet) | Flood Control / Dam Safety Releases | Begin making reductions in Powell releases when CRSP storage is \leq 70% with full adjustments when CRSP storage \leq 50%: If trend < 10 maf, then adjust Powell releases down 0.5 maf If trend < 8 maf, then adjust Powell releases down 1.0 maf |
| 70%-100% (Assumes Upper CRSP IU Storage mostly full and Powell at or above ~3,600 feet) | 8-10 maf | |
| 50% - 70% (Assumes Upper CRSP IU Storage mostly full and Powell below elevation 3,600 and at or above ~3,525 feet) | 7-8 maf | |
| 37%-50% (Assumes Upper CRSP IU Storage mostly full and Powell below elevation 3,525 and at or above 3,510 feet. | 6-7 maf | |
| < 37% (Assumes Upper CRSP IU Storage mostly full and Powell at or below elevation 3,510 feet) | Run of River up to 6 maf (adj. for trend) | |

ⁱThrough preliminary modeling, Cooperative Conservation relied on the 3-year hydrology inflow metric in Reclamation’s webtool as a stand-in/proxy for the appropriate, agreed to Climate Response Indicator to apply going forward.

Lake Powell Reservoir Regime

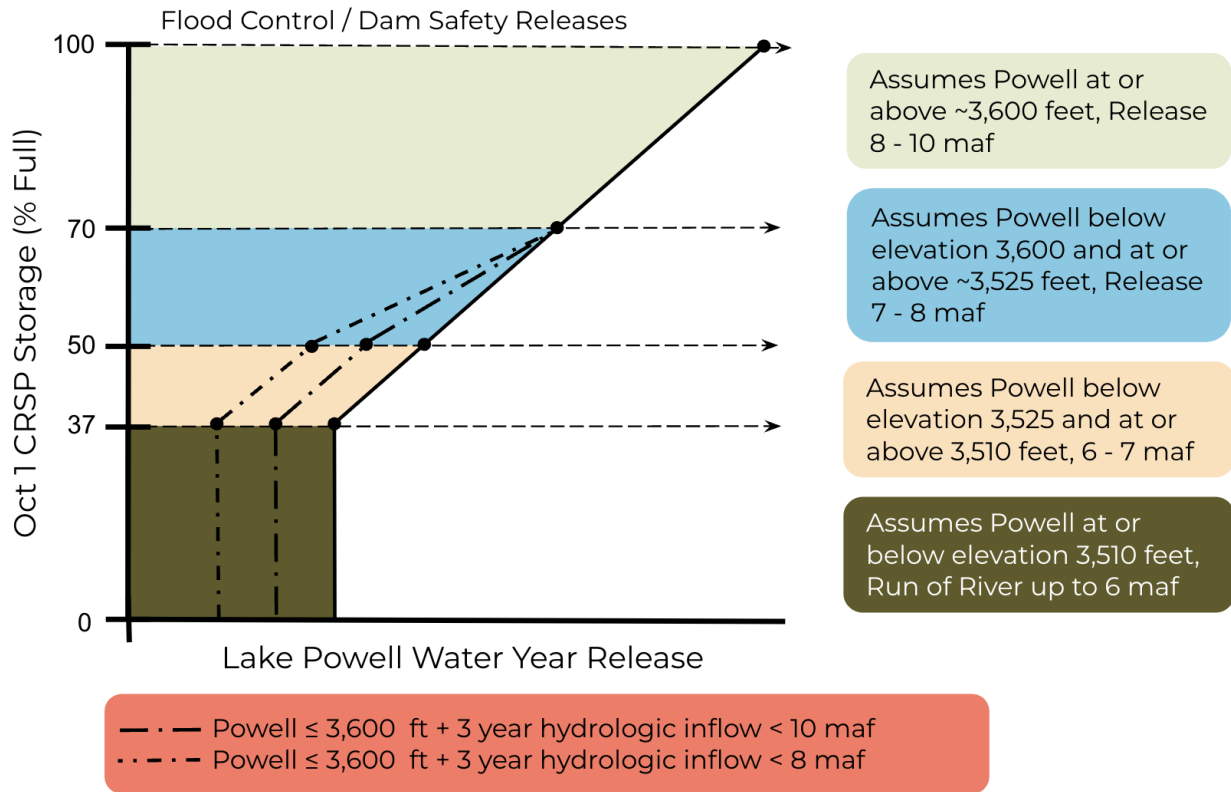


Figure 2. Conceptual illustration of Lake Powell Release Regime

2. Lake Mead Reservoir Regime for EIS Modeling Purposes

To continue with the exploration of a “continuous-response” methodology, the Lake Mead reservoir management regime similarly includes a baseline Lake Mead storage and release curve based on observed conditions of available live whole system storage on October 1 of each year.¹² This curve also applies the Dual Indicator Operations and incorporates the stewardship and Delta flow considerations for Lake Mead storage as described above. Table 3 summarizes the Lake Mead Reservoir Regime and Figure 3 provides a conceptual illustration.

Step. 1 - Develop a baseline continuous delivery reduction curve relating Lake Mead deliveries to observed (and available) live storage from CRSP Initial Units, Lake Mead, Lake Mohave and Lake Havasu on October 1, allowing larger Mead deliveries when the whole system storage is closer to full (e.g. >80%), and reduced releases down to a minimum level when the system is low (e.g. <10%). In contemplating Lake Mead storage and deliveries, factor in the potential for creating up to 45 kaf of binational water annually and for a 135 kaf release of that water every three years to keep the possibility of a Delta Flow release open during US/Mexico negotiations.

¹² The October 1 observation date is proposed for simplicity and with the understanding that the difference between system storage on observed conditions earlier in the year (August 1) will not be that much different from those on October 1. The actual date of observed conditions to apply to the Lake Mead reservoir regime can be modified if agreed to by appropriate authorities going forward.

Step 2. Apply a known, reliable, agreed to Climate Response Indicator adjustment to account for anticipated loss in net storage that may occur in out years (see Dual Indicator Operations, Section C.1).

Step 3 - Adjust the potential delivery volume to proactively account for the likely future condition of whole system storage given those trends. The adjusted point on the curve would establish the water available for delivery for the upcoming Calendar Year.

Table 3. Lake Mead Reservoir Regime

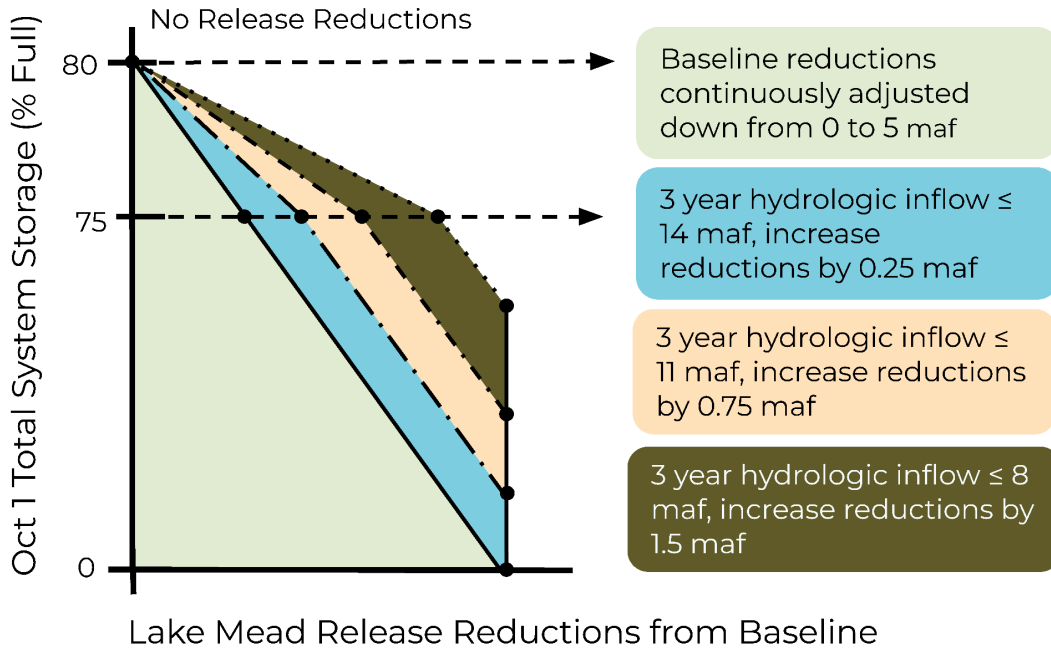
| Observed Whole System Storage (Oct. 1) | Release Reductions | 3-year Average Hydrologic Adjustment ⁱ | Potential for Delta Release Accommodation ⁱⁱ |
|--|--|---|--|
| Above 80% full | No release reductions | Begin making additional reductions when system storage is at 80%, with full reduction adjustments occurring when system storage is below 75%: If trend ≤ 14 maf, increase reductions by 0.25 maf If trend ≤ 11 maf, increase reductions by 0.75 maf If trend ≤ 8 maf, increase reductions by 1.5 maf Maximum reductions cannot exceed 5 maf | Allow for release of Delta Flows of up to 45 kaf/ year (based on water provided by Mexico, NGOs and the US) with a maximum flow of 135 kaf if accumulated on a three year average. |
| 80% - 0% full | Baseline reductions continuously increase from 0 to 5 maf ⁱⁱⁱ | | |

ⁱ Through preliminary modeling, Cooperative Conservation relied on the 3-year hydrology inflow metric in Reclamation’s webtool as a stand-in/proxy for the appropriate, agreed Climate Response Indicator to apply going forward. We would like to explore several approaches to establishing potentially-useful Climate Response Indicators as part of the further development of our alternative.

ⁱⁱ To keep options for binational negotiations open, the Conservation Groups recommend the post-2026 NEPA process consider the possibility of Delta Flow releases as part of the post-2026 NEPA process, recognizing that such flows would only be authorized if the US and Mexico negotiate for such flows under an agreement separate from the post-2026 Guidelines.

ⁱⁱⁱ Delivery reductions or contributions to storage (whatever the case may be) must be determined after discussion and agreement among federal, state, and Tribal governments and stakeholders in the Basin. In the absence of other solutions proposed by Basin sovereigns, Cooperative Conservation assumes for modeling purposes that the first 1.5 maf of reductions would be applied to the Lower Basin (in line with both the Upper and Lower Division State Alternatives). The remaining delivery reductions or contributions to storage could be applied under various scenarios, after carefully considering the rights and interests of Tribes, states, and water users throughout the Basin. The Conservation Groups look forward to working with Reclamation and others to identify what scenario(s) would be most useful to fully inform the post-2026 NEPA analysis going forward. Regardless of the scenario(s) that are ultimately adopted, this Alternative is only intended to provide Reclamation additional options for broadening the range of the post-2026 EIS analysis and is NOT an expression of opinion as to the reasonableness of any proposed alternatives that have been submitted at this time.

Lake Mead Reservoir Regime



Allow for release of Delta Flows of up to 45 kaf/year with a maximum flow of 135 kaf if accumulated on a 3 year average.

Figure 3. Lake Mead Delivery Regime - conceptual illustration

3. Conservation Reserve Goals and Priorities for EIS Modeling Purposes

As mentioned above, the Conservation Groups would like to work with Reclamation, the Basin States, Tribes, and Colorado River stakeholders to analyze different approaches to addressing the variables involved in operationalizing an innovative tool like the Conservation Reserve. For preliminary modeling purposes, Cooperative Conservation assumes the following basic rules and priorities:

i. Basic Conservation Reserve Operating Rules

1. Assume a combined total reserve bank in Lakes Powell and Mead of up to 8 maf of conserved or non-system water created by Lower Division States water users with the potential for other participants to utilize the reserve if agreed to at a future time.
2. Apply the parameters of a Conservation Reserve tool as described in Section C.4 above:
 - a. Do not count Reserve water as part of available system storage.
 - b. Keep Reserve water operationally neutral, but still beneficial.
 - c. Allow Reserve water to be created via reduced use/increased supply, with the potential for accommodations made for developed and undeveloped Tribal rights.

- d. Allow Reserve water to be delivered on top of normal entitlements.
 - e. Subject Reserve water to an evaporation/system charge and spill.
 - f. Allow Reserve water to be stored and moved where needed to provide benefits to the system. (See priority listing below).
3. For creation of Reserve water, allow for “pre-conservation” to account for reductions in system deliveries so that water stored in a previous year could be delivered to offset reduction volumes and/or to avoid inadvertent overruns.
 4. For delivery of Reserve water, allow those who reserved water in the Conservation Reserve to receive delivery “on top” of their normal entitlements, including to supplement deliveries in shortage years provided that such delivery does not allow any state to exceed its basic apportionment when reductions apply in the Lower Basin.

ii. Basic Conservation Reserve Water Storage/Movement Priorities

1. Protect human health and safety within the Basin.
2. Protect critical infrastructure - Mead elevation 1,000 feet and Powell elevation 3,500 feet.
3. Allow for delivery of Reserve water to the water user who created it.
4. Promote favorable storage/release conditions at Lakes Powell and Mead that:
 - a. Protect minimum flows through the Grand Canyon of at least 5,000 cfs, and ideally 6,000 cfs with the potential for flow variability throughout the year (not flat flow).
 - b. Assist in accomplishing a regular 45 kaf/year flow or 135 kaf flow every 3 years to the Colorado River Delta if negotiated and agreed to as part of a separate agreement with Mexico.
 - c. Support conditions to help mitigate native and invasive fish impacts by maintaining, to the extent practicable, Powell storage between elevation 3,530 and 3,600 feet, with priority for elevation 3,570-3,575 feet at critical times of year.
 - d. Improve opportunities for High Flow Experiments and natural hydrographs through the Grand Canyon, when sediment is in the system by supporting conditions to maintain, to the extent practicable, storage at Powell above 3,525 feet.
 - e. Enable maintenance and enhancement of conservation areas as part of or in addition to the LCR MSCP.
 - f. Protect hydropower heads at Glen Canyon Dam or Hoover Dam.

E. Parallel Programs, Processes, and Actions

While new guidelines are pivotal to successful management of the Colorado River in the post-2026 era, they will not be enough to surmount the Basin's long-term challenges alone. Additional programs, processes, and actions from all economic/water use sectors, located throughout the Basin, will still be required and must be taken in conjunction with new guidelines to adapt and build the Basin's resilience to an increasingly dry and variable system. This includes: (1) protecting and restoring forests, headwater streams and water-dependent habitats to help build the Basin's overall resilience to climate change impacts; (2) empowering Basin Tribes to have access to and be able to use their water rights in flexible ways; (3) adapting agriculture to a hotter and drier future by improving water use practices, updating infrastructure, and identifying opportunities for water-saving crops; (4) adopting

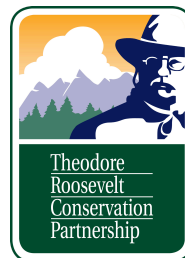
greater water conservation and efficiency practices for urban and industrial sectors throughout the Basin; (5) promoting effective, flexible, and innovative water management and conservation opportunities in all parts of the Basin, and (6) other improvements. Achieving these improvements to help provide the stability the Colorado River community needs will require targeted programming with durable funding in parallel with new guidelines to mitigate natural hazards, improve resilience, and combat the urgent, broad, and diverse challenges facing the Basin.

F. Reservation of Rights

Operations and strategies proposed by Cooperative Conservation do not represent a waiver of rights, claims or defenses that may accrue under federal or state law, administrative rule, regulation or guideline. Requests by the Conservation Groups for Reclamation to analyze Cooperative Conservation does not serve as an endorsement or an admission with respect to any factual or legal issue for the purposes of any future legal, administrative, or other proceeding. Moreover, each of the Conservation Groups reserve the right to provide further comments and engage with Reclamation through ongoing phases of the post-2026 NEPA process.

G. Conclusion

The Conservation Groups appreciate Reclamation's consideration of Cooperative Conservation as an Alternative. We ask that Reclamation advance this proposal through its NEPA process and model and evaluate its impacts on the Basin's natural, socio-economic, and cultural resources in the Draft EIS for Post-2026 Colorado River Guideline Operations and Strategies. We are available to discuss the details with you, Basin States, Tribes, Mexico and other stakeholders as appropriate. We remain committed and look forward to collaborating with Reclamation and the Colorado River community to work through the next NEPA phases to arrive at workable, consensus based solutions for the benefit of the Basin as a whole



GO BACK TO MEMO

Managing the Powell/Grand Canyon/Mead ecosystem after 2026

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29 March 2024

1.0 Introduction

The most important question that must be addressed by the post-2026 Colorado River Basin Guidelines is how to allocate shortages during a multi-year period of low runoff so that basin-wide reservoir storage does not precariously dwindle. The Upper Basin and the Lower Basin have offered competing proposals of how to share the pain of a declining water supply.

A second-tier question concerning future management of the Colorado River concerns how water storage should be allocated between Lake Mead and Lake Powell and what should be the rules concerning the transfer of water from Lake Powell to Lake Mead. These two reservoirs hold between 60 and 80% of the entire reservoir storage of the watershed. Between Lake Powell and Lake Mead is the Grand Canyon, and the 255-mile Colorado River corridor is primarily managed by the National Park Service and partly by the Hualapai Tribe.

The present policy concerning distribution of reservoir storage is to equally divide the contents between the two reservoirs under a policy that attempts to balance the active storage in each reservoir, and to manage the year-to-year “Law of the River” accounting based on annual releases from Lake Powell. This management strategy can have unintended, but sometimes significant, negative consequences, as in 2011 when large releases caused significant erosion of the Grand Canyon sand resource. In that case, the requirement to meet a Law of the River delivery rule from Powell to Mead required delivery of water, regardless of the environmental consequences and with long-lasting implications.

Because Lake Powell is in the Upper Basin and Lake Mead is in the Lower Basin, releases from Powell represent the delivery of water to the Lower Basin, and the competing proposals of the Upper and Lower Basins are focused on how those deliveries should be defined. The competing proposals differ slightly on how much water should be annually released from Lake Powell and are based on different calculations of the status of basin-wide reservoir storage and whether consideration should also be given to current and past inflows. The competing proposals agree on the need to define the annual release from Lake Powell, and they agree that the basis for defining annual releases should be considerations of water-supply management.

We suggest an alternative: a system that preserves the Upper Basin-Lower Basin accounting that will be required by whatever interpretation of the Law of the River emerges from the on-going negotiation of the post-2026 Guidelines but creates more flexibility in year-to-year decisions about actual Lake Powell releases. We think that increased flexibility in annual releases would allow those releases to be optimized to meet environmental, recreational, and cultural goals while retaining an interstate accounting system that still meets water-supply objectives. Flexibility in establishing the annual releases from Lake Powell would result in more adaptable management of the environmental resources of Lake Powell, the Grand Canyon, and Lake Mead.

This strategy would also allow the distribution of storage between Mead and Powell to be treated in an adaptive framework that is less constrained by the needs of Law of the River accounting. Modeling of future runoff (i.e, water supply) and future consumptive water use indicates that the average volume of stored water in Lake Powell and Lake Mead is unlikely to exceed 50% of the capacity of those two reservoirs (Wheeler et al, 2022), although storage is likely to be larger in rare wet years. If storage will rarely exceed 50% of capacity, then it is logical to ask whether storage in one reservoir ought to be emphasized, potentially reducing evaporation. The competing proposals of the Upper and Lower Basin states assume that the balancing policy remains in place.

Flexibility in annual releases and adaptive allocation of water storage in Powell and Mead allows consideration of environmental, recreational, cultural, and hydropower issues, and can better address tribal concerns and objectives. Consideration of environmental and recreation issues can be accomplished by directing the Glen Canyon Dam (GCD) Adaptive Management Program to make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior about annual Lake Powell releases. All relevant stakeholders – federal agencies, the seven basin states, five tribes, and NGOs – participate in the GCD Adaptive Management Program, and the program already makes recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior about how Lake Powell releases should be managed on an hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly basis, and we suggest that the charge to the GCD Adaptive Management Program be expanded to also make recommendations concerning annual releases.

2.0 Recommendation

We suggest that the post-2026 Guidelines should focus on rules for reducing consumptive use during years when runoff and reservoir storage is unusually low but should not include rules concerning how annual releases from Lake Powell will be determined on a year-to-year basis. Clearly, the post-2026 Guidelines must include guidance concerning the long-term average delivery of water from the Upper Basin to the Lower Basin, but there should not be prescriptive rules that determine the annual Lake Powell release in each year.

Instead, we recommend that reservoir and river operations in the Lake Powell/Grand Canyon/Lake Mead system be adaptively managed. Decisions about each year's annual release from Lake Powell should be made by the Secretary of the Interior, based on environmental and recreational considerations as well as considerations of water supply and hydropower. We

suggest that the decision about annual releases be made by the Secretary after consultation with the states, other interests, and consideration of environmental, recreation, and tribal interests.

Pursuit of this strategy will probably require that the GCD Adaptive Management Program charter be amended. We suggest that this federal advisory committee make formal recommendations to the Secretary regarding the annual release from Lake Powell in addition to recommendations already made concerning shorter duration releases. We also suggest that the geographic scope of the GCD Adaptive Management Program be expanded to include all of Lake Powell and all of Lake Mead, as well as the Grand Canyon ecosystem. The focus of recommendations about annual releases should consider how these releases might best achieve desired future conditions for Lake Powell, the Grand Canyon ecosystem, and Lake Mead.

Contrary to common misunderstanding, the 1922 Colorado River Compact and the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico do not require a “fixed” annual delivery of water from the Upper Basin to the Lower Basin, as discussed below. The Bureau of Reclamation has the authority to implement a flexible delivery system wherein an accounting system can be established that credits the Lower Basin for water stored in Lake Powell but not delivered in a specific year.

Our suggestion maintains the principle of adaptive management – of learning by doing – that has been pursued in the Grand Canyon since the mid-1990s and is the guiding principle of the Grand Canyon Protection Act. Expansion of the geographic scope of the GCD Adaptive Management Program ensures that the competing issues in the management of recreation and the environment in Lake Powell and Lake Mead are considered along with the competing perspectives on how the Grand Canyon ecosystem is managed.

3.0 Background

3.1 Designer flows and annual releases

To date, the strategy for mitigating the adverse effects to the Grand Canyon ecosystem of the existence and operations of Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell is to implement short-duration releases, such as controlled floods (administratively known as High Flow Experiments), Macro-invertebrate Enhancement Flows (informally known as bug flows), Low Summer Steady Flows (LSSF), and Trout Management Flows (proposed but not implemented). These types of releases are referred to as Designer Flows, because they do not disrupt long-term water-supply agreements. Designer flows do, however, have the potential to affect hydropower generation.

It has long been hoped that designer flows might offset the adverse effects of large-scale water-supply management, including sediment trapping in Lake Powell, transformations of temperature, and changes in the annual flow regime. Designer flows have been successful in maintaining the size of sand bars and in revitalizing the food base of invertebrates on which fish depend for food. Nevertheless, some underlying attributes of the ecosystem are strongly affected by annual flows.

3.2 The role of annual flows in downstream ecological conditions

One of those attributes is the total mass of sand stored on the channel banks and along the channel margin. This is the sand resource that gets mobilized during controlled floods, and progressive depletion of the sand resource ultimately undermines the success of controlled floods. Sand is primarily supplied to the Grand Canyon ecosystem from the Paria River and the Little Colorado River (LCR), the two large tributaries whose delivery of sand is not blocked by Glen Canyon Dam. Sand is primarily delivered during monsoon season floods, and the mass of sand evacuated from Grand Canyon primarily depends on the amount of water released from Lake Powell. Thus, the long-term mass balance of sand that is the supply needed to guarantee the success of controlled floods depends on the number of years when large monsoon-season floods deliver sand to the Colorado River and on the magnitude of releases from Lake Powell.

Topping et al (2021) summarized nearly 20 years of sediment transport data collected in Grand Canyon, and they developed simple relations between the amount of sand accumulated or evacuated by different annual Lake Powell releases when there are large or small inputs from the Paria River and the LCR. Although there is variability in these relations due to other factors that control suspended sediment transport, these relations highlight the dominant role of annual reservoir releases in determining the sand mass balance of Grand Canyon. For example, in years when sand delivery from the Paria River is less than 1.1 million tons, annual releases from Lake Powell must be less than 8.0 million af/yr (acre feet per year) for sand to accumulate in Marble Canyon (Fig. 1). In contrast, in a year when annual delivery of sand exceeds this threshold, reservoir releases can be as large as 9.8 million af/yr without eroding sand from Marble Canyon. Years of small sand supply occur more frequently than do years of large supply, and releases from Lake Powell would have to be less than 8.0 million af/yr to ensure sand accumulation in those years of low supply. Large equalization releases in 2011 that exceeded 11 million af/yr greatly increased sand erosion, and many sand bars never recovered from that wave of erosion. Grams et al (2019) concluded that almost all of the sand erosion between 2009 and 2012 occurred during the 7 months of equalization in 2011. In such years, when releases are made that are greater or less than might be made under accounting rules agreed on among the states or established by the federal government under the Post-2026 guidelines, the accounting system would track the differences to retain Law of the River compliance.

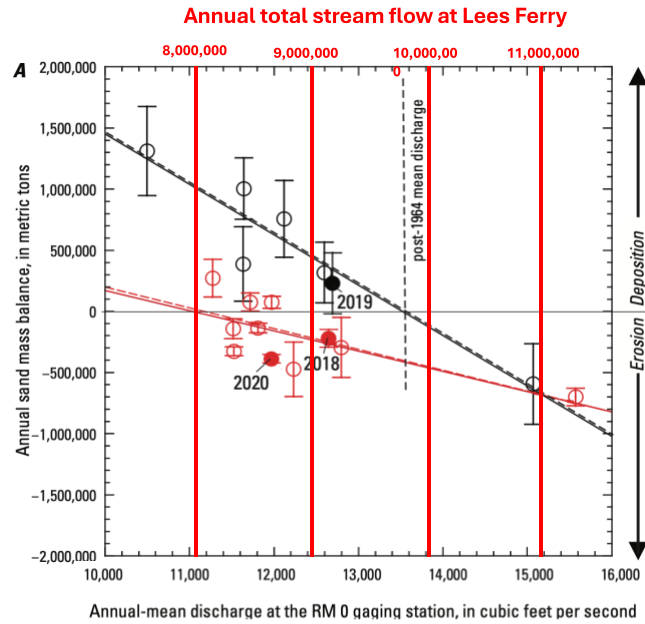


Figure 1. Graph showing annual sand mass balance as a function of annual-mean discharge (in black, bottom X-axis) and annual total stream flow (in red, top X-axis) at Lees Ferry gage for Marble Canyon. Data are separated into relatively large (black) and relatively small annual tributary sand supply delivered from the Paria River. Error bars indicate the magnitude of the uncertainties in annual sand mass balance. The regression line for small sand supply indicates that erosion of sand in Marble Canyon occurs when annual Lake Powell releases exceed approximately 8.0 million af/yr. Note that sand was eroded from Marble Canyon in 2020 when annual releases were 8.71 million af/yr. In this study, year is defined as the period between July 1 and the following June 30, termed a “sediment year.” Adapted from Griffiths et al (2024, fig. 2A).

Annual releases also play important roles in the aquatic ecosystem, because storage in Lake Powell is determined by the difference between the volume of inflows and of outflows. Warmer water is released from Lake Powell when Lake Powell is low (Dibble et al., 2021), and these releases also entrain undesirable non-native species. Today, those species include smallmouth bass that threaten the integrity of the existing fish community in Grand Canyon. Decisions about annual releases that in turn determine the amount of water in Lake Powell will have a strong effect on the aquatic ecosystem when reservoir elevation drops below 3600 ft asl and reservoir contents are less than 50% of capacity. These conditions are highly likely in the future, and decisions will have to be made annually about whether the volume of releases should be adjusted to affect the elevation of Lake Powell and the likelihood of entrainment of non-native fish from Lake Powell into the Grand Canyon.

3.3 Uncertainty in scientific predictions and uncertainty in management goals

Another principle that should be considered in managing environmental and recreational resources of the Lake Powell/Grand Canyon/Lake Mead ecosystem is the inherent uncertainty in applying scientific insights to management actions. There are often unforeseen physical or biological processes or unintended consequences of management actions that require

adaptation and revision of management paradigms. In the past, revision of codified rules has been necessary because of new scientific findings, such as numerous revisions of the rules concerning implementation of controlled floods. Those rules were initially addressed in 1996, were significantly changed in the 2012 HFE Protocol because of new scientific insights (Rubin et al., 2002), were revised again in the Record of Decision of the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) EIS, and other changes are now proposed in the supplemental EIS that proposes revisions to the LTEMP. Acceptance of the inevitability of scientific uncertainty and the need to revise guiding paradigms in river management suggests that the Lake Powell/Grand Canyon/Lake Mead ecosystem would be better served by providing greater flexibility in the determining annual releases. Flexibility is the basic premise of the GCD Adaptive Management Program that mandates that environmentally-oriented reservoir operations should be pursued in an adaptive framework wherein management actions are treated as experiments and actions can be changed.

Additionally, the values and goals of ecosystem management change over time. Schmidt et al. (1998) argued that the most significant uncertainty in planning environmental river management in Grand Canyon was that the goals of rehabilitation are poorly defined. Conflicting goals will have to be resolved in the future. For example, is the goal of maintaining the existing novel fish community in Grand Canyon that is dependent on maintaining a higher elevation of Lake Powell a more important management goal than maintaining the emergence of valued cultural landscapes and returning rapids in Glen Canyon that require a lower reservoir elevation? Societal values in 2024 might emphasize one desired future condition over the other, but those values may change in subsequent decades. An adaptive recommendation of annual releases would allow resource management goals expressed by the GCD Adaptive Management Program to change with time without the need to formally amend the post-2026 Guidelines.

Thus, we suggest seeking a strategy that allows adaptive and flexible management of annual releases from Lake Powell. Combining needed certainty in water-supply management with needed flexibility and adaptability in management of the Lake Powell/Grand Canyon/Lake Mead ecosystem will be a significant but necessary challenge. The central question for the future is, “How can the certainty required of water-supply agreements negotiated among the Basin states mesh with the inherent uncertainty of ecosystem management?”

4.0 A proposal – accept uncertainty and adopt adaptive management for the Lake Powell/Grand Canyon/Lake Mead ecosystem

We advocate embracing adaptation and uncertainty in managing the Lake Powell/Grand Canyon/Lake Mead ecosystem. An alternative to embracing flexibility might be to adopt prescriptive rules for target elevations for Lake Powell or desired releases that might focus on a specific environmental management goal: such as fish management or recreational boating. We discourage this approach, because locking in rules based on current scientific understanding runs the risk that rules will need to change as scientific understanding evolves. Additionally, the condition of the Grand Canyon ecosystem may change due to unintended interactions among the native and non-native species, and the values ascribed to the emerging resources of Glen Canyon

may change. Additionally, while the preponderance of the current science points to a drier future, there is considerable uncertainty in how dry that future will be. Thus, we do not know how much managers will struggle to achieve any target elevation for Lake Powell.

Rather than codifying rules based on scientific projections that have unavoidable uncertainty and are based on changing values concerning environmental and recreational resources, we advocate that the post-2026 Guidelines should narrowly focus on balancing water supply and consumptive use. The post-2026 Guidelines should consider the Powell/Grand Canyon/Mead ecosystem as a black box where the management issues associated with passing water through that black box are addressed by yearly decisions by the Secretary of the Interior. The post-2026 Guidelines would establish accounting goals of how much water should be released from Lake Powell based on agreed upon criteria for reductions in consumptive use during dry times, but decisions about the amount of wet water released in any year should be made by the Secretary each year. Additionally, the post-2026 Guidelines need not address the proportion of the water stored in Mead or in Powell. In the next section, we describe an accounting scheme wherein deficits and surpluses in the delivery of wet water from the Upper Basin to the Lower Basin could be tracked.

We suggest the following process by which the Secretary would make decisions about the release of wet water from Lake Powell.

- Annually, the Secretary will decide the annual release from Powell to Mead. That decision will be based on:
 - Recommendations from each of the basin states, assumed to be primarily focused on water supply, reservoir storage, and hydropower production;
 - Recommendations of the relevant federal agencies of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Energy;
 - Recommendations of the GCD Adaptive Management Program stakeholders, presumably based on modeling and monitoring data about sand bar resources, the sand mass balance related to recent inflows of sand, the fish community, and other resources of the Grand Canyon ecosystem, the emerging natural resources of Glen Canyon, and the recreational resources of Lake Powell and Lake Mead; and,
 - Recommendations of the five tribes that participate in the GCD Adaptive Management Program;

The recommendations of the GCD Adaptive Management Program would inevitably result from debate among stakeholders who have different perspectives about the relative value of different pre-dam relict and post-dam artifact resources (*sensu* Schmidt et al., 1998). We acknowledge that expansion of the geographic scope of the GCD Adaptive Management Program may result in changes in the stakeholders who participate in the program. It is recognized that the five tribes providing direct input to the Secretary are members of the GCD Adaptive Management Program, but the Secretary would nevertheless seek direct input from these tribes distinct from the opinions of the GCD Adaptive Management Program.

The buck must stop with the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary would make the final decision about annual releases based on consideration of all the input described above. Establishing a flexible approach to defining actual reservoir releases from Lake Powell would ensure that management of environmental resources of Lake Powell, the Grand Canyon, and Lake Mead are considered in a transparent way. This flexible approach preserves the principle of adaptive management and recognizes that annual releases have significant ecosystem effects that cannot be mitigated by designer flow releases. A flexible approach also recognizes the uncertainty in predicting future ecosystem conditions or assigning values to different ecological and recreational values while recognizing that there are likely to be future unintended consequences to some management actions.

The future is deeply uncertain – not merely concerning the amount of future runoff and the ability of water users to limit their consumption of water – but also how the river’s ecosystem will evolve and respond to management actions. Adaptive management of annual reservoir releases will allow ecosystem science and ecosystem management to evolve along with a changing climate and changing water use.

5.0 How might a flexible accounting of Upper Basin deliveries to the Lower Basin work?

The goal of this accounting system would be to set up a transparent accounting system that recognizes a prescribed, but theoretical, annual release from Lake Powell based on water supply considerations as negotiated in the post-2026 Guidelines. We suggest that the new Guidelines allow the Secretary of the Interior to make adjustments to the actual release of wet water from Lake Powell, taking into account other factors such as environmental, recreational, hydropower, and tribal considerations. The difference between the prescribed annual release and the actual release would be credited or debited to the appropriate basin.

5.1 Background to the consideration of a flexible accounting system

For Colorado River Compact purposes, measuring and accounting for flows at Lee Ferry is important. There is no gage at Lee Ferry, and the flow at Lee Ferry is the sum of the flow at the Lees Ferry (USGS gage 90380000) and Paria River (USGS gage 09382000) gages a short distance upstream.

Article III of the Colorado River Compact includes certain disputed flow-related provisions. Article III(d) requires that the four States of the Upper Division not cause the flow at Lee Ferry to be depleted to less than 75 million af every consecutive ten years. Further Article III(c) requires that if there is not sufficient “surplus” water available to meet the annual delivery obligation to Mexico under the 1944 Treaty (normally 1.5 million af/yr), the States of the Upper Division shall deliver at Lee Ferry 50% of the deficiency (the difference between the available surplus and 1.5 million af/yr) in addition to their III(d) obligation. If there is no surplus (and the Upper Division States are not required to cover transit losses), the required delivery is 0.75 million af/yr.

The States of the Upper Division and the States of Lower Division have never agreed on how to interpret and implement Article III(c). In 1970, the Secretary promulgated the Long-Range Coordinated Operating Criteria (LROC) setting a “minimum objective release” from Glen Canyon Dam at 8.23 million af/year. The 8.23 million af/yr happens to be 7.5 million af/yr plus 0.75 million af/yr minus 0.02 million af/yr that is the long-term mean flow of the Paria River. The ~0.15 million af/yr of flow that accrues between the dam and the Lee’s Ferry gage was not considered when setting the minimum objective release or the prescribed annual releases under the 2007 Interim Guidelines. The Upper Division States strongly objected to setting the annual release at 8.23 million af/yr. In response the Secretary made it clear that the release was an objective, not a requirement. and that the Secretary has the legal authority to modify the annual release from the dam. In a 2 June 2005 letter, Secretary Gail Norton reiterated the authority and flexibility provided to the Secretary under the LROC. The 2007 Interim Guidelines do not include a minimum objective release *per se*, but the 8.23 million af/yr release is used as common release amount in the tiering.

5.2 A conceptual proposal for flexible accounting

The rules under which annual releases after 2026 will be determined are being negotiated. There are many possible outcomes of these negotiations. One possibility is that agreement between the two basins is not reached, and annual releases in the future are determined under the 1970 LROC as anticipated by the termination provision of the 2007 Interim Guidelines. Another possibility is that the two basins (divisions) reach a compromise on a set of rules that would set an annual release amount under different triggering conditions such as the amount of reservoir storage in the watershed. If agreement is ultimately achieved, it is likely that a “prescribed release” will be defined. If a compromise set of release objectives is adopted, the Secretary would still retain the flexibility to adjust annual releases for purposes other than water supply. In doing so the Secretary could adopt a set of accounting rules that would retain on paper an agreement between the Upper and Lower Basin states, but also retain flexibility to consider environment, recreation, hydropower, and tribal considerations.

If the Secretary determines that the annual release from Glen Canyon Dam should be different than the prescribed release for purposes other than water supply, as described above, then Reclamation would make the adjusted annual release as directed by the Secretary. If the revised annual release is less than the prescribed release, then the difference would be credited to an account referred to as “Lower Basin Water Stored above Lee Ferry” and for Lee Ferry accounting purposes, necessary under the Compact, the water would be considered as having flowed by Lee Ferry in the year the water is credited to the account. If the revised annual release is more than the prescribed release, then the difference would be credited to an account referred to as “Upper Basin Water Stored Below Lee Ferry.” For accounting purposes, the year the water is delivered to the river and credited to the account would not be considered a Lee Ferry (i.e., Compact) delivery. It would be considered a Lee Ferry (Compact) delivery in the year the water is made available for use in the Lower Basin.

Once there is water in the “Lower Basin Water stored above Lee Ferry” account, it would be discharged or credited by either releasing the water from Lake Powell or trading it for a like amount of water in the “Upper Basin Water Stored Below Lee Ferry” account. In the year either option occurs, it would not be considered a Lee Ferry delivery, because, for Compact purposes, it has already been delivered. Water in the “Upper Basin Water Stored Below Lee Ferry” account would be credited as a Lee Ferry delivery when it is made available for use in the Lower Basin. If the water is traded for a like amount of water in the “Lower Basin Water Stored above Lee Ferry” account, it is not considered a Compact delivery the year it is traded. An example of the operation of this accounting scheme is described in Appendix 1.

We note that while this kind of accounting system may be a novel idea for Lake Mead and Lake Powell, similar multi-reservoir accounting systems are used by Reclamation. An example is the accounting system used for the operations of Taylor Park and Blue Mesa Reservoirs under the 1975 Exchange Agreement.

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Appendix 1: Example Accounting Sequence:

| YEAR | Prescribed Release | Actual Release | LBWSALF | UBWSBLF | COMPACT |
|------|--------------------|----------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 2030 | 8.0 maf | 7.0 maf | +1.0 maf | | 8.0 maf |

Notes – in this year, the goal was to increase the storage in Powell, so a smaller release 7.0 maf is made. The LBWSALF account was credited with 1.0 maf, but for compact accounting the delivery is considered 8.0 maf.

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|---------|--|----------|---------|
| 2031 | 8.0 maf | 8.5 maf | | +0.5 maf | 8.0 maf |
|------|---------|---------|--|----------|---------|

Notes – in this year the goal is to deliver an additional .5 maf for environmental purposes, so an 8.5 maf is made and the UBWSBLF account is credited with .5 maf and for compact purposes the delivery is 8.0 maf. At this point, since there is water in both accounts, the basins could make a trade. However, let's assume that UD States decide to keep the water in the account.

| | | | | | |
|------|----------|---------|---------------------|----------|----------|
| 2032 | 10.0 maf | 9.0 maf | 1.0 + 1.0 = 2.0 maf | +0.5 maf | 10.0 maf |
|------|----------|---------|---------------------|----------|----------|

Notes - this is a wet year, but goal is to not put 10 maf down the canyon for sediment management, so 9.0 maf is released and an additional 1.0 maf is credited to the UBWSBLF account making its total 2.0 maf. For accounting purposes, the delivery is 10 maf.

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| 2033 | 8.5 maf | 8.5 maf | 2.0 maf | +0.5 maf | 8.5 maf |
|------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|

This is a "no change" year. The prescribed flow and the desired flow are the same and neither basin wants to utilize the water stored in its account,

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-----|
| 2034 | 7.0 maf | 8.5 maf | 2.0 maf | 1.5 + .5 = 2.0 maf | 7.0 |
|------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-----|

In this year the goals are to equalize the power head between Mead and Powell and generate more power at Powell, so the desired release is 8.5 maf. An additional 1.5 maf is credited to the LBWSALF account giving it a total of 2.0 maf. Both accounts have 2.0 so they can cancel each other out. When this happens, both accounts are zero and the UB is not credited with an additional 2.0 maf compact delivery in the year 2034. If the UBWSALF had 1.0 maf and the LBWSBLF had 2.0 maf the 1.0 maf would cancel and the UB could either keep it or make it available to the LB – it then gets credit for a compact delivery)

In this example, the 5-year prescribed total flow is 41.5 maf. The actual flow is 41.5 maf. For Compact purposes, the UB delivery is 41.5 maf.

Several issues arise from this example that would need to be addressed:

- The above example assumes that the two basins and Interior agree on a compromise set of release rules (the "prescribed" delivery). If there is no agreement, the proposed accounting would work for a minimum objective release of 8.23 million af/year (or 8.1 million af/yr if the flows between the dam and gage are considered).
- When the reservoirs are full, the accounts would spill.
- There may need to be limits on how much water can accrue in each account.
- ICS accounts in either reservoir would be on top of the Compact account, (but could be integrated).



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CRWCD

FROM: DAVE “DK” KANZER, P.E., DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE AND INTERSTATE MATTERS

SUBJECT: SYSTEM CONSERVATION PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM (SCPP) 2024

DATE: MARCH 29, 2024

***NO ACTION:** This is an informational status report on the 2024 System Conservation Pilot Program with a focus on implementation within the Colorado River District.*

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S):

- 3. B. The River District will engage in support efforts aimed at understanding climate change and how it may affect water supplies.***
- 3. C. The River District will engage in and support water supply planning efforts, local and regional, which include adapting to climate change impacts.***
- 4. A. The River District will advocate for full use of its Colorado River Basin water supplies for the benefit of the District’s inhabitants, without undue risk of overdevelopment.***
- 4. B. The River District will advocate for full protection and preservation of water rights perfected by use prior to the effective date of the 1922 Compact and thereby excluded from curtailment in the event of compact administration.***
- 4. C. The River District will continue to study mechanisms, such as a Compact Water Bank and Contingency Planning that include demand management, drought operations of CRSP reservoirs, and water supply augmentation to address the risk of overdevelopment.***
- 4. D. The River District will work with the State Engineer’s Office and other interested parties to develop an equitable mechanism for potential compact administration.***

With funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and contract administration by the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC), the System Conservation Pilot Program (SCPP) enters its second year after it was re-authorized by congress in 2022 as part of the Upper Basin’s “5-Point Plan”.

The 2024 SCPP program and guidelines were reworked significantly, with fixed pricing per acre-foot of conserved consumptive use, offered to eligible applicants. The prices differed slightly by Upper Basin states with Colorado having the highest per acre-foot price of \$509. This garnered a lot more interest across the Upper Basin, almost doubling the participation level from 2023 when there were only a handful of participants from Colorado. Table 1 shows the breakdown of

SYSTEM CONSERVATION PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM (SCPP) 2024

March 29, 2024

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recommended / approved projects from the UCRC for the 2024 program, by state with the number of applicants, affected acreage, the amount of estimated conserved consumptive use and total price.

| State | Number of Projects Recommended | Total Acreage | Total CCU (ac-ft) | Price |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Colorado | 50 | 12,212.8 | 16,760.2 | \$ 8,817,293 |
| New Mexico | 1 | 2,987.0 | 4,933.0 | \$ 1,479,900 |
| Utah | 31 | 10,828.6 | 23,389.6 | \$ 10,480,511 |
| Wyoming | 26 | 18,408.0 | 19,234.7 | \$ 8,505,877 |
| Colorado-Wyoming | 7 | 3,320.6 | 3,150.6 | \$ 1,603,661 |
| Total | 115 | 47,757.0 | 67,468.1 | \$ 30,887,242 |

2023 SCPP total projects was 64
2023 SCPP total CCU was 37,810 ac-ft

Table 1: Summary of recommended 2024 SCPP projects with details by state, from the Upper Colorado River Commission.

The 2024 SCPP program gave ranking preference to projects that:

- 1.) Help inform remaining questions regarding the feasibility of potential future Demand Management Storage Agreement (DMSA) programs, or
- 2.) Projects that support water conservation innovation and local drought resiliency.

According to the UCRC, this screening and ranking process resulted in the following breakdown of approved projects that engaged in conservation by implementing:

- Partial season fallowing (15 projects)
- Full season fallowing (59 projects)
- “Combination” (17 projects)
- Storage (9 projects)
- Deficit irrigation (3 projects)
- Crop switching (9 projects)
- Municipal / TMD (3 projects)



Originally, there were 51 eligible projects in Colorado, including the first transmountain project proposal. However, we have learned from Pueblo Water that their proposal was rejected by the UCRC/BOR due to pricing concerns (i.e., the requested proposed compensation was slightly above the allowable fixed pricing structure of \$509/acre-foot.)

Until this type of price insensitivity and SCPP program is inflexibility is changed to reflect market conditions, it is likely that all conserved consumptive use water in potential similar future programs will come off the West Slope. This is troubling as it runs counter to the adopted Board policy that calls for proportional participation of all sectors and geographic areas that utilize Colorado River water.

Just recently, after Reclamation provided final approval of the list of projects, the UCRC distributed contracts to the selected applicants called ‘System Conservation Implementation Agreements’ (SCIA), these documents include “verification plans” to guide participants during implementation and include language to enable Division of Water Resources and/or their consultant, Wilson Water Group, to inspect participant fields during the period of performance.

“Coordination with the Colorado Division of Water Resources. Wilson Water Group will coordinate with the Colorado Division of Water Resources to inform them of the Project participation. This is important so that the diversion records and comments adequately reflect that water was intentionally not applied to the Project Fields as part of a State approved conservation plan.”

Previously, River District staff submitted comments to Colorado Department of Natural Resources (CO DNR), suggesting that plans and guidelines be implemented to ensure no injury to non-participating water right holders (attached [HERE](#)). This January 31, 2024 letter specifically called out the following concerns about potential injury, monitoring and verification:

“With the possible exception of "free-river" conditions, when there is no administrative call on the stream system, Colorado law prohibits the diversion of water that is not put to a decreed beneficial use. This would be injurious to junior water rights that are entitled to divert water available in priority. In addition, depending on the ownership arrangement within the applicable ditch system, shareholders within a ditch company or association might be entitled to beneficially use water that is diverted at the ditch but not used by a compensated SCPP participant. We believe it would promote transparency to include information regarding whether and, if so, how the applicable Division Engineer plans to administer projects that propose to continue headgate diversions without application to a decreed beneficial use.”

To date, the River District has not received any formal reply from CO DNR on these concerns, however, it is anticipated that staff-to-staff discussions will occur regarding 2024 SCPP implementation, especially in areas that may be water short and facing a water right calls this year.



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT
PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

January 31, 2024

Via electronic mail

Amy Ostdiek, Section Chief
Interstate, Federal and Water Information Section
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203
Email: DNR_coloradoscpp@state.co.us

RE: Comments on the 2024 System Conservation Pilot Program Applications

Dear Ms. Ostdiek:

The Colorado River District (“River District”) was created by CRS 37-46-101, *et seq.* to safeguard for the State of Colorado the beneficial consumptive use in Colorado of that portion of the waters of the Colorado River equitably apportioned to the state by interstate compact, and further to perform all acts necessary to promote the present and future welfare of the inhabitants residing within the Colorado River District’s legal boundaries. Our comments on the 2024 System Conservation Pilot Project (“SCPP”) applications are provided in furtherance of these statutory directives on behalf of the Colorado River District and its water user constituents. These comments are specific to the 2024 SCPP applications within the River District’s boundaries and are not intended to address our broader positions regarding SCPP described in our September 22, 2023, letter to Commissioner Mitchell.

General Comments:

1. The River District supports the exploration of creative means to conserve water in ways that maintain the economic productivity of West Slope agriculture. Careful examination of how such projects are implemented is important to prevent adverse impacts to other/non-participating water users as well as secondary impacts on local communities.
2. We appreciate that the State has provided the opportunity to review and comment on the submitted applications. We note that, in many cases, the project descriptions lack sufficient detail to fully review the potential impacts to other water users. For example, Application Nos. CO_13, CO_36, CO_52, and CO_55 include references to attachments that were not included in the state’s spreadsheet of the 2024 applications.

Comments on the 2024 System Conservation Pilot Program Applications

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January 31, 2024



3. We also appreciate that the Upper Colorado River Commission's 2024 SCPP is intended to focus on "Projects that can help inform remaining questions regarding the feasibility of potential future Demand Management Storage Agreement (DMSA) programs, or Projects that support water conservation innovation and local drought resiliency." However, most of the Colorado applications simply claim that the proposed project relates to or promotes one of the three identified criteria without any further supporting explanation. It is, therefore, unclear how the proposed applications will contribute to those criteria goals and what measures will be utilized by the State and the UCRC to evaluate the success of the applications with respect to the intended focus goals.
4. Some of the applications (e.g., CO_6) appear to contemplate that the water that otherwise would be applied for irrigation will continue to be diverted at the ditch system headgate and will be returned to the river without being diverted by the pertinent ditch lateral. With the possible exception of "free-river" conditions, when there is no administrative call on the stream system, Colorado law prohibits the diversion of water that is not put to a decreed beneficial use. This would be injurious to junior water rights that are entitled to divert water available in priority. In addition, depending on the ownership arrangement within the applicable ditch system, shareholders within a ditch company or association might be entitled to beneficially use water that is diverted at the ditch but not used by a compensated SCPP participant. We believe it would promote transparency to include information regarding whether and, if so, how the applicable Division Engineer plans to administer projects that propose to continue headgate diversions without application to a decreed beneficial use.
5. It is unclear if/how SCPP applications will be assessed for the potential to injure other water users within shared ditches and water rights within the same basin. Consideration should be taken to allow a portion of the associated projects' water rights to remain in a shared ditch as necessary to facilitate the beneficial use of other users in the shared ditch. Often, the cessation of diversions by one ditch owner can adversely impact the ability of other ditch users to get sufficient water at their lateral headgates. Thus, applications should be reviewed to determine whether a portion of the historical diversion should remain in the ditch as "push water" so as not to injure remaining water users in the ditch.
6. With the exception of periods of free-river conditions (e.g., during high spring runoff) it is likely that water "saved" (i.e., not being diverted/applied) will simply be diverted by the next junior water right in priority or will be put to use and consumed by other water users within a shared-ditch system, that otherwise would be water short. It is therefore quite possible that many of the SCPP applications would not provide a significant public benefit to the overall river system.

Comments on the 2024 System Conservation Pilot Program Applications

Page 3 of 4

January 31, 2024



Specific Sub-basin Concerns:

Colorado Mainstem – Division 5:

CO_4, CO_5: We anticipate that these two applications would result in a *net deficit* to the river system. The proposed implementation of these projects almost certainly would result in a 100% consumption to the system, of the entire reduced diversion rates/amounts, not just the historical consumptive use (HCU), meaning that both, the HCU plus historical return flows would be lost to the Colorado Mainstem. These applications involve water rights that are senior to local transmountain diversions. Thus, the required amount to be historically bypassed by the transmountain projects would instead be diverted by the junior transmountain project – resulting in a 100% consumptive depletion to the river system. Downstream Colorado River basin water users would suffer additional adverse impacts from a deficit in return flows from upstream historically irrigated lands.

CO_4: We have received comments from local water users that this application would result in adverse impacts to other users of the same ditch system due to a reduction in ditch push-water and the loss of historical return flows upon which neighboring lands have relied.

CO_52: We appreciate that the applicant is willing to participate in a Colorado River conserved consumptive use program. Our comments here are provided simply to note that any long-term, large-scale, or post-2024 conservation program operated within Colorado should include conserved water from each side of the Continental Divide and be proportional to the consumption of post-compact Colorado River basin water rights on each side of the Divide. We also want to stress that SCPP is not intended to and should not be interpreted to create any precedent regarding how to measure a transmountain project's participation in a Demand Management Program, if one is ever implemented.

CO_2, CO_35: Consideration should be taken to address potential injury to upstream and downstream water users within the same basin as well as to maintain appropriate push water to cover carriage losses and maintain the project's shared ditch operations.

CO_13, CO_36, CO_37, CO_40, CO_41, CO_42, CO_55: Not enough information was available to identify the project location and associated water rights (referenced attached documents were not provided).

CO_9, CO_11, CO_12, CO_15, CO_18, CO_32, CO_39, CO_50: These eight projects are within the Grand Valley Irrigation Canal (GVIC) system and total approximately 1,570 acres or roughly 4% of the service area. GVIC's water rights are senior, pre-compact, and a part of the portfolio of rights, referred to as the "Cameo Call" on the mainstem of the Colorado River. To the extent that the water attributed to SCPP participation cannot be used elsewhere (either legally or physically) in the GVIC system, the Cameo Call should be reduced proportionally to the water that is not being put to beneficial use so that junior water rights are not injured. In addition, releases from Green Mountain Reservoir's Historic Users Pool ("HUP") should be proportionally reduced so that HUP releases are not made to "cover" water that is not put to a consumptive beneficial use.

Comments on the 2024 System Conservation Pilot Program Applications

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January 31, 2024



Gunnison Basin:

CO_6, CO_14, CO_31, CO_44, CO_45, CO_46, CO_48, CO_51, CO_56: These nine projects are within the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) system and total approximately 2,400 acres or about 3% of the service area. As the bulk of UVWUA's water right portfolio is senior and pre-compact, there is concern that the conserved consumptive use would be diverted and consumed by the next junior water user resulting in no benefit to the river. Additionally, as the UVWUA system is often short of the full irrigation water demand, the conserved consumptive use might be used to simply decrease this shortage. Lastly, it is unclear how the UVWUA senior Gunnison Tunnel water rights would be administered if a portion of the right is not put to beneficial use; an associated full call could be injurious to junior water rights upstream of the Gunnison Tunnel.

CO_7, CO_21, CO_47, CO_57: All of these projects are associated with senior water rights; therefore, there is concern that, during times of shortage, the bypassed diversions would be fully consumed by the next junior water user, resulting in no benefit to the river.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the SPCP applications. As always, we are available to discuss these comments further and stand ready to work with the State to help implement the 2024 SPCP in accordance with Colorado law and local practices in order to benefit the river while protecting other water users from adverse impacts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew A. Mueller". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrew A. Mueller
General Manager

cc: Rebecca Mitchell (via email)
Chuck Cullom (via email)



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CRWCD

FROM: DAVE “DK” KANZER, P.E., DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE AND INTERSTATE MATTERS
&
DON MEYER, P.E., SENIOR WATER RESOURCES ENGINEER

SUBJECT: COLORADO RIVER BASIN CONDITIONS & OUTLOOK – SPRING 2024

DATE: MARCH 29, 2024

NO ACTION: *This is an informational status report on water supply conditions for the Colorado River Basin, its sub-basins and related River District water enterprise operations.*

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S):

- 3. B. The River District will engage in support efforts aimed at understanding climate change and how it may affect water supplies.***
 - 3. C. The River District will engage in and support water supply planning efforts, local and regional, which include adapting to climate change impacts.***
-

Moving sideways in 2024?

As we approach the seasonal peak for snowpack accumulation across the headwaters of the Colorado River, several confounding factors are potentially lined up to cloud the water supply forecast: dust, heat and a fading El Nino.

For these reasons, reports of near to above average snowpack may be premature, possibly even deceiving, as good snowpack measurements may not translate to above average snowmelt runoff across the region, especially down basin. Locally, at least, there is good news across the Colorado River District and points east, but the news gets less bright the closer one gets to Lake Powell and areas to the south.

By the time the Board meets in mid-April, the water supply story will be more certain. The next two weeks should feature some wet but warm conditions that will help, but ultimately may just push the needle sideways, rather than increase water supplies. Fortunately, antecedent water supply conditions are relatively good with average to above average soil moisture conditions and healthy carryover storage projected for most of the reservoirs in the District. Also potentially counteracting against uncertainties, is the projection that east slope demands may be depressed due to the strong upslope snowstorm event that affected much of the Front Range in mid-March when 3-5 inches of



snow water equivalent (SWE) accumulated. This event should help boost native supplies and fill reservoirs in the South Platte and Arkansas River basins.

However, with recent data suggesting that there is a thick layer of dust near the top of the snowpack and rapidly weakening El Nino conditions (*i.e.*, cooling waters in the eastern Pacific), runoff efficiency may suffer. From the Colorado Dust on Snow program (www.codos.org), the main dusting “...pretty much all came from the storm event March 2-3 that dug into the Desert Southwest before whipping the airborne dust far into Colorado. This second dust event (D2) of the season is widespread and consists of a definitive dust layer in the snowpack, but it is very interesting the wide range of variability we observed in terms of its severity.” When exposed this dark surface increases melt rate and sublimation (direct evaporation loss to atmosphere).

And now with a rapidly weakening El Nino associated with dramatic decreases in the sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific, weather patterns may be shifting away from the CRB to the north, with predictions of decreased precipitation in the southwestern US, according to NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center.

Figure 1 reflects some of this drying tendency with warmer near-term conditions favored (April-June 2024) in the CRB outlook, but lagged El Nino impacts complicate the picture.

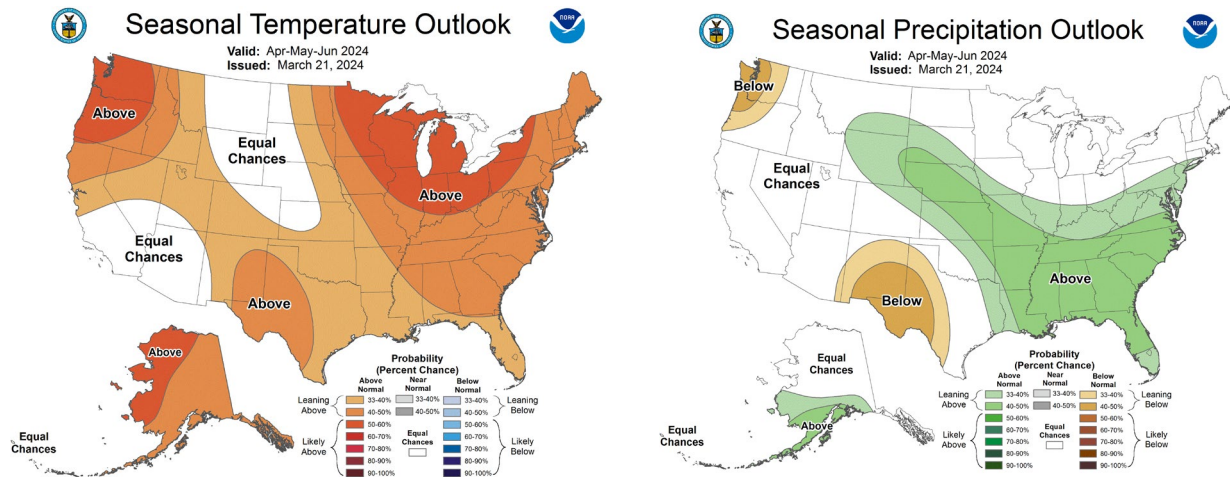


Figure 1: Maps of forecasted temperature (left) and precipitation (right) showing the projected impacts of a weakening El Nino climatic pattern, influenced by cooling sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean (NOAA, Climate Prediction Center).

Significant warming continues to affect the region with record temperatures measured across parts of Colorado this past winter, and across the globe. Climate scientists are watching to see if 2024 will exceed 2023 as the warmest year ever for the planet.



Regional Water Supply Forecasts and Projected 2024 Operations:

Early water supply forecasts across the Upper Basin and inflow forecasts into Lakes Powell and Mead are at or below average and represent a significant departure from the big flows of 2023; indicating that there is little chance of increasing large mainstream reservoir levels.

The projected reservoir levels of Lakes Powell and Mead are shown graphically in **Figures 2 and 3** generated by the Bureau of Reclamation based upon forecasts from the Colorado River Basin Forecast Center (CBRFC).

These figures show the cloud of forecasted traces for mainstream Colorado River reservoir elevations. The traces shown in grey were created using a probabilistic technique that simulates a range of different possible futures as reflected in projected reservoir elevation using an ensemble of 30 years of precipitation and temperature records as input data. This probability analysis shows the credible potential range of the water supply conditions over the next 24 months, using Reclamation’s current operating policies (*i.e.*, 2007 Interim Guidelines along with Drought Response Operations, “DROA”).

This grey region of traces is overlain by the colored, deterministic, single traces that were simulated by Reclamation for the probable minimum inflow (90 percent of historical inflows exceed this inflow, shown in red), maximum (10 per cent of historical inflows exceed this inflow, shown in blue), and most probable (50 per cent of historical inflows exceed this inflow, shown in green).

Since the last staff hydrology memo presented in January 2024, the seasonal inflow forecast volume for April to July of 2024 has increased but remains below average (CBRFC) due to above average temperatures and near average snowpack conditions. The current (March 2024) official unregulated April-July inflow volume forecast for Lake Powell is 5.0 maf or 78% of average and the unregulated inflow forecast for the entire water year for Lake Powell is 7.7 maf or 80% of average. Combined with a projected 7.48 MAF release from Glen Canyon dam pursuant to the 2007 Interim guidelines and considering evaporative losses, annual inflow could be nearly equal to annual outflow, resulting in Lake Powell projected elevations returning to approximately the same elevation next spring (e.g., 3559’ AMSL), under this most probable (50% exceedance) inflow projection. This is shown in **Figure 2**.

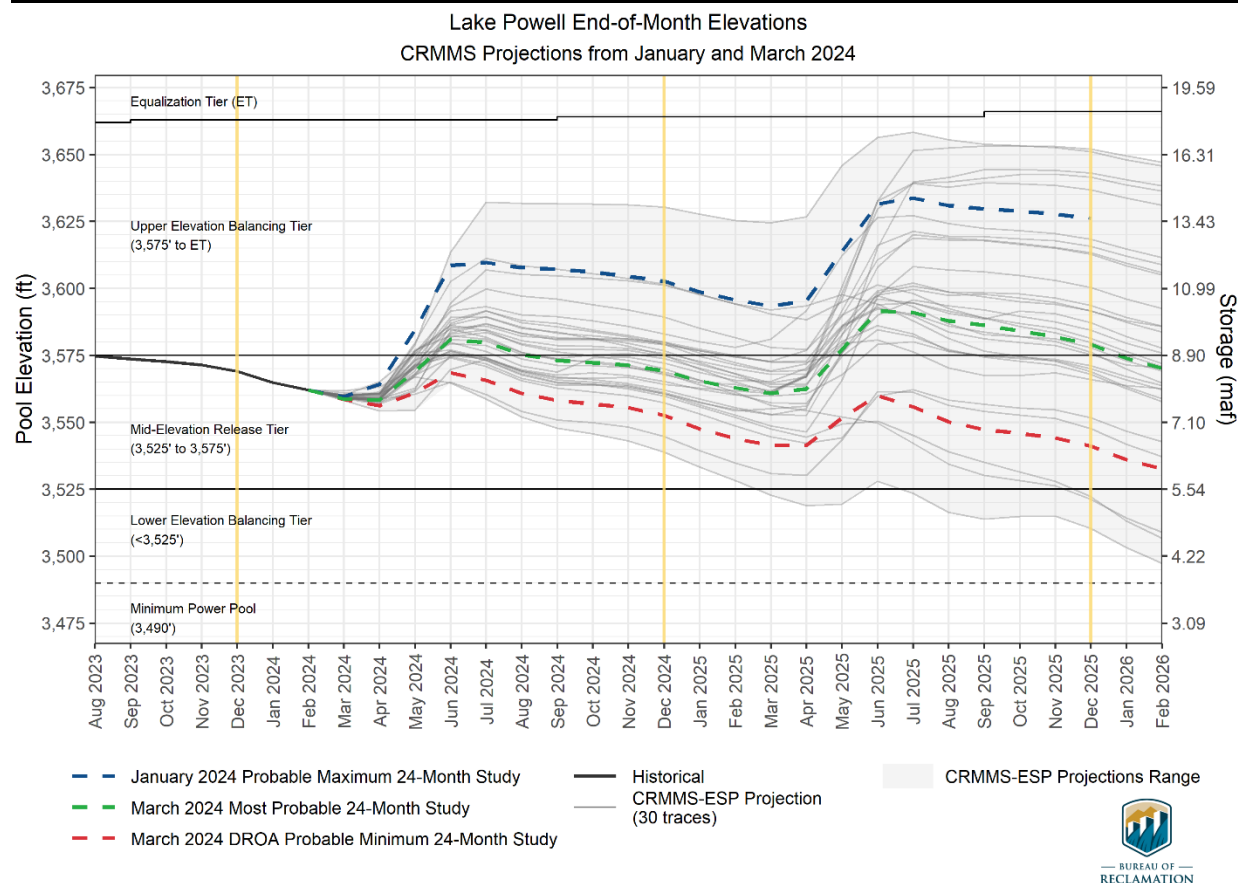


Figure 2: Plot of observed (black) and projected range of water level conditions at Lake Powell, for the next 24 months, generated by Reclamation. The colored lines represent results from the January and March 2024 24-month study of minimum probable inflows (red) and maximum probable inflows (blue) and the March 2024 24-month study of most probable inflows (green). The grey lines are the results from ensemble of simulated elevations based upon 30 years historical precipitation and temperatures.

For Lake Mead, Reclamation’s simulated water supply conditions are depicted in **Figure 3**. The most probable projection indicates that Level 1 shortages will persist in the Lower Basin in 2024, with Hoover Dam releases limited to about 8.2 million acre-feet (maf) to meet reduced downstream demands.

For calendar year 2024 the three large mainstream diversions reported by Reclamation are projected to be the following: the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) diversion is projected to be 0.982 maf; the Central Arizona Project (CAP) is projected to divert 0.871 maf, and consumptive use for Nevada above Hoover (SNWP Use) is projected to be 0.226 maf.

Despite a series of compensated conservation agreements designed to retain additional water supplies in the lower basin reservoirs and mandatory Level 1 shortages, Reclamation projects that the releases to meet lower basin increased diversion demands from Hoover Dam will be



approximately 8.348 maf, approximately 800 KAF greater than the 7.6 million-acre feet released in calendar year 2023, and Lake Mead is thereby projected to fall by more than 16 feet under the most probable projections (green line **Figure 3**) by December 2024.

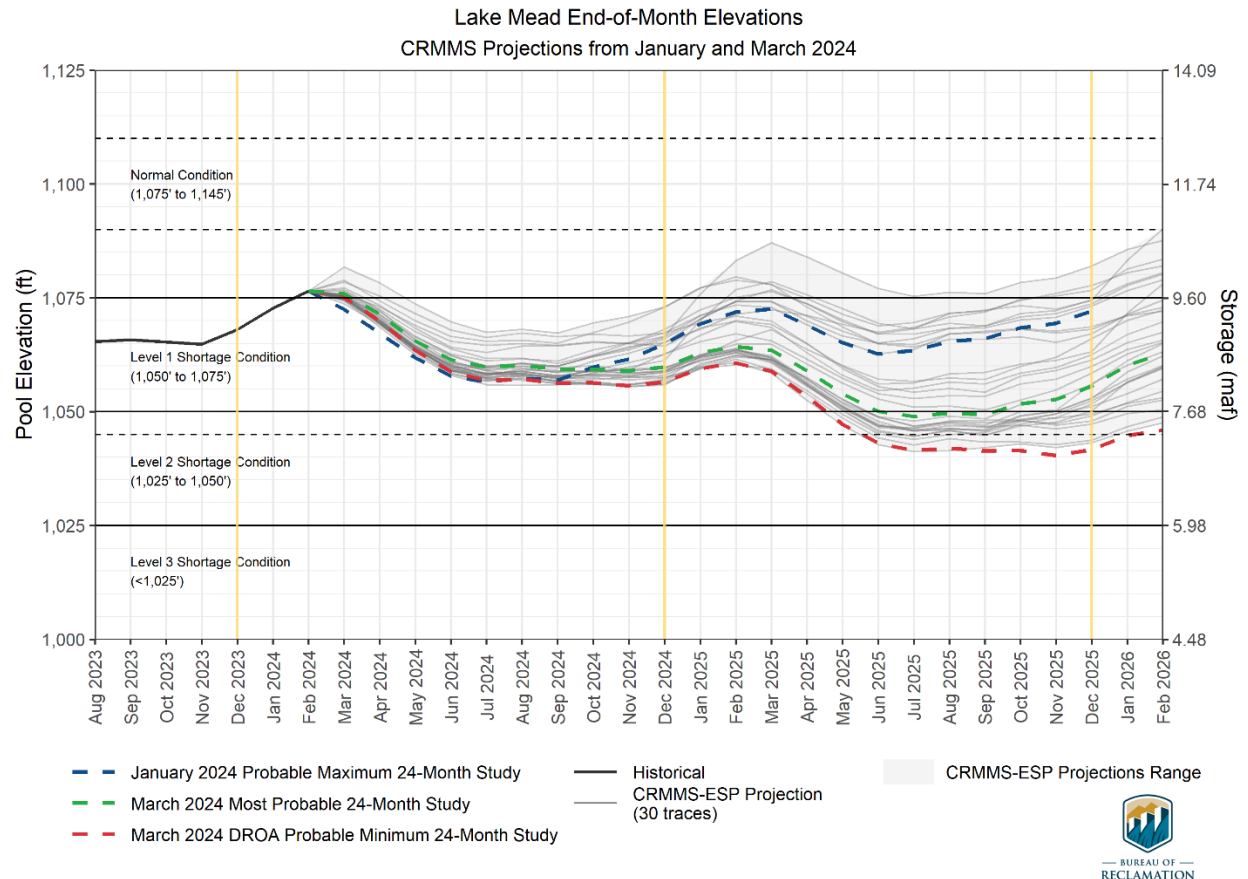


Figure 3: Plot of observed (black) and projected range of water level conditions at Lake Mead, for the next 24 months, generated by Reclamation. The colored lines represent results from the January and March 2024 24-month study of minimum probable inflows (red) and maximum probable inflows (blue) and the March 2024 24-month study of most probable inflows (green). The grey lines are the results from ensemble of simulated elevations based upon 30 years historical precipitation and temperatures.



Colorado River Headwaters within Colorado and Enterprise Operations

Runoff conditions on the Western Slope within Colorado have improved greatly since early January. Modeled Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) in the Colorado River Basin is shown in **Figure 4**. However, a below average monsoonal season in 2023 led to poor soil moisture to the south, where the CBRFC runoff forecasts are well below average, see **Figure 5**.

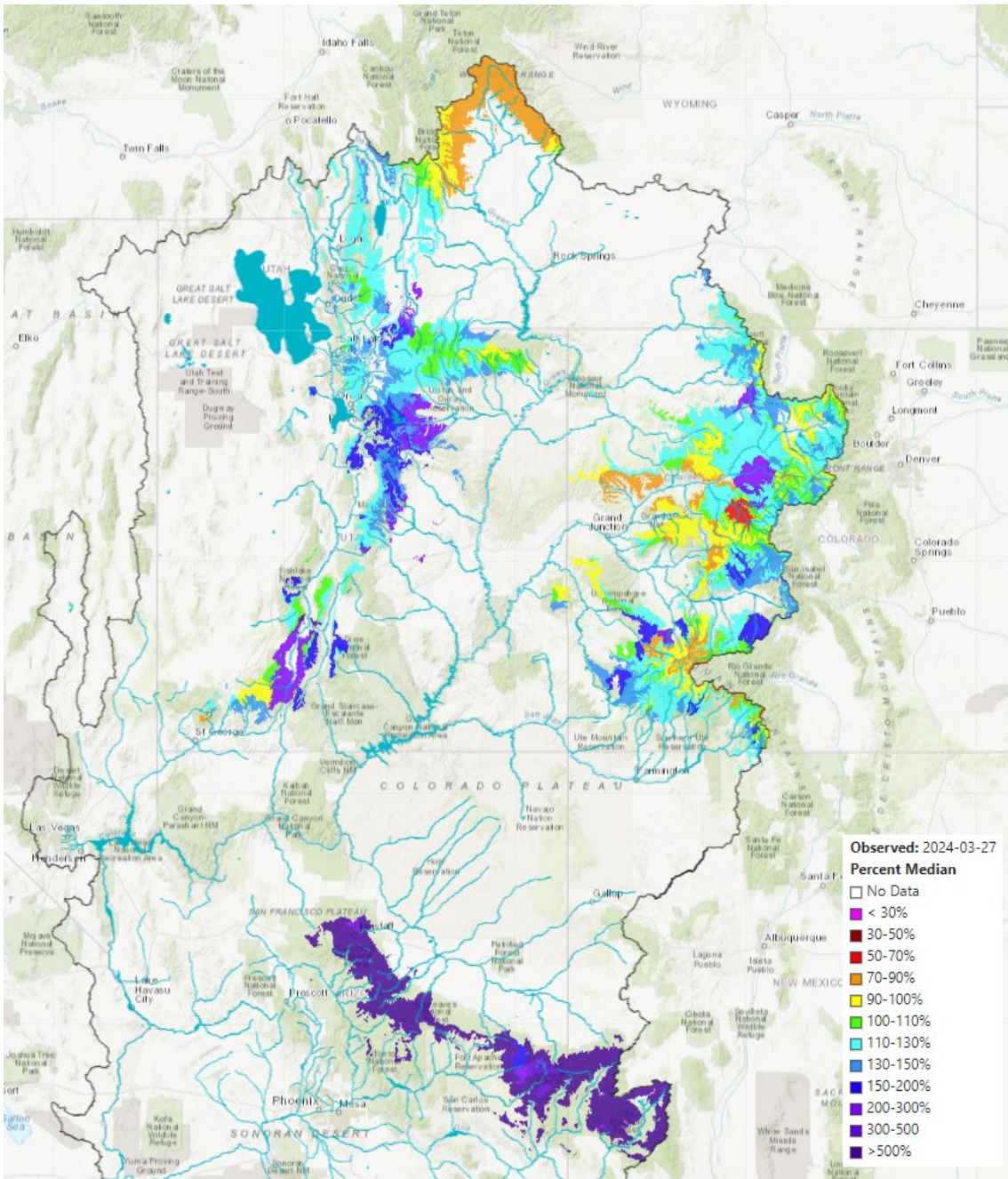


Figure 4: Map depicting Modeled Snow Water Equivalent as a percent of median in the Colorado River basin (CBRFC).

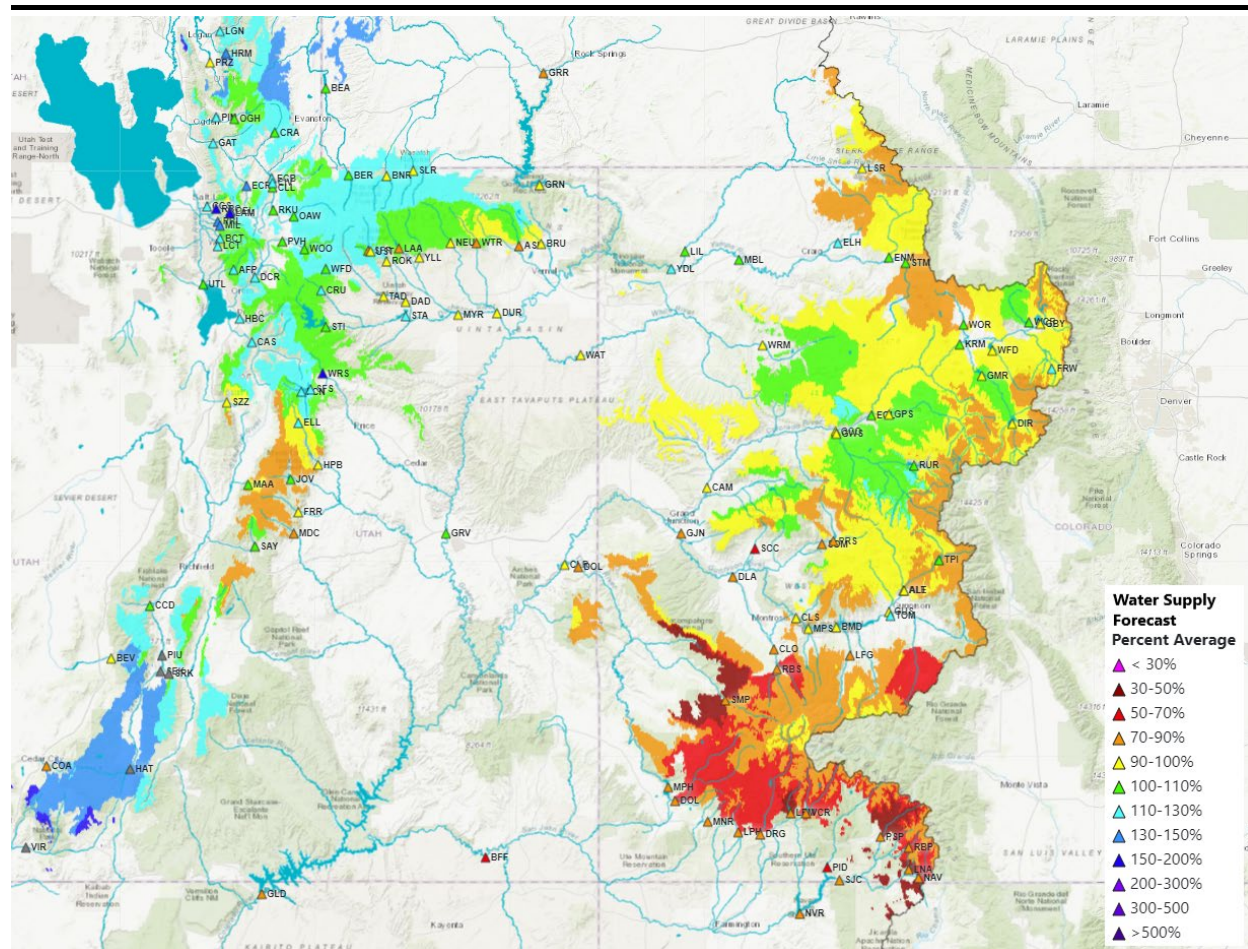


Figure 5: Map depicting November 2023 Modeled Soil Moisture (polygons) and March 2024 Runoff Forecasts (triangles) as a percent of average in the Upper Colorado River basin in Utah and Colorado (NOAA, CBRFC).

The Chart in **Figure 6** shows the evolution of Water Supply Forecasts for the Upper Colorado River and tributaries above Cameo in Calendar Year 2024. Forecasts have improved steadily since early January. As previously stated, poor soil moisture conditions in southwestern Colorado continue to influence anticipated runoff on southern tributaries, thereby reducing Lake Powell Water Supply forecasts relative to snowpack.

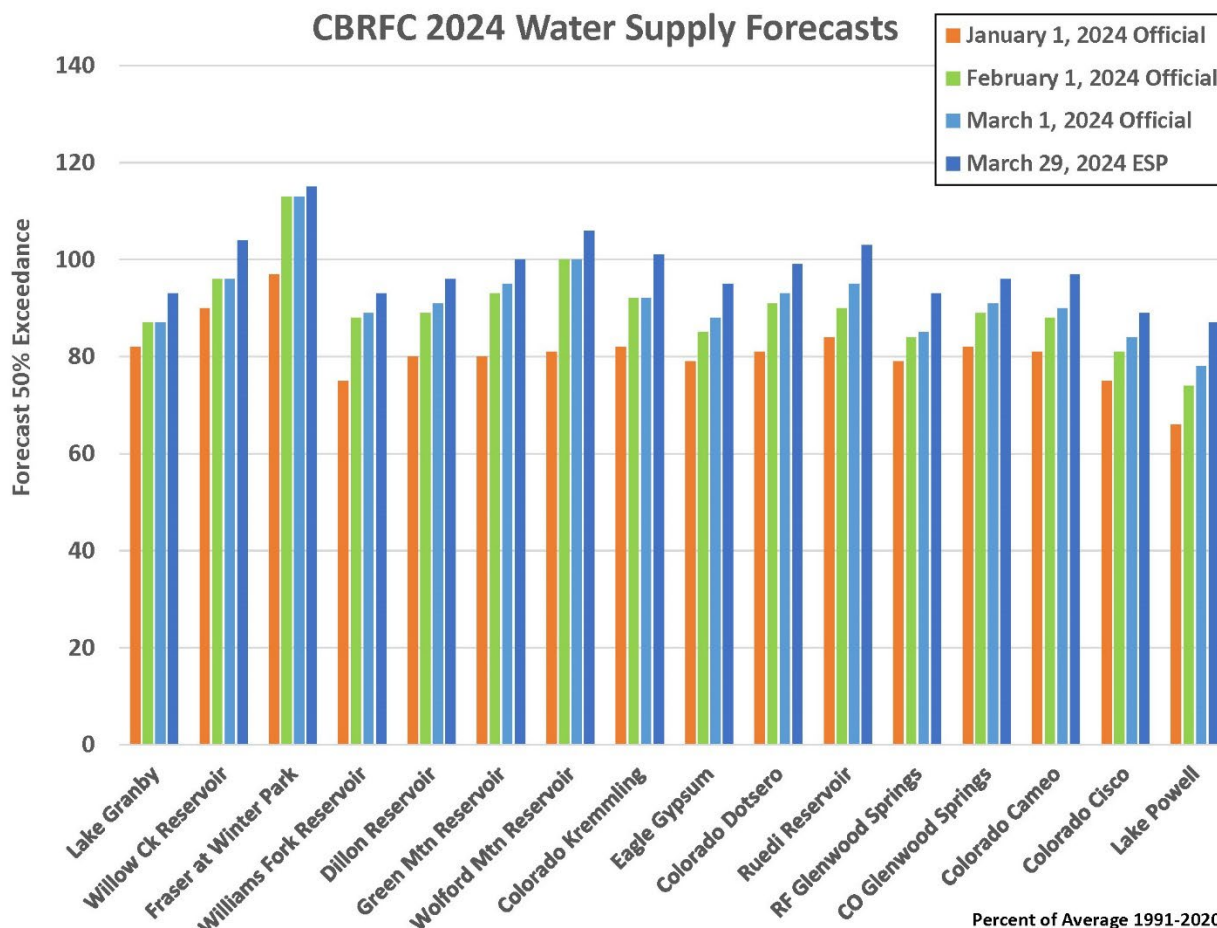


Figure 6: Chart depicting evolving Water Supply Forecasts in the Upper Colorado River basin (NOAA, CBRFC).

Colorado River Basin and Wolford Reservoir Operations

The NRCS Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) time series plot for Colorado River basin is shown in **Figure 7**. The average peak SWE date is April 7th. The recent storm that heavily favored Front Range mountains and foothills benefited Colorado River headwaters, but not as dramatically as in the South Platte. The CBRFC Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) time series plot for the Lake Eldora SNOTEL site, located in the West Boulder Creek basin above Gross Reservoir is shown in **Figure 8**. The March 13th storm brought 3 inches of moisture to Lake Eldora overnight, but only half of the precipitation that occurred in early March 2003, a drought buster if there ever was one.

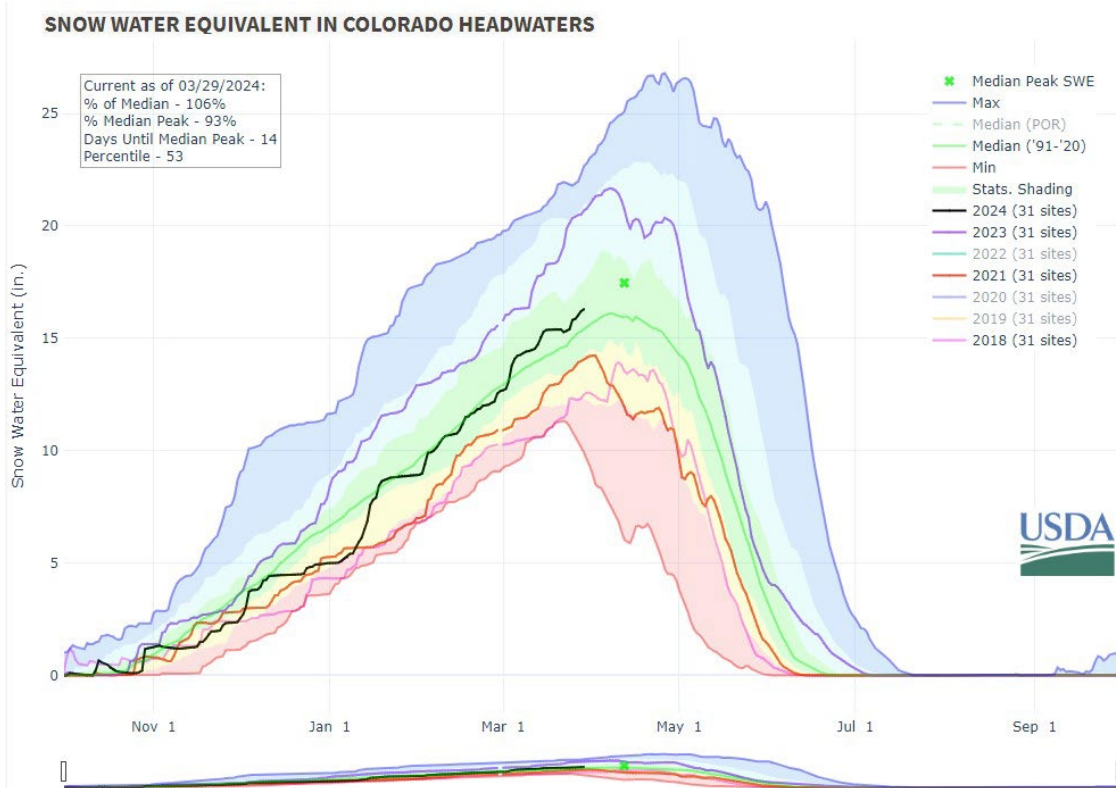


Figure 7: Chart depicting time series of average Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) in the Upper Colorado basin (NRCS).

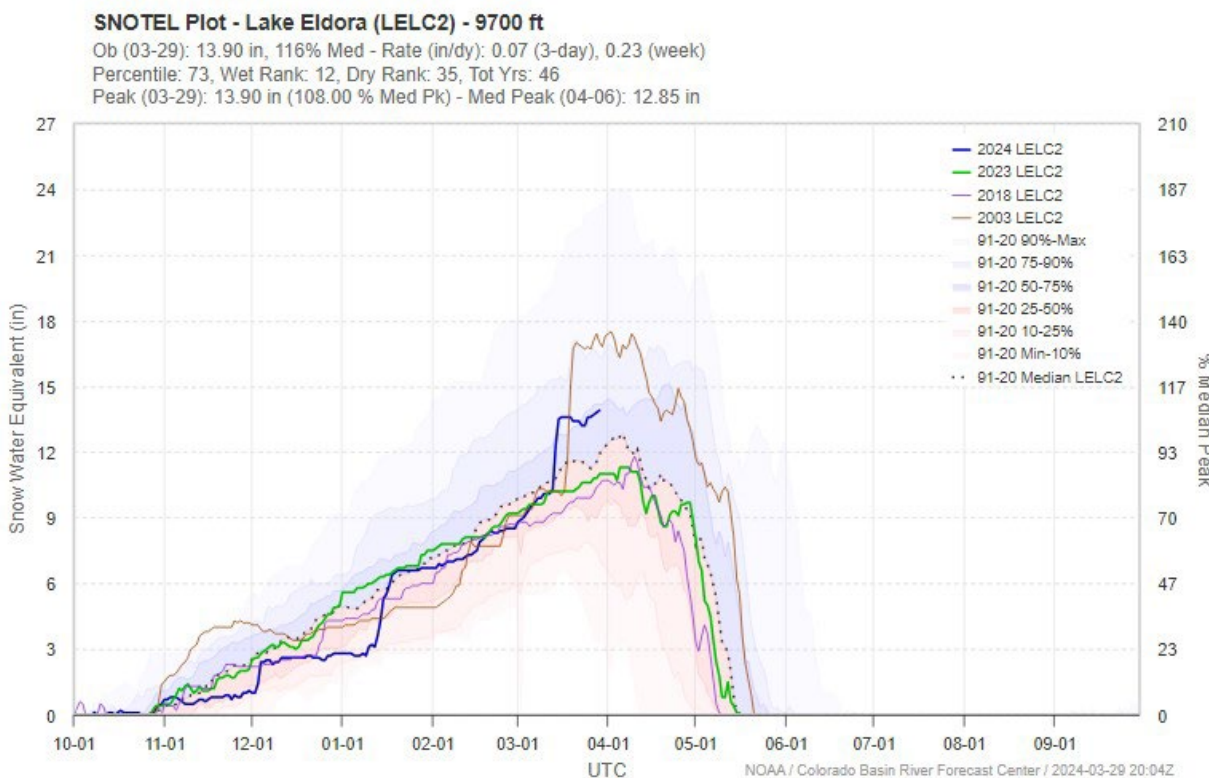


Figure 8: Chart depicting time series of SWE for Lake Eldora SNOTEL (NOAA, CBRFC).

Major facilities operations in the Colorado River Basin above Shoshone have been dictated by the Shoshone Outage Protocol (ShOP) since February 28th, 2023. At Green Mountain Reservoir (GMR), Reclamation was challenged to allocate sufficient supplies from the West Slope Power pool to maintain ShOP operations through February of the 2023 Fill Year. The total allocation of 16,700 af was released, however March ShOP obligations totaling approximately 4,700 af (about 78 cfs on average) were not met. The majority of water required for these Outage operations was allocated from the uncontracted and previously unallocated Contract pool (9,425 af). The sustainability of allocation of this water to ShOP is a concern. In a study funded by the River District, use of the uncontracted pool to firm up irrigation supplies for Historic User Pool (HUP) beneficiaries or to augment the 15 Mile Reach in critically dry years is contemplated. GMR water allocation to ShOP will reset when Reclamation declares 2024 Start of Fill in early May.

The ShOP “Call” came off for a few days in late March, but on the 25th the ShOP Target increased from the wintertime rate of 900 cfs to 1250 cfs at Dotsero, see **Figure 9**. This graph includes daily forecasts from the previous week (grey traces) which are the expected streamflow conditions leading up to transition from winter to springtime Targets. Due to concern for potential rockfall the Plant remains offline pending Forest Service permitted access. Xcel reports that one turbine is ready to go online but the second turbine will require substantial refurbishment, meaning the Call will remain off indefinitely.



The Cameo Call controlled river operations for 28 days in September and October 2023. During the March 20th HUP Wrap-up meeting the Division 5 Engineer announced that the Cameo Call will be reduced by lands not irrigated under the UCRC’s System Conservation Pilot Project in 2024. For April, May and October the 1950 cfs Call will be reduced to 1930 cfs and to 1925 cfs for June through September.

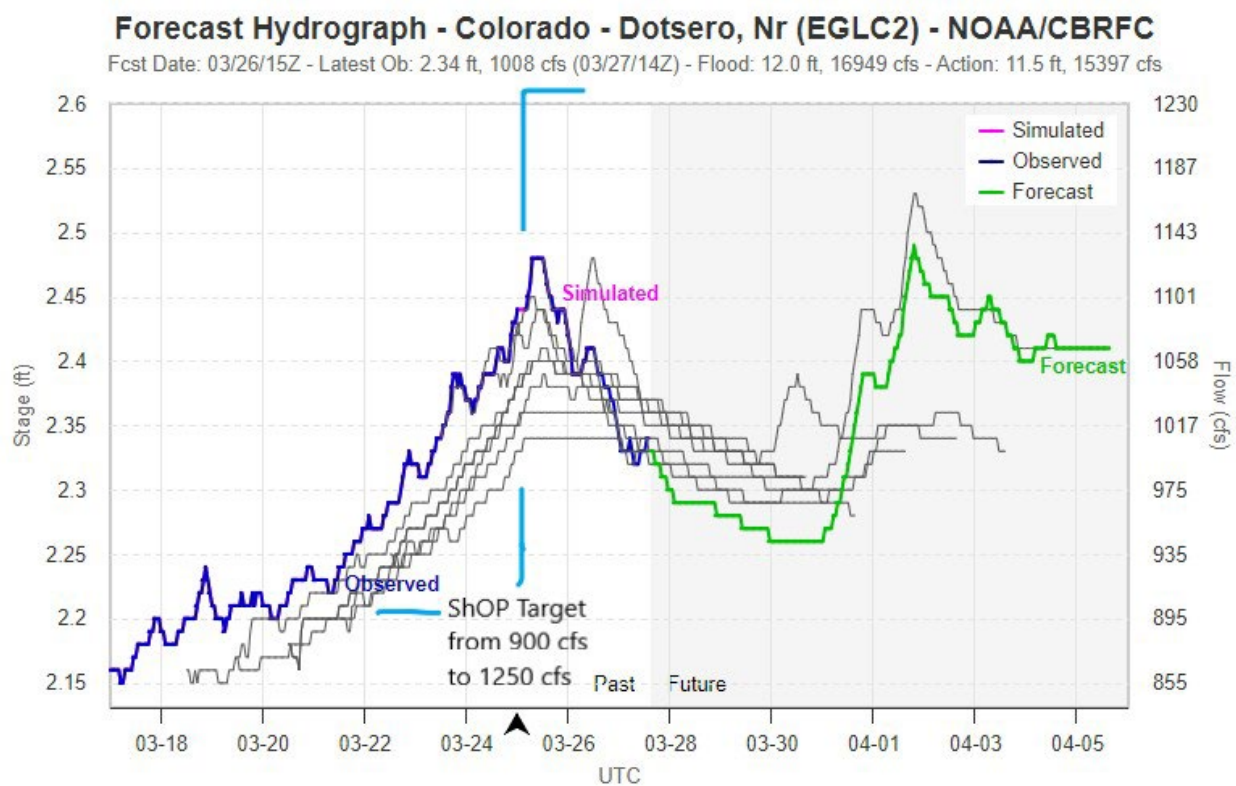


Figure 9: Chart of observed streamflow at USGS Gage Colorado River near Dotsero (dark blue trace), CBRFC March 27 forecast (green trace), recent forecasts from the previous week (verification - grey traces), and ShOP Targets.

Figure 10 shows CBRFC inflow forecasts into Wolford Mountain Reservoir prior to March 27th (forecast verification). Approaching the March 25th transition to the 1250 cfs ShOP Target, forecasts overestimated the ShOP required bypasses at Wolford. Actual bypass operations are depicted in **Figure 11**. The reservoir is currently 9.3 feet (13,300 af) down from full pool as compared to 21 feet (27,000 af) in 2023, bypassing 30 cfs. The current CBRFC April-July inflow forecast is 55,000 af or 106 percent of average. An Operating Plan is being developed for submittal to the State Engineer’s Office which will consider delivery obligations, dam safety and maintenance related operations.



Reservoir Inflow Hydrograph - Muddy Ck - Wolford Mountain Reservoir (WORC2)

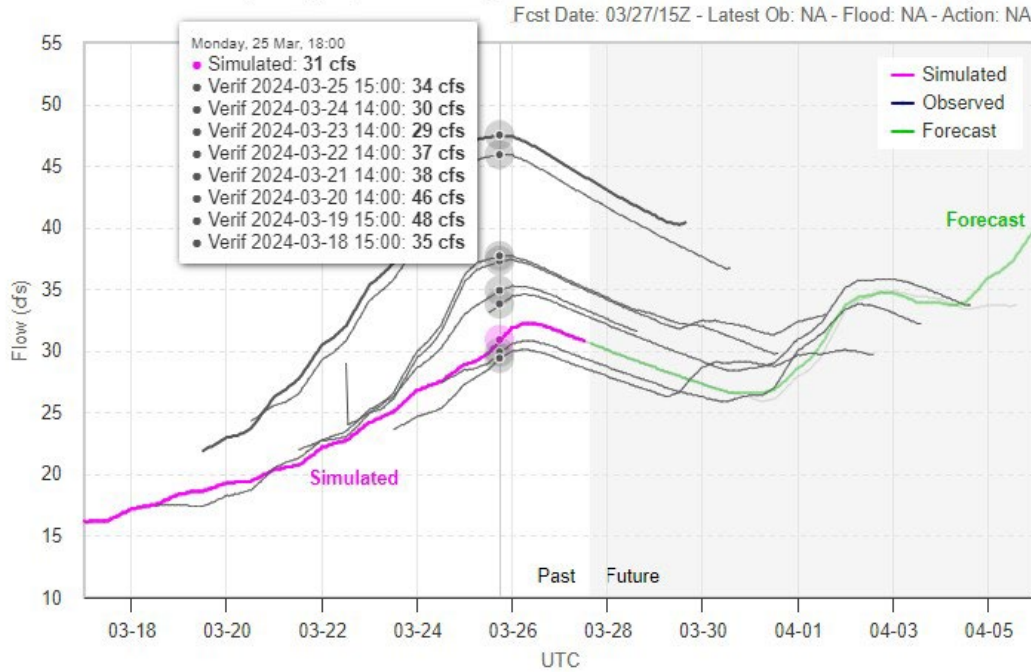


Figure 10: Chart of CBRFC Wolford Mountain Reservoir inflow forecasts (NOAA, CBRFC).

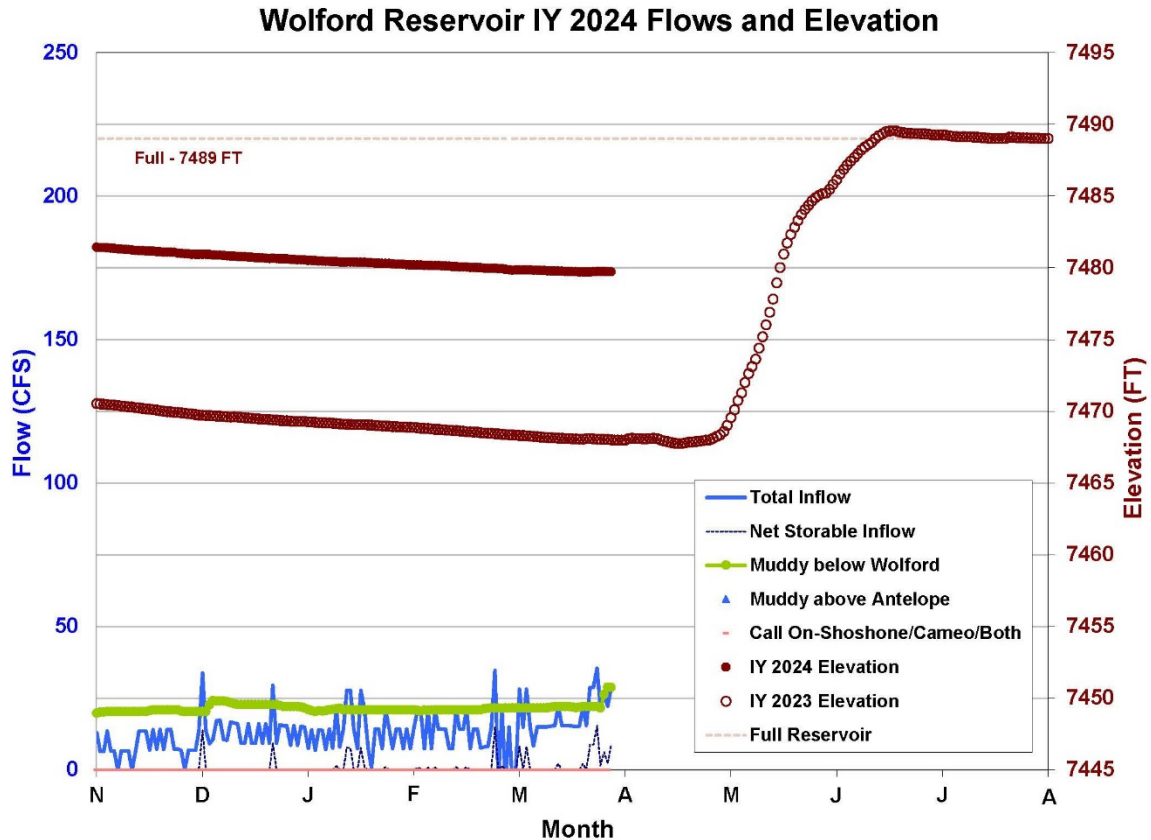


Figure 11: Chart of 2024 operations at Wolford Mountain Reservoir in comparison to 2023.

Yampa/White River Basin and Elkhead Reservoir Operations

Average SWE for the Yampa/White/Little Snake River basins is currently 107 percent of median, as shown in **Figure 12**. Peak SWE could occur anytime in April, but the average date for peak snowpack is April 7th. Wetter years tend to have a later peak. The CBRFC April-July runoff forecast at the Yampa River near Maybell is 1,023,000 af or 110 percent of average, reflecting improved soil moisture conditions. Snowpack at Rabbit Ears Pass is 113 percent of median as shown in **Figure 13**.

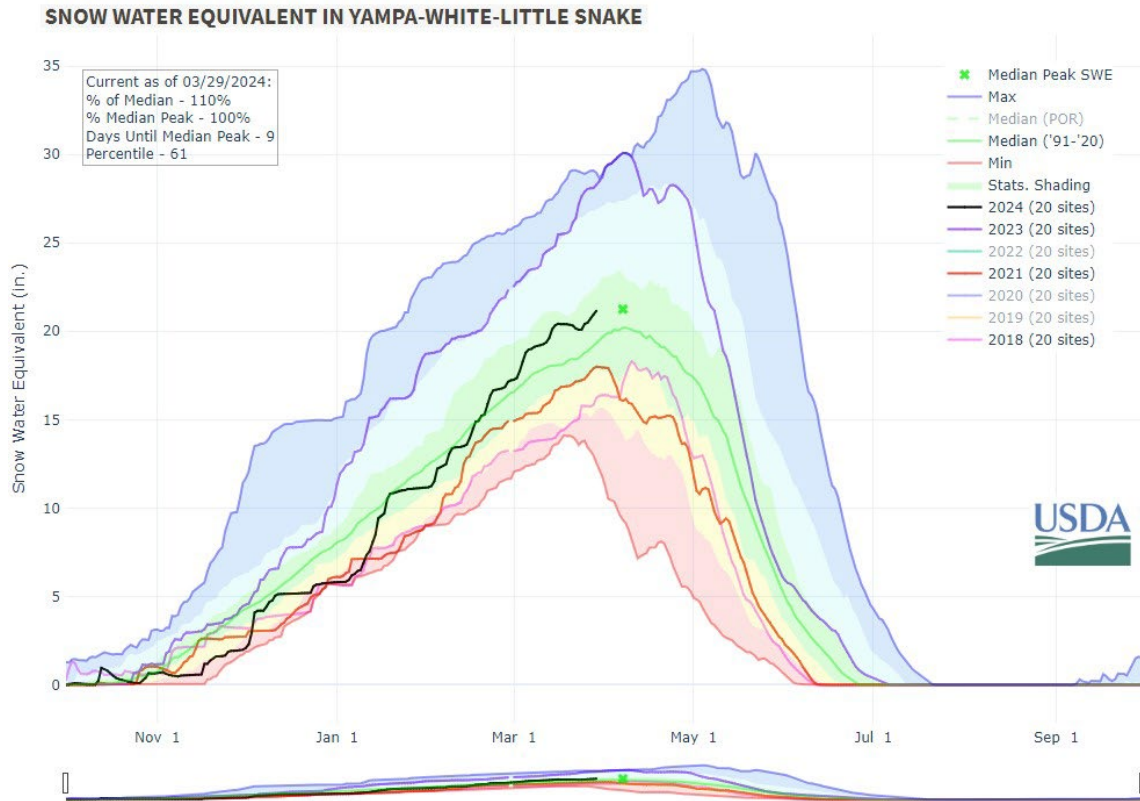


Figure 12: Chart of Snow Water Equivalent time series for Yampa/White/Little Snake River basin SNOTEL sites (NRCS).

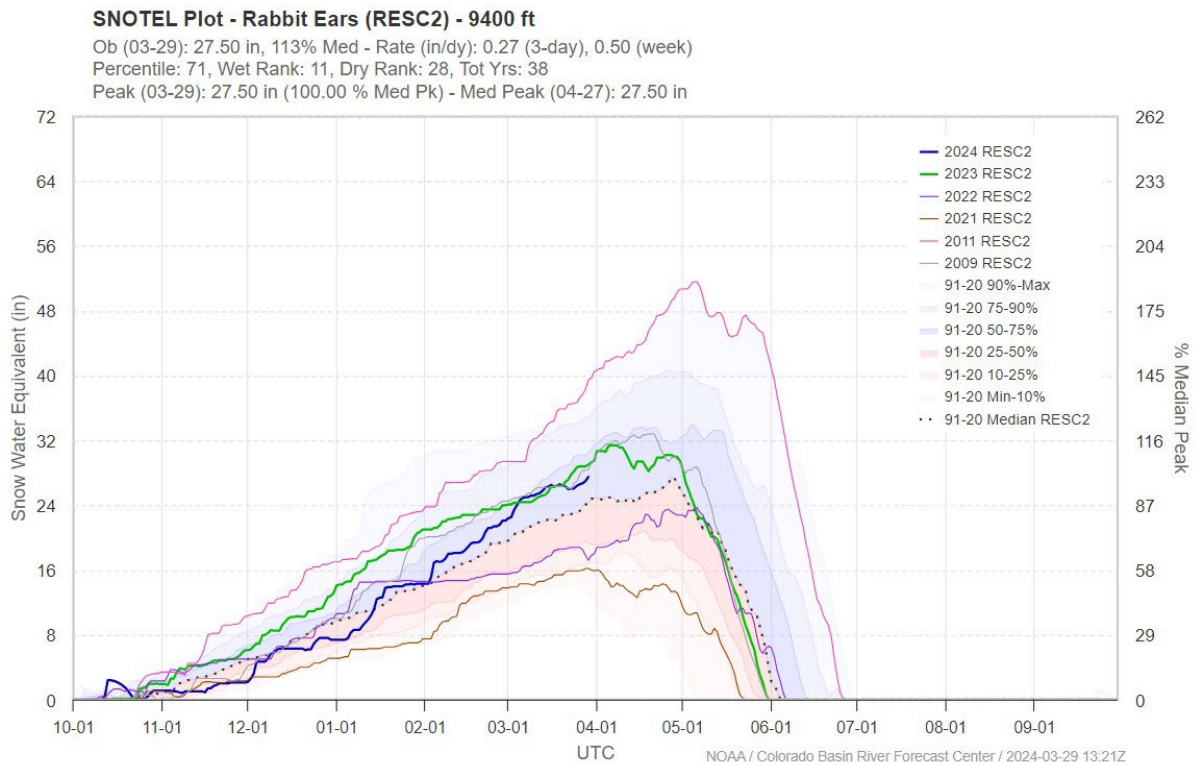


Figure 13: Chart of Snow Water Equivalent time series at Rabbit Ears SNOTEL site (NOAA, CBRFC).

Figure 14 shows CBRFC Elkhead Reservoir inflow forecasts on and before March 25th (forecast verification). These forecasts inform operations aimed at maintaining static elevation and space for early peak storage. Elkhead hydrology can be flashy, so operations require constant attention and coordination with the City of Craig, Division 6 and downstream landowners. Sam Calahan our new Engineering Tech wizard is coordinating Elkhead Reservoir operations this year. **Figure 15** shows recent Elkhead Reservoir operations.

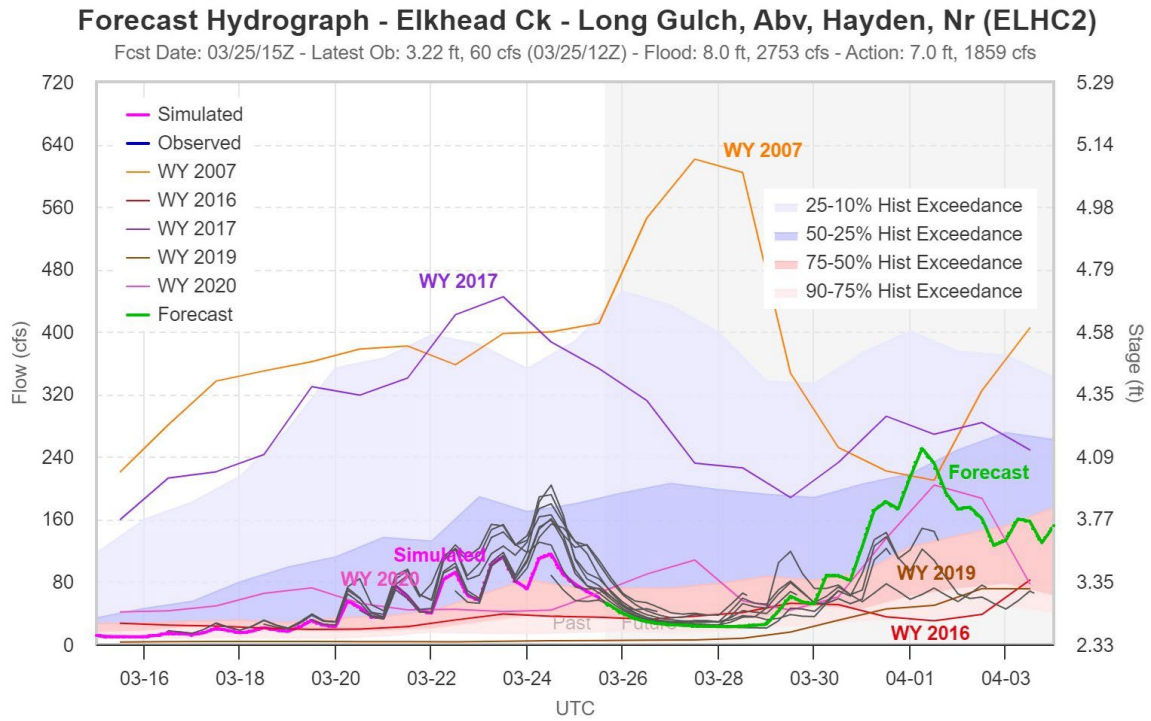


Figure 14: Chart of CBRFC Elkhead Reservoir inflow forecasts (NOAA, CBRFC).

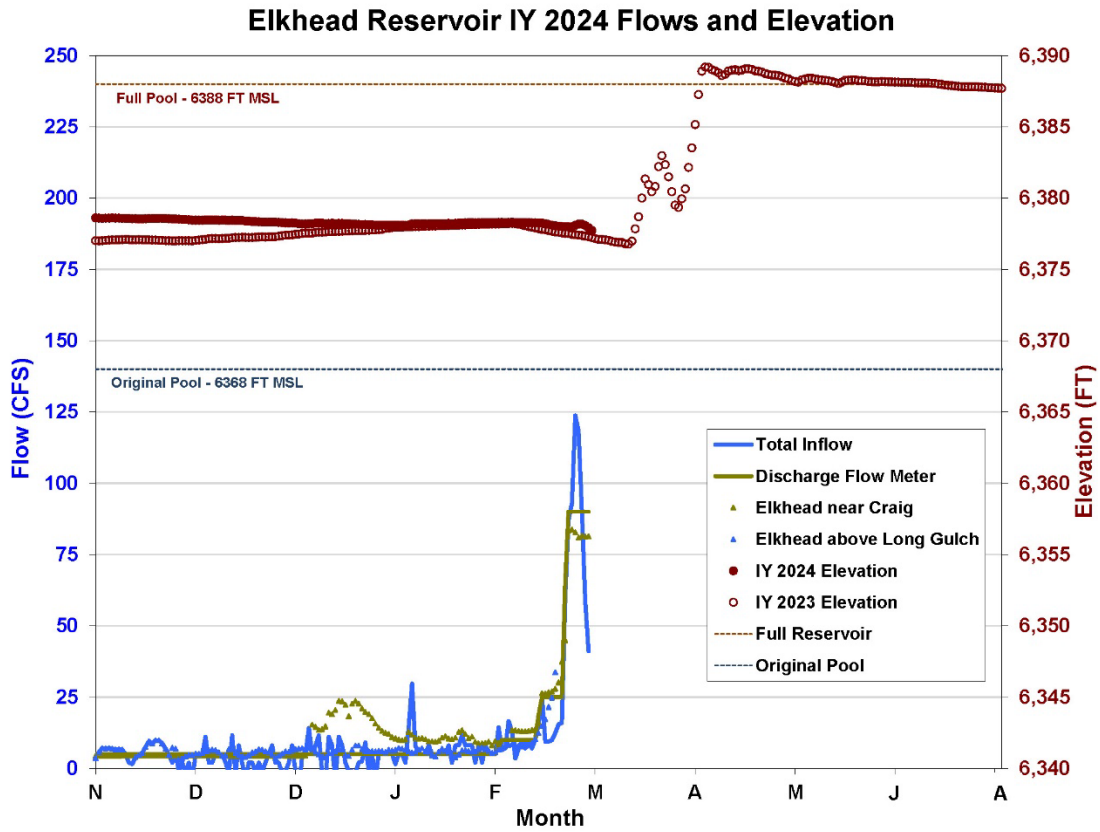


Figure 15: Chart of Irrigation Year 2024 Elkhead Reservoir Operations as compared to 2023.

Gunnison River Basin Operations and Outlook

Average SWE for the Gunnison River basin is currently 105 percent of median for 1991-2020, as shown in **Figure 16**. The CBRFC April-July Most Probable forecast volume in the Gunnison River basin above Grand Junction is 89 percent of average.

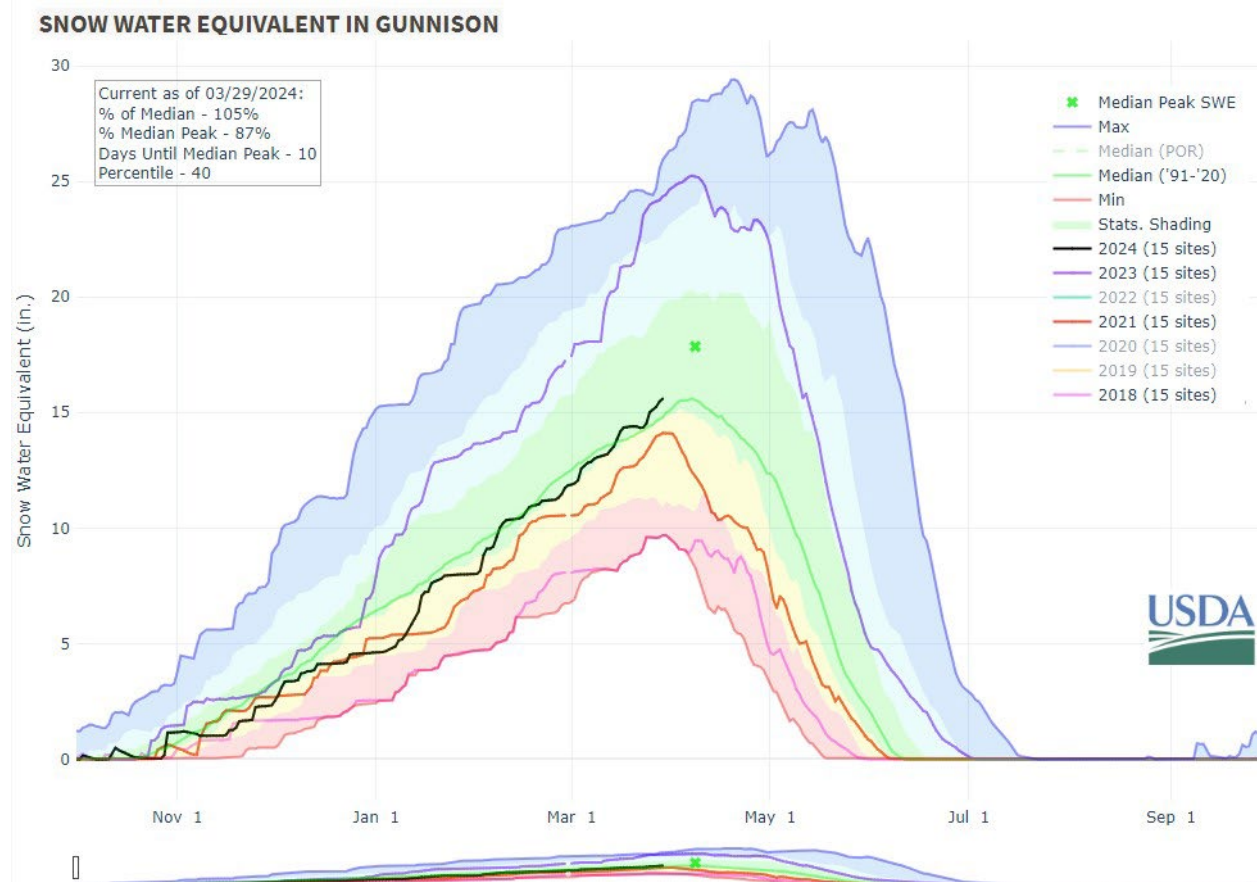


Figure 16: Chart of Snow Water Equivalent time series for Gunnison River basin SNOTEL sites (NRCS)

Due to an excellent 2023 water supply season that led to above average reservoir storage throughout the basin (*i.e.*, Aspinall Unit, Taylor Park, Ridgway, Siver Jack, etc.), mainstem Gunnison River Basin water users experienced very few hydrological shortages. Now in 2024, with carryover reservoir storage in the Gunnison Basin, generally at or above average, it is anticipated that a near full supply should be available for water users across most of the Gunnison and Uncompahgre basins. Current storage conditions for Blue Mesa Reservoir are shown in **Figure 17**, showing that elevations are above the 90 percentile of the last 40 year period of record. The projected 2024 water supply season unregulated inflow volume to Blue Mesa is estimated to be 0.56 million acre-feet for April-July (approximately 88 percent of 30-year average), according to CBRFC forecasters (March 2024 official forecast), this results in a ‘average dry’ water supply classification. If this forecast remains unchanged through May 1, Blue Mesa is anticipated to be short of a complete physical fill by approximately 110 thousand acre-feet. Furthermore, operations would call for an 8070 cfs peak flow for 10 days in the Gunnison River at Whitewater, just upstream of Grand Junction. This flow rate is consistent with the ‘half-bank full’ target, designed to benefit the habitat of the federally-listed endangered fishes and to comply with the USBR 2012 Record of Decision for the re-operations of the Aspinall Unit.

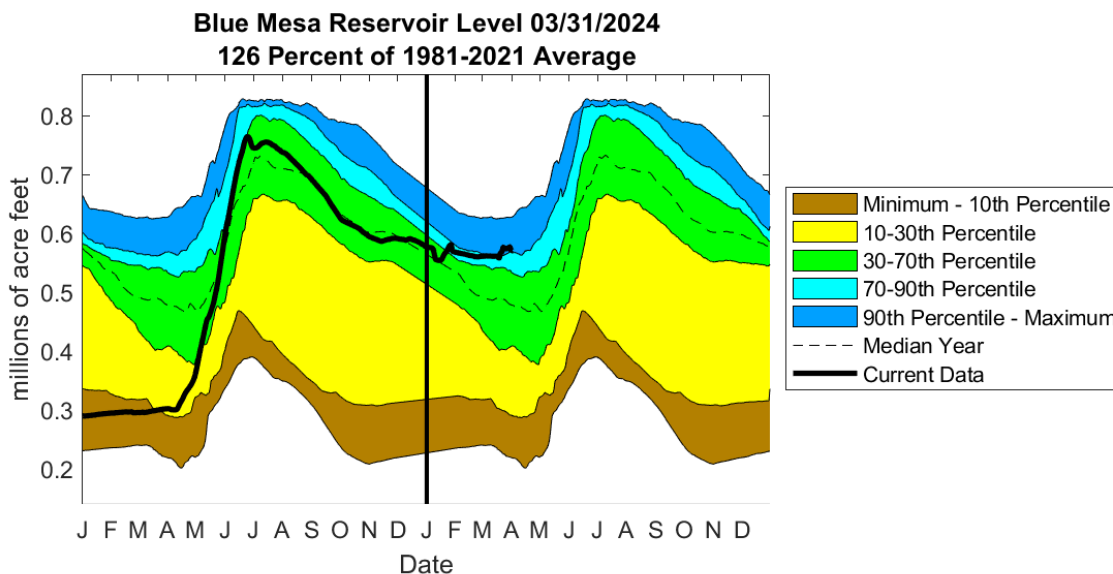


Figure 17: *Chart of reservoir elevations at Blue Mesa Reservoir for the last two years. The reservoir benefitted from above average snow melt and responsive operations, in compliance with agreements and decrees. As of the end of December 2023 when Blue Mesa reached its winter icing target elevation, it officially recovered all of the Drought Response Operations volume that was released in 2022 to support Lake Powell elevations. (Graphic generated by Colorado Climate Center.)*

Instream flow conditions in the Upper Gunnison River were significantly above average in 2023. **Figure 18** shows how high snow melt runoff benefited the river system; thus far 2024 looks to have about average water supply conditions with Taylor Park projected to fill.

Similarly, in the Uncompahgre, North Fork and Surface Creek basins, water supply conditions are projected to be near normal with potential local tributary administration, but likely free of mainstem administration.

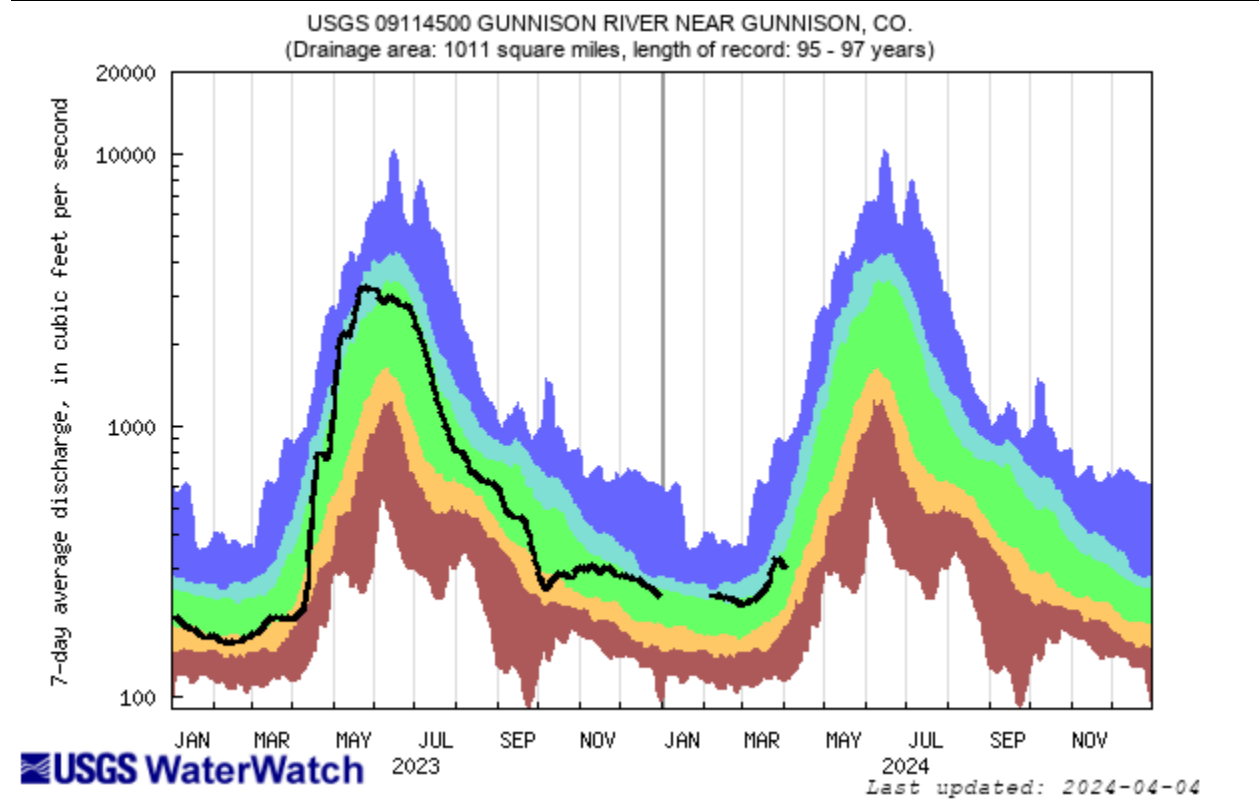


Figure 18: Chart of flows at the Gunnison River near Gunnison, Colorado for the last two calendar years, upstream of the Aspinall Unit since January 2022. The chart shows the relatively good water availability, reflecting above average conditions in 2023; plotted on top of five long term statistical colored bands, each representing 20 percentile rankings (USGS).



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CRWCD

FROM: RAQUEL FLINKER, SR. WATER RESOURCES ENGINEER/PROJECT MANAGER
DAVE KANZER, DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE AND INTERSTATE MATTERS
AMY MOYER, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF THE WATER CONSERVATION DECISION SUPPORT TOOL

DATE: MARCH 29, 2024

No formal action is requested, but Staff seeks direction from the Board on next phases of the project.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S):

- 2. Outreach in All Basins*
- 3. Climate and Hydrologic Uncertainty*
- 4. Colorado River Supplies*
- 6. Agricultural Water Use*

The first iteration of the Water Conservation Decision Support Tool (DST) was finalized this March. To close out this phase, Staff will guide the Board through a short presentation and demonstration of the DST to solicit ideas and discussion regarding the future of the project.

As a reminder, Staff worked with The Freshwater Trust, under a cooperatively funded contract with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), to build a DST to guide potential water conservation activities and pilot projects. This project was responsive to the convergence of multiple factors: Commissioner Touton's call to conserve an additional 2-4 million acre-feet of water, the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and the re-authorization of the System Conservation Pilot Program. The project was premised on the notion that such large-scale federal investments can be better targeted to achieve desired outcomes that maximize conservation savings and benefits to farmers, ranchers, and the environment while minimizing costs and adverse agricultural and economic impacts.

The project goals include the following overarching principles and key questions:

1. Pursuing Proactive Strategic, Conservation:



-
- How can conservation strategies proactively protect West Slope agriculture in times of competition and water shortages?
 2. Supporting Data-Driven Decision-Making
 - How can conservation programs strategically to support desired outcomes and minimize impacts?
 - What water can be conserved and where?
 3. Developing Pricing Structures that Align with Community Goals
 - How can payment structures be based on outcomes?
 4. Advancing Long-Term, Durable Solutions
 - How can the tool guide adaptation to a future with more frequent water supply shortages?

In June 2023, the River District formally partnered with the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) on the development of this multi-objective DST focused on the federal Uncompahgre Project. The project team held weekly meetings and carried out extensive outreach to interested entities including the CWCB, the Bureau of Reclamation, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Delta and Montrose Counties, Gunnison Basin Roundtable, and local stakeholders. Water users and agricultural producers were actively engaged through Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings. Three TAC meetings were held to provide project updates, listen and gather feedback, and collect technical insights to better inform the DST.

Since the project's inception, the dynamics on the Colorado River system have been ever-changing. Following Commissioner Touton's June 2022 call to action and the release of the Upper Basin 5-Point Plan, the basin experienced a relatively wet year that alleviated an immediate threat of infrastructure failure. However, the Upper Colorado River Commission continued implementing the System Conservation Pilot Program in both 2023 and 2024. Additionally, the Bureau of Reclamation formally began the multi-year process to identify a range of alternatives for operations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Most recently, the Upper Division States and Lower Basin States submitted two separate modeling alternatives to the Bureau for their consideration. Notably, the Upper Division proposal includes a potential parallel activity to pursue voluntary, temporary, and compensated reductions of consumptive use.

Given the changing dynamics both hydrologically and with ongoing interstate negotiations, the DST is well-suited to be a powerful tool to guide future water conservation strategies and participation. For example, the DST can run comparative scenarios to analyze how various pricing structures might be developed to achieve specific conservation targets (e.g., reduced consumptive use, improved water quality, 2024 SCPP, etc.) while optimizing tradeoffs, such as increasing sustainability and minimizing adverse economic impacts.



Staff is exploring potential next steps including:

- 1) Identifying funding opportunities to improve the DST by incorporating system-level infrastructure upgrades and/or the evaluation of emerging water conservation practices such as split-season, deficit irrigation, and crop switching.
- 2) Continuing to explore federal funding opportunities and interest to implement localized water conservation activities and to install additional measurement and monitoring devices as well as related modernization upgrades to assist with on-the-ground application and verification of the DST.
- 3) Implementing updated, expanded, and/or validated input data as it becomes available such as annual crop pricing.
- 4) Expanding the DST to other areas of the River District.

The tool was primarily funded by the Colorado Water Conservation Board through the Federal Technical Assistance Grant Program, which provides grants to assist with capacity and resources in pursuit of federal funding opportunities. A required deliverable of the funding award is the submission of one or more applications to seek federal funding for further project work.

To further develop the tool and potentially test its effectiveness through localized water conservation activities, Staff initially targeted two federal funding opportunities:

1. Upper Basin Drought Contingency Funding (\$50M) authorized through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
2. Drought Response and Preparedness Funding (\$4B; \$500M allocated to the Upper Basin) authorized through the Inflation Reduction Act.

In addition to these funding opportunities, Staff is exploring opportunities to further this effort through the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART funding opportunities, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), and the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program for matching support.

In preparation for upcoming funding requests, ***Staff recommends that the Board provide direction for the River District to work with stakeholders to develop a scope of work and funding strategy for the next iteration of the Decision Support Tool. Staff appreciates and welcomes Board feedback on the tool demonstration, proposed next steps, and potential funding sources.***



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CRWCD
ANDY MUELLER, GENERAL MANAGER

FROM: AUDREY TURNER, CHIEF OF OPERATIONS
AMY MOYER, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

SUBJECT: CONTRACT APPROVAL WITH STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSULTANT

DATE: MARCH 29, 2024

ACTION ITEM: Staff requests Board authorization for the General Manager, subject to review and approval by counsel, to execute a professional services contract funded from the General Fund, to support an update to the River District's Strategic Plan, associated 2025 Implementation Plan, leadership trainings and organizational development. Staff will provide a revised action item with a specific recommendation and funding amount during the River District's Second Joint Quarterly Meeting in April 2024.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S): ALL. See current Strategic Plan attached **HERE**.

As discussed at the First Quarterly Board Meeting in January, Staff recommended revisiting and updating the District's Strategic Plan. This is in response to the evolution of numerous internal and external factors in large part driven by multi-decadal drought impacts that have affected the political, social, and economic dynamic across Colorado's West Slope. In addition, the River District has undergone significant internal transitions through leadership and staff turnover as well as changes within the organizational structure.

Following Board direction, Staff released a Request for Proposals (RFP) (view **HERE**) and requested that a consultant support the following:

- Review and facilitate discussions related to strategic vision and priorities with the River District's Board of Directors and staff. It is anticipated that this will be accomplished through at least one workshop with the Board.
- Organize and facilitate staff organizational development, and culture and team cohesion exercises for a full staff of 25 positions.
- Provide Executive Coaching for the General Manager, General Counsel, and Chief of Operations.
- Conduct leadership training for 11 director level positions.



- Facilitate development of an internal 2025 staff-level implementation plan through defined actionable goals and objectives that align with the newly adopted Strategic Plan.

In addition, the RFP included the following anticipated project timeline to occur over a period of 10-12 months beginning in May 2024:

- Deadline for proposal submittal: March 15, 2024.
- Review of Proposals and Interviews: April 2-4, 2024.
- Anticipated Board Action to Approve Selection of Consultant: April 16-17, 2024.
- Contracting: late April 2024.
- Contract period: May 2024 – April 2025.

Staff received five proposals from qualified candidates. The proposals represented a diverse range of experience across consultants along with varied approaches to strategic plan development, culture cohesion, and leadership development. For example, some consultants offered key strengths and experience in facilitation, while others offered key strengths and experiences in strategy development. While all consultant teams had a Colorado presence, proposal teams varied regarding specific experience in the water sector or working with rural or West Slope clients. Further, proposals offered a variety of perspectives and training methodologies to support culture cohesion and leadership development.

The proposal costs also varied with a large range from \$40,000 to over \$200,000 depending on the selection of optional services. Overall, Staff was pleased with the range of responses along with the qualifications presented. Staff opted to conduct virtual interviews with each candidate scheduled on April 2nd and 3rd.

Below are brief summaries of each consultant and their proposal:

- **Prosono:** Prosono is focused on social impact, strategy, and product development. Prosono recommended a robust discovery phase surrounding community needs, organization capacity and resources, and external factors. Prosono provided a proposal outlining a clearly defined process for strategic plan development, implementation, and outcomes tracking (including types of analysis, software, etc.) The proposal did not provide as much detail on the leadership, culture cohesion, and coaching portions of the RFP. Prosono does not have significant experience or expertise on water issues.
- **Strategic by Nature:** A women-owned Colorado company based in western Colorado, Strategic by Nature provides expertise in facilitation, strategic planning, executive coaching and leadership training, and nonprofit board development. They have significant knowledge of water and specifically, experience in West Slope water issues. The proposal included a specific facilitation method for developing a Strategic Plan, as well as tools to support leadership and team cohesion and executive coaching. Strategic by Nature's proposal was more limited in budget and scope, though they have capacity and interest to expand the scope as desired.



-
- **Consensus Building Institute (CBI):** CBI is a well-recognized leader in conflict resolution and collaborative problem solving. Ryan Golten, CBI Senior Facilitator, worked previously with the CRD Board of Directors to develop the 2016 Strategic Plan. CBI's proposal and approach to strategic facilitation included a thoughtful mindset surrounding the complexity of western water issues and the appropriate level of engagement from the Board and staff. CBI's proposal did not include a deliverable of a Strategic Plan, but rather a summary document from the facilitated Board workshop.
 - **Disruption Advisors:** Disruption Advisors is a leadership development firm that specializes in change and growth management. They focus on coaching and growth of individuals to support the growth and success of a company. Disruption Advisors has provided strategic facilitation services for several entities, including Club 20. The proposal provided a strategic facilitation approach with significant board and staff engagement, and specific tools to support staff development and leadership training. Disruption Advisors does not have specific water experience or expertise.
 - **Civic Consulting Collaborative (CCC):** CCC is a consortium of experienced independent facilitators and consultants. CCC's proposal identified Jacob Bornstein as the project lead, and he brings significant experience and knowledge of Colorado water issues. CCC's proposal was comprehensive and identified staff and board level engagement through all steps of the process. CCC's proposal included many optional tasks, especially around culture building, that could be removed or included as appropriate.

Following final interviews, Staff will provide a detailed recommendation to the Board regarding the selected consultant along with a summary and key strengths of the proposal during the District's Second Joint Quarterly Meeting in April 2024.



STRATEGIC PLAN

Revised and Adopted July 17, 2018

BACKGROUND & SETTING

The Colorado River District covers approximately 29,000 square miles, more than one-quarter of the State of Colorado. The River District's boundaries include all of the Colorado River mainstem and the basins of three of its major tributaries: the Yampa River, the White River and the Gunnison River. Additionally, small reaches of the Green River and Dolores River flow through the River District. Approximately 65-70% of the natural flow of the Colorado River at Lee Ferry either originates in or flows through the River District's boundaries.

The topography of the River District varies from the high peaks along the Continental Divide to high mountain valleys, canyons, table mountains and plateaus to the mid-elevation deserts in far western Colorado. Precipitation varies from over 60" per year in the mountains above Steamboat Springs to less than 10" per year in Grand Junction.

The economy of the River District is as diverse as its topography. Its headwaters regions support world-class ski resorts with both winter and summer attractions. Rivers, reservoirs and natural lakes support fishing, rafting, kayaking and boating activities throughout the District. Mining and energy development are essential to many regions within the District. Coal, natural gas and molybdenum are currently the primary drivers. The commercial production of shale oil remains a potential, but the River District recognizes that development of this resource at a level that requires significant water resources is at least a decade away, perhaps more.

Agriculture has historically been, and remains, the District's largest user of Colorado River water. Approximately 500,000 acres of land are irrigated through several hundred individual ditch and reservoir companies, irrigation districts, water users associations and water conservancy districts. Approximately 90% of the agricultural consumptive water use within the District is attributable to hay, alfalfa and pasture grasses with the remaining 10% supporting row crops, vineyards and orchards.

As of 2015, Colorado River consumptive water use from within the River District is in the range of 1.3 to 1.7 million acre feet per year. Irrigation uses consume about 800,000 to a million acre feet, with in-basin industrial and municipal consumption in the range of 50,000 to 100,000 acre feet. Exports out of the District to Colorado's Front Range are in the range of 450,000 to 600,000 acre feet annually.

SOCIOECONOMIC TRENDS AND CONNECTIONS

The River District has seen a steady increase in population since the early 1970s. As of December 2014, the 15 counties that comprise the District had an estimated population of 462,000 or 8.6% of Colorado's statewide population of 5,353,000. The State demographer's office projects that the River District's counties will have a population of about 730,300 in 2040 which would be 9.2% of the state's projected population of 7,925,000. Thus, population growth within the District is expected to be slightly greater than Colorado as a whole. (Source: Colorado.gov)

Largely due to the energy and recreation components of the District's economy, the demographics of our population are slightly younger than the state as a whole.

Like Colorado, the economy of the River District has historically been prone to boom and bust cycles. The energy and minerals sector saw the oil shale boom of the late 1970s to early 1980s and the natural gas boom of 2005 to 2008. The River District expects that its energy sector will continue to grow periodically, but due to competition from shale gas throughout the country, at a more measured rate.

The River District's tax base (assessed valuation) was \$23 billion in 2010 but has fallen. By 2017, the assessed valuation had dropped to about \$16 billion, a reduction of more than 30 percent. The drop was due to a combination of lower natural gas and other mineral production, a drop in commodity prices including natural gas, and a reduction in home values from 2009-2012. Home values have begun increasing again, but with continued weakness in natural gas prices, the District expects only slow growth in its assessed valuation.

The District's agricultural production has also been cyclical, albeit less so than energy. Due to urbanization in the valleys near resort areas and in Mesa, Garfield, and Montrose Counties, the number of acres under irrigation has probably peaked. However, due to healthy worldwide demand for agricultural commodities, the River District believes its agricultural sector will remain viable for the foreseeable future and, if agricultural commodity prices continue to increase, there would be an increased demand for reliable and better quality agricultural water supplies.

The District projects that the recreation sector will continue to grow for the foreseeable future. This sector will command more attention to its water dependent needs. Continued growth on the Front Range will be a major contributor to the District's recreation-based economy.

In summary, the River District will continue to be an attractive location for in-migrants, both permanent and temporary (vacation and second homes). This will likely continue to provide a diversified tax base but will also challenge the District to remain relevant and visible to its constituency.

HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF THE COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

The River District was born out of the need for the development of thoughtful and integrated water policies and the reality that western Colorado's water resources would be coveted by both Colorado's Front Range and water users in downstream states. Throughout its almost 80 year history of working on what seemed intractable issues, the River District has achieved many major accomplishments, negotiated many complicated multi-party water agreements, successfully litigated important water rights matters and working with others within the state of Colorado and the Colorado River Basin, sought federal and state laws and policies for the development and conservation of the water resources of the Colorado River.

In 1937 the River District's predecessor, the West Slope Protective Association, handed off to the newly formed district an East Slope West Slope agreement providing the West Slope's support for the construction of the Colorado-Big Thompson project. Senate Document 80 was a forward thinking settlement that called for compensating storage on the West Slope - the Green Mountain Reservoir 100,000 acre feet pool as well as protections for stream flows, water quality and aesthetics. Senate Document 80 would become a template for future agreements.

- In the 1940s and 1950s, the River District participated in the development and negotiations of the 1944 International Water Treaty with Mexico, the 1948 Upper Colorado River Basin Compact, and the 1956 Colorado River Storage and Participating Projects Act (CRSPA). CRSPA authorized the construction of the major storage reservoirs that are needed to regulate the river in a manner allowing the states of the Upper Basin to meet their downstream compact and treaty obligations and provided a mechanism to facilitate the development of local irrigation and multipurpose water projects.
- In the 1950s and 1960s, in furtherance of the goals of CRSPA, the River District actively adjudicated the water rights and created local conservancy districts that would be used to manage and repay the Federal government for the participated irrigation projects authorized under CRSPA.
- In the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, the River District addressed major transmountain diversion policy matters and disputes. In the 1950s, Denver sought water rights for its Dillon Reservoir/Roberts Tunnel collection system that would be senior to Green Mountain Reservoir. The River District, its West Slope allies and Northern Water opposed Denver. In what is commonly referred to as the "Blue River Decree," the West Slope would prevail and obtain a senior storage right for Green Mountain Reservoir. Differences of interpretation over provisions of the decree would result in major litigation in the 1960s, 1970s and again in the late 1980s.
- In the late 1950s, the River District agreed to Federal legislation authorizing the Frying Pan-Arkansas transmountain diversion project, which included Ruedi Reservoir as compensation for the West Slope.
- In the late 1960s six northern Front Range cities would organize to develop the Windy Gap Project, a non-federal extension of the Colorado-Big Thompson project. Ultimately, the

project was constructed by the Municipals Subdistrict of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. The project included compensation for the West Slope, including a \$10 million contribution toward the construction of Wolford Mountain Reservoir Project. It required a West Slope victory in the Colorado Supreme Court to bring the Municipal Subdistrict to the negotiating table.

- In the 1960s and 1970s, the River District actively participated in Colorado River Basin Federal issues. It was a time of significant change and the beginning of the end of significant congressional funding for new Reclamation projects. With the passage of major federal environmental laws in the 1960s and 1970s, the federal role in water changed from a partner with states to that of a regulator.
- The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act, the Wilderness Act and Endangered Species Act kept the River District busy the 1970s and the early 1980s. The River District supported and staffed salinity control efforts. It remains a priority. The Wilderness Act provided both opportunities and challenges. The District supported Wilderness designations in the headwaters, where it complicated future transmountain diversion, but also fought to protect local water rights. The River District was one of the first water organizations to understand impacts of the ESA. After litigation strategies generally failed, the River District actively participated in the development and implementation of the Upper Colorado River Basin Endangered Fishes Recovery Program. It remains a priority activity.
- In the 1980s the State of Colorado began a focused effort to address future water supply issues for the Colorado's Front Range. The Governor's Metropolitan Water Roundtable was the first effort. River District Board and staff actually participated in this effort, an effort that continues today through the Roundtable/IBCC process. One of the byproducts of this process was a 1986 MOU among the River District, Denver Water and Northern Water that settled a number of claims for additional water rights and set the stage for the construction of Wolford Mountain Reservoir.
- In the 1980s and 1990s, the River District transitioned from primarily a lobbyist for water projects to an active builder and operator of projects. This strategy would require an increase in the staff size and capability. Ultimately the River District would construct or assist in the construction of six reservoir or supply projects: Taylor Draw, Wolford, Eagle Park, Elkhead and Old Dillon Reservoirs and the Kobe Pipeline.
- After the mid 1990s, the River District's role as a facilitator of multi-party agreements accelerated: The Orchard Mesa check case settlement, the Eagle River MOU with Colorado Springs and Aurora, the quantification of the Black Canyon federal reserved right, the Dominguez Wilderness and McInnis Canyon's water rights settlements, the Colorado River mainstem, Yampa River basin and Gunnison River basin programmatic biological opinions, and most recently, the Colorado River Wild and Scenic alternatives plan, the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement with Denver Water, and the Windy Gap Firing Project agreement with Northern Water and its Municipal Subdistrict.

- Beginning in early 2000s after several decades of generally wet conditions, the Colorado River Basin was hit by the major drought of 2000-2004. Although since 2005 conditions have been about average, the system reservoirs have not recovered. The River District began focusing on drought readiness and drought management at the regional, statewide and basinwide levels. The District began the Water Bank Work Group and an active role in the development of drought contingency plans.

One notable feature is that in all of the abovementioned accomplishments, the River District acted in concert with other interests, across the West Slope, statewide and even in conjunction with all 7-basin states and the federal government. The River District was the catalyst to bring broad (and sometimes divergent) interests together. Arguably, most of the above would not have been accomplished without the River District's vision, leadership and unique position and role. This suggests a paradigm and model for the District's future actions.

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

MAJOR INITIATIVES AND STRATEGIC RESPONSES TO OUTSIDE FORCES

We will carry out the following major initiatives (and related strategic responses to outside forces) as the primary components of the River District's strategic plan to fulfill its mission. We have listed below the significant forces that we believe will affect the River District in the mid-term to long-term (five to ten years). Following each, in italics, are the strategic initiatives planned for the River District in fulfillment of its mission.

Outreach and Advocacy: As the entity in the State of Colorado, statutorily charged to protect, develop, manage, and safeguard the water resources of the Colorado River Basin for the welfare of the District and for all citizens of Colorado, the River District has a basic responsibility to inform our constituents of statewide and basin-wide issues affecting water users of the Colorado River. In order to achieve the various strategic initiatives outlined in this Plan, the River District recognizes that public support will be required.

The District maintains a robust public education and outreach effort through an evolving variety of media and public meetings it either organizes or co-sponsors. Through pro-active involvement and dedication of resources, the District seeks to shape and influence public policy and legislation affecting Colorado River water resources, District water users, and operations of the District.

Strategic Initiatives

- *The River District will continue to enhance and expand partnerships and working relationships with key elected and appointed officials to advance western Colorado's perspectives on proposed legislation and regulations affecting western Colorado water resources at both the state and federal levels.*
- *The River District will assume a leadership role in offering timely and accurate public information regarding topical trends and developments concerning water resources, water use, and water conservation.*
- *The River District will make special efforts to inform and involve community leaders, especially elected leaders, in water-related matters.*
- *The River District will expand its efforts to actively engage the public through our website and other social media, including new and emerging media platforms, with a goal of reaching and engaging younger generations of water users.*
- *The River District will ensure its outreach and communications extend to all 15 counties of the District.*
- *The River District will expand its branding efforts to ensure grassroots support and understanding of the River District and its mission.*

Outreach in All Basins: While we have not ignored or been unhelpful to needs in other basins, a significant amount of the River District's time, energy and resources in the recent past have been

focused on the mainstem of the Colorado River and helping to address the long-term needs of the mainstem. A priority in the near-term will be to put significant focus on the needs of the other basins within the River District.

Strategic Initiatives

- *The River District will increase its outreach efforts with water organizations and other local organizations in the Gunnison, White and Yampa River basins. The goal will be to use River District resources to help those basins address their consumptive and non-consumptive water needs.*
- *The River District will look for and focus on opportunities where the River District can act as a catalyst to create partnerships that work for these other basins. A recent example of this is the cooperatively funded Lower Gunnison Project, orchestrated by the River District.*

Climate and Hydrologic Uncertainty: Climate and hydrologic uncertainty should be a major driver of what the River District does in the mid- to long-term. The impacts to precipitation are not clear. However, the overwhelming evidence indicates a warming and increasingly variable climate. Hotter temperatures will certainly result in increased demands for agricultural and municipal water supplies due to longer and warmer growing seasons. Patterns of snowpack accumulation and runoff will change. Runoff is projected to occur earlier and quicker, and there will be an earlier return to possibly lower base flows after runoff. These factors will stress storage supplies. On a local and regional basis, storage supplies may prove inadequate.

Strategic Initiatives

- *The River District will continue to evaluate and pursue options to increase local water storage supplies and optimize and expand, where appropriate, existing water storage.*
- *The River District will engage in support efforts aimed at understanding climate change and how it may affect water supplies.*
- *The River District will engage in and support water supply planning efforts, local and regional, which include adapting to climate change impacts.*
- *The River District will work with water users to ensure practicable and cost-effective water use efficiencies in all sectors where appropriate for the local conditions.*¹

Colorado River Supplies: Colorado may be closer to full use of its Colorado River supplies than commonly thought. Absent good planning, education, outreach, and mitigation measures to address regional water supply issues, Colorado risks overdevelopment of its Colorado River

¹ Increased water efficiency means reduced diversions to achieve a particular use. In the case of agricultural use, increased efficiency and reduced diversions can cause reduced return flows and undesirable decreases to base flows to the detriment of downstream diverters who rely on those return flows and to the detriment of the instream environment.

supplies to the detriment of existing water users. At some level of additional development, all existing uses junior to the compact (more than 500,000 acre feet) are at risk of curtailment under compact administration. The River District's will work on Colorado River Basin contingency planning and compact risk management, both related to low reservoir levels at Lake Powell that threaten power generation and the ability to meet Colorado River Compact obligations, be reflected in the Colorado Water Planning efforts.

Strategic Initiatives

- *The River District will advocate for full use of its Colorado River Basin water supplies for the benefit of the District's inhabitants, without undue risk of overdevelopment.*
- *The River District will advocate for full protection and preservation of water rights perfected by use prior to the effective date of the 1922 Compact and thereby excluded from curtailment in the event of compact administration.*
- *The River District will continue to study mechanisms, such as a Compact Water Bank and Contingency Planning that include demand management, drought operations of CRSP reservoirs, and water supply augmentation to address the risk of overdevelopment.*
- *The River District will work with the State Engineer's Office and other interested parties to develop an equitable mechanism for potential compact administration.*

Transmountain Diversions (TMD): The River District was created to protect West Slope interests in the face of transmountain diversions. That role continues today and will likely persist with increased pressure for further Front Range use of Colorado River supplies. The IBCC Conceptual Framework presented in Colorado's Water Plan sets forth seven principles to guide development of any potential new transmountain diversion. The River District will have a leadership role in evaluating any new TMD proposal in the context of the IBCC Conceptual Framework and the District's current policy on transmountain diversions.

The River District recognizes that certain existing water right control points on West Slope streams are critical to maintaining West Slope supplies and limiting transmountain diversions and will pursue protection of those water rights. A key provision to the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement pertains to the Shoshone Outage Protocol, which maintains river flows in the event of unscheduled outages of the power plant. The CRCA also provides for an investigation of an acquisition of the power plant and water rights in order to permanently protect the Shoshone Call and the resulting essential river flow.

Strategic Initiatives

- *The River District will diligently pursue investigation of such an acquisition or alternative means to permanently protect the flows generated from the historical Shoshone water right call.*

- *The River District will work to ensure that the IBCC Conceptual Framework is honored and fairly implemented.*
- *The River District will act in accordance with its formally-adopted Policy Statement on Transmountain Diversions.*

Agricultural Water Use: Most West Slope agricultural water use is senior to the Colorado River Compact. As Colorado nears full development of its Colorado River system water there will be pressure for temporary and permanent conversion of senior agricultural water rights to other uses. The Colorado River Compact Water Bank may provide a mechanism to protect agricultural water uses.

Strategic Initiatives

- *The River District will continue to study the concept of a voluntary and compensated compact water bank in collaboration with other stakeholders to best preserve western Colorado agriculture.*
- *The River District will explore alternative transfer methods that allow agricultural water users to benefit from the value of their water rights without the permanent transfer of the rights, and without adverse impacts to the local communities and the regional economy.*
- *Although the River District recognizes that some reductions in demands of agricultural water rights may be necessary to protect existing water uses in the basin, the District will work to ensure that the burden of demand reduction is shared across all types of water use sectors, and that agricultural water rights, and agriculture itself, are not injured.*
- *The River District will protect the integrity of senior agricultural water rights within Colorado's prior appropriation system, recognizing the potential risks to those rights posed by the constitution's municipal right of condemnation.*
- *The River District will advocate for sensible water quality regulations and cooperative actions that do not unduly burden the agricultural community.*

Water Needs/Project Development: Through Colorado's Water Plan and the Basin Implementation Plans, water needs within the River District have been, and will continue to be, refined and prioritized. The River District owns a large portfolio of conditional water rights that may be suitable for meeting a portion of the identified water demands. However, developments in judicial case law have made it more difficult for all water users, including the River District, to maintain conditional water rights.

Strategic Initiatives

- *The River District will work proactively with District constituents and basin roundtables to better quantify and refine both the consumptive and non-consumptive water needs, in amount, location and timing, throughout the District, including projected needs that may result from climate change.*

- *The River District will focus on identified water needs and how the use of the District's current and future conditional water rights can effectively help meet these needs.*
- *The River District will look for opportunities where its efforts are needed as a catalyst to help in-District interests plan for and meet their water needs in a manner that is consistent with the District's compact contingency planning goals and objectives.*
- *The River District will actively pursue funding sources and provide financial assistance to be used for the refurbishment and modernization of the aging water supply infrastructure within the District in order to help preserve and improve existing supplies and operations.*

Colorado's Water Plan: On May 15, 2013, Governor Hickenlooper issued an Executive Order mandating the development of a statewide, comprehensive Water Plan. The plan was delivered to the Governor in December 2015. The plan outlines broad concepts for meeting the State's water needs through the year 2050 in the face of unpredictable climate change and a doubling population by balancing agricultural preservation, possible new transmountain diversion development, municipal water conservation, and environmental enhancement while protecting Colorado's legal and institutional system of interstate compacts and equitable apportionment decrees, and local control.

There is uncertainty about how the plan will evolve over time and how the concepts embodied in the plan will be implemented.

Strategic Initiatives

- *The River District will work with each of the three Basin Roundtables that comprise the District to facilitate the refinement, development, and implementation of their Basin Implementation Plans.*
- *The River District will work with the, Southwest Water Conservation District, the Southwest Basin Roundtable and the three Basin Roundtables that comprise the District to achieve a consistent West Slope perspective related to contingency planning and compact administration risk matters.*
- *The River District will work with east slope roundtables to enhance east slope understanding of West Slope perspectives while also enhancing West Slope understanding of east slope perspectives.*
- *The River District will work with existing transmountain diverters to set a priority on contingency planning and compact administration risk management in order to provide a high level of protection for all of Colorado's existing Colorado River water uses.*
- *The River District will work to ensure that the IBCC Conceptual Framework is honored and fairly implemented.*

Water Efficiency and Conservation: We are transitioning from an era emphasizing new supply development to an era which includes higher emphasis on wise use of our limited water resources,

including higher water use efficiency and conservation of consumptive use. This is driven by both environmental imperatives, changing values, and increasing shortages of water resources available for development. The River District historically has supported efforts to increase water use efficiency and conservation. Examples of this are the number of grants the District has awarded for efficiency and conservation and the District's financial and staff support of the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Efficiency Project and the Lower Gunnison Project.

Strategic Initiatives

- *The River District will continue to promote, encourage and support wise and efficient use of all of Colorado's water resources*

Water Quality: The water quality regulatory framework will likely be an increasing challenge to River District Enterprise assets as well as the interests of the District's constituents. Historically, agriculture has largely escaped water quality regulation, due to nationwide exemptions under the Clean Water Act, but this may change. For example, at some point, there likely will be recognition that necessary contaminant (e.g., nutrient, selenium, salinity) reductions cannot be feasibly and economically attained solely through traditional treatment of point source municipal and industrial wastewater.

Strategic Initiatives

- *The River District will proactively convene and facilitate, as needed, local stakeholder groups to address local and regional water quality concerns to protect against regulatory actions.*
- *The River District will act in accordance with its formally-adopted Policy Statement on Water Quality.*

River District Staff Resources: For the River District to successfully fulfill its mission and meet strategic initiatives of the organization, it is imperative to attract and retain a highly qualified staff. The River District values each employee and their contributions and recognizes that the success of the organization depends heavily on the success of its employees.

Strategic Initiatives

- *The River District will seek to be an attractive and competitive employer in the region, state, and water community. This includes maintaining, to the best of its ability, a highly competitive compensation package and supporting the work-life balance that is valued by the District and its employees.*
- *The River District will have an excellent workforce that is talented and adaptable. The District will focus on effective hiring for new employees, professional development for existing employees and management to ensure that the proper expertise and leadership attributes are maintained and developed in all staff positions.*

- *The District likely will face significant staff transition in the next 10 years. In order to maintain the level of expertise desired, short periods of budgetary increases will be supported in order to accommodate these transitions.*
- *The District will strive for efficient and effective communication that facilitates collaboration and teamwork. The District will continue to involve, empower, and support all staff in the fulfillment of the District's mission.*

Financial Sustainability: The above strategic initiatives cannot be achieved without financial sustainability. The River District enjoys a diversified tax base for its Governmental Funds, which helps to reduce the impacts of dramatic downturns in its overall assessed valuation. Over the long-term, the Enterprise Fund is intended to be self-sustaining, managing the River District's Business-Type Activities.

Strategic Initiatives

- *The River District will evaluate all projects and investments for the potential impact on cash flows.*

Asset Management: The River District will plan and implement operation, maintenance and replacement (OM&R) activities to ensure the reliable and safe operation of all River District owned facilities and properties. The District recognizes that the significant investment in these assets as well as the financial stability of our District and Enterprise must be protected by regular maintenance and repair of its assets.

Strategic Initiatives

- *The River District will carefully plan and implement operation, maintenance and replacement (OM&R) activities to ensure the reliable and safe operation of District assets.*
- *The River District will plan and implement Enterprise focused OM&R activities in a fiscally responsible manner to ensure that Enterprise activities are financially sustainable.*



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE & FACILITATION

Introduction & Background

The [Colorado River Water Conservation District](#) (River District or District), a local government entity based in Glenwood Springs, was created by the Colorado General Assembly in 1937 to protect west slope water. The River District is governed by a Board of Directors (Board) with an appointed representative from each of the 15 counties in western Colorado that make up the District's territory. The mission of the River 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 all waters of the Colorado River to which the state is entitled.

In 2016, the Board embarked on a strategic planning effort and adopted a [Strategic Plan](#) that has been guiding the work of the District over the last several years. While many of the critical issues remain, significant changes have occurred since its adoption. Some of those changes include, but are not limited to, the passage of Ballot Measure 7A and subsequent creation of the Community Funding Partnership Program, the newly approved Shoshone Water Rights Preservation Campaign, elevated threat of buy-and-dry through water rights speculation, completion of Drought Contingency Planning and Demand Management efforts at the District and state level, Colorado River negotiations, the Drought Task Force and other legislative efforts and, the ongoing and worsening multi-decadal climate change fueled drought. Additionally, the staff of the District have experienced significant transition in the last few years through planned retirements and development of new positions. The District seeks to conduct internal culture, team alignment, and professional development work for all staff, and develop the implementation plan for the Strategic Plan.

As a result, the Board wishes to re-evaluate priorities and set the strategic vision for the next 3-5 years. Therefore, the Colorado River District is now accepting proposals for a Strategic Planning Facilitator to conduct the elements of the project outlined below.

Project Overview and Scope

In general, the consultant will work with the River District's Director of Strategic Partnerships, Chief of Operations, and leadership team to:

- Review and facilitate discussions related to strategic vision and priorities with the River District's Board of Directors and staff. It is anticipated that this would be accomplished through at least one workshop with the Board.
- Organize and facilitate staff organizational development, and culture and team cohesion exercises for a full staff of 25 positions.



- Provide Executive Coaching for the General Manager, General Counsel, and Chief of Operations.
- Conduct leadership training for 11 director level positions.
- Facilitate development of an internal 2025 staff-level implementation plan through defined actionable goals and objectives that align with the newly adopted Strategic Plan.

Project Timeline

The work is anticipated to occur over a period of 10-12 months beginning in May 2024.

- Deadline for proposal submittal: March 15, 2024.
- Review of Proposals and Potential Interviews: April 1-2, 2024.
- Anticipated Board Action to Approve Selection of Consultant: April 16-17, 2024.
- Contracting: late April 2024.
- Contract period: May 2024 – April 2025.

Proposal Submission

Interested parties should submit the following information to **Amy Moyer via e-mail at amoyer@crwcd.org** by **March 15, 2024 at 5 p.m. MST:**

- Qualifications of Project Team:
 - List prior experience working with public agencies and/or experience in the natural resources sector.
- Project Approach:
 - A detailed plan outlining how the consultant intends to approach and execute the project.
 - Please describe the planning tools and preferred methodology most relevant to the approach, timeline, and scope/deliverables described. If you have a “baseline” methodology or framework, please feel free to provide succinct attachment(s) which illustrate or describe these skills.
 - Detail how you would foresee adapting those tools/methods, if at all, to the approach, timeline and scope/deliverables generally described in this RFP.
 - Any suggested deviations from project elements listed above.
 - Please include as an attachment a sample strategic plan, implementation, or other materials if you have a particularly relevant (methodology, content, etc) from a past engagement.
- Timeline:
 - Proposed timeline including milestones and deliverables.
- Budget and Project Fees:
 - Estimated budget to implement full scope of work (including but not limited to consultant fees, travel, and materials).
 - Hourly rates and fees.

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- 7. Directors' Updates and Concerns – No Material Available.**

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- 8. Presentation by Erin Light, Division 6 Engineer, Regarding Division 6 Water Administration and Conditions – No Material Available.**



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CRWCD

FROM: LINDSAY DEFRADES AND ZANE KESSLER

SUBJECT: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS INFORMATION AND OUTREACH UPDATE

DATE: MARCH 29, 2024

NO ACTION: *This is an informational report on the activities of the External Affairs team in Quarter One of 2024.*

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S):

1. Outreach and Advocacy:

1.A. *The River District will continue to enhance and expand partnerships and working relationships with key elected and appointed officials to advance western Colorado's perspectives on proposed legislation and regulations affecting western Colorado water resources at both the state and federal levels.*

1.B. *The River District will assume a leadership role in offering timely and accurate public information regarding topical trends and developments concerning water resources, water use, and water conservation.*

1.C. *The River District will make special efforts to inform and involve community leaders, especially elected leaders, in water-related matters.*

1.D. *The River District will expand its efforts to actively engage the public through our website and other social media, including new and emerging media platforms, with a goal of reaching and engaging younger generations of water users.*

1.E. *The River District will ensure its outreach and communications extend to all 15 counties of the District.*

1.F. *The River District will expand its branding efforts to ensure grassroots support and understanding of the River District and its mission.*

2. Outreach in All Basins:

2.A. *The River District will increase its outreach efforts with water organizations and other local organizations in the Gunnison, White and Yampa River basins. The goal will be to use*



River District resources to help those basins address their consumptive and non-consumptive water needs.

9. Water Efficiency and Conservation:

9.A. The River District will continue to promote, encourage, and support wise and efficient use of all of Colorado's water resources.

General Communications Summary

During the first quarter of 2024, the External Affairs team worked to balance the dynamic communications needs of the Shoshone Water Right Preservation Campaign with consistent, District-wide strategic messaging, local stakeholder engagement, and media relations. Planning and implementation of annual State of the River meetings required a significant amount of staff time and relied on support from a cross-disciplinary teams. Increased media attention on the work of the River District surrounding not only the Shoshone Water Right Preservation campaign, but also Community Funding Partnership projects and inter-basin negotiations, led to a robust tally of media mentions [HERE](#).

In mid-March, Marielle Cowdin, Director of Public Relations since May 2021, stepped down from her position at the River District. District leadership is working with current External Affairs staff to evaluate how best to meet the current and future public relations, media, and communication needs of the District.

State of the River Meetings

A spring tradition in Western Colorado, the State of the River meetings represent one of the most significant investments of staff time and resources for the EA team annually. This year, along with support from Raquel Flinker, Rebecca Briesmoore, and Melissa Wills, the team is hosting a total of ten State of the River meetings and has completed three meetings as of the date of this memo. The Lower Gunnison State of the River meeting in Montrose kicked off the series on March 18 with over 105 attendees, followed by the Uncompahgre River meeting in Ridgway on March 19 with 56 attendees, and the White River meeting in Meeker on March 26 with 64 attendees.

Face-to-face events like the State of the River meetings are key to fostering trust and maintaining visibility and public knowledge about the work we do in communities across the District. These meetings also help to establish and maintain the River District's expert level voice and strengthen relationships with partner organizations while providing a platform to celebrate local impacts of the work we do, such as Community Funding Partnership projects and other collaborative efforts.

As of March 29, upcoming State of the River Meetings include:

- April 1 – Colorado River: Grand Junction;
- April 2 – Lower Yampa River (Craig);
- April 3 – Upper Yampa River (Steamboat Springs);



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- May 7 – Middle Colorado River (Rifle);
 - May 9 – Upper Colorado River (Granby);
 - May 23 – Blue River (Silverthorne); and
 - May 29 – Eagle River (Edwards).

Shoshone Water Right Preservation Campaign

The External Affairs team continues to support outreach and engagement efforts around the Shoshone Water Right Preservation (SWRP) campaign. After the successful launch of the campaign at the Special Joint Board Meeting and signing event on December 19, the new year began with both short-term and long-term communication goals.

In the short term, during January, staff worked closely with West Slope coalition members to keep them informed and engaged, and to provide various platforms for them to voice their support for the Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA). This included coordinating media interviews, opinion pieces, and letters of support. Many of these organizations also sent representatives to provide public comments in support of SWRP at the Colorado Water Conservation Board meeting on January 29 in Aurora. 18 members of the Coalition, representing a wide array of political, economic and geographic interests, provided compelling testimony, after which the CWCB voted unanimously to recommend the appropriation of \$20 million in the 2024 Projects Bill for the purchase of the Shoshone water rights.

Long term communication strategy efforts involve growing Shoshone-focused messaging on social media, building a robust “following,” maintaining an active website, as well as basin and national level media pitches. This work continues with the support of GBSM, the public relations contractor assisting coalition members in the SWRP campaign.

Other ongoing work involves the local funding campaign. The EA team has been working closely with administrative staff to facilitate outreach to West Slope coalition entities, scheduling public meetings, the development of informational materials, as well as in-person workshops and board meetings. See General Manager memo [HERE](#) for further information regarding the local funding efforts.

Media Management

Prioritizing relationships with new and established journalists across the District, state and basin continues to yield positive results. Interest in SWRP continues to be high in media at the local and state level, and the team is working closely with GBSM to generate more stories with basin-wide and national outlets.

The District has sent out six press releases in the first quarter, all of which generated unique media stories, some of which ran on multiple platforms. These efforts have helped to feature the work of the River District in 36 news stories between January 1 and March 29. See attached Media Mentions [HERE](#).



Other Events and Public Engagement

1. Colorado Water Congress

Staff from the River District, including the External Affairs team, attended the 2024 Winter Colorado Water Congress Conference in Aurora from January 31 to February 2. Zane Kessler presented on a panel regarding State Affairs to the sold-out audience in attendance at this year's event.

2. Water With Your Lunch

On April 11, in partnership with Water Education Colorado, the Colorado River District will host the spring installment of Water With Your Lunch: Know Your Snow. The focus of this free, virtual, lunch-hour webinar is Mind the Gap: from Forecast to Flow.

Guest speakers from the Colorado River District, the Aspen Global Change Institute, the CSU Climate Center, and NOAA's Colorado Basin River Forecast Center will break down our current snowpack conditions, look at upcoming expectations for runoff, and examine how recent climate trends are affecting the way we predict water availability in the West.

3. *In addition to these events, staff has presented to or informed the following groups and organizations since the last board meeting:*

- Eagle River Water and Sanitation District
- Fire Mountain Canal
- Orchard Mesa Irrigation District
- City of Glenwood Springs City Council
- City of Grand Junction City Council
- City of Rifle City Council
- Clifton Water District
- Clinton Ditch and Reservoir Company
- Club 20
- Colorado Association of Viticulture and Enology
- Colorado River Basin Roundtable
- Colorado Water Congress
- Crystal River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group
- Drought Advisors
- Eagle County Board of County Commissioners
- Grand County Board of County Commissioners
- General Manager's Council, Gunnison/Grand Valley
- Grand County Open Lands, Rivers and Trails Advisory Committee
- Grand Valley Irrigation Company
- Grand Valley Water Users Association
- Gunnison River Basin Roundtable
- Lower Gunnison River State of the River
- Lunch with Locals, Town of Vail
- Mesa County Board of County Commissioners
- Mesa County Irrigation District
- Middle Colorado Watershed Council
- Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Water Quality and Quantity Committee
- Palisade Irrigation District
- Riversedge West Riparian Restoration Conference
- Southwestern Water Conservation District Annual Water Conference



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- Uncompahgre River State of the River
 - UVWUA Annual Meeting
 - Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority
 - Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
 - Ute Water
 - White River State of the River
 - Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable

Outreach

1. Digital Outreach

a. Social Media

- i. During the last quarter, the River District’s social media audience gained 72 followers across the three platforms of Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram. River District accounts have **a total of 8,759 followers**.
- ii. Current follower totals for three social media platforms.
 1. *Facebook*: **3,321 followers +30**
 2. *X (formerly Twitter)*: **3,277 followers +17**
 3. *Instagram*: **2,161 followers +25**

b. E-Newsletter – The News Drop

- i. The EA Team continues to work with both the technical team and the CFP team to make sure that funding opportunities are relevant and up to date with updated links at the bottom of our bi-weekly news roundup.
- ii. As of March 29, **5,978 people** are subscribed to the River District *News Drop* e-newsletter, a bi-weekly email containing water news from across the state and region. The External Affairs Team also sends board update blogs and event announcements to this audience. During quarter one, the News Drop consistently had **an open rate of between 39% and 51%**.

2. Media Relations

- a. Between January 1 and March 29, 2024, the Colorado River District was featured in 37 news stories, op-eds, and columns. Links and dates for these stories are available in the attached Media Mentions document **HERE**.
- b. Staff continues to engage the skills and established media connections of GBSM in their Phase II contract for statewide, basin-level, and national coverage of the SWRP campaign.

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External Affairs Q2 2024 Media Mentions Attachment

March 29, 2024

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| Publication | Date | Title |
|------------------------|-------------|---|
| Aspen Daily News | 31-Jan-24 | <u>State OKs assistance to purchase Shoshone water rights</u> |
| Aspen Journalism | 6-Feb-24 | <u>Colorado Springs agrees to give up water rights for Summit County reservoirs</u> |
| Aspen Journalism | 21-Feb-24 | <u>Pitkin County exploring concern that Shoshone deal could harm Roaring Fork</u> |
| Aspen Journalism | 10-Mar-24 | <u>In dry years, Colorado's Crystal River runs at a trickle — but why?</u> |
| Aspen Journalism | 28-Mar-24 | <u>Steering committee IDs three ways forward for Crystal River protection</u> |
| Craig Press | 6-Mar-24 | <u>River District launches State of the River series</u> |
| Craig Press | 9-Jan-24 | <u>Opinion: Dylan Roberts: The 2024 legislative session begins</u> |
| Denver Post | 26-Feb-24 | <u>A long-sought deal around a little power plant might be a model for Colorado River cooperation</u> |
| Gunnison Country Times | 7-Feb-24 | <u>Colo. River District to protect key Western Slope water rights</u> |
| Gunnison Country Times | 20-Mar-24 | <u>City receives \$1.75 million for water treatment plant project</u> |
| KUNC | 9-Feb-24 | <u>In \$100 million Colorado River deal, water and power collide</u> |
| Montrose Press | 8-Mar-24 | <u>Annual State of the River conference begins in Montrose March 18</u> |



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|--------------------------|-----------|---|
| Ouray County Plaindealer | 10-Jan-24 | County replaces River District rep |
| Ouray County Plaindealer | 21-Feb-24 | County rethinks water lawsuit involvement |
| Ouray County Plaindealer | 21-Mar-24 | News Briefs: Official: Runoff forecast slightly below normal |
| Post Independent | 7-Jan-24 | Monday letters: Water rights, budget approval, Jan. 6 and democracy |
| Sky-Hi News | 15-Feb-24 | Letter to the editor: Shoshone water rights purchase provides security for future generations |
| Sky-Hi News | 3-Mar-24 | Colorado lawmakers unanimously pass joint resolution to increase restoration efforts for Grand Lake's clarity |
| The Colorado Sun | 2-Jan-24 | In tense Colorado River negotiations, Becky Mitchell takes a stand for Colorado and tribal water rights |
| The Colorado Sun | 25-Jan-24 | Opinion: Shoshone water rights offer once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Colorado's namesake river that we must secure |
| The Colorado Sun | 30-Jan-24 | Colorado commits \$20 million to help purchase historic Colorado River water rights on the Western Slope |
| The Colorado Sun | 6-Mar-24 | Western states to release competing Colorado River proposals after tense negotiations stalled |
| The Daily Sentinel | 7-Jan-24 | Education funding, water to highlight start of 2024 session |
| The Daily Sentinel | 9-Jan-24 | Opinion: Lurline Underbrink Curran's legacy is permanency of Shoshone flows |



| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---|
| The Daily Sentinel | 19-Jan-24 | <u>The vital relationship between water and wine</u> |
| The Daily Sentinel | 25-Jan-24 | <u>Urge CWCB to help acquire Shoshone water rights</u> |
| The Daily Sentinel | 29-Jan-24 | <u>State board OKs \$20 million for Shoshone water rights purchase</u> |
| The Daily Sentinel | 4-Feb | <u>Opinion: Securing our water future through permanent protection</u> |
| The Daily Sentinel | 16-Feb-24 | <u>Ute Water kicks in \$2 million for Shoshone water rights purchase</u> |
| The Daily Sentinel | 28-Feb-24 | <u>\$350,000 more donated to Shoshone water rights purchase</u> |
| The Daily Sentinel | 15-Mar-24 | <u>State of River events kick off this month</u> |
| The Daily Sentinel | 22-Mar-24 | <u>Water district subject to TABOR vote requirement</u> |
| The Daily Sentinel | 27-Mar-24 | <u>Consultant selected to conduct assessment of river corridor</u> |
| The Gazette | 4-Feb-24 | <u>Nearly finalized New Blue River agreement to provide more water for Colorado Springs</u> |
| Vail Daily | 1-Feb | <u>Letter: Shoshone water rights deal is a win-win</u> |
| Vail Daily | 7-Feb-24 | <u>Find out more about the Shoshone water rights agreement in Vail on Wednesday</u> |
| Western Slope Now | 5-Mar-24 | <u>Colorado River District finalizes more donations to buy the Shoshone water right</u> |



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CRWCD
ANDY MUELLER, GENERAL MANAGER
PETER FLEMING, GENERAL COUNSEL

FROM: ZANE KESSLER, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

SUBJECT: STATE AFFAIRS UPDATE

DATE: APRIL 5, 2024

ACTIONS: *No specific action requested with this memo; any legislation for your consideration and possible action will be provided prior to the April Quarterly Board meeting.*

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S):

1. Outreach and Advocacy: *As the entity in the State of Colorado, statutorily charged to protect, develop, manage, and safeguard the water resources of the Colorado River Basin for the welfare of the District and for all citizens of Colorado, the River District has a basic responsibility to inform our constituents of statewide and basin-wide issues affecting water users of the Colorado River. In order to achieve the various strategic initiatives outlined in this Plan, the River District recognizes that public support will be required.*

The District maintains a robust public education and outreach effort through an evolving variety of media and public meetings it either organizes or co-sponsors. Through pro-active involvement and dedication of resources, the District seeks to shape and influence public policy and legislation affecting Colorado River water resources, District water users, and operations of the District.

- **1.A.** *The River District will continue to enhance and expand partnerships and working relationships with key elected and appointed officials to advance western Colorado's perspectives on proposed legislation and regulations affecting western Colorado water resources at both the state and federal levels.*
- **1.B.** *The River District will assume a leadership role in offering timely and accurate public information regarding topical trends and developments concerning water resources, water use, and water conservation.*
- **1.C.** *The River District will make special efforts to inform and involve community leaders, especially elected leaders, in water-related matters.*



As of the date of this memo, the Colorado General Assembly has passed the two-thirds mark of the 120-day legislative session. House and Senate leadership are now focused on one overarching strategy: managing a dwindling legislative calendar to ensure that priority bills (and there are a lot of them left) do not die on the calendar at midnight on May 8, 2024.

Included below is an overview of the legislature's 2024-2025 budget package. Staff will provide a more timely legislative update, including new water bills for consideration and action, ahead of your April quarterly meeting.

State Funding for Shoshone Permanency Included in Projects Bill: On April 1, 2024 the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees introduced [HB24-1435](#). This is the annual "projects bill" to identify projects to be funded through the Colorado Water Conservation Board's (CWCB) construction fund.

Importantly, this year's projects bill includes a transfer of \$20,000,000 from the severance tax perpetual base fund to the CWCB construction fund for the acquisition and protection of the historic Shoshone water rights.

The bill also includes authorization for the CWCB to loan approximately \$256.7 million to Northern Water from the CWCB Construction Fund and the Severance Tax Perpetual Base to the Windy Gap Firing Project and the Northern Integrated Supply Project, respectively.

HB24-1435 will receive its first hearing in the House Agriculture Committee on Monday, April 8, 2024.

Long Bill Introduced in House: On Monday, March 25, the [2024-2025 Long Appropriations Bill](#), otherwise known as the Long Bill, was introduced in the House. Arguably the most important legislation each session, the focus of this year's \$40.6 billion spending plan focuses on funding increases for affordable housing, education and state employees.

Unlike the federal government, Colorado's legislators are required by the Colorado Constitution to develop a balanced budget each and every year. That work is informed by economic forecasts from the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting and the nonpartisan Office of Legislative Council. These offices present economic and revenue forecasts to the legislature on a quarterly basis. The March forecast takes on special importance though, because those estimates determine how much the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) has to work with in the final budget bill.

The JBC began drafting the state budget in November, after receiving the Governor's budget request and a series of hearings with the executive branch. Less than two weeks before introduction of the Long Bill, however, the JBC was forced to backtrack when the March economic forecast showed a significant reduction in revenue expectations and a \$170 million budget shortfall.

JBC members then scrambled to find money from other accounts, including \$70 million swept from severance taxes. They deployed a number of accounting tricks, such as reclassifying how money from cigarette and gaming taxes are counted, to end up with a balanced budget package.



Severance Tax Sweep: the use of severance taxes to balance this year’s budget was first outlined in the Governor’s budget request in November of 2023. The question that remained unanswered until now was just how big the sweep would be. In the end, the JBC swept \$69 million in severance taxes. Roughly \$44 million came from the severance tax operational account and an additional \$25 million came from the Department of Local Affairs energy and rural impact grants.

A handful of the legislature’s key funding priorities within the 2024 Long Bill include:

- \$49 million to pay for affordable housing projects;
- \$19 million to add workers in industries with shortages and hire 50 new public defenders to address workload issues at the Office of the State Public Defender;
- \$56 million to cover shortfalls in the Proposition FF program to provide free lunches to all students;
- A \$420 increase in statewide per-pupil spending, which brings the statewide total to \$8,496 per individual; and
- \$229 million to increase pay for state employees by 3% across the board and to add 3.7% bonuses for longevity – the largest increase in at least a decade for state employees.

With the Long Bill in-hand and moving toward passage, the huge number of bills with fiscal notes that have been awaiting its fate in the Appropriations Committees will now begin competing for limited leftover General Fund dollars.



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CRWCD
ANDY MUELLER, GENERAL MANAGER
PETER FLEMING, GENERAL COUNSEL

FROM: ZANE KESSLER, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

DATE: MARCH 29, 2024

SUBJECT: FEDERAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

ACTION REQUESTED: *No specific action requested with this memo; however, as always, Board direction and priority-setting is welcomed.*

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S):

1. Outreach and Advocacy: *As the entity in the State of Colorado, statutorily charged to protect, develop, manage, and safeguard the water resources of the Colorado River Basin for the welfare of the District and for all citizens of Colorado, the River District has a basic responsibility to inform our constituents of statewide and basin-wide issues affecting water users of the Colorado River. In order to achieve the various strategic initiatives outlined in this Plan, the River District recognizes that public support will be required.*

The District maintains a robust public education and outreach effort through an evolving variety of media and public meetings it either organizes or co-sponsors. Through pro-active involvement and dedication of resources, the District seeks to shape and influence public policy and legislation affecting Colorado River water resources, District water users, and operations of the District.

1.A. *The River District will continue to enhance and expand partnerships and working relationships with key elected and appointed officials to advance western Colorado's perspectives on proposed legislation and regulations affecting western Colorado water resources at both the state and federal levels.*

1.B. *The River District will assume a leadership role in offering timely and accurate public information regarding topical trends and developments concerning water resources, water use, and water conservation.*

1.C. *The River District will make special efforts to inform and involve community leaders, especially elected leaders, in water-related matters.*



Staff continues to engage with our federal elected officials and relevant agencies on a regular basis. Much of our work on federal issues over the last quarter has centered on continued engagement with our delegation on Farm Bill priorities, discussion of water legislation with congressional staff, and Biden Administration outreach at USDA and the Bureau of Reclamation. An overview of key federal issues and other matters important to West Slope water users is discussed in more detail below.

Capitol Hill Updates

Congress Avoids Shutdown Finalizes FY 2024 Appropriations Bills

On March 23, Congress passed the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 ([H.R. 2882](#)). The \$1.2 trillion second “minibus” package covered the Defense, Financial Services, Homeland Security, Labor-HHS-Education, Legislative Branch, and State-Foreign Operations bills. The House passed the bill by a vote of 286-134, and the Senate followed, passing the bill 74-24. President Biden signed the legislation into law shortly afterwards to avoid a partial government shutdown.

This came after President Biden avoided an initial partial government shutdown when he signed [H.R. 4366](#), a minibus package of six spending bills, on March 9. H.R. 4366 was a \$460 billion package that included six spending bills to fund several departments, including Agriculture, Interior, Veterans Affairs, Commerce, Justice, and Energy. The bill passed the House on a 339-85 vote, and 75-22 in the Senate. It also contained more than 6,000 community or congressionally directed funding projects, also known as earmarks.

Some of the key accounts funded within H.R. 4366 include:

- **Agriculture:** The bill includes \$914.9 million for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, about \$26 million below 2023 level. That includes \$14.65M in programmatic PL-566 funding all for multi-benefit projects. While this figure is a \$40 million cut from the Senate proposal, there is some solace found in the fact it wasn’t zeroed out as proposed in the House.

On the policy front, proposals to prohibit purchase of farmland by certain foreign nationals was scaled back to a measure that would improve the tracking of foreign-owned land and give the Agriculture Secretary a seat on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

- **Energy and Water:** The bill includes \$1.9 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation, \$454 million above the president's request and \$31 million above the enacted level. This includes a bump up of \$54 million for WaterSMART, an additional \$30 million for drought programs, and an increase for ongoing storage. The Army Corps of Engineers would receive \$8.7 billion, or \$1.3 billion more than Biden's request.



- **Interior/Environment:** The bill includes \$9.2 billion for the EPA, which is \$976.5 million below the fiscal 2023 enacted level and \$2.9 billion below the president's budget request.

With these actions, all federal departments and agencies have funding through September 30, 2024. Congress will now pivot to the Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations process following the release of President Joe Biden's \$7.3 trillion budget request on March 11.

West Slope water projects receiving earmarks within H.R. 4366 included:

- \$5.0 Million for the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District's Wolf Creek Reservoir project;
- \$2.2 Million for the City of Craig to construct the Craig-South water distribution line improvement;
- \$1.75 Million for the City of Gunnison to help fund a new water treatment plant;
- \$2 Million for the Town of Silt's water plant renovations;
- \$1.0 Million to the Town of Minturn for the Minturn Water Storage Tank Project;
- 3.6 Million for CSU's Colorado Wildfire Risk Reduction and Resilient Forests Project; and
- \$1 Million for the Town of Gypsum to fund a new Wastewater Infrastructure Project.

Food Aid Funding, Conservation Disputes Raise Farm Bill Stakes

Members of the Board may recall from your last quarterly Federal Affairs update that the House leadership chaos of January 2023 had wide implications for the 2023 Farm Bill — including holding up work on the bill and complicating its eventual path to passage. Given the additional delays from the debt ceiling and appropriations negotiations, lawmakers have yet to release the draft text of the Farm Bill legislation in both chambers.

The prospects for the 2024 Farm Bill remain uncertain as deep divisions between Democrats and Republicans over key priorities like nutrition, conservation, and funding were evident in a recent House Agriculture Committee hearing. Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA) pledged Republican support for bolstering the farm safety net while maintaining conservation and nutrition benefits, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – formerly known as food stamps). However, Democrats, led by Rep. David Scott (D-GA), are adamant against any cuts to SNAP and resist GOP efforts to redirect climate-friendly conservation funding.

Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack, has been on Capitol Hill defending the Biden Administration's priorities – advocating for a more consistent funding stream for disaster assistance and opposing efforts to divert funding from climate and conservation provisions previously funded by the Inflation Reduction Act. Despite the challenges, Chairman Thompson remained committed to advancing the bill this year, emphasizing bipartisan opportunities for funding shared priorities without compromising SNAP benefits or essential conservation programs. However, significant hurdles, including a tight legislative calendar and partisan disagreements, may impede progress towards the passage of a comprehensive Farm Bill in the



118th Congress.

Mitch McConnell Announces Step Down from Top Senate Slot

On February 28, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell announced that he would not run for another term as his party's leader in the Senate although he plans to serve out the remainder of his term, which expires at the end of 2026. After initial wrangling, Senators John Cornyn (TX) and John Thune (SD) are vying for the top slot for next Congress, and John Barrasso (WY) has indicated he will run for the Republican Whip after briefly entertaining a run for leader. Along with ushering in a new top Senate Republican for the first time in 17 years, Barrasso's leadership run will also prompt changes in Committee leadership of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee with Sen. Lee from Utah next in line in seniority to take over leadership there.

Rep. Neguse Chosen Unanimously to Replace Rep. Clyburn in House Leadership

On March 20, 2024, Congressman Joe Neguse (CO-2) was elected unanimously by the House Democratic Caucus to succeed Congressman Jim Clyburn as Assistant Democratic Leader in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rep. Neguse, 39 years old and in his third term in Congress, is known as a protégé of Rep. Clyburn on Capitol Hill. Neguse was already serving a role in his party's leadership as Chair of the House Democrats' Policy and Communications Committee. Rep. Neguse is also known in Capitol Hill for his seniority on the House Natural Resources Committee.

House GOP Wildlife Bill Seeks to Rescind Climate, Infrastructure Money

A House Republican bill, introduced by Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR), aims to conserve at-risk wildlife and species habitat with significantly less funding than a bipartisan Senate bill currently facing barriers to passage. The GOP legislation, so far with 18 co-sponsors, would authorize up to \$300 million annually for state and tribal wildlife agencies over the next five fiscal years, a stark contrast to the roughly \$1.4 billion in annual mandatory spending proposed in [S. 1149](#), the *Recovering America's Wildlife Act*. The House bill also includes language that would tighten the definition of critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and bar federal funds from being used to remove any federal dams, or for "climate-focused decisions that lack a connection to the state comprehensive plan."

Additionally, Chairman Westerman's bill, [H.R. 7408](#), seeks to rescind hundreds of millions in funds allocated to the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. Not surprisingly, the bill is facing challenges in the Democrat-controlled Senate due to the BIL and IRA rescission language.

Biden Administration Updates

President's Budget for FY25

President Biden submitted his FY 2025 budget proposal on March 11 shortly after his State of the Union address on March 7. The budget request includes a proposed \$17.8 billion budget for the



Department of the Interior in FY 2025, emphasizing increased funding for tribal programs, climate change initiatives, and various conservation efforts.

The \$1.6 billion budget request for the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) seeks to address ongoing drought issues in the western United States, particularly along the Colorado River System. Interior funds are also budgeted amongst the agencies for national parks, wildlife refuges, endangered species conservation, forest management, wildland firefighting, and offshore energy development.

USDA's budget request included a \$733 million increase in climate-related funding over fiscal 2023 spending and \$387 million more to the USDA Forest Service to help address recruitment and retention challenges — including for the wildland firefighting workforce — critical risk mitigation work and other priorities.

The White House has proposed \$11 billion for the EPA in FY 2025, a significant increase compared to the \$9.2 billion appropriated for FY 2024. The budget aims to enhance EPA staffing levels, environmental justice initiatives, and enforcement efforts. Specifically, it allocates funds for air quality improvement, climate change mitigation, and tackling emerging contaminants like PFAS. The budget also prioritizes water infrastructure and cleanup programs, Superfund site remediation, and efforts to address toxic substances. Additionally, the proposal includes funding for the expansion of the American Climate Corps, as announced in President Biden's recent State of the Union address.

The likelihood of Congress fully adopting the Biden Administration's FY 2025 budget request is highly unlikely as Congress typically uses the President's request as a marker to create their own budget through the appropriations process.

Interior Announces Appointment of Long-Time Hill Staffer to Reclamation

A longtime adviser to the late Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), John Watts, will become a senior counselor to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. John advised Sen. Feinstein for 21 years on California water issues and the environment. He was involved in drafting provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and served as the lead staff member in Sen. Feinstein's negotiations of tribal and other major California water settlements, among many other water resource priorities of the late-Senator.

Army Corps Announces Post-Sackett Wetlands Protections

The Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) announced plans to safeguard wetlands no longer regulated by the Clean Water Act (CWA) following the Supreme Court ruling in *Sackett v. EPA*. For a wetland to be regulated by the CWA, it must have a continuous surface connection to a regulated "waters of the U.S." or WOTUS. The Corps is planning to utilize existing authorities and resources to conserve what they consider vulnerable water bodies, focusing on ecosystem restoration projects, nature-based flood solutions, and assisting states and tribes with water protection efforts in regions seen as vulnerable to development because of the Sackett ruling.



Despite the impacts from Sackett, the Corps will continue to require mitigation for wetland losses in permitted projects. President Biden has in the past emphasized the Administration's commitment to protecting water resources amid concerns over rollbacks to clean water regulations due to Sackett. Meanwhile, some states, like Colorado and New Mexico, are pursuing new permitting programs to safeguard waterways, while others, like Indiana, have reduced wetland protections under state law.

Reclamation Review Calculates Evaporation Losses on Colorado River

On February 8, 2024, the Bureau of Reclamation unveiled a comprehensive analysis detailing natural water losses along the lower Colorado River, marking a significant advancement in our understanding of water management challenges in the region. The “Mainstream Evaporation and Riparian Evapotranspiration” report, published on February 8, provides an in-depth examination of water surface evaporation, soil moisture evaporation, and plant transpiration. This study is instrumental for the Bureau as it enhances its modeling efforts and guides water operations across the Colorado River Basin.

The report’s findings revealed that some 1.3 million-acre feet of water are lost annually due to evaporation and transpiration along the lower Colorado River. Specifically, from Lake Mead to the Mexican border, about 860,000 acre-feet of water evaporates each year, with an additional 445,000 acre-feet lost through natural vegetation and habitat processes.

EPA Announces New Office of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

On March 1, 2023, the Environmental Protection Administration announced that it was establishing a new office to expand engagement opportunities with agricultural and rural communities. The new office will be led by Rod Snyder, who has served as EPA Administrator Michael Regan’s Senior Advisor for Agriculture since October 2021. According to a release, the new office will expand on the work of the EPA Agricultural Advisor and increase coordination with a network of existing agriculture policy advisors located in all ten EPA regional offices across the country.

In close coordination with EPA’s program offices and regions, the office will “forge practical, science-based solutions that protect the environment while ensuring a vibrant and productive agricultural system”. Additionally, the new office will facilitate closer coordination with relevant federal and state partners such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and state departments of agriculture. The office will also house EPA’s existing Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee. Please visit the [Office of Agriculture and Rural Affairs website](#) for more information.



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CRWCD
ANDY MUELLER, GENERAL MANAGER
PETER FLEMING, GENERAL COUNSEL

FROM: ZANE KESSLER, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: 2024 ANNUAL POLICIES REVIEW

DATE: APRIL 5, 2024

ACTION: *Staff requests that the Board review and advise of any desired changes to the attached policies.*

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S): *3. Climate and Hydrologic Uncertainty: Climate and hydrologic uncertainty should be a major driver of what the River District does in the mid- to long-term. The impacts to precipitation are not clear. However, the overwhelming evidence indicates a warming and increasingly variable climate. Hotter temperatures will certainly result in increased demands for agricultural and municipal water supplies due to longer and warmer growing seasons. Patterns of snowpack accumulation and runoff will change. Runoff is projected to occur earlier and quicker, and there will be an earlier return to possibly lower base flows after runoff. These factors will stress storage supplies. On a local and regional basis, storage supplies may prove inadequate.*

Strategic Initiatives

- *3.A. The River District will continue to evaluate and pursue options to increase local water storage supplies and optimize and expand, where appropriate, existing water storage.*
- *3.C. The River District will engage in and support water supply planning efforts, local and regional, which include adapting to climate change impacts.*
- *3.D. The River District will work with water users to ensure practicable and cost-effective water use efficiencies in all sectors where appropriate for the local conditions.*

4. Colorado River Supplies: *Colorado may be closer to full use of its Colorado River supplies than commonly thought. Absent good planning, education, outreach, and mitigation measures to address regional water supply issues, Colorado risks overdevelopment of its Colorado River supplies to the detriment of existing water users. At some level of additional development, all existing uses junior to the compact (more than 500,000 acre feet) are at risk of curtailment under compact administration. The River District's will work on Colorado River Basin contingency planning and compact risk management, both related to low reservoir levels at Lake*



Powell that threaten power generation and the ability to meet Colorado River Compact obligations, be reflected in the Colorado Water Planning efforts.

Strategic Initiatives

- *4.A. The River District will advocate for full use of its Colorado River Basin water supplies for the benefit of the District's inhabitants, without undue risk of overdevelopment.*
- *4.B. The River District will advocate for full protection and preservation of water rights perfected by use prior to the effective date of the 1922 Compact and thereby excluded from curtailment in the event of compact administration.*
- *4.C. The River District will continue to study mechanisms, such as a Compact Water Bank and Contingency Planning that include demand management, drought operations of CRSP reservoirs, and water supply augmentation to address the risk of overdevelopment.*
- *4.D. The River District will work with the State Engineer's Office and other interested parties to develop an equitable mechanism for potential compact administration.*

6. Agricultural Water Use: Most West Slope agricultural water use is senior to the Colorado River Compact. As Colorado nears full development of its Colorado River system water there will be pressure for temporary and permanent conversion of senior agricultural water rights to other uses. The Colorado River Compact Water Bank may provide a mechanism to protect agricultural water uses.

Strategic Initiatives

- *6.A. The River District will continue to study the concept of a voluntary and compensated compact water bank in collaboration with other stakeholders to best preserve western Colorado agriculture.*
- *6.B. The River District will explore alternative transfer methods that allow agricultural water users to benefit from the value of their water rights without the permanent transfer of the rights, and without adverse impacts to the local communities and the regional economy.*
- *6.C. Although the River District recognizes that some reductions in demands of agricultural water rights may be necessary to protect existing water uses in the basin, the District will work to ensure that the burden of demand reduction is shared across all types of water use sectors, and that agricultural water rights, and agriculture itself, are not injured.*
- *6.D. The River District will protect the integrity of senior agricultural water rights within Colorado's prior appropriation system, recognizing the potential risks to those rights posed by the constitution's municipal right of condemnation.*
- *6.E. The River District will advocate for sensible water quality regulations and cooperative actions that do not unduly burden the agricultural community.*

9. Water Efficiency and Conservation: We are transitioning from an era emphasizing new supply development to an era which includes higher emphasis on wise use of our limited water resources, including higher water use efficiency and conservation of consumptive use. This is driven by both environmental imperatives, changing values, and increasing shortages of water resources available for development. The River District historically has supported efforts to increase water use efficiency and conservation. Examples of this are the number of grants the District has awarded for efficiency and conservation and the District's financial



and staff support of the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Efficiency Project and the Lower Gunnison Project.

Strategic Initiatives

- ***9.A. The River District will continue to promote, encourage and support wise and efficient use of all of Colorado's water resources.***
-

The attached policies are eligible for review by the Board of Directors according to the Board's triennial review process. The Board's adopted practice is to review approximately one-third of the River District's existing policy statements on a rotating three-year basis.

For a complete list of River District policies, refer to our website: www.coloradoriverdistrict.org/policies/

While this annual review of policies is a worthwhile endeavor, staff wants to be mindful of the Board's time and would like the discussion and input to be on substantive matters. Staff proposes to only bring substantive changes to the policy to the Board's attention for discussion and will internally handle minor edits such as punctuation and grammar.

This annual policy review is also an opportunity for Directors to consider and request drafting of new policy areas. Under your adopted process, a policy must be on the Board's agenda for at least two quarterly meetings before you take final action to adopt or re-adopt the policy.

Below and attached are seven policies due for triennial review in 2024. Staff's recommended revisions for these policies are shown in redline format.

- Agricultural Water Use
- Colorado River Storage Project Act
- Prior Appropriation
- Federal Water Rights
- Upper Colorado River Recovery Program
- Speculation
- Multi-Benefit Water Projects

GO BACK TO AGENDA

Adopted: 07/28/2015

Revised and readopted: 04/17/2018

Revised and readopted: 04/20/2021

Agricultural Water Use

Colorado River Water Conservation District Policy Statements:

Agriculture is a critical component of Western Colorado's economy, environment, and community. The River District supports and promotes Western Colorado agriculture and will partner with agricultural interests to ensure a vibrant agricultural sector in Western Colorado. Moreover, the River District recognizes the considerable value of Western Colorado's agricultural water rights, especially those senior to the Colorado River Compact, and will work to protect and maintain agricultural rights on the West Slope and in local ownership.

Accordingly, the River District:

- **Supports federal and state legislation directed at increasing overall economic viability for producers of food and fiber,**
- **Supports legislative and administrative actions protecting pre-Colorado River Compact water rights in local ownership and opposes any legislative or administrative actions that erode the integrity and utility of pre-Colorado River Compact water rights,**
- **Will pro-actively pursue avoidance of Colorado River compact administration in order to avoid disproportionate impacts to West Slope agriculture,**
- **Encourages innovation that adds value for producers and enhances productivity,**
- **Supports land use policies and programs protective of agricultural lands, water rights, and property values,**
- **Supports voluntary, cooperative relationships between fish and wildlife agencies and agriculture to realize mutual benefits,**
- **Supports land and water use decisions that support or enhance West Slope agricultural productivity,**
- **Will seek alternatives to involuntary transfer or use of Western Colorado-based water rights to meet any municipal demands outside of the West Slope, and**
- **Will evaluate and consult, as requested, on water efficiency projects and programs to determine potential return flow consequences.**
- **Supports policies and actions which protect local water resources and communities from the adverse impacts of transfers of West Slope water out of the region for the benefit of other areas within the State of Colorado or the larger Colorado River Basin.**

Background & Discussion:

Statewide, agriculture is the majority user of Colorado's water, much of it with senior water rights. For this, Colorado enjoys affordable food and fiber - much of it locally sourced - abundant open space, environmental and recreational river flows, and other important ~~employment and other~~ economic benefits.

Agricultural water rights, ~~primarily in Eastern Colorado,~~ have become a primary source of new water supplies for growing Front Range municipalities. While most of the buy-and-dry (and conversion from ag to municipal use) has been on the East Slope to date, the purchase and conversion of West Slope farm and ranch land and associated water rights for municipal uses is real and must be addressed.

~~Certain efficiency and conservation measures have unintended consequences, such as reductions in delayed return flows, impacting stream conditions during naturally low flow periods. Other measures may have multiple consequences, some not intuitively obvious or intended, all of which should be considered.~~

Colorado has historically, and is currently, experiencing, periods of severe, sustained droughts. The River District, in cooperation with producers and other interests, ~~is exploring~~ will continue to explore voluntary, compensated mechanisms for the temporary use of senior agricultural water rights to meet critical water supply needs to prevent or to mitigate the impacts of compact administration under the 1922 and 1948 Colorado River compacts. The River District believes that these pro-active explorations are critical to the long-term protection and sustainability of agriculture, ~~and~~ agricultural water rights and our communities in Western Colorado. Without some alternative mechanism, we foresee municipalities and water speculators pursuing buy-and-dry strategies on the West Slope to protect or mitigate against the consequences of Compact curtailment. Moreover, it must be remembered that municipalities in Colorado have the powers of eminent domain. That being said, it is not in the best interests of the constituents and communities of the River District to enable or allow a program that while termed “temporary” has permanent lasting negative impacts on the agricultural industry and our communities.

GO BACK TO AGENDA

Adopted July 19, 2005
Readopted April 2008
Revised and readopted July 2011
Revised and readopted April 2014
Readopted April 2017
Revised and readopted January 2018
Revised and readopted April 20, 2021

Colorado River Storage Project Act

Colorado River Water Conservation District Policy Statements:

The Colorado River Water Conservation District (Colorado River District) supports the intent of the 1956 Colorado River Storage Project Act (CRSPA) – “The Comprehensive Development of the Water Resources of the Upper Colorado River Basin Act.” (43 U.S.C. 620)

To that end, the Colorado River District supports the implementation of plans and policies that optimize the use of the initial units; Aspinall, Flaming Gorge, Glen Canyon dam, and Navajo for the purpose of “making it possible for the states of the upper basin (*sic*) to utilize, consistent with the provisions of the Colorado River compact, the apportionments made to and among them in the Colorado River and Upper Colorado River compacts.” (43 U.S.C. 620)

Further, under the act, a number of participating projects were authorized and constructed. These projects, such as the Paonia, Bostwick Park, and Collbran projects, provide critical water supplies to water users within the district.

Maintaining and refurbishing these participating projects so that they can continue to provide water for future generations will require a substantial investment by the federal government, as well as state, regional, and local water agencies. To that end, the Colorado River District supports the full use of power revenues generated by the initial units together with congressional appropriations, as needed, to fully maintain these projects and integrated facilities, as well as to construct those projects authorized by CRSPA that are still needed and feasible.

Background & Discussion:

In 1956, the U.S. Congress passed the Colorado River Storage Project Act (CRSPA). CRSPA authorized the construction of four large storage reservoirs: Powell (‘Glen Canyon’), Flaming Gorge, Navajo, and Aspinall (‘Curecanti’) called the “Storage Projects.” A primary purpose of these reservoirs is to regulate the Colorado River to allow the Upper Basin States to fully develop their compact entitlements while meeting 1922 Compact and Mexico Treaty requirements.

Additionally, CRSPA authorized the following “participating projects” in Colorado: Florida, Paonia, Pine River Extension, Silt, Smith Fork, Bostwick Park, Savery-Pot Hook, and Fruitland Mesa. Finally, the CRSPA directed completion of planning reports on the Juniper, Parshall, Troublesome, Rabbit Ears, Eagle Divide, San Miguel, West Divide, Bluestone, Battlement Mesa, Tomichi Creek, East River, Ohio Creek, Grand Mesa, Dallas Creek, Dolores, Fruit Growers Extension, Animas-LaPlata, and Yellow Jacket projects.

The CRSPA also established the Upper Basin Fund, which was to be funded with a portion of Colorado River derived federal power revenues. Excess revenues, after reimbursement for certain storage project costs, were to be apportioned among the Upper Basin states, with Colorado receiving 46%. These revenues, in turn, were to repay the federal treasury for the construction costs of participating projects.

In 1968, Congress, with the concurrence of the basin states, passed the Colorado River Basin Project Act. Among other things, this Act authorized construction of the Central Arizona Project (CAP) but at a heavy price to Arizona. In order to secure political support, the CAP accepted the first and predominant burden of any Lower Basin shortage allocations. Additionally, one of then-House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee Chairman Wayne Aspinall’s conditions for support of the Act was for the Secretary of the Interior to proceed “as nearly as practicable” with the construction of the projects authorized in the 1956 CRSPA, ensuring that construction of these projects would start no later than the date of first delivery of water from the CAP. Clearly, this has not occurred for all CRSPA-authorized projects.

Low levels at Lake Powell raise the prospect of no longer being able to produce hydroelectric power under certain hydrologic conditions. Without stored water being released through the power conduits at such low lake levels, continued compact compliance is no longer assured. Strategically releasing larger quantities of water from Flaming Gorge, Navajo, and the Aspinall unit during prolonged drought conditions can at least delay Lake Powell reaching critical lake levels at which hydropower can no longer be produced, however, the use of water from these upper initial CRSPA units must not be used to propagate continued overuse by the Lower Basin. Water released under the Drought Response Operations Agreement, or any successor agreement among the Upper Basin states and the Bureau of Reclamation must provide for the protection of any water released from the upper initial CRSPA units in Lake Powell so that the same is not released downstream for consumption by the Lower Basin States.

GO BACK TO AGENDA

Adopted July 18, 2006
Revised and readopted April 21, 2009
Revised and readopted April 17, 2012
Readopted April 15, 2015
Revised and readopted April 17, 2018
Re-revised and readopted July 17, 2018
Revised and readopted April 20, 2021

Prior Appropriation

Colorado River Water Conservation District Policy Statement:

The Colorado River Water Conservation District supports Colorado’s system of prior appropriation as a fair and orderly system for allocating Colorado’s scarce water resources. Moreover, Colorado’s prior appropriation system has been proven to be both successful and flexible in addressing the public’s changing demands, beneficial uses, and values regarding Colorado water resources (e.g., instream flow and recreational in-channel diversion water rights). Additional flexibility and adaptation of the prior appropriation doctrine may be warranted to ensure the allocation of Colorado’s remaining Colorado River Compact entitlement among the river’s sub-basins within Colorado and to fairly allocate water uses to ensure water rights (including conserved consumptive use) are equitably administered in the event of interstate compact administration.

Background:

Water often does not naturally exist in sufficient quantities where and when it is needed to sustain human settlement and enterprise in Colorado. As a scarce resource, the demand for which exceeds its supply, water in Colorado requires a system of allocation and enforcement to meet the needs of Colorado’s citizens and the natural environment, both current and future.

Colorado’s prior appropriation doctrine is enshrined in the state’s constitution, which states in relevant part:

“Section 5. Water of streams public property: The water of every natural stream, not heretofore appropriated, within the state of Colorado, is hereby declared to be the property of the public, and the same is dedicated to the use of the people of the state, subject to appropriation as hereinafter provided,” and

“Section 6. Diverting unappropriated water - priority preferred uses: The right to divert the unappropriated waters of any natural stream to beneficial uses shall never be denied. Priority of appropriation shall give the better right as between those using the water for the same purpose; but when the waters of any natural stream are not sufficient for the service of all those desiring the use of the same, those using the water for domestic purposes shall have the preference over those claiming for any other purpose, and those using the water for agricultural purposes shall have preference over those using the same for manufacturing

purposes.”
(Colorado Constitution, Article XVI)

Additionally, a rich body of law, both legislative and judicial, has evolved to address the state’s need for an orderly and transparent system of water administration and the embodiment of the prior appropriation doctrine as that system.

Colorado’s prior appropriation doctrine has proven its ability to adapt to the changing needs and values of the state regarding its scarce water resources. Notable among adaptations of Colorado’s water allocation system are the 1972 Instream Flow Act (C.R.S. 37-92-102) and the 2001 Recreation In-Channel Diversion Act (C.R.S. 37-92-103(10.1) & (10.3)), both of which were adopted in a manner consistent with and incorporated into the prior appropriation system.

The 1922 Colorado River Compact and the 1948 Upper Colorado River Basin Compact provide that under certain circumstances, Colorado may be required to curtail water uses within the Colorado River basin to comply with interstate compact administration. The strict application of the prior appropriation doctrine in the event of compact administration could result in extreme hardship and economic disruption throughout the state. Merely the potential for future curtailment may result in undesirable speculation and competition for firm water supplies as Colorado moves closer to its full compact entitlement. Therefore, limited and targeted future adaptation of the prior appropriation doctrine may be necessary in order to equitably allocate the state's remaining Colorado River entitlement and to equitably address the curtailment of water uses that may be necessary to comply with the 1922 and 1948 compacts.

GO BACK TO AGENDA

Adopted July 18, 2006

Revised and readopted April 21, 2009

Revised and readopted April 17, 2012

Revised and readopted April 15, 2015

Revised and readopted April 17, 2018

Revised and readopted April 20, 2021

Federal Water Rights

Colorado River Water Conservation District Policy Statements:

The policy of the Colorado River Water Conservation District (Colorado River District) is that when the Congress or the President creates special federal land designations, such designations must clearly and explicitly specify and quantify the minimum amount, if any, of water necessary to fulfill the purpose of the land reservation. The Colorado River District will advocate that the quantification of any reserved rights be the minimum amount essential to preserve the primary purpose of the Congressional or Executive action that creates the federal land designation.

Background & Discussion:

The “Winters Doctrine” arose from the Supreme Court’s 1908 decision in *Winters v. United States*, 207 U.S. 564 (1908). The Winters Doctrine stands for the proposition that when the federal government makes a reservation of land, it necessarily and impliedly reserves (and exempts from appropriation under state law) sufficient water to meet the needs of the land reservation.

The dispute in the Winters’ case involved conflicts between claims to water by American Indian Tribes on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana and appropriation claims made under state law by settlers in the Milk River basin. The U.S. Supreme Court held that the Indian treaty establishing the reservation impliedly reserved sufficient water of the Milk River for tribal use which would be necessarily continued indefinitely. The court found that without water the reservation would be worthless, and the purpose of the reservation would be destroyed.

The Supreme Court later clarified that when the federal government makes any reservation of land (not just an Indian reservation) it impliedly reserves only that amount of water sufficient to fulfill the purpose of the reservation, no more. *Cappaert v. United States*, 426 U.S. 128 (1978)

The U.S. Congress adopted the McCarran Amendment in 1952 (43 U.S.C. 666) providing for state adjudicatory and administrative jurisdiction over federal water claims, both reserved rights and priority appropriations. The River District believes that the McCarran Amendment appropriately provides for adjudication of federal, reserved water rights in state water courts following the same manner and procedures as for other water rights.

GO BACK TO AGENDA

Revised and readopted 4/17/13

Revised and readopted April 17, 2018

Revised and Adopted July 20, 2021

Upper Colorado River Recovery Program

Colorado River Water Conservation District Policy Statements:

The Colorado River Water Conservation District (Colorado River District) supports the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Recovery Program) and its goal of recovering fish species listed as endangered while allowing historical water use and water development to continue in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, state law and Colorado's entitlements under the Colorado River Compacts.

The Colorado River District, as an active participant in the Recovery Program, will advocate to:

- Accomplish recovery with less than existing flows in the Colorado River and its tributaries to allow for additional consumptive use development on the West Slope in accordance with Colorado's compact water entitlements;
- Secure reliable federal funding sources to offset ~~any future~~ drought-induced reductions in hydropower revenues;
- Preserve senior, non-consumptive rights in Western Colorado in order to preserve the flows needed for the success of the program;
- Accomplish the recovery program's goals without injury to water users;
- Prioritize additional state and federal funding for nonnative elimination and control, habitat development and restoration, and stocking of endangered fishes within future reauthorizations of the Recovery Program;
- Ensure that the burden of the Recovery Program's implementation, operation, and compliance is equitably distributed on all power and water users, including transmountain diverters;
- Remove any risk of allegations that impacts from water depletions endanger, threaten or take the fish or harm their habitat, and protect against the potential for adverse incidental take of the species or adverse modifications of their habitat;
- Consider inclusion of water quality protections for the listed fishes within the Recovery Program's purpose and mission;
- Identify new opportunities for collaborative flow management that assist in recovery and prevent relisting of the species;
- Ensure that if a Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) or individual project's Section 7 consultation requires actions that address water quality, then the Colorado River District will advocate that the Recovery Program assume the responsibility, including adequate funding, for addressing the required water quality-related actions; and
- Ensure that the Recovery Program assumes the full responsibility for the successful completion of the Program's recovery implementation elements.

Any permanent reallocation of waters from “compensatory storage reservoirs” (i.e., Green Mountain Reservoir and Ruedi Reservoir) must occur only with the approval of the Colorado River District and other West Slope beneficiaries of those projects.

Additionally, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation should timely issue water contracts from federal facilities, relying on the Recovery Program to implement all necessary, reasonable and prudent measures to offset any identified impacts to the listed fish species.

Background & Discussion:

The Recovery Program was created to "provide for recovery of the endangered fish species, consistent with federal law and all applicable state laws and systems for water resource development and use." (Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin, September 29, 1987) Since its inception in 1987, the Recovery Program has successfully protected the interests of present and future Western Slope water users and the right of Colorado River water users within the state to fully utilize Colorado's entitlement under the Colorado River Compacts of 1922 and 1948.

The Recovery Program has successfully served as the reasonable and prudent alternative offsetting impacts to the endangered fishes and adverse modification to their habitat for existing and future water depletions. The Recovery Program has served as the mitigation for depletion impacts for more than 2.1 million acre-feet of historical and new water depletions within the River District. Measures necessary to accomplish recovery of the fish are the responsibility of the Recovery Program and its participants, not individual water users seeking Section 7 consultations under the Endangered Species Act. As such, the Recovery Program has served as a vital regulatory shield at substantial cost savings to individual Colorado water users.

The Recovery Program has implemented actions necessary to achieve the recovery goals established by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) for each of the listed species. Additionally, the Program serves as the reasonable and prudent measure relied upon by the USFWS in its development of basin-specific PBOs by implementing specific recovery actions to offset water use and development activities.

Funding of the Recovery Program has been principally through Congressional appropriations (Reclamation's budget), Colorado River Storage Projects (CRSP) power revenues, and state contributions to the Recovery Program, consistent with the Recovery Program's organic agreement.

The Recovery Program currently relies, in part, upon normal operations and releases from compensatory storage reservoirs (i.e., releases from Green Mountain Reservoir and Ruedi Reservoir) to achieve recommended flows. As such, the Recovery Program represents a substantial compromise by West Slope water users on the historical bargains that mitigate transmountain diversions. This compromise must be recognized, and any such future compromises must be minimized or eliminated as both reservoirs are fully contracted.

GO BACK TO AGENDA

Drafted: 04.01.2021

Draft 2: 07.06.2021

Adopted: 07.21.21

Speculation in Water Resources

Colorado River Water Conservation District Policy Statement:

The River District opposes speculation in Colorado’s water resources where the purported speculator does not have a specific plan to put water to use for legitimate beneficial purposes, and particularly where an interest in water is pursued primarily to secure a financial profit. In contrast, the River District supports investments in water resources where the end-goal is to promote productive agriculture, to develop water for viable beneficial uses (both consumptive and non-consumptive), and to rehabilitate the State’s aging water infrastructure.

Accordingly, the River District:

- Recognizes the importance of locally owned agricultural lands and waters to our present-day economies and future prosperity of communities on the Western Slope,
- Supports the state of Colorado’s efforts to examine anti-water speculation laws,
- Supports the longstanding efforts by the State of Colorado to oppose interstate water marketing and transfers of water by private interests,
- Supports collaborative efforts to identify solutions to the challenges of water shortages brought on by a changing climate, reduced supplies, and overuse of the Colorado River by downstream states— as it is often the existence or perception of the existence of water shortages which leads to speculative investments in water,
- Will work to protect private property rights and the usufructuary nature of water rights in Colorado,
- Will oppose state or federal policies that encourage or facilitate speculation in Colorado’s water resources,
- Will oppose efforts by private or for-profit entities to move or control water across state lines or through federally owned reservoirs, and
- Will work with the state of Colorado and water leaders on both sides of the Continental Divide to protect our state’s water resources from out-of-state special interests.

Background & Discussion:

Colorado’s Constitution and subsequent body of statutory and caselaw make clear that the State’s water resources belong to the people of the State of Colorado, subject to right of public and private entities to appropriate water for beneficial use.

In a case argued and won by the River District in 1979, the Colorado Supreme Court very clearly established that, “Our constitution guarantees a right to appropriate, not a right to speculate. The right to appropriate is for use, not merely for profit.” *Colo. River Water Conservation Dist. v. Vidler Tunnel Water Co.*, 197 Colo. 413, 594 P.2d 566 (1979). In that same case, the Colorado

| Supreme Court went on to criticize any rule which “would encourage those with vast monetary resources to monopolize, for personal profit rather than for beneficial use . . . [the State’s water resources.]”

GO BACK TO AGENDA

Adopted October 30, 2021

Multi-Benefit Water Projects

Introduction:

Consistent with its mission to lead in the protection, conservation, use, and development of the water resources of the Colorado River basin, the Colorado River Water Conservation District (Colorado River District) works to protect the viability of the Colorado River and its tributaries for the benefit of all beneficial consumptive and non-consumptive uses within the District's boundaries.

Since its creation in 1937, water needs within the River District and the priorities of water users within the District have been, and will continue to be, refined, and prioritized. Today, there is widespread recognition throughout the District that our water resources will be critically important to our future. This truth was made evident by the strong, bipartisan support [shown throughout for the Colorado River District's for Ballot Measure 7A in November of 2020 and our subsequently implemented Community Funding Partnership program.](#)

As western Colorado's water supply is increasingly impacted by new demands and a changing climate, the River District recognizes that it must prioritize multi-benefit water projects that serve to protect our region's water security, which is directly tied to thriving rural economies, vibrant communities, productive agriculture, a strong environment, and a robust recreation industry.

Colorado River Water Conservation District Policy Statements:

As the Colorado River District looks to invest its own resources in water projects on the West Slope, and simultaneously advocates for outside resources to protect the District's water interests, the Board and staff of the District will prioritize multi-purpose projects that address one or more of the following five categories:

- (I) Productive agriculture projects which could include but are not limited to multiple-use storage projects that addresses regional priorities; developing innovative and functional water leasing; suitable agriculture efficiency and conservation approaches; technical assistance and technological innovation; and dedicated resources for increasing community literacy about irrigated agriculture and supporting agricultural market growth.**
- (II) Infrastructure projects that serve to update aging infrastructure while incentivizing new storage and delivery projects to collaboratively address multiple needs, such as improved flows to meet demands, stream and watershed health, and habitat quality; multi-purpose projects and storage methods that are supported in the Colorado Water Plan and Basin Implementation Plans;**
- (III) Healthy rivers projects that support and sustain fish and wildlife, healthy aquifer conditions as they connect to healthy streams, economically important water-based recreation, wetland habitat, fish passage construction for new or updated**

- water diversion structures, stream restoration projects, and environmental and recreational enhancements for new or revised water supply projects;
- (IV) Watershed health and water quality projects that include projects identified in collaborative and science-based watershed management plans that reduce the risk from and increase resilience to fires and/or floods, rehabilitate streams, or make landscapes resilient to climate change, including, but not limited to science-based mechanical forest treatments and prescribed fire, projects that address drinking water quality for under-resourced communities, and projects that address pollutants such as selenium, salts, and others, as well as mine remediation activities; and**
- (V) Conservation and efficiency projects that include supporting agricultural water infrastructure that increases reliability and efficiency while avoiding adverse impacts to water users; municipal and industrial projects that promote efficiency, water conservation, green infrastructure, and outdoor landscaping to reduce consumptive use; increase leak detection for infrastructure repair and replacement; assisting communities with water-smart community development and water conservation programs; and targeting smaller, fast-growing, and communities with older infrastructure with strategic, incentive-based investments.**

Staff will prioritize funding for projects that demonstrate multiple benefits in alignment with the CFP funding categories and that impact multiple beneficiaries across a region or watershed.



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CRWCD
ANDY MUELLER, GENERAL MANAGER
PETER FLEMING, GENERAL COUNSEL

FROM: AMY MOYER, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
MELISSA WILLS, COMMUNITY FUNDING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MANAGER

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY FUNDING PARTNERSHIP – PROGRAM UPDATES AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

DATE: MARCH 29, 2024

ACTIONS:

(1) Staff requests that the Board approve a grant of \$98,426 in funding from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to The Sonoran Institute for the Growing Water Smart 2024-2025 Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Conservation and Efficiency (100%).

(2) Staff requests that the Board approve a grant of \$150,000 in funding from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to the Blue River Watershed Group to support the Blue River Habitat Restoration Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Infrastructure (10%); Healthy Rivers (70%); and Watershed Health and Water Quality (20%).

(3) Staff requests that the Board approve an emergency grant of \$207,500 in funding from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to the East Mesa Water Company to support the East Mesa Ditch Emergency Repairs Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Productive Agriculture (40%); Infrastructure (40%); and Conservation and Efficiency (20%).

(4) Staff requests that the Board approve a grant of \$250,000 in funding from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to the Pothook Water Conservancy District to support the Little Snake River Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Productive Agriculture (30%); Infrastructure (40%); Healthy Rivers (20%); and Conservation and Efficiency (10%).



(5) Staff requests that the Board approve a grant of up to \$550,000 in partial funding or no more than 20% of permitting costs to finalize the Project Scoping Report milestone from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District to support the Wolf Creek Reservoir Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Productive Agriculture (15%); Infrastructure (75%); Healthy Rivers (5%); and Watershed Health and Water Quality (5%).

(6) Staff requests that the Board approve a grant of \$114,400 in funding from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District to support the UGRWCD Agriculture Bundled Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Productive Agriculture (30%); Infrastructure (30%); Healthy Rivers (20%); Conservation and Efficiency (10%); and Watershed Health and Water Quality (10%).

(7) Staff requests that the Board approve a grant of \$35,004 in funding from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District to support the Blue Mesa Harmful Algal Bloom Study Phase II Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Healthy Rivers (50%) and Watershed Health and Water Quality (50%).

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S):

2. Outreach in All Basins: While we have not ignored or been unhelpful to needs in other basins, a significant amount of the River District's time, energy and resources in the recent past have been focused on the mainstem of the Colorado River and helping to address the long-term needs of the mainstem. A priority in the near-term will be to put significant focus on the needs of the other basins within the River District.

2. A. The River District will increase its outreach efforts with water organizations and other local organizations in the Gunnison, White and Yampa River basins. The goal will be to use River District resources to help those basins address their consumptive and non-consumptive water needs.

2. B. The River District will look for and focus on opportunities where the River District can act as a catalyst to create partnerships that work for these other basins. A recent example of this is the cooperatively funded Lower Gunnison Project, orchestrated by the River District.

3. Climate and Hydrologic Uncertainty: Climate and hydrologic uncertainty should be a major driver of what the River District does in the mid- to long-term. The impacts to precipitation are not clear. However, the overwhelming evidence indicates a warming and increasingly variable climate. Hotter temperatures will certainly result in increased demands for agricultural and municipal water supplies due to longer and warmer growing seasons. Patterns of snowpack accumulation and runoff will change. Runoff is projected to occur earlier and quicker, and there will be an earlier return to possibly lower base flows after runoff. These factors will stress storage supplies. On a local and regional basis, storage supplies may prove inadequate.



- 3. A. The River District will continue to evaluate and pursue options to increase local water storage supplies and optimize and expand, where appropriate, existing water storage.*
- 3. C. The River District will engage in and support water supply planning efforts, local and regional, which include adapting to climate change impacts.*
- 3. D. The River District will work with water users to ensure practicable and cost-effective water use efficiencies in all sectors where appropriate for the local conditions.*
- 6. Agricultural Water Use: Most West Slope agricultural water use is senior to the Colorado River Compact. As Colorado nears full development of its Colorado River system water there will be pressure for temporary and permanent conversion of senior agricultural water rights to other uses. The Colorado River Compact Water Bank may provide a mechanism to protect agricultural water uses.*
- 6. D. The River District will protect the integrity of senior agricultural water rights within Colorado's prior appropriation system, recognizing the potential risks to those rights posed by the constitution's municipal right of condemnation.*
- 7. Water Needs/Project Development: Through Colorado's Water Plan and the Basin Implementation Plans, water needs within the River District have been, and will continue to be, refined and prioritized. The River District owns a large portfolio of conditional water rights that may be suitable for meeting a portion of the identified water demands. However, developments in judicial case law have made it more difficult for all water users, including the River District, to maintain conditional water rights.*
- 7. C. The River District will look for opportunities where its efforts are needed as a catalyst to help in-District interests plan for and meet their water needs in a manner that is consistent with the District's compact contingency planning goals and objectives.*
- 7. D. The River District will actively pursue funding sources and provide financial assistance to be used for the refurbishment and modernization of the aging water supply infrastructure within the District in order to help preserve and improve existing supplies and operations.*
- 9. Water Efficiency and Conservation: We are transitioning from an era emphasizing new supply development to an era which includes higher emphasis on wise use of our limited water resources, including higher water use efficiency and conservation of consumptive use. This is driven by both environmental imperatives, changing values, and increasing shortages of water resources available for development. The River District historically has supported efforts to increase water use efficiency and conservation. Examples of this are the number of grants the District has awarded for efficiency and conservation and the District's financial and staff support of the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Efficiency Project and the Lower Gunnison Project.*
- 9. A. The River District will continue to promote, encourage and support wise and efficient use of all of Colorado's water resources*
- 12. Financial Sustainability: The above strategic initiatives cannot be achieved without financial sustainability. The River District enjoys a diversified tax base for its Governmental Funds, which helps to reduce the impacts of dramatic downturns in its overall assessed valuation. Over the long-term, the Enterprise Fund is intended to be self-sustaining, managing the River District's business-type activities.*
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INFORMATIONAL – Program Updates

Including the action items recommended in this memo, the Community Funding Partnership program will close out the first quarter of 2024 with 14 grant requests totaling over \$2 million. In addition, the program has set aside \$5 million of the \$20 million commitment to the Shoshone Permanency Project within the 2024 budget. The current geographic distribution of 2024 projects support the staff's diligence in recruiting projects in the Yampa/White/Green and Gunnison basins along with Pitkin County. This is in alignment with the current CFP spend plan to address the District's equity targets in response to the Board's funding decision related to the Shoshone Permanency Project. While Staff anticipates limited funding recommendations across the mainstem counties of Grand, Summit, Eagle, Garfield, and Mesa Counties, the Board can expect to see funding recommendations for projects within these counties over the first two quarters of 2024 as we honor funding conversations that were initiated prior to the Board's Shoshone funding commitment.

Staff continues to celebrate the success of the District's Accelerator Grant Program following the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program's recent announcement of a \$6,582,836 grant to the Hartland Ditch Company. In 2022, the Hartland Ditch Company received a CFP Accelerator Grant of \$12,000 to conduct the necessary engineering and grant writing to apply for the BOR Salinity Control Program. The Accelerator Grant Program is designed to support West Slope water users as they navigate the time-consuming and often costly application requirements for federal water project funding.

Finally, Staff appreciates the Board's feedback and discussion during the 1st Joint Quarterly Meeting held in January on the recommended changes to the Multi-Benefit Policy Statement, CFP Framework, and CFP Guidelines. To further assist Staff in developing funding recommendations and working with potential grantees, Staff requested greater clarification in regard to the District's prioritization of projects that support multiple benefits and that impact multiple beneficiaries along with greater clarification regarding projects that incorporate on-farm upgrades. This request stemmed from inquiries for policy clarification from both grantees and partners. To continue to align with the Board's two-meeting process for adopting changes to a Board-level policy, **Staff will request the Board approve a revised Community Funding Partnership Framework along with a revised Multi-Benefit Policy Statement at the District's Third Joint Quarterly Meeting held in July 2024.** Please see the revised Multi-Benefit Policy Statement [HERE](#), Community Funding Partnership Framework [HERE](#), and Community Funding Partnership Guidelines [HERE](#).

BOARD ACTION ITEM #1 – West Slope Growing Water Smart

Project Applicant: The Sonoran Institute

Request: \$98,426

Recommended Amount: \$98,426

Location: District-Wide

Staff Recommendation: Staff requests that the Board approve a grant of \$98,426 in funding from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to The Sonoran Institute for the Growing Water Smart 2024-2025 Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal



River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Conservation and Efficiency (100%).

I. Project Description: The Growing Water Smart (GWS) program was established to encourage municipalities to reduce their water demand by identifying opportunities for new development to employ water-wise strategies. This project is a continuation of the 2022 grant to host and deliver a Growing Water Smart training and assistance program for five to seven West Slope communities in the Fall of 2023 to catalyze implementation of water conservation and the wise use of our water assets through land use planning. This request includes:

1) *Ongoing education and training of past Growing Water Smart workshop participants in the District via meetings, educational webinars, in-person networking, sharing of resources, and longitudinal data collection.* This task will include: two online training courses; 1:1 check-ins; event participation; award applications; monthly newsletters; conference proposals; and a survey. This task stems from a request from CRD Staff to provide more individual support to the past participants to ensure they can implement the changes set forth in the 2023 workshop.

2) *Training a second cohort of communities via a three-day Growing Water Smart workshop, during which community teams identify concrete steps they can take to better integrate local land use and water resource management goals.* The three-day training workshop is centered around examining and selecting strategies available to water providers and land use planners to promote the wise use of water assets, integrate water conservation and efficiency into land use policies, and plan for a community that is resilient to future water threats. The workshop is in partnership with the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Southwestern Water Conservation District and will select 3-4 teams from the Colorado River District and 3-4 teams from Southwest Water Conservation District.

3) *Offering a second round of technical assistance grant funding and implementation support to assist communities in implementing their Growing Water Smart action plans.* After the workshop, participants are eligible to apply for technical assistance grants of up to \$10,000 to catalyze implementation of the strategies that teams identified in their action plans. Two grants of up to \$10,000 will be available in 2025 for Colorado River District GWS workshop participants.

This work builds upon our first round of the Growing Water Smart workshop, technical assistance grants, and the opportunities report for priority areas within the River District region.

**Figure 1: Growing Water Smart Conference 2023**

Source: Sonoran Institute

II. Staff Analysis: Staff has completed a full staff analysis for this project and confirmed that the project aligns with the River District Mission, Strategic Plan, and Policy Statements. The focus of this project is to strengthen local land use policies that influence water demand, which places a significant emphasis on conservation of water resources – a key component of the River District’s Mission Statement and Strategic Initiatives. The training, consulting, and technical assistance grants provide a pathway for municipalities to adapt to the hotter and drier climate. These programs also provide CRD insight into the state of municipal water providers and their needs. This project falls within CFP's conservation and efficiency category to support communities in reducing their consumption and increasing their water efficiency. In addition, this project supports the River District's Strategic Initiative to focus on opportunities where the River District can act as a catalyst to create partnerships. This includes a staff focus to ensure the Growing Water Smart process and workshops are accessible and supportive for rural communities and the unique challenges for the Western Slope.

Staff has worked with The Sonoran Institute to implement the 2023 workshop over the past year. It was evident that the workshop's impact on the participants was valuable and needed to be continued. Due to this, CRD Staff encouraged the applicant to apply for further funds to continue to support the 2023 participants and host another workshop for other communities. Staff sees this program as essential to supporting our communities in creating resilience to adapt to a hotter and drier future.

Staff is also recommending that the funds be allocated District-Wide and to the conservation and efficiency category. While the current grant will provide District-Wide benefits, Staff expects the workshop to be held in the Gunnison Basin with an emphasis on recruiting communities in the Gunnison and Yampa/White/Green basins.



- a. **Project Funding and Leverage of CRD Funds:** Table 2 below identifies the project funders and matching dollars. The Applicant requested the River District contribute \$98,426.17 representing 33% of the total project costs including a total cash match ratio of 1:2 (\$197,220.01: \$98,426.17). Southwestern Water Conservation District will split the cost of the workshop and cover their own technical assistance grants. The remaining costs will be covered by the CWCB.

In total, the applicant has applied for a diverse set of funding that represents the interests of the funders. This request is about 15% less than the cost-share for the 2022 grant.

Table 1: Funding Partners

| Funding Partner | Cash | Total | Funds Committed (Y/N) |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Southwestern Water Conservation District | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | N*application submitted |
| Colorado Water Conservation Board | \$147,220.01 | \$147,220.01 | Y |
| Colorado River District – Requested Community Funding Partnership | \$98,426.17 | \$98,426.17 | N*application submitted |
| Total | \$295,646.18 | \$295,646.18 | |

Table 2: Project Budget

| Task Name | Total |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Growing Water Smart Workshop | \$122,352.16 |
| Growing Water Smarty TA Grants | \$53,525.17 |
| Peer Network and Support | \$70,494.48 |
| Indirect Costs | \$49,274.37 |
| Total | \$295,646.18 |

There are no private entities participating in a manner that will result in a profit nor will there be a revenue stream generated from the completed project.

CFP funding will support the workshop, technical assistance grants, and ongoing education and support for the 2023 participants, allowing the applicant to provide match funding for the CWCB grant.

- b. **Local Community Support:** The applicant has provided numerous letters of support for the project including the City of Steamboat Springs; Town of Ridgway; Northwest Colorado Council of Governments; City of Grand Junction; City of Fruita; City of Cortez; and Ute Water Conservancy District.



- c. **Human Resource Requirements:** Staff will be consulted and kept informed regarding the project. Staff will provide guidance in participant selection to ensure that the project aligns with the mission of the District. Additionally, staff will support in the grantee selection for the technical assistance grants.
- d. **Risk Analysis:** Staff has completed a risk analysis and has not identified any significant legal liability or exposure to the District that warrants additional legal review. The applicant has provided a detailed application with strong partnerships. The CFP funds requested are for education, a workshop, and grants, thus reducing further risk of public health and safety concerns for the overall project.
- e. **Additional Factors to Consider:**

Promote innovation within a water use sector: Historically, water supply and land use planning have been siloed with little coordination between the two. Where and how a community plans to develop greatly impacts water supply and demand planning. The Growing Water Smart Program fosters innovative strategies for municipal water demand management and an integrated water resource management planning approach.

BOARD ACTION ITEM #2 – Blue River Habitat Restoration Project

Project Applicant: Blue River Watershed Group

Request: \$150,000

Recommended Amount: \$150,000

Location: Summit County

Staff Recommendation: Staff requests that the Board approve a grant of \$150,000 in funding from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to the Blue River Watershed Group to support the Blue River Habitat Restoration Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Infrastructure (10%); Healthy Rivers (70%); and Watershed Health and Water Quality (20%).

- I. **Project Description:** The Blue River Habitat Restoration Project is the priority project identified by the Blue River Integrated Water Management Plan (BRIWMP). The BRIWMP’s three year expanded seasonal sampling and surveying efforts (previously funded through the Colorado River District through two \$25,000 grants) allowed the advisory committee to scientifically determine that ecosystem function is detrimentally impacted by numerous variables with underlying challenges resulting from the Dillon Dam’s bottom release outlet. The top limiting factors include:
 - Temperature
 - Restricted flows
 - Lack of habitat



The BRIWMP Technical Advisory Team reviewed the research results and agreed with the conclusion that poor habitat was one of the most impactful limiting factors with the highest probability of restoration in terms of project scope and expense. This project will modify the river channel within a prioritized three miles of the Blue River to better function under current and future flow regimes and to improve habitat. The Blue River channel was formed by high flows of 3000 cfs and low flows of 300 cfs. The current flow regime of 1800 cfs to 50 cfs is insufficient to maintain the health of the aquatic and riparian systems. With an interdisciplinary approach, the project will also improve water quality at stormwater outfalls, increase recreational opportunities, improve habitat, and ultimately improve the health of the fishery.

This project will improve river and riparian health by modifying the river channel to morphologically function under the lowered flows of current and future flow regimes. Funding will be used to bring the project to 100 percent engineering design, to research permitting and compliance, and to support pre-construction monitoring. Funding will serve as part of the required match for the recently awarded Bureau of Reclamation Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project funding. Tasks include:

1. Stakeholder Engagement/Public Outreach:
2. Habitat Improvement Engineering Design
3. Project Impact Monitoring
4. Fish Population Estimates
5. Permitting and NEPA compliance

This project serves as an excellent example of a strong partnership among local entities looking to revitalize a stretch of river that is extremely important to the community. Responding to the BRIWMP, the BRWG is making data-informed decisions to enhance habitat on the Blue River below Dillion Dam.

Figure 2: Blue River Habitat Restoration Project Location



Source: Blue River Watershed Group



- II. Staff Analysis:** Staff has completed a full staff analysis for this project and confirmed that the project aligns with the River District Mission, Strategic Plan, and Policy Statements. The project highly aligns with the mission of the District to support multi-benefit projects and conserve water resources of the Colorado River basin for the welfare of the District by improving existing water quality, river ecological health and river morphology. This project will enhance the fishery below Dillon Dam, thus supporting the health of the Blue River downstream. Changes to the river system, such as narrowing and deepening river channel will build additional climate resilience by reducing evaporative losses while providing improved habitat for spawning and aquatic life. The project will improve water quality through improvement to stormwater outlets resulting in better filtration of existing pollutants. Additionally, the infrastructure upgrades will provide additional benefits to river recreation and fish passage.

Staff recognizes that with the recent grant of \$20 million (subject to future revenue and board appropriation) to the Shoshone Permanency Project, the Colorado Basin has been over allocated within the CFP program. However, Staff is recommending that the Board honor this application because their pre-application discussions and submission (August – November 2023) were submitted prior to the Shoshone grant award. Further, this CFP Grant is highly leveraged with the successful award of Bureau of Reclamation funding, and Staff believes the project that aligns with an existing IWMP demonstrates a high impact and local priority to the Blue River watershed.

- a. Project Funding and Leverage of CRD Funds:** Table 3 identifies the project funders and matching dollars. Colorado River District funds will be used to support stakeholder and public engagement; engineering, design and project management; project impact monitoring; fish population estimates; and researching permitting and compliance. The Applicant requested the River District contribute \$150,000, representing only 5% of the total project costs, which equates to total cash match ratio of 1:19 (\$2.9M : \$150,000). The CRD request will serve as match funding for the secured federal WaterSMART grant.

The applicant has secured most of the funding and has a pledged contribution from the Town of Silverthorne and a pending application with Great Outdoors Colorado.

Additionally, the applicant has based their budget on similar projects and the CWCB cost estimation tool. This estimation was approved by CWCB and BOR. As the applicant secures an engineering firm and updated budget, staff are recommending that CFP funding not exceed 5% of the total cost or up to \$150,000.

Denver Water has been approached to provide funds to this project but has declined. They directed the applicant to explore CRCA funds through the West Slope Fund. BRWG is coordinating with Summit County to determine if CRCA funds previously released to Summit County are available to be dedicated to the project. This project serves as an example and additional impetus for Colorado River



District Staff to continue to encourage Denver Water to release the next disbursement of CRCA funds which we believe are due in full..

Table 3: Funding Partners

| Funding Partner | Cash | Total | Funds Committed (Y/N) |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Colorado Water Conservation Board | \$425,115 | \$425,115 | Y |
| BOR WaterSMART | \$ 1,857,570 | \$ 1,857,570 | Y |
| Town of Silverthorne | \$150,000 | \$150,000 | N* <i>Pledged</i> |
| Great Outdoors Colorado | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | N* <i>Application submitted</i> |
| Colorado River District – Requested Community Funding Partnership | \$150,000 | \$150,000 | N* <i>Application submitted</i> |
| Total | \$ 2,882,685 | \$ 2,882,685 | |

Table 4: Project Budget

| Task Name | Total |
|---|--------------------|
| Stakeholder/Public Engagement | \$62,101 |
| Engineering Design and Project Management | \$2,441,840 |
| Project Impact Monitoring | \$73,272 |
| Fish Population Estimates | \$1,944 |
| Permitting and Compliance | \$41,728 |
| Total | \$2,882,685 |

There are no private entities participating in a manner that will result in a profit nor will there be a revenue stream generated from the completed project.

GO BACK TO AGENDA



- b. Local Community Support:** The applicant has provided letters of support from the Summit County Board of County Commissioners; Blue Valley Ranch; Denver Water; Colorado Trout Unlimited; USFS Dillon Ranger District; Colorado Parks and Wildlife; and Trout Unlimited.
- c. Human Resource Requirements:** The District will not play any role in overseeing construction of this project.
- d. Risk Analysis:** Staff has completed a risk analysis and has not identified any significant legal liability or exposure to the District that warrants additional legal review. The applicants have provided a detailed application with strong partnerships. The project is limited to conducting engineering and design, thus there are not any apparent risks to public health or safety.
- e. Additional Factors to Consider:**

Development of applied research, science, and data: The project is a product of the BRIWMP and previously funded monitoring and research on the health of aquatic life in the Blue River. The BRIWMP's three-year expanded seasonal sampling and surveying efforts allowed the Technical Advisory Committee to scientifically determine that ecosystem function is detrimentally impacted by numerous variables with underlying challenges resulting from the impact of Dillon Reservoir and Dillon Dam's bottom release outlet.

Promotion of innovation within a water use sector Discussion: This project is researching and working within a complex system that is highly impacted by the Dillon Reservoir Dam. Flow/channel relationships and water temperatures are most impacted. Mitigating solutions will need to be highly innovative and require the cooperation of Denver Water and the community at large.

Other factors of discussion: The Town of Silverthorne holds a Recreational In-Channel Diversion (RICD) water right within the project boundaries. The Town of Silverthorne listed the development of a recreational boating wave and/ or slalom course as a top community priority in the Town of Silverthorne Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan.

BOARD ACTION ITEM #3 – East Mesa Ditch Emergency Repairs

Project Applicant: East Mesa Water Company

Request: \$207,500

Recommended Amount: **\$207,500**

Location: Pitkin and Garfield Counties

Staff Recommendation: Staff requests that the Board approve an emergency grant of \$207,500 in funding from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to East Mesa Water Company to support the East Mesa Ditch Emergency Repairs Project. Staff further recommends



for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Productive Agriculture (40%); Infrastructure (40%); and Conservation and Efficiency (20%).

- I. Project Description:** On September 6th, 2023, the East Mesa Ditch Company (Company) experienced a large sinkhole (followed by two additional sinkholes) that collapsed their irrigation ditch rendering it completely inoperable. The sinkholes were approximately 20'-25' in diameter, 25'-30' deep with vertical side walls. When the emergency took place, the Company hired an engineer to assess the best solution. The engineer and geophysicists agreed the best solution was to fill the sinkhole and pipe the area susceptible to impacts of this sinkhole. The project was completed in March 2024. There are 11 agricultural shareholders that rely on the ditch for irrigation water to support their hay operations.

Although the area has experienced a few sinkholes in the past 75 years, the Company was unaware that their ditch fell along a faulty subsurface geology. The Company did not witness any clues to this eventual emergency. The Company has remained diligent to improve the Ditch over the years and has completed an array of projects to upgrade the infrastructure.

The Company completed the following tasks to solve the sinkhole emergency:

1. Hired an engineer to evaluate funding and construction options.
2. Conducted a geophysics evaluation of the area to ensure the improved ditch area would not be susceptible to future sinkholes.
3. Completed final design.
4. Completed construction (pipe; concrete; steel work; earthwork; revegetation, fence work). The applicant installed 700 LF of 36" diameter HDPE pipe; a low-level drain; inlet and outlet structures and appurtenant trash and animal control grates, and pipe additional open ditch with 24" ADS pipeline to minimize open ditch in sinkhole areas.

The emergency request is to recover costs of engineering, supplies, and construction for the project. The project has enabled shareholders below the sinkhole to begin irrigation this spring without delay. The repair is expected to increase efficiency of the system and reduce any seepage as the ditch moves from dirt to pipe.



Figure 3: East Mesa Ditch Emergency Repairs Project Location



Source: Aspen Journalism

Figure 4: East Mesa Ditch Emergency Repairs Project Construction



Source: East Mesa Water Company

- II. Staff Analysis:** Since the project is an emergency project, securing other grants is very difficult. Most grant programs do not fund projects after they have been completed. However, the applicant worked diligently with Pitkin County Healthy Rivers to secure funds for the project. They also secured a CWCB loan to ensure they had bridge funding to complete the project prior to irrigation season.

Over the past few years, the Company has completed an array of extensive infrastructure projects to improve the efficiency of their system. The Company has worked over the past 10 years to repair their 650-foot-long delivery tunnel, headgate,



and pipe a majority of the nine-mile ditch. They had planned on continuing to pipe the rest of the ditch in phases. Therefore, this emergency accelerated their long-term strategy and this segment into priority. To complete this project, the ditch company took out a \$550,000 loan in 2013 and is still paying it back. Thus, the Company is not in the place to take out further loans.

Project cost share of 47% is higher than an average grant amount for CFP. However, this project is located in Pitkin County, which has not yet received proportionate CFP funding. The project also aligns very strongly with the CFP and CRD's mission.

- a. Project Funding and Leverage of CRD Funds:** Table 5 below identifies the project funders and matching dollars, which includes the applicant's in-kind contribution of \$25,000. Their in-kind commitment includes labor and equipment costs to prep and clean up the site pre and post construction. The Applicant requested the River District contribute \$207,500 representing 47% of the total project costs including a total cash match ratio of 1:1 (\$207,500: \$207,500).

Table 5: Funding Partners

| Funding Partner | Cash | In-Kind | Total | Funds Committed (Y/N) |
|---|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| East Mesa Water Company | | \$25,000* | | Y |
| Pitkin County Healthy Rivers | \$207,500 | | \$207,500 | Y |
| Colorado River District – Requested Community Funding Partnership | \$207,500 | | \$207,500 | N |
| Total | \$415,000 | \$25,000 | \$440,000 | |

**In-kind services include labor and equipment costs to prep and clean up the site pre and post construction.*

Table 6: Project Budget

| Task Name | Total |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Engineering, Surveying, Geophysics | \$45,973.75 |
| Purchase Materials and Install | \$354,095.45 |
| Construction Management | \$39,129.80 |
| Contingency* | \$801.00 |
| Total | \$440,000.00 |

**While the project is largely complete, the Company has final reclamation/dirt work to complete this Spring.*



There are no private entities participating in a manner that will result in a profit nor will there be a revenue stream generated from the completed project.

CFP funding will support the costs incurred through engineering and construction of the emergency project.

- b. Local Community Support:** The applicant has provided letters of support for the project from the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners. The applicant intends to submit a letter of support from the Garfield County Board of County Commissioners prior to the Colorado River District Board Meeting. Should the letter not be received by the Board meeting, the recommended action will be contingent on receiving the Garfield County Board of County Commissioner letter of support.
- c. Human Resource Requirements:** The Colorado River District will not play any role in overseeing this project.
- d. Risk Analysis:** Staff has completed a risk analysis and has not identified any significant legal liability or exposure to the District that warrants additional legal review. The CFP funds are for reimbursement of the completed project costs; thus, construction risk is void.
- e. Additional Factors to Consider:**

Preservation of pre-compact water rights: The Company holds a 31.8 cfs water right appropriated in 1894 (adjudication date of 1902).

Enhance overall project's long-term viability: This project provides a long-term solution to eliminate deep percolation over soluble subsurface geology.

Potential for District staff involvement: The East Mesa Ditch Company may be an important stakeholder as the River District continues to work with Pitkin County and other stakeholders to address augmentation needs on the Crystal River.

BOARD ACTION ITEM #4 – Little Snake River Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project

Project Applicant: Pothook Water Conservancy District

Request: \$250,000

Recommended Amount: **\$250,000**

Location: Moffat and Routt Counties

Staff Recommendation: Staff requests that the Board approve a grant of \$250,000 in funding from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to Pothook Water Conservancy District to support the Little Snake River Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be



attributed to the CFP funding categories: Productive Agriculture (30%); Infrastructure (40%); Healthy Rivers (20%); and Conservation and Efficiency (10%).

I. Project Description: The multi-benefit project will replace three diversions on the Little Snake River in northern Colorado. The project aims to stabilize the eroding banks, improve fish habitat and passage, and increase efficiency of irrigation for the agricultural water right owners along a 10.5 mile stretch of river. The current pushup dams have caused significant erosion and flow regime issues downstream. The project will benefit over 400 acres of productive agriculture land and create riparian habitat in previously eroded banks. This project is one of many other projects on the Little Snake River to install more efficient and multi-benefit diversions that improves fish habitat and passage. The project has been identified as a priority by the Headwaters of the Colorado Initiative which is a collaboration to enhance the headwaters of the Colorado River in Colorado and Wyoming.

The applicant has already received an NRCS EQIP grant and has completed the engineering/design through the grant and support of the local conservancy districts. The project will pair river health infrastructure improvements with diversion infrastructure upgrades. Below are the details by project:

Epsy-McKee Diversion: The project consists of replacing an existing block and tarp irrigation diversion dam (acting as a fish barrier) with a rock J-hook structure, improving aquatic habitat and stabilizing 950 linear feet of eroding channel banks. The project will also stabilize the banks and revegetate the area.

Epsy-Williams Diversion: The project consists of replacing an existing irrigation diversion with a rock J-hook structure, improving aquatic habitat and stabilizing 2,200 linear feet of eroding channel banks. The current structure has caused a recent bank avulsion and has a broken headgate.

Ladder-Stull Diversion: The project consists of replacing an existing block and tarp irrigation diversion dam with a rock sill structure, improving aquatic habitat and stabilizing 2,400 linear feet of eroding channel banks. The current structure sits in an off-channel oxbow, partially abandoned by the river channel shifting. Diversion of water now requires that the river be encouraged to flow back into the partially abandoned, off-channel oxbow using concrete blocks, tarps and gravel at lower flow levels.

The total project will produce the following deliverables:

- Three replaced diversions (headgates and flumes)
- 4.44 acres of riparian habitat
- 10.5 miles of connected river
- Repair 4,250 feet of channel and protect 5,750 feet of bank
- Removal of three fish barriers



Figure 5: Epsy-McKee Diversion Project Location



Source: Pothook Water Conservancy District

Figure 6: Epsy-Williams Diversion Project Location



Source: Pothook Water Conservancy District

Figure 7: Ladder-Stull Diversion Project Location



Source: Pothook Water Conservancy District



II. Staff Analysis: Staff has completed a full staff analysis for this project and confirmed that the project aligns with the River District Mission, Strategic Plan, and Policy Statements. The project aligns the District's mission to support multi-benefit projects that ultimately support agricultural users, river health, and upgrades to essential infrastructure. The project is also located on the Little Snake River, which has yet to receive CFP funding. The project has an array of local supporters and is a great opportunity for CFP to leverage further local, state, and federal funds. Ultimately, this project will enhance the management of three diversions, improve fish passage, and enhance the morphology of the river. Additionally, the project is a priority of the Headwaters of the Colorado Collaborative, which serves as a leader in identifying and completing projects in headwaters region of the state.

a. Project Funding and Leverage of CRD Funds: Table 7 below identifies the project funders and matching dollars. The Applicant requested the River District contribute \$250,000 representing 15% of the total project costs including a total cash match ratio of 1:6 (\$1,513,339: \$250,000). This grant request will fill gaps in NRCS funding. Additionally, the applicant and their partner Little Snake River Conservation District are providing \$102,000 of in-kind work through in-house engineering.

This project has secured a diverse amount of funding and has strong local support. The in-kind support of the two conservancy districts coupled with the landowner's fiscal support demonstrates the grassroots effort to complete the project. On average, CFP has supported similar projects at funding levels of 10-30% of total project costs. The request amount is an appropriate representation of CFP's effort to leverage further funding. The applicant has also had positive conversations with CWCB staff regarding their pending application.

Table 7: Funding Partners

| Funding Partner | Cash | In-Kind | Total | Funds Committed (Y/N) |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Pothook Water Conservancy District | | \$15,000* | \$15,000 | Y |
| Little Snake River Conservation District | | \$87,000* | \$87,000 | Y |
| NRCS | \$414,989 | | \$414,989 | Y |
| Colorado Water Conservation Board | \$836,350 | | \$836,350 | N* <i>pending application</i> |
| Landowners | \$12,000 | | \$12,000 | Y |
| Colorado River District – Requested Community Funding Partnership | \$250,000 | | \$250,000 | N* <i>pending application</i> |
| Total | \$1,513,339 | \$102,000 | \$1,615,339 | |

*In-kind services include in-house engineering work.

**Table 8: Project Budget**

| Task Name | Total |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Engineering design and permitting | \$63,000 |
| Mobilization/demobilization | \$130,000 |
| Construction and materials | \$1,290,000 |
| Engineering construction oversight | \$24,000 |
| 10% contingency | \$93,339 |
| Grant Administration | \$15,000 |
| Total | \$1,615,339 |

There are no private entities participating in a manner that will result in a profit nor will there be a revenue stream generated from the completed project.

CFP funding will support the mobilization/demobilization, materials purchase, and construction of the project.

- b. Local Community Support:** The applicant has provided numerous letters of support for the project including: Moffat County Board of County Commissioners, Routt County Board of County Commissioners, Trout Unlimited, Savery – Little Snake River Water Conservancy District, Little Snake River Conservation District, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the Community Agriculture Alliance.
- c. Human Resource Requirements:** The Colorado River District will not play any role in overseeing this project.
- d. Risk Analysis:** Staff has completed a risk analysis and has not identified any significant legal liability or exposure to the District that warrants additional legal review. The applicants have provided a detailed application with strong partnerships. The applicant has dedicated funding to complete engineering and required permitting.
- e. Additional Factors to Consider:**

Preservation of pre-compact water rights: All three diversions have pre-compact water rights with appropriation and adjudication dates ranging from 1885-1901.

Enhance overall project's long-term viability: The project will ensure the longevity of the three modern diversions, enhance the geomorphology of the river, and support the fish passage of river. All benefits will support the long-term viability of the Little Snake River.



BOARD ACTION ITEM #5 – Wolf Creek Reservoir Project

Project Applicant: Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District

Request: \$1,500,000

Recommended Amount: \$550,000

Location: Rio Blanco and Moffat Counties

Staff Recommendation: Staff requests that the Board approve a partial funding grant of up to \$550,000 or no more than 20% of permitting costs to finalize the scoping report milestone from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District to support the Wolf Creek Reservoir Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Productive Agriculture (15%); Infrastructure (75%); Healthy Rivers (5%); and Watershed Health and Water Quality (5%).

When presenting the initial funding recommendation to the Board in October 2021, Staff support recognized two critical elements associated with the funding recommendation:

1. *Staff supports the need for an inclusive, collaborative permitting process supported by data and responsive to public feedback.*
2. *Staff also supports the need for a robust review of alternatives and reservoir sizing that meets the water supply needs identified in the basin.*

Following the Staff recommendation, the Board awarded Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District a \$330,000 grant award in alignment with the above principles, while also encouraging future applications for funding as the permitting process progressed. River District staff had hoped the initial funding award would support the finalization of the Purpose and Need Report and Alternatives Analysis Report. The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District completed the identified deliverables of the initial funding award working through the BLM process as the identified lead federal agency. However, in January 2024, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) determined a jurisdictional nexus requiring an individual 404 permit. This will require additional review of the purpose and need and alternatives selection, which affects both the timeline and costs of the permitting process.

Staff recognizes the importance of storage, particularly in the White River basin, and acknowledges and appreciates the strong letters of local support from local elected officials including: the Rio Blanco County Board of County Commissioners, the Moffat County Board of County Commissioners, and the Town of Rangely. Staff also recognizes that the Board has not taken a position on the project; yet Staff has an interest in continuing to analyze the project and understand the supply constraints and storage needs within the White River Basin.

Staff recommends providing an additional funding award to assist the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District in the extended timeline and additional analysis to reach the permitting milestones of developing the Purpose and Need Report, completing the Alternatives Analysis Report and selection, completing project studies and reports in preparation for the draft Resource Management Plan amendment (RMPA) and draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS),



releasing the Notice of Intent, and completing scoping process and Project Scoping Report. Staff believes the scoping period offers an opportunity for the Board to further consider its position and role in the project, which will provide additional clarity into the various purposes the reservoir may serve (ie. Municipal supply, augmentation, water-based recreation, and mitigation for fish and wildlife) as well as the range of alternatives being considered. As an example, Staff recognizes that a core interest of the reservoir is for economic development. While the CFP program recognizes economically important, water-based recreation opportunities, the River District's funding interest remains focused on determining the water storage needs for water users within the White River Basin.

Given that the Board does not have a current position on the project, Staff is not recommending that the River District provide funding for other expenses but provide an incremental next funding award with a goal of advancing the project through the public scoping process. Therefore, Staff recommends a subsequent award of up to \$550,000 to complete these next phases, which aligns with approximately 20% of the currently projected NEPA permitting costs for 2024 and 2025. Staff also recommends that the River District only fund up to 20% of the NEPA permitting process to reach the milestone of completing the Project Scoping Report should actual costs decrease.

Finally, the application was submitted on behalf of an organization which employs the current River District Board Member representing Rio Blanco County. Staff believes it is best practice for the River District to bring matters like this, where the applicant has a relationship with the River District (i.e., in this case, the applicant's District Manager is a current River District Board Director), to the Board for consideration regardless of the amount of funding requested.

I. Project Description:

Since 2013, the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District (RBWCD) has conducted planning work to design a water storage project within the White River basin. A 2014 conditional water right for a 66,720 acre-foot reservoir was awarded to the project in January 2021 for the following beneficial uses: municipal, augmentation, mitigation of environmental impacts, hydroelectric power generation, recreation, piscatorial, and wildlife habitat.

The RBWCD has identified Wolf Creek Dam (located on Wolf Creek) as the preferred location. The reservoir would be filled by a pump station on the White River and an approximately ½-mile-long pipeline that would convey water to the reservoir. Water would be pumped from the White River to the Wolf Creek Reservoir during periods when existing water needs are being met in the White River, mainly during the spring runoff period.



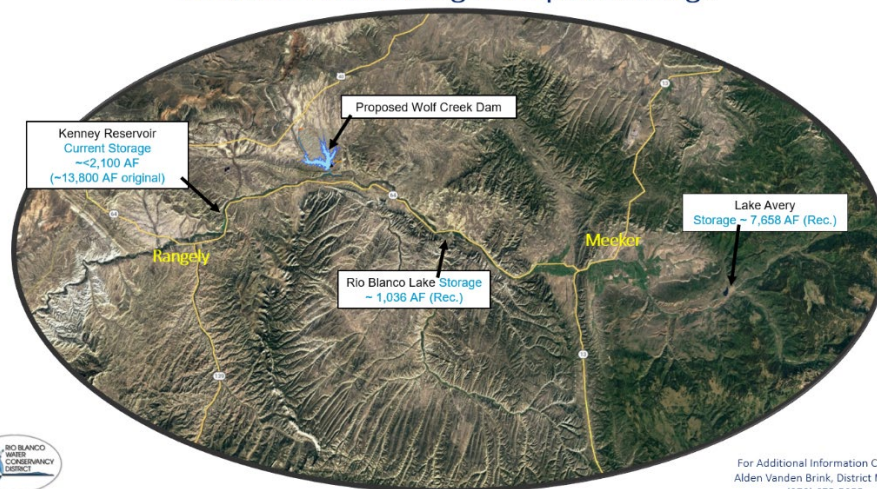
Figure 8: Wolf Creek Reservoir Project – Proposed Site



Source: Staff Photos

Figure 9: White River Basin Storage and Proposed Wolf Creek Reservoir Site

White River Basin Storage + Proposed Storage



For Additional Information Contact:
Alden Vanden Brink, District Manager
(970) 675-5055

Source: Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District

II. Staff Analysis:

Staff has completed a full staff analysis for this project and confirmed that the project aligns with the River District Mission, Strategic Plan, and Policy Statements by developing new storage to protect and provide adequate water supplies for the White River basin. This includes sustainable drinking water supplies for West Slope communities such as the Town of Rangely and augmentation water to be used by farmers and ranchers during periods of administration.

a. Project Funding and Leverage of CRD Funds:

From 2021 – 2023, the applicant has expended \$3,247,427 for pre-permitting and permitting activities related to the Wolf Creek Reservoir Project. These costs are included in Table 9 below and include fully expending the River District’s initial \$330,000 funding award, fully expending a previous Colorado Water Plan Grant to support pre-permitting



activities, fully expending the Town of Rangely’s \$200,000 award, and expending 39% of Rio Blanco County’s \$4M award. The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District has committed \$250,000 per year and has consistently exceeded its intended allocation.

The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District has estimated that the permitting process through 2025 will require an additional \$2.7 million, which includes a 25% contingency for change orders along with \$1.9 million in other project costs including external affairs, legal, project design/engineering, environmental consultants, environmental resource economist, land easement/purchase, survey, and administration. The applicant is requesting \$1.5 million or 32% of the applicant’s projected 2024 and 2025 permitting and other project costs.

Table 10 below identifies the current project funders and matching dollars. Of note, the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District was awarded \$5 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for water infrastructure improvements. This funding was fully secured after the signing of the Fiscal Year 2024 minibus spending package (H.R. 4366) in early March.

The project deliverables for the recommended funding award include:

1. Performing an evaluation of the Purpose and Need with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) processes and finalizing the Purpose and Need Report.
2. Performing the Alternatives Analysis with USACE processes and finalizing the Alternatives Analysis Report.
3. Completing project studies and reports in preparation for the draft Resource Management Plan amendment (RMPA) and draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
4. Preparing and issuing the Notice of Intent (NOI).
5. Conducting Project Scoping and completing the Project Scoping Report.

**Table 9: 2021 – 2023 Expenditures**

| Funding Partner | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Total |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Colorado River District – Requested Community Funding Partnership | \$0 | \$180,935 | \$149,055 | \$329,990 |
| Town of Rangely | \$0 | \$116,310 | \$83,690 | \$200,000 |
| Rio Blanco County | \$0 | \$52,431 | \$1,521,661 | \$1,574,091 |
| CWCB Pre-Permitting Water Plan Grant Award* | \$71,161 | \$55,189 | \$14,569 | \$140,919 |
| Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District | \$319,326 | \$323,538 | \$359,562 | \$1,002,426 |
| Total | \$390,487 | \$728,403 | \$2,128,537 | \$3,247,427 |

*CWCB Pre-Permitting Grant was issued in 2018 and for \$700,000. \$140,919 was the funding remaining for 2021 – 2023.

Table 10: Funding Partners

| Funding Partner | Cash | In-Kind | Total | Funds Committed (Y/N) |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District | \$327,750 | \$172,250* | \$500,000 | Y |
| Rio Blanco County | \$1,500,000 | | \$1,500,000 | Y |
| Congressional Directed Spending | \$1,357,306 | | \$1,357,306 | Y |
| Other Funding (To Be Determined)* | | | | N |
| Colorado River District – Requested Community Funding Partnership | \$1,500,000 | | \$1,500,000 | N |
| Total | \$4,685,056 | \$172,250 | \$4,857,306 | |

*In-kind services include RBWCD staff time, mileage, legal support, and other administrative services.

**RBWCD is considering additional federal, state, and local funding opportunities.

**Table 11: Project Budget***

| Task Name | 2024 | 2025 | Total |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. NEPA Permitting Process | \$1,644,854 | \$1,097,2023 | \$2,742,056 |
| 1a BLM | \$320,000 | \$320,000 | \$640,000 |
| 1b Galileo | \$325,507 | \$270,726 | \$596,233 |
| 1c SWCA | \$670,376 | \$287,036 | \$957,412 |
| 1d Change Order Contingency (25%) | \$328,971 | \$219,441 | \$548,411 |
| 2 Other Project Costs | \$876,500 | \$1,066,500 | \$1,943,000 |
| 2a External Affairs | \$65,000 | \$70,000 | \$135,000 |
| 2b Legal | \$100,000 | \$250,000 | \$350,000 |
| 2c Project Design & Engineering | \$500,000 | \$500,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| 2d Environmental Consultants | \$51,500 | \$55,000 | \$106,500 |
| 2e Environmental Resource Economist | \$15,000 | \$15,000 | \$30,000 |
| 2f Land Easements/Purchases | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | \$3,000 |
| 2g Survey | \$13,500 | \$25,000 | \$38,500 |
| 2h Administration | \$130,000 | \$150,000 | \$280,000 |
| Total | \$2,521,354 | \$2,163,703 | \$4,685,056* |

* Project costs are general estimates provided by RBWCD based on their understanding of the project requirements and information provided by BLM, SWCA, and their engineering consultants. This total does not include \$172,250 of included in-kind support from RBWCD included in Table 10.

There are no private entities participating in a manner that will result in a profit nor will there be a revenue stream generated from the completed project.

- b. Local Community Support:** The applicant has provided updated letters of support from the Moffat County Board of County Commissioners, the Rio Blanco County Board of County Commissioners, Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District, and the Town of Rangely indicating their continued support.

In addition, the RBWCD has intergovernmental agreements with Rio Blanco County and Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District (YJWCD) to use Wolf Creek Reservoir to provide augmentation water to customers on the White River within Rio Blanco County and YJWCD boundaries, respectively. The Town of Rangely has also provided a commitment to the RBWCD to purchase at least 2,000 acre-feet of water storage in Wolf Creek Reservoir for municipal use.

- c. Human Resource Requirements:** The Colorado River District is currently a cooperating agency with District technical staff participating.



d. **Risk Analysis:** Staff has completed a risk analysis and has not identified any significant legal liability or exposure to the District that warrants additional legal review. This funding will support a robust permitting process led by two federal agencies – the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Army Corps.

e. **Additional Factors to Consider:**

Development of applied research, science and data beneficial to the mission and strategic goals of the District: The permitting process will result in numerous technical reports supported by data that will provide additional information to the River District and the White River basin.

Size, complexity, and importance of a project which may warrant consideration of multiple sequential funding awards: Staff recognizes that the permitting process is a multi-year process requiring significant funding resources. Therefore, staff encourages continued conversations regarding future funding applications as the permitting process progresses and long-term funding needs for both construction and operations and maintenance should permits be secured.

BOARD ACTION ITEM #6 – Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Agriculture Bundled Project

Project Applicant: Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

Request: \$114,400

Recommended Amount: \$114,400

Location: Gunnison and Saguache Counties

Staff Recommendation: Staff requests that the Board approve a grant of \$114,400 in funding from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) to support the UGRWCD Agriculture Bundled Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Productive Agriculture (30%); Infrastructure (30%); Healthy Rivers (20%); Conservation and Efficiency (10%); and Watershed Health and Water Quality (10%).

The application was submitted on behalf of the organization which employs the current River District Board Member representing Gunnison County. Staff believes it is best practice for the River District for staff to bring matters like this, where the applicant has a relationship with the River District (i.e., in this case, the applicant’s General Manager is a current River District Board Director), to the Board for consideration regardless of the amount of funding requested.

I. **Project Description:** The UGRWCD is requesting funds to fill the final funding gap for four different projects in the Gunnison Basin. Three projects involve improving agricultural diversions and the fourth is a river restoration project. Each project will increase the health of the creeks by increasing habitat, fish passage, and overall reduction of erosion. The projects aim to reduce in-channel incision and reconnect the rivers (Razor;



Quartz; and Ohio Creeks) to their floodplain. Additionally, the current diversions and channel width inhibit fish passage and overall river health. The collective of projects will ultimately support over 500 acres of agriculture land and increase diversion efficiency. Below is further information for each of the four projects:

Bosshard Ranch Channel Restoration Project: This restoration project will restore about 4,000 feet (.75 mile) of the historically straightened segment of Quartz Creek (a tributary to Tomichi Creek). The project will construct in-channel structures to reduce excessive bank/stream bed erosion, promote wild trout habitat, reconnect the stretch of river with the floodplain, and encourage groundwater/surface water exchange. This project is included in the UGRWCD WMP and is funded in part by the TU's Gunnison Basin Drought Resiliency and Restoration RCPP.

Chittenden Diversion Improvement Project: The project will replace the current Chittenden diversion which consists of a log-stop structure that uses a 55-gallon barrel to support logs, hay bales, tarps, and debris. The project will rehabilitate about 400 feet of the stream bank through streambank protection, revegetation, and rock/gravel fill. Diverting on Quartz Creek, the structure cannot be adjusted with flow changes, has eroded over 400 feet of stream bank, and serves as a barrier to fish passage. The project will implement a new diversion with supportive in-channel rock riffle structures. The ditch currently serves 29cfs to 400 acres of grass pasture.

Snyder No. 1 and 2 Irrigation Improvement: The project is located on Razor Creek - a tributary of Tomichi Creek. The project will replace an antiquated and poorly functioning diversion/headgate and construct four structures for irrigation control down ditch. The ditch serves 200 acres of hay meadow and is decreed for 31.99cfs. The two ag operations on the ditch support critical habitat for Gunnison sage grouse and other wildlife. Further, the proposed irrigation infrastructure improvements will complement in-channel and riparian restoration work completed in 2022/23, riparian pasture fencing, and an off-channel stock water facility/tank planned for 2024.

Vidal Brothers No. 1 Diversion Improvement: The project is located at the end of Ohio Creek - a tributary of the Gunnison River. The current ditch irrigates 118 acres of meadow and a small apple orchard. The existing rock diversion check dam spans the entire width of Ohio Creek and is composed of a combination of concrete jersey barriers and rock/boulders placed in the river over 25 years. The existing structure has resulted in 2.5 feet of channel scouring, significant bank erosion, flooding, and icing issues that are also affecting private property /residences. The project involves building a new, properly oriented, wing inlet /channel rock vane structure with bank stabilization that will direct peak flows to the center of the channel and away from the riverbanks.

This project is a great example of a champion entity (UGRWCD) working with local partners to complete multiple projects through combining them into single grant application. The combined impact of the four projects is far greater than one singular



project, and these projects have been identified as priorities that collectively benefit the greater watershed by UGRWCD and Trout Unlimited.

Figure 10: Chittenden Ditch Project Location



Source: Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

Figure 11: Snyder #1 and #2 Project Location



Source: Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District



Figure 12: Vidal Brothers Cross Vane Location



Source: Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

Figure 13: Bosshard Ranch Channel Restoration Location



Source: Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

- II. Staff Analysis:** Staff has completed a full staff analysis for this project and confirmed that the project aligns with the River District Mission, Strategic Plan, and Policy Statements. The project aligns with CRD's mission to support multi-benefit projects that enhance



agriculture productivity while supporting the health of the river. The four projects combined will ensure the ditch owners can continue to divert water while taking critical steps to rehabilitate the channels, banks, and overall morphology of the tributaries to the Gunnison. The project also exemplifies CFP's value to leverage funds to complete multiple projects at one time. Although there are not many agricultural users on the projects, the diversions and river stretches in the Gunnison Basin all serve as important habitat for the diverse species and fish. Additionally, most of the projects will experience efficiency gains to support their diversions.

- a. Project Funding and Leverage of CRD Funds:** Table 12 below identifies the project funders and matching dollars, which includes a diverse set of funders and a meaningful contribution from the landowners. The applicant requested the River District contribute \$114,400 representing 22% of the total project costs including a total cash match ratio of 1:3 (\$399,500: \$114,400).

Each sub-project includes a 10% administration fee to support UGRWCD in managing the projects. Projects of this scope have seen great success when they have a project administrator. This is a great opportunity to support a regional champion in managing multiple projects at one time to ultimately get a larger impact and faster timeline.

Table 12: Funding Partners

| Funding Partner | Cash | In-Kind | Total | Funds Committed (Y/N) |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Landowners | \$91,000 | | \$91,000 | Y |
| TU NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program | \$233,000 | | \$233,000 | Y |
| Colorado Water Conservation Board | \$32,000 | | \$32,000 | Y |
| Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District | \$39,000 | | \$39,000 | N* <i>application pending</i> |
| Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust | \$5,000 | | \$5,000 | Y |
| Trout Unlimited | | \$500 | \$500 | Y |
| Colorado River District – Requested Community Funding Partnership | \$114,400 | | \$114,400 | N* <i>application pending</i> |
| Total | \$514,400 | \$500 | \$514,900 | |

*In-kind services include administrative support for the projects.

**Table 13: Project Budget**

| Task Name | Total |
|--|------------------|
| Bosshard Ranch Channel Restoration Project | \$267,250 |
| Chittenden Diversion Improvement Project | \$133,550 |
| Snyder No. 1 and 2 Irrigation Improvement | \$60,300 |
| Vidal Brothers No. 1 Diversion Improvement | \$53,800 |
| Total | \$514,900 |

There are no private entities participating in a manner that will result in a profit nor will there be a revenue stream generated from the completed project.

CFP funding will support the materials purchase and construction for all four projects.

- b. Local Community Support:** The applicant has provided numerous letters of support for the project including the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners, Saguache County Board of County Commissioners and Trout Unlimited. Staff anticipates receiving letters of support from the landowners prior to the Colorado River District Board meeting. Should these not be received by the Board meeting, the recommended action will be contingent on receiving the landowners' letters of support.
- c. Human Resource Requirements:** The Colorado River District will not play any role in overseeing this project.
- d. Risk Analysis:** Staff has completed a risk analysis and has not identified any significant legal liability or exposure to the District that warrants additional legal review. The applicants have provided a detailed application with strong partnerships. Staff notes that Director Sonja Chavez is the General Manager of the UGRWCD and represents Gunnison County on the Colorado River District Board.
- e. Additional Factors to Consider:**

Preservation of pre-compact water rights: Chittendon Ditch: 29 cfs of which 14.232 are pre-compact and 14.8 post-compact. Snyder No. 1 and 2 ditches total 31.99 cfs of which 5.2 cfs are pre-compact. The Vidal Brothers No. 1 Ditch has a 2.95 cfs water right which is pre-compact.

Enhance overall project's long-term viability: All four projects will reduce in-channel degradation/erosion, install new infrastructure, and use the newest engineering to ensure the structures and health of the river have long-term impacts.



BOARD ACTION ITEM #7 – Blue Mesa Harmful Algal Bloom Study – Phase II

Project Applicant: Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

Request: \$35,004

Recommended Amount: \$35,004

Location: Gunnison County

Staff Recommendation: Staff requests that the Board approve a grant of \$35,004 in funding from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District to support the Blue Mesa Harmful Algal Bloom Study Phase II Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Healthy Rivers (50%) and Watershed Health and Water Quality (50%).

Although the request amount is within the delegated authority of the General Manager, the application was submitted on behalf of the organization which employs the current River District Board Member representing Gunnison County. Staff believes it is best practice for the River District for staff to bring matters like this, where the applicant has a relationship with the River District (i.e., in this case, the applicant's General Manager is a current River District Board Director), to the Board for consideration regardless of the amount of funding requested.

I. Project Description: This project has implemented high frequency water-quality (WQ) sampling to support harmful algal bloom (HABs) studies occurring in Blue Mesa Reservoir (BMR) in Gunnison County. Beginning in 2018, BMR saw increasing occurrences of HABs with algal toxins above State advisory levels. Algal toxins are harmful to humans and animals when ingested and disrupt recreational activity on BMR which contributes \$43 million annually to Colorado's economy. In 2021, the USGS and the National Park Service (NPS) began conducting a three-year study combining satellite imagery and water quality sample analysis to better understand why and when HABs form. The applicant collected HAB data through 2021-2022 and received further funding to collect further data during the wet year of 2023.

UGRWCD is extending their BMR Harmful Algal Bloom Study into a second phase to incorporate the dichotomy of dry and wet years in 2021, 2022, and 2023. The goal of this project is to understand why and when HABs occur so that the local community can take steps to reduce pollutant sources likely exacerbated by lower stream flows (i.e., less dilution) and so that reservoir managers can identify strategies to increase the resiliency of BMR to climate change and potential emergency drought response operations.

CFP funding is sought to assist with completing data interpretations that include:

1. Compare 2023 chlorophyll-a concentrations and algal taxonomy with those from 2021 and 2022 to assess extent of algal bloom in 2023 compared to 2021-2022;
2. Compare reservoir levels to chlorophyll-a and other measures of trophic state of BMR to assess relation between reservoir levels, trophic status, and algal blooms;
3. Incorporate 2023 chlorophyll-a data into existing satellite data model to improve model fit and generate chlorophyll-a maps for BMR from 2016 through 2023;



4. Compare map of water-quality conditions in BMR to satellite chlorophyll-a maps to relations between water quality parameters and chlorophyll-a concentrations, particularly chlorophyll-a and phycocyanin fluorescence.

Data collected during Phase 1 and 2 can be used to support the development of phosphorus standards for BMR following the Water Quality Control Commission adoption of lake nutrient (phosphorus) standards. This phase will collect comparison data between dry/wet years, ultimately to paint a more thorough picture of how HAB's are impacted by climate change. And, the wet year comparison will enable the applicant to assess if lake levels are a driver of HAB's.

Figure 14: Blue Mesa Harmful Algal Bloom Study Project Team



Source: The Colorado Sun

II. Staff Analysis: Staff has completed a full staff analysis for this project and confirmed that the project aligns with the River District Mission, Strategic Plan, and Policy Statements. This project aligns with the River District's mission by supporting a research effort aimed at understanding climate change and its effect on water supplies. Additionally, the project supports the River District's water quality policy by participating in the prevention or mitigation of activities that adversely impact water quality whenever existing or future beneficial water uses, the ecological health of rivers and streams, public health or local economies dependent on certain water quality may be threatened. This research is particularly important due to the HAB occurrence likely related and exacerbated by both long-term drought and drought response operational releases to maintain critical infrastructure at Lake Powell.

- a. **Project Funding and Leverage of CRD Funds:** Table 14 below identifies the project funders and matching dollars, which includes multiple funders and a meaningful



contribution from the applicant. The Applicant requested the River District contribute \$35,004 representing 25% of the total project costs including a total cash match ratio of 1:3 (\$105,000: \$35,004).

On average, CFP has funded about 28% of the research projects similar to this project. This request falls in line with the average grant amount for projects. The applicant secured a large grant from USGS and is looking to fill the final gap in data collection due to the wet year of 2023. This incorporation of the data compared to the dry years of 2021-2022 will be important in understanding the impact of HAB in the Gunnison basin. And, the wet year comparison will enable the applicant to assess if lake levels are a driver of HAB's. The applicant is also matching the grant request with their own funds. It is important to note that the applicant secured a diverse set of funding for Phase I from local water users - Project 7, UVWUA, and Gunnison County, which demonstrated strong local support.

Table 14: Funding Partners

| Funding Partner | Cash | In-Kind | Total | Funds Committed (Y/N) |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District | \$35,000 | \$1,000 | \$36,000 | Y |
| U.S. Geological Survey | \$70,000 | | \$70,000 | Y |
| Colorado River District – Requested Community Funding Partnership | \$35,004 | | \$35,004 | N*Pending application |
| Total | \$140,004 | \$1,000 | \$141,004 | |

**In-kind services include serving as the fiscal agent for the BMR HABs Phase 2 research study, contracting with USGS, conducting grant administration, and coordinating and disseminating project results.*

Table 15: Project Budget

| Task Name | Total |
|---|------------------|
| Compare 2023 chlorophyll-a w/ algal taxonomy | \$8,417.40 |
| Compare reservoir levels to chlorophyll-a | \$8,928.63 |
| Incorporate 2023 data in satellite data model | \$8,840.80 |
| Compare map of water quality conditions to satellite maps | \$8,817.40 |
| Project administration | \$1,000 |
| Total | \$141,004 |

There are no private entities participating in a manner that will result in a profit nor will there be a revenue stream generated from the completed project.



CFP funding will support the researcher labor in comparing data from 2021-2023 to gather conclusions on the driving forces of harmful algal blooms.

- b. Local Community Support:** The applicant provided the following letters of support for their initial CFP grant for Phase I of the project: Project 7 Water Authority; Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association; Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District; and the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners.
- c. Human Resource Requirements:** The Colorado River District will not play any role in overseeing this project.
- d. Risk Analysis:** Staff has completed a risk analysis and has not identified any significant legal liability or exposure to the District that warrants additional legal review. The applicants have provided a detailed application with strong partnerships. It is important to note that Director Sonja Chavez is the General Manager of the UGRWCD and sits on the CRD board.
- e. Additional Factors to Consider:**

Promotion of innovation within a water use sector: The use of satellite imagery to understand and predict HABs is an innovative technique that is being supported by data collected in this project. The use of algal fluorescence to monitor and predict algal blooms is also a relatively new field. These instruments could potentially assist National Park Service in monitoring and predicting the blooms. The information from this study might help NPS evaluate the utility of the techniques.

Enhance overall project's long-term viability: This project will provide critical data that will assist in the future management of BMR including protection of public health, characterization of different loading sources, development of lake nutrient standards and best management practices to prevent eutrophication and maintain excellent water quality well into the future.

Development of applied research, science and data beneficial to the mission and strategic goals of the District: The primary purpose of this project is to develop data, analysis, and supporting science to better understand occurrence of HABs in BMR and to leverage these data in existing USGS projects designed to potentially predict HABs in BMR using satellite imagery.



INFORMATIONAL – Program Awards Under General Manager Authority

The Board has previously authorized the General Manager to review, consider, approve, and/or deny application in amounts up to \$50,000 for any single project, not exceeding an aggregate total of \$1M in any single calendar year. In 2023, the General Manager, working with staff recommendations, authorized \$649,345 to 21 projects out of the \$1M calendar year cap. To date, in 2024, the General Manager, working with staff recommendations, has authorized \$137,006 to 4 projects out of the \$1M calendar year cap.

Table 16: General Manager Funding Approvals

| | Project Applicant | Project Name | Funding Requested | Funding Approved | County |
|----------|---|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Arch Ditch Association | Arch Ditch Automation Project | \$40,000 | \$40,000 | Saguache; Gunnison |
| 2 | Middle Colorado Watershed Council* | Roan Creek Fish Barrier and Infrastructure Project | \$41,006 | \$41,006 | Garfield |
| 3 | Grand County Water Information Network* | GCWIN Multi Parameter Sonde | \$6,000 | \$6,000 | Grand |
| 4 | Trout Unlimited | Alternative Forage Phase 2a | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | District-Wide |

*Staff and General Manager recognize that with the recent commitment of \$20 million (subject to future revenue and board appropriation) to the Shoshone Permanency Project, the Colorado Basin has been over allocated within the CFP. However, the General Manager honored these applications because their pre-application discussions and submission (August – November 2023) were submitted prior to the Shoshone grant award.

- 1. Arch Ditch Association; Arch Ditch Automation Project:** This project will involve installation of automation equipment and a trash boom on the Arch Ditch diversion. The Arch Ditch is located on Tomichi Creek in Saguache County near Doyleville, CO. There are eight water rights owners on the ditch who irrigate approximately 2,200 acres of grass hay and pasture. The ditch has rights to 150cfs. Updating the Arch Ditch diversion with automation equipment and a trash boom will increase water use efficiency and dramatically reduce labor required to manage irrigation deliveries. The proposed infrastructure improvement will also allow more accurate and timely management of by-pass flows delivered to a downstream senior ditch, thereby resulting in more consistent stream flows on a 2-mile segment of Tomichi Creek that is frequently water short.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <i>30% Productive Agriculture</i> | <i>40% Infrastructure</i> | <i>10% Healthy Rivers</i> | <i>20% Conservation and Efficiency</i> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|



2. Middle Colorado Watershed Council; Roan Creek Fish Barrier and Infrastructure

Project: The Roan Creek Fish Barrier & Diversion Infrastructure Project was developed through a collaboration of the Middle Colorado Watershed Council, Garfield County, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, the landowner, and the water rights holder. The project will construct a fish barrier that effectively eliminates the upstream movement of non-native fish to improve Roan Creek’s aquatic and riparian habitat and protect a unique native fish assemblage of four species, including the Colorado River cutthroat trout, bluehead sucker, speckled dace, and mottled sculpin. The project will also benefit the water rights owner by providing water diversion enhancements that make water delivery more efficient and less impactful to water quality by eliminating the need to construct a pushup dam each year. The project, located on Roan Creek, northwest of De Beque, Colorado, is a high-priority project in the Middle Colorado River Integrated Water Management Plan.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <i>10% Productive Agriculture</i> | <i>20% Infrastructure</i> | <i>60% Healthy Rivers</i> | <i>10% Conservation and Efficiency</i> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|

3. Grand County Water Information Network; GCWIN Multi Parameter Sonde

Project: GCWIN is a member-supported non-profit organization that collects water quality data, conducts public water education, and maintains a publicly accessible water quality database in Grand County. GCWIN is seeking funding to purchase a new YSI multi-parameter sonde (a water quality measurement tool). The sonde will be used to collect water quality data for multiple projects in the Grand County including: Learning by Doing; The Three Lakes Technical Committee; and data submittal for CDPHE regulations. The data will be shared via a data platform (expected to be created in 2024-2025) to allow public access to updated data on water quality, temperature, and flows in Grand County.

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <i>85% Watershed Health and Water Quality</i> | <i>15% Healthy Rivers</i> |
|---|---------------------------|

4. Trout Unlimited; Alternative Forage Phase 2a:

The Alternative Forage Working Group is pursuing a large-scale research project to investigate how alternative forages can be effectively grown in a variety of climates and field conditions in the Upper Colorado Basin while providing more drought resilience. This project is targeting two primary crops: Kernza® varieties of intermediate wheatgrass (*Thinopyrum intermedium*) and sainfoin (*Onybrichis viciifolia*); and one crop candidate: silflower (*Silphium integrifolium*). Phase 1 of this project is focused on understanding what practices are needed to establish these crops on lands formerly used for hay production and grazing. In Phase 2a, controlled testing for drought resilience of research-scale plots of sainfoin and intermediate wheatgrass will be conducted by withholding irrigation at different times to simulate drought stress. The project will assess forage production with limited irrigation, and evaluate recovery once normal irrigation resumes, as well as monitor consumptive water use under all research scenarios. The applicant is seeking funding for Phase 2a.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>50% Productive Agriculture</i> | <i>50% Conservation and Efficiency</i> |
|-----------------------------------|--|



INFORMATIONAL – Table 17: 2024 Awarded Projects

| 2024 Awarded Projects | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| | Applicant | Project Name | Awarded Amount |
| - | Colorado River District and West Slope Coalition | Shoshone Permanency Project | \$ 5,000,000 |
| 1 | Colorado Trout Unlimited | Middle Colorado Agricultural Collaborative Phase III | \$ 150,000 |
| 2 | City of Gunnison | City of Gunnison Water Treatment Plant and Infrastructure Improvements Project | \$ 150,000 |
| 3 | Arch Ditch Association | Arch Ditch Automation Project | \$ 40,000 |
| 4 | Middle Colorado Watershed Council | Roan Creek Fish Barrier and Infrastructure Project - Phase II | \$ 41,006 |
| 5 | Grand County Water Information Network | GCWIN Multi Parameter Sonde | \$ 6,000 |
| 6 | Trout Unlimited | Alternative Forage Phase 2a | \$ 50,000 |
| 7 | Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District* | Wolf Creek Storage Project Permitting Phase II | \$ 550,000 |
| 8 | East Mesa Water Company* | East Mesa Ditch Emergency Repairs | \$ 207,500 |
| 9 | Sonoran Institute* | Growing Water Smart 2024-2025 | \$ 98,426 |
| 10 | Colorado Water Trust* | Yampa River Reservoir Releases 2024-2026 | \$ 218,586 |
| 11 | Blue River Watershed Group* | Blue River Habitat Restoration Project | \$ 150,000 |
| 12 | Poohook Water Conservancy District* | Little Snake River Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project | \$ 250,000 |
| 13 | Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District* | UGRWCD Agriculture Bundled Project | \$ 114,400 |
| 14 | Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District* | Blue Mesa R harmful Algal Bloom Study Phase II | \$ 35,004 |
| | *Pending Board Approval | 2024 AWARD TOTAL | \$ 7,060,922 |

INFORMATIONAL - Equity Targets

Staff continues to track the District’s category and geographic equity targets. As a reminder, the CFP Framework includes a commitment to fund each of the defined categories in approximately equal amounts on a running five-year average. In addition, the Framework includes a commitment to equitably disperse the funds geographically within the District’s boundaries both on a county-



by-county basis and on a sub-basin drainage basis on a running five-year average. Following the Board’s recent commitment of \$20 million for the Shoshone water rights acquisition, Staff anticipates ongoing discussions and reports to the Board regarding actions to maintain the District’s equity targets. To that end, Staff has included charts that includes current distributions from 2021-2024, including staff recommendations in this memo and the full \$20 million commitment for the Shoshone water rights acquisition.

Figure 15: Category Distribution – Includes \$20M Shoshone Commitment

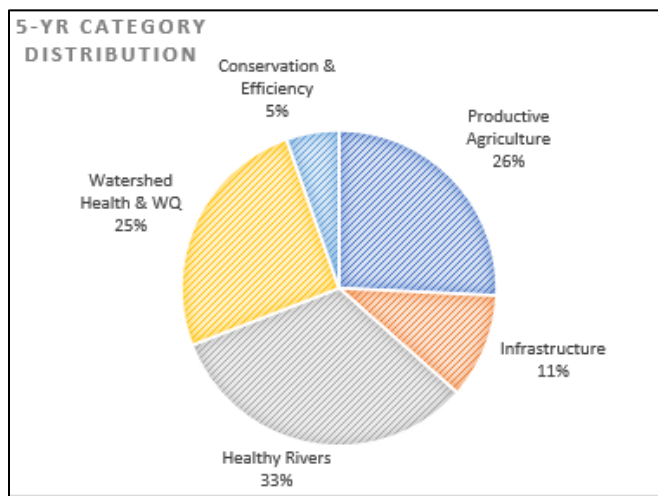


Figure 16: Basin Distribution – Includes \$20M Shoshone Commitment

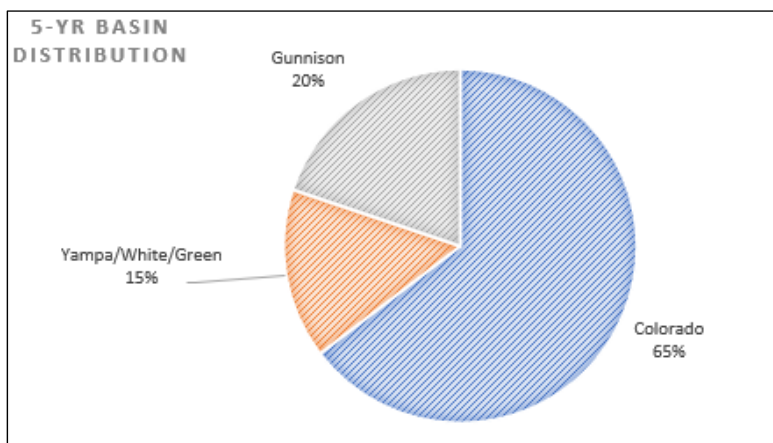
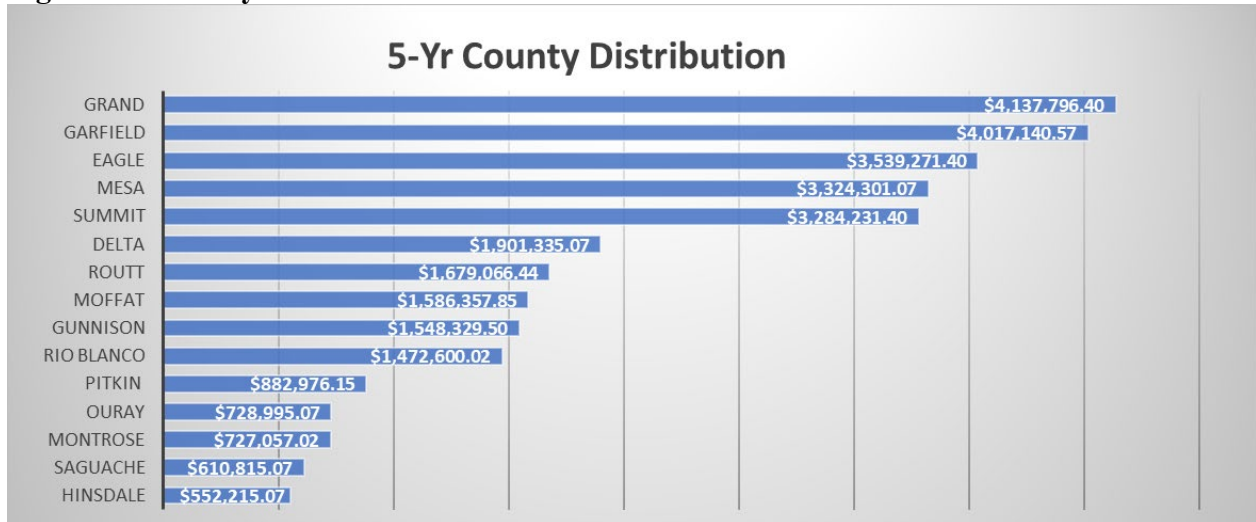




Figure 17: County Distribution – Includes \$20M Shoshone Commitment



**Note: These charts include previous awards and staff recommendations contained within this memo.*

GO BACK TO MEMO

Adopted October 30, 2021

Multi-Benefit Water Projects

Introduction:

Consistent with its mission to lead in the protection, conservation, use, and development of the water resources of the Colorado River basin, the Colorado River Water Conservation District (Colorado River District) works to protect the viability of the Colorado River and its tributaries for the benefit of all beneficial consumptive and non- consumptive uses within the District's boundaries.

Since its creation in 1937, water needs within the River District and the priorities of water users within the District have been, and will continue to be, refined, and prioritized. Today, there is widespread recognition throughout the District that our water resources will be critically important to our future. This truth was made evident by the strong, bipartisan support shown throughout the Colorado River District for Ballot Measure 7A in November of 2020.

As western Colorado's water supply is increasingly impacted by new demands and a changing climate, the River District recognizes that it must prioritize multi-benefit water projects that serve to protect our region's water security, which is directly tied to thriving rural economies, vibrant communities, productive agriculture, a strong environment, and a robust recreation industry.

Colorado River Water Conservation District Policy Statements:

As the Colorado River District looks to invest its own resources in water projects on the West Slope, and simultaneously advocates for outside resources to protect the District's water interests, the Board and staff of the District will prioritize multi-purpose projects that address one or more of the following five categories:

- (I) Productive agriculture projects which could include but are not limited to multiple-use storage projects that addresses regional priorities; developing innovative and functional water leasing; suitable agriculture efficiency and conservation approaches; technical assistance and technological innovation; and dedicated resources for increasing community literacy about irrigated agriculture and supporting agricultural market growth.**
- (II) Infrastructure projects that serve to update aging infrastructure while incentivizing new storage and delivery projects to collaboratively address multiple needs, such as improved flows to meet demands, stream and watershed health, and habitat quality; multi-purpose projects and storage methods that are supported in the Colorado Water Plan and Basin Implementation Plans;**
- (III) Healthy rivers projects that support and sustain fish and wildlife, healthy aquifer conditions as they connect to healthy streams, economically important water-based recreation, wetland habitat, fish passage construction for new or updated**

- water diversion structures, stream restoration projects, and environmental and recreational enhancements for new or revised water supply projects;
- (IV) **Watershed health and water quality projects that include projects identified in collaborative and science-based watershed management plans that reduce the risk from and increase resilience to fires and/or floods, rehabilitate streams, or make landscapes resilient to climate change, including, but not limited to science-based mechanical forest treatments and prescribed fire, projects that address drinking water quality for under-resourced communities, and projects that address pollutants such as selenium, salts, and others, as well as mine remediation activities; and**
- (V) **Conservation and efficiency projects that include supporting agricultural water infrastructure that increases reliability and efficiency while avoiding adverse impacts to water users; municipal and industrial projects that promote efficiency, water conservation, green infrastructure, and outdoor landscaping to reduce consumptive use; increase leak detection for infrastructure repair and replacement; assisting communities with water-smart community development and water conservation programs; and targeting smaller, fast-growing, and communities with older infrastructure with strategic, incentive-based investments.**

Staff will prioritize funding for projects that demonstrate multiple benefits in alignment with the CFP funding categories and that impact multiple beneficiaries across a region or watershed.

GO BACK TO MEMO

CRD COMMUNITY FUNDING PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

January-April 2023-2024

Introduction:

On November 3, 2020, the registered electorate of the Colorado River Water Conservation District (the District or CRD) approved Ballot Question 7A. Ballot Question 7A, in its entirety reads:

Shall Colorado River Water Conservation District, also known as the Colorado River District, taxes be increased by an amount up to \$4,969,041 in 2021 (which increase amounts to approximately \$1.90 in 2021 for every \$100,000 in residential home value), and by such amounts as are generated annually thereafter from an additional property tax levy of 0.248 mills (for a total mill levy of 0.5 mills) to enable the Colorado River District to protect and safeguard Western Colorado water by:

- *Fighting to keep water on the West Slope;*
- *Protecting adequate water supplies for West Slope farmers and ranchers;*
- *Protecting sustainable drinking water supplies for West Slope communities;*
and
- *Protecting fish, wildlife, and recreation by maintaining river levels and water quality;*

provided that the District will not utilize these additional funds for the purpose of paying to fallow irrigated agriculture; with such expenditures reported to the public in an annually published independent financial audit; and shall all revenues received by the District in 2021 and each subsequent year be collected, retained and spent notwithstanding any limits provided by law?

When taking action to place this ballot question on the November 2020 ballot, the CRD Board adopted Resolution 2020-01 which included within in it an Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan articulates the River District's clear intent and commitment as to how the newly authorized funds would be used by the District if the voters approved the ballot question. Specifically, the Board committed to allocating approximately 86% of the funds annually to fund partnerships with water users and communities within the District on projects identified as priorities by local communities and Basin Roundtables.

The Implementation Plan adopted by the Board pledged that the Board and staff of the Colorado River District will prioritize multi-purpose projects that meet needs in one or more of the following five categories:

- productive agriculture,
- infrastructure,
- healthy rivers,
- watershed health and water quality; and

- conservation and efficiency.

Staff will prioritize funding for projects that demonstrate multiple benefits in alignment with the CFP funding categories and that impact multiple beneficiaries across a region or watershed.

The Board indicated that the District is committed to expending funds in an equitable manner which, over time, disperses the benefits of the program geographically within the District boundaries and between the identified categories. The District is also committed to utilizing these funds to drive the initiation and completion of projects that are priorities for residents of the District by utilizing District funds as a catalyst for matching funds from state, federal and private sources.

In Resolution 2020-01, the District expressly stated that it will not utilize the funds raised by this ballot question for the purpose of paying to temporarily or permanently fallow irrigated agriculture and the Implementation Plan affirms the River District's commitment to coordinating and consulting local elected officials in all relevant counties prior to committing funds to any specific project or activity pursued by the District.

The purpose of the following document is to provide a transparent framework and common understanding as to how this program will function for all Colorado River District stakeholders, i.e. our taxpayers, water users, potential applicants, elected officials, community members, and River District Board members and staff.

On October 20th, 2021, the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Conservation District unanimously adopted a resolution establishing a Community Funding Partnership Fund with an associated Community Funding Partnership budget, which identifies the funds available in the budget year for appropriation for project funding. Except as otherwise provided for herein, these funds shall only be allocated and committed with Board approval. The District recognizes and values the importance of transparent and public accounting and allocation of these funds; therefore, CRD staff shall be charged with conducting the following analysis and recommendation to the Board for each request to allocate project funding.

Purpose: To provide District Board and staff with an appropriate, objective and transparent tool and process to evaluate any new external or internal request for project funding in order to determine the appropriateness of the request within the District's mission, the District's commitment to the citizens of the District as set forth in ballot question 7A approved on November 3, 2020 and as more specifically articulated by the Board in Resolution 2020-01.

Intent: To provide an objective framework and transparent process by which staff will initiate or receive, evaluate and potentially recommend to the Board of the CRD, requests for project funding from funds received by the District as a direct result of Ballot question 7A's passage. Additionally, this document is intended to provide guidance to the CRD Board members as they evaluate and make approval decisions on these project funding requests.

Process: All requests for funding under the CRD Community Funding Partnership shall be analyzed by staff pursuant to the following criteria. Projects that the staff determines meet the criteria shall be recommended to the Board for funding at the regular quarterly meeting or special

Board meeting following staff's analysis hereunder. Staff members receiving requests for assistance from any party, (i.e. constituent, other government, Board Member, or non-governmental organization) and/or desiring to initiate any new project with funding from these funds on behalf of the District must collaborate with the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Program Associate to work through the analysis set forth below and, utilizing the District-approved form, draft a concise written analysis recommending or advising against providing the assistance requested.

Required Elements to Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

I. Mission Alignment:

Does the request/project fit within the Mission of the District as expressed in the Board's Mission Statement, its Strategic Plan, and the language of question 7A?

- Staff should be able to objectively articulate which (hopefully multiple) strategic plan initiatives the request fits within.
- Is the requested activity in compliance with or contravene any written policy of the District? Staff should provide a reference to relevant policies and if no policies apply, explain why the project should be funded.

II. Identification of which Categories from the Implementation Plan are Fulfilled:

A. Category Allocation:

Staff shall identify which of the following categories or buckets apply to the proposed project and if more than one (which is preferred) identify the approximate percentage applied to each applicable category. This section of the analysis should contain a narrative prepared by staff which articulates the rationale supporting the identification of and allocation between categories.

- (I) Productive agriculture projects which could include multiple-use storage that addresses regional priorities; developing innovative and functional water leasing; suitable agriculture efficiency and conservation approaches; technical assistance and technological innovation; and dedicated resources for increasing community literacy about irrigated agriculture and supporting agricultural market growth. The District will not utilize these funds for the purpose of permanently or temporarily fallowing irrigated agriculture;
- (II) Infrastructure projects which could include upgrading aging infrastructure while incentivizing new storage and delivery projects that collaboratively address multiple needs, such as improved flows to meet demands, stream and watershed health, and habitat quality; multi-purpose projects and storage methods that are supported in the Water Plan and the Basin Implementation Plans;
- (III) Healthy rivers projects which could include those identified in stream management plans or similar projects, projects that support and sustain fish and wildlife, healthy aquifer conditions as they connect to healthy streams, economically important water-based recreation, wetland habitat, fish passage construction for new or revised water diversion structures, stream restoration projects, and environmental and recreational enhancements for new or revised water supply projects;

- (IV) Watershed health and water quality projects which could include projects identified in collaborative and science-based watershed management plans that reduce the risk from and increase resilience to fires and/or floods, rehabilitate streams, or make landscapes resilient to climate change, including, but not limited to science-based mechanical forest treatments and prescribed fire, projects that address drinking water quality for under-resourced communities, and projects that address pollutants such as selenium, salts, and others, as well as mine remediation activities; and
- (V) Conservation and efficiency projects which could include supporting agricultural water infrastructure that increases reliability and efficiency; municipal and industrial projects that promote efficiency, water conservation, green infrastructure, and outdoor landscaping to reduce consumptive use; increase leak detection for infrastructure repair and replacement; assisting communities with water-smart community development and water conservation programs; and targeting smaller, fast-growing, and communities with older infrastructure with strategic, incentive-based investments.

B. Fund Distribution by Category:

To implement the District’s commitment to funding each of these categories in approximately equal amounts over time, the District shall exert a reasonable effort to expend these project funds in a such a manner that the above five listed categories will receive approximately equal funding on a running five-year average. In order to assist the District Staff and Board, the District accounting staff shall keep a current year and a running five-year average as to how the District has allocated Community Funding Partnership funds. Staff shall include the effect of any recommended funding to the current year and running five-year average allocation when presenting any recommendation to the Board.

C. Geographic Equity:

The District has committed to expending the project funds in a manner which equitably disperses the funds geographically within the District boundaries over time. The District staff shall keep track of a five-year running average of where project funds are allocated, both on a county by county basis and on a sub-basin drainage basis (i.e. Gunnison, mainstem Colorado and Yampa/White/Green). When considering equitable geographic distribution, the staff and Board will consider all relevant factors, including but not limited to: the running average distribution of funds, the relative population of counties and basins, the relative financial contribution, the number of requests for funding from certain counties and or drainages and the relationship of any particular request to the strategic goals of the District. With each funding recommendation, the staff shall provide the current running five-year allocation of funds by basin and staff’s analysis on the factors listed in this paragraph.

III. Analysis of Project Funding and Leverage of CRD Funds:

The intent of the District is that District funds shall not be the sole source of funding for any

project. It is the expectation and intent of the District that the applicant or project proponent will contribute funds and utilize District funds to leverage state, federal or private funds to the project. While there is, at this time, no minimum percentage contribution required by a project proponent, the extent of project proponent and non-District funding shall be a factor in evaluating any project for District funding.

For any Community Funding Partnership request recommended for CRD funding, District staff shall require applicant or project proponent to provide a complete disclosure of all funds and funding sources being utilized to complete the project. If District funds are to be used as matching funds from a different source (i.e. federal, state or private funding sources), the District may award funds in a manner that is contingent upon the applicant receiving the matching funds.

Community Funding Partnership awards may be made in the form of grant, loan and/or investment in a project. If a project has funding from a non-public entity (whether in-kind or direct funding) and that entity has the intent to receive a profit from the operation or construction of the project, the applicant or project proponent shall disclose and deliver to the staff of the CRD all relevant funding agreements, letters of intent or understanding, contracts, operating agreements or corporate documents which serve as the basis of the agreement between the proponent and the non-public entity. In some circumstances, non-public partner projects may profit from projects funded by the River District. In such circumstances, staff may suggest conditions for the approval of project funding that provides a return on the River District's investment that is equitable in comparison to the rate of return to the private entity. In doing so, District staff shall evaluate all risks posed to the District related to this investment and/or loan and staff shall not commit the District to any obligation which is not authorized by law or may be considered a multi-year fiscal obligation.

IV. Local Community Support:

The District is committed to coordinating and consulting local elected officials in any and all relevant counties prior to committing funds to any specific project or activity pursued by the District.

Any applicant or project proponent shall, as part of the application process submit a letter of support for the project from the board(s) of county commissioners in which county the project is located and/or water from the project will be utilized. If a project is proposed to occur within the boundaries of a municipality, it is strongly recommended that the project proponent provide a letter of support from the governing body of said municipality. Should a letter of support for a project not be available from the appropriate local government(s), project proponents shall provide a detailed explanation of the reasons. Prior to recommending a project for funding to the Board in which there is not a letter of support from the local board(s) of county commissioners, the staff member in charge of processing the request shall work with the Director of Government Affairs and the General Manager to communicate with the District Director from the affected county and the relevant board(s) of county commissioners. Staff shall accurately convey any concerns or opposition to the project expressed by the board(s) of county commissioners to the CRD Board as part of the recommendation.

V. Human Resource Requirements:

It is the intent of the District that the project funding shall primarily be a financial relationship with the project applicant. There are, however, instances where the District may desire or need to contribute technical, legal, administrative or government advocacy resources to the project.

Projects for which staff recommends staff involvement beyond the project funding shall require staff to conduct the following additional analysis.

Staff should prepare a detailed and realistic analysis of the short, and long-term number of staff hours and the nature of the staff involvement.

- Identify who would be the lead District staff on any new project.
- The estimate should include the number of months/years of involvement, the number of hours for each anticipated staff member on a monthly or quarterly basis and a computation of the actual, loaded cost for each of the involved employees.
- If such request involves multiple departments, those department heads shall be brought into this initial analysis process.
- Need to have an affirmative finding that proposed staffing needs can be met by existing District staff capacity.

VI. Risk Analysis:

Staff shall conduct a thorough risk analysis of any funding request. Areas of risk to be analyzed shall include but not be limited to:

- Public health, safety and welfare;
- Consequences of project failure;
- Potential injury to vested absolute water rights;
- Potential for ongoing financial need (whether operational or during construction phase);
- Reputational risk to the District;
- Potential for District staff involvement beyond that identified above; and
- Evaluation and disclosure of any potential conflict of interest by District staff or Board members.

VII. Additional Factors to be Evaluated:

The District recognizes that the scope and type of projects which will be funded by this program will cover a wide spectrum of water projects and as such the District desires to keep funding criteria broad enough to be inclusive of as many different types of projects as possible. However, there are a number of elements that the District may consider when evaluating a funding request:

- A.** Preservation of pe-Compact Water Rights;
- B.** Non-injury to other water users;
- C.** Negative effects caused by reduction in return flows;
- D.** Reduction of water consumption;

- E. Reduction of operational costs to the operator;
- F. Enhancement of a project's long-term viability;
- G. Promotion of innovation within a water use sector;
- H. Development of applied research, science and data beneficial to the mission and strategic goals of the District;
- I. Size, complexity and importance of a project which may warrant consideration of multiple sequential funding awards; and
- J. Any other factors deemed relevant by the District.

VIII. Timing and Process:

A. Application Forms:

The District staff shall create an application form and an internal staff evaluation form. The District shall provide access to those forms together with the District's strategic plan, written policies and this framework to any interested applicant or project proponent.

B. Application Timing:

The program will be funded annually with a rolling application process. The Board may consider any staff recommendation at any of its regular quarterly or special meetings. For a project proponent's request to be considered at a meeting of the Board, the project proponent shall submit all information required by staff no later than six weeks prior to the next regularly scheduled District Board meeting. The General Manager may make exceptions for emergency situations which, in the opinion of the General Manager, warrant such consideration. Neither the staff or Board shall be required to evaluate a request that is not complete or contain all relevant information and documentation. While the District will make every attempt to process funding requests in a timely manner, the District reserves the right to delay consideration of any request if the District has other business which it determines is of higher importance to the mission of the District.

C. Reconsideration Process:

Should staff make a determination not to fund a project which is within the delegated authority of the General Manager (see, Section IX below), or make a determination not to recommend funding for a project of any size that does not satisfy all applicable criteria, an applicant may, within 30 days of receiving a notice of adverse determination, request that the River District reconsider the request. Such request shall be delivered in writing to the General Manager and shall specify the grounds for reconsideration. Upon receipt of a timely request for reconsideration, the General Manager shall schedule the request on the agenda of the next quarterly meeting of the Board at which there is practicable time to consider said appeal. The Board shall review and consider the request and may grant the applicant the opportunity to present their case or the Board may act on the request based on its review of the written reconsideration and any material

submitted by the General Manager. The Board's determination of a request for reconsideration shall be final. The River District's determinations with respect to project funding is a purely discretionary policy-making function of the River District and there are no adjudicatory or substantive rights associated with funding requests from the River District's Community Funding Partnership.

D. Execution of Funding Program:

Staff shall create and implement processes for successful applicants with respect to disbursement of funds, progress reports and completion reports and inspections and methods for appropriate recognition of District Funding on project literature and location. Applicants shall adhere to any such requirements.

IX. Delegation of Authority to General Manager:

The Board hereby delegates authority to the General Manager to review, consider, approve and/or deny application for the Community Funding Partnership in amounts up to \$50,000 for any single project. This delegation of authority shall not exceed an aggregate total of \$1,000,000 in any single calendar year. The General Manager shall abide by the terms of this Framework in considering any grant requests which fall within this delegation of authority. The General Manager shall provide a report to the Board on a quarterly basis of all requests approved or denied under this authority.

X. Emergency Projects:

The District recognizes the need to support emergency infrastructure repair and related activities that arise from a natural hazard or unforeseen emergency through no fault or lack of action on the part of a water right holder. The District staff shall develop a process to provide funding on an emergency basis with an allowance to reimburse prior costs upon staff review and approval by either the General Manager or Board. Emergency projects will follow the standard process for application consideration, including the delegations of authority granted to the General Manager to review, consider, approve and/or deny applications.

XI. Supplemental Funding:

The District recognizes that in limited cases supplemental funding may be warranted due to unforeseen circumstances such as supply chain interruptions, inflationary changes, cost and availability of labor, and unanticipated fundraising challenges. After consultation with District staff, Awardees may request a one-time supplemental funding request. District staff will consider requests for an increase of no more than 30% of the existing grant agreement, unless otherwise justified by District staff. Supplemental funding requests are not intended to change the original scope of the contract. The District staff shall develop a process including requirements for considering such requests.

Supplemental funding requests will be considered by the Board or delegated authority granted to the General Manager consistent with the authority granted in Section IX of the Framework and the District's Financial Governance Policy, which grants the General Manager authority to approve change orders to existing Board approved contractual agreements for additional expenditures up

to \$50,000. Supplemental funding requests that increase the total funding award beyond the authority delegated to the General Manager must be considered by the Board.

XII. De-Authorization of Awarded Funding:

If an approved project does not have a fully executed Grant Agreement within two years of the project's authorization, the project will be de-authorized unless District staff recommend a time extension. Extension requests will be considered by the Board or delegated authority granted to the General Manager as discussed in Section IX of the Framework to review, consider, approve and/or deny applications in amounts up to \$50,000 for any single project. If a situation arises where it is certain that a project will not commence, District staff may recommend de-authorization prior to two years to be considered by the Board or delegated authority granted to the General Manager in Section IX of the Framework. Awardees also may request de-authorization in writing prior to two years of the project's authorization at which point the project will be de-authorized.

XIII. Board Discretion:

The Board reserves the right to modify this Framework at anytime in the future and further reserves the right to waive any requirement set forth herein.

GO BACK TO MEMO



Program Guidelines

Published ~~January 20,~~
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A. Background:

The Colorado River District's Mission 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.**

On November 3, 2020, the registered electorate of the Colorado River Water Conservation District (the District or CRD) approved Ballot Question 7A. Ballot Question 7A, in its entirety reads:

Shall Colorado River Water Conservation District, also known as the Colorado River District, taxes be increased by an amount up to \$4,969,041 in 2021 (which increase amounts to approximately \$1.90 in 2021 for every \$100,000 in residential home value), and by such amounts as are generated annually thereafter from an additional property tax levy of 0.248 mills (for a total mill levy of 0.5 mills) to enable the Colorado River District to protect and safeguard Western Colorado water by:

- *Fighting to keep water on the West Slope;*
- *Protecting adequate water supplies for West Slope farmers and ranchers;*
- *Protecting sustainable drinking water supplies for West Slope communities;*
- *and*
- *Protecting fish, wildlife, and recreation by maintaining river levels and water quality;*

provided that the District will not utilize these additional funds for the purpose of paying to fallow irrigated agriculture; with such expenditures reported to the public in an annually published independent financial audit; and shall all revenues received by the District in 2021 and each subsequent year be collected, retained and spent notwithstanding any limits provided by law?

When taking action to place this ballot question on the November 2020 ballot, the CRD Board adopted Resolution 2020-01 which included within it an Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan articulates the River District's clear intent and commitment as to how the

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newly authorized funds would be used by the District if the voters approved the ballot question. Specifically, the Board committed to allocating approximately 86% of the funds annually to fund partnerships with water users and communities within the District on projects identified as priorities by local communities and Basin Roundtables.

The Implementation Plan adopted by the Board pledged that the Board and staff of the Colorado River District will prioritize multi-purpose projects that meet needs in one or more of the following five categories:

- productive agriculture,
- infrastructure,
- healthy rivers,
- watershed health and water quality; and
- conservation and efficiency.

As emphasized in the District's Multi-Benefit Water Projects Policy, the River District recognizes that it must prioritize multi-benefit water projects that serve to protect our region's water security, which is directly tied to thriving rural economies, vibrant communities, productive agriculture, a strong environment, and a robust recreation industry. Staff will prioritize funding for projects that demonstrate multiple benefits in alignment with the CFP funding categories and that impact multiple beneficiaries across a region or watershed.

The Board indicated that the District is committed to expending funds in an equitable manner which, over time, disperses the benefits of the program geographically within the District boundaries and between the identified categories. The District is also committed to utilizing these funds to drive the initiation and completion of projects that are priorities for residents of the District by utilizing District funds as a catalyst for matching funds from state, federal and private sources. In Resolution 2020-01, the District expressly stated that it will not utilize the funds raised by this ballot question for the purpose of paying to temporarily or permanently fallow irrigated agriculture and the Implementation Plan affirms the River District's commitment to coordinating and consulting local elected officials in all relevant counties prior to committing funds to any specific project or activity pursued by the District.

B. Pre-Application Applicant Activity:

Applicants are encouraged to review these guidelines, the Community Funding Partnership Framework, the District Application form, and Budget Worksheet prior to applying for and/or consulting with District Staff. After reviewing those documents, Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the District at partnerfunding@crwcd.org to arrange for a staff level pre-application meeting. Applications which are submitted without the pre-application consultation will be strongly disfavored.

C. Project Eligibility:

A project proponent within the District's 15-county boundaries is eligible to apply for funding. Project proponents include stakeholders such as individuals, local governments, corporations, private entities such as mutual ditch companies, non-profit corporations, and partnerships. Completed projects are not eligible for funding.

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D. Project Categories:

Project Categories that were outlined in the Implementation Plan are as follows:

- I. Productive agriculture projects which could include multiple-use storage that addresses regional priorities; developing innovative and functional water leasing; suitable agriculture efficiency and conservation approaches; technical assistance and technological innovation; and dedicated resources for increasing community literacy about irrigated agriculture and supporting agricultural market growth. The District will not utilize these funds for the purpose of permanently or temporarily fallowing irrigated agriculture;
- II. Infrastructure projects which could include upgrading aging infrastructure while incentivizing new storage and delivery projects that collaboratively address multiple needs, such as improved flows to meet demands, stream and watershed health, and habitat quality; multi-purpose projects and storage methods that are supported in the Water Plan and the Basin Implementation Plans;
- III. Healthy rivers projects which could include those identified in stream management plans or similar projects, projects that support and sustain fish and wildlife, healthy aquifer conditions as they connect to healthy streams, economically important water-based recreation, wetland habitat, fish passage construction for new or revised water diversion structures, stream restoration projects, and environmental and recreational enhancements for new or revised water supply projects;
- IV. Watershed health and water quality projects which could include projects identified in collaborative and science-based watershed management plans that reduce the risk from and increase resilience to fires and/or floods, rehabilitate streams, or make landscapes resilient to climate change, including, but not limited to science-based mechanical forest treatments and prescribed fire, projects that address drinking water quality for under-resourced communities, and projects that address pollutants such as selenium, salts, and others, as well as mine remediation activities; and
- V. Conservation and efficiency projects which could include supporting agricultural water infrastructure that increases reliability and efficiency; municipal and industrial projects that promote efficiency, water conservation, green infrastructure, and outdoor landscaping to reduce consumptive use; increase leak detection for infrastructure repair and replacement; assisting communities with water-smart community development and water conservation programs; and targeting smaller, fast-growing, and communities with older infrastructure with strategic, incentive-based investments.

For projects that incorporate on-farm upgrades or projects that benefit an individual landowner or producer, the threshold for public benefit increases upon review from staff and/or the Board for approval. The applicant will need to demonstrate a multi-categorical benefit in their application and positive public benefit. Additional benefits might include efficiency benefits to eliminate seepage losses; system optimization benefits to downstream water users; improvements to water quality impairments; and ecosystem services. Project funding will also

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be prioritized for projects that are included within a Stream Management Plan, Integrated Water Management Plan, or other system optimization or watershed planning effort.

For on-farm irrigation upgrades, projects should demonstrate additional public benefits such as a long-term commitment to maintaining productive agriculture, improvements to water quality impairments, leasing reduced diversions for instream flow benefits, and/or research partnerships. Additionally, projects must describe how their irrigation upgrade will result in limited impacts to regional and localized return flows. Bundled projects which include multiple on-farm irrigation projects in partnership with entities such as a Conservation or Conservancy District are encouraged.

E. Local Community Support

The District is committed to coordinating and consulting local elected officials in all relevant counties prior to committing funds to any specific project or activity pursued by the District.

Applicants are required to submit a letter of support for the project from the board(s) of county commissioners in which county the project is located and/or water from the project will be utilized. If a project is proposed to occur within the boundaries of a municipality, it is strongly recommended that applicants provide a letter of support from the governing body of said municipality. Should a letter of support for a project not be available from the appropriate local government(s), applicants must provide a detailed explanation of the reasons.

F. Matching Criteria

The Community Funding Partnership, at this time, has no minimum percentage contribution required by an applicant. However, it is the intent of the District that project funds will not be the sole source of funding for any project. It is the expectation and intent of the District that the applicant will contribute funds and utilize District funds to leverage state, federal or private funds to the project. Funds provided by the applicant may include cash equivalents in the form of services, labor, and equipment usage directly related to the implementation of the proposed project. The River District will accept past, cash contributions specific to the water activity or project as part of the Total Project Cost if the expenditure occurred within the last six months prior to the date of application.

On average, Community Funding Partnership funds account for no greater than 50% of total project costs and more typically provide 20-30% of total project costs. For municipal infrastructure improvements, the Community Funding Partnership recommends a request no greater than 10% of total project cost reflecting a need to balance the River District's limited funds, while continuing to support large-scale municipal projects.

G. Administrative and Project Management Support:

The District recognizes the need to support the full project costs of running a program or developing a project. Applicants may request up to 10% of the total funding request for overall administrative and project management support. These costs must be identified as a separate line item in the project budget.

H. Evaluation Criteria:

Applicants must submit a completed application and all supporting documentation to be

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considered for funding.

The following are required elements for staff analysis and recommendation:

- I. Mission Alignment
- II. Category Allocation, Fund Distribution by Category, and Geographic Equity
- III. Analysis of Project Funding and Leverage of CRD Funds
- IV. Local Community Support
- V. Human Resource Requirements
- VI. Risk Analysis
- VII. Additional Factors

Further information can be found in the Community Funding Partnership Framework adopted by the CRD Board of Directors.

I. Timeframe & Process for Internal Application Review:

This is a rolling program and therefore, applications and requests for funding can be submitted at any time. Applicants should anticipate six to eight weeks for internal application review, analysis and funding recommendation, contingent upon receiving a complete application.

If the funding request requires Board approval (typically applications over \$50,000), complete application and all materials must be submitted no later than six weeks prior to the next regularly scheduled District Board meeting. The River District's regularly scheduled quarterly meetings fall on the third Tuesday of January, April, July, and October. To ensure sufficient time for staff review and analysis, CRD recommends the following deadlines for applications that require Board approval:

- November 15th (January Board Meeting)
- February 15th (April Board Meeting)
- May 15th (July Board Meeting)
- August 15th (October Board Meeting)

The General Manager may make exceptions for emergency situations which, in the opinion of the General Manager, warrant such consideration. Neither the staff or Board shall be required to evaluate a request that is not complete or contain all relevant information and documentation. While the District will make every attempt to process funding requests in a timely manner, the District reserves the right to delay consideration of any request if the District has other business which it determines is of higher importance to the mission of the District.

To discuss application deadlines, we encourage applicants to arrange for a pre-application meeting about your proposed application.

J. Emergency Projects:

The District recognizes the need to support emergency infrastructure repair and related activities that arise from a natural hazard or unforeseen emergency through no fault or lack of action on the part of a water right holder. For projects resulting from a natural hazard or unforeseen emergency, the River District will reimburse for project costs up to six months prior to the application date. In

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addition to the standard application, the applicant must include:

- A summary of the emergency which caused the repair or rehabilitation to be necessary.
- A description, with evidence if possible, that deferred maintenance and/or neglect of the applicant was not the cause of damage to the project.

Emergency projects will follow the standard process for application consideration, including the delegations of authority granted to the General Manager to review, consider, approve and/or deny applications. Emergency projects also follow the same guidelines for matching contributions. The Community Funding Partnership, at this time, has no minimum percentage contribution required by an applicant. However, it is the intent of the District that project funds will not be the sole source of funding for any project. On average, Community Funding Partnership funds account for no greater than 50% of total project costs and more typically provide 20-30% of total project costs.

K. Supplemental Funding:

The District recognizes that in limited cases supplemental funding may be warranted due to unforeseen circumstances such as supply chain interruptions, inflationary changes, cost and availability of labor, and unanticipated fundraising challenges. After consultation with District staff, awardees may request a one-time supplemental funding request. District staff will consider requests for an increase of no more than 30% of the existing grant agreement, unless otherwise justified by District staff. Supplemental funding requests are not intended to change the original scope of the contract.

Through the supplemental funding request, applicants should expect to address:

- unforeseen, unanticipated, extraordinary circumstances;
- time sensitivity of the need for supplemental funds;
- explanation of the applicant's inability to provide funds to complete the project;
- analysis of other funding sources exhausted;
- discussion of unanticipated fundraising challenges;

Supplemental funding requests will be considered by the Board or delegated authority granted to the General Manager consistent with the authority granted in Section (L)(I) and the District's Financial Governance Policy, which grants the General Manager authority to approve change orders to existing Board approved contractual agreements for additional expenditures up to \$50,000. Supplemental funding requests that increase the total funding award beyond the authority delegated to the General Manager must be considered by the Board.

L. Community Funding Partnership Approval Authority:

I. General Manager Delegated Authority. The Board has delegated authority to the General Manager to review, consider, approve and/or deny application for the Community Funding Partnership in amounts up to \$50,000 for any single project. This delegation of authority shall not exceed an aggregate total of \$1,000,000 in any single calendar year.

II. Board Level Approval. Any request in the amount more than \$50,000 for any single project will be evaluated by the staff and, upon a favorable staff recommendation will be considered and

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denied and/or approved by the Board. A request for funding of more than \$50,000 for any single project not recommended for funding by the staff will not be considered by the Board.

III. Re-consideration. An applicant whose request is denied by the General Manager, or not recommended to the Board for funding may request re-consideration of their request by the Board pursuant to the process and subject to the time limits contained in section VII. C. of the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership Framework. The River District has no obligation and an Applicant has no right to receive funding for any request. The River District's determination with respect to the Community Funding Partnership is a purely discretionary policy-making function of the River District and there are no adjudicatory or substantive rights associated with funding requests from the River District's Community Funding Partnership.

M. Funding Agreement Terms:

Upon approval of project funding, the CRD will enter into a contractual funding agreement with the project proponent. The contract will include appropriate special conditions, including but not limited to: 1) limitations on the use of Community Funding Partnership funds; 2) proponent's indemnification of the District; 3) proponent's insurance requirements; 4) proponent's repayment requirements for breach of contracts; and 5) a reporting schedule and requirement which may include interim and final progress reporting requirements.

The project proponent and all other interest holders, such as facility owners, shall accept all responsibility and liability associated with the proposed project, including, but not limited to, property interests, water rights, environmental and permit compliance, on-site and off-site project impacts, project construction, project operations, project maintenance and other obligations.

The CRD's minimum requirements for insurance for contractual agreements are as follows:

1. Commercial General Liability:
 - a. Bodily Injury & Property Damage:
 - \$1,000,000 each occurrence
 - \$1,000,000 aggregate
 - b. Personal Injury:
 - \$1,000,000 each occurrence
 - \$1,000,000 aggregate
2. Commercial Automobile Liability:
 - a. Bodily Injury & Property Damage:
 - \$1,000,000 any one accident or loss
3. Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability:
 - a. Workers' Compensation: Statutory
 - b. Employer's Liability:
 - \$100,000 each accident
 - \$100,000 disease - each employee
 - \$500,000 disease - policy limit

N. Funding Agreement & Distributions of Funds:

The CRD's standard distribution of funds is as follows:

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- Upon execution of the contract, receipt of required certificates of insurance and notification of project commencement, the CRD will forward 25% of the Total Award.
- Two progress payments will be made in 25% increments of the Total Award based upon evidence of paid invoices provided by the project proponent.
- The remaining 25% of the funds will be paid upon a determination that the project is substantially complete and the CRD has received a completed “Request for Final Payment” form with all required documentation.

Disbursements of project funding must be completed within three years of the contract date unless there is an extension requested and approved by District staff and/or board action.

The CRD reserves the right to modify the funding disbursement of project funds.

O. De-Authorization of Awarded Funding:

If an approved project does not have a fully executed Grant Agreement within two years of the project’s authorization, the project will be de-authorized unless District staff recommend a time extension. Extension requests will be considered by the Board or delegated authority granted to the General Manager as discussed in Section (L)(I) of the Guidelines to review, consider, approve and/or deny applications in amounts up to \$50,000 for any single project. If a situation arises where it is certain that a project will not commence, District staff may recommend de-authorization prior to two years to be considered by the Board or delegated authority granted to the General Manager in Section (L)(I) of the Guidelines. Awardees also may request de-authorization in writing prior to two years of the project’s authorization at which point the project will be de-authorized.

P. Branding and Signage

We encourage successful applicants to share the news of your funding award and project with your network, project partners, and community members. Upon award, District staff will coordinate with project proponents on award announcements and communication guidelines. For projects that include public access or public signage, you will be required to recognize the District’s funding contribution using logos and signage approved by the District.

Q. Right to Modify Guidelines, Framework and Application:

The District reserves the right to add, modify or otherwise revise these Guidelines, the Community Funding Partnership Framework, Application, and Budget Worksheet at any time without advance notice. It is the Applicant’s obligation to confirm that they have the most up to date program documents.

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GROWING WATER SMART
POLICY OPPORTUNITIES FOR
LAND USE-WATER INTEGRATION

Prepared for the Colorado River District

January 2024

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POLICY SCANS AND OPPORTUNITIES OVERVIEW

PROJECT PURPOSE

As part of the Growing Water Smart program collaboration with the Colorado River District, in 2023 Del Corazón Consulting was contracted by the Sonoran Institute to assess local government plans and policy documents in the Colorado River District region focusing on specific communities in the Lower Gunnison, Lower Colorado, and Yampa-White basins. The geographic scope for the policy scan focused on:

- The rapidly growing Grand Valley in Mesa County (*Mesa County, Grand Junction, Fruita, and Palisade*).
- Communities not included in previous GWS workshop self-assessments and the NWCCOG QQ Headwaters policy scan with less capacity in Northwest Colorado (*Moffatt County and Craig; Rio Blanco County, Rangely, and Meeker*).
- Communities not included in previous scans in the lower Gunnison Basin (*Delta County and Delta*).

The intended purpose of the Community Policy Scans and this Opportunities Report are to:

- Support the Sonoran Institute and the Colorado River District with understanding the current status of land use – water integration in the region.
- Identify opportunities for guiding investments in technical assistance programming, promotion of best practice models, and development of tools to support local communities.
- Provides focus area communities with a summary of their existing policies that can be used as a starting point to support discussions about water and land use integration.
- Provide local governments across the Western Slope with ideas for policy action that will strengthen water and land use integration.

This project deliverables include individual policy scans for the priority geographies, creation of a summary of the recommendations from a prior scan by the NWCCOG QQ Committee, a summary of a survey conducted by the Sonoran Institute, and the policy opportunity report.

THE GROWING WATER SMART APPROACH

The Growing Water Smart program aims to create more resilient communities across the West by promoting four key principles that support the integration of the land use and water sectors.

1. We need to reduce the demand for water in our communities.

Local governments need to adopt land use planning policies that require new development be built as water efficient as possible while simultaneously supporting retrofitting older inefficient development. This approach is applicable across all communities regardless of whether the population is growing, stable, declining or churning.

2. We need to shift to finding new water supplies from alternative sources.

As new water sources are increasingly harder to acquire and more expensive, water providers and local governments need to seek out new supplies from water conservation, water reuse and recycling, and rainwater harvesting. Saved water, in most cases, is significantly less expensive than acquiring new water rights.

3. We need to protect river systems and replenish our aquifers.

The paradigms of how to manage river systems and stormwater are changing with a greater emphasis on the importance of floodplain connectivity, healthy river corridors, and aquifer recharge. States and local governments across the West are increasingly pursuing multiple benefit projects and natural river management approaches as part of integrated water resource management.

4. We need to build greater resiliency in all our governance and community systems.

In addition to needing to be resilient to drought and water shortages, local governments need to be prepared to address the growing uncertainty from multiple, and now sometimes simultaneous, threats of climate change, natural hazards, public health, cybersecurity and more. Building resiliency into and across all sectors of operations and community will help minimize the impact of future crises.

This report identifies policy areas where there are opportunities to integrate these principles into plans, policies, and operations of the land use and water sectors.

THE INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITY POLICY SCANS

Before developing the policy opportunities, Del Corazón Consulting conducted a policy scan of the prioritized communities. This desk review used community plans and policies available on the web. The foundation of the policy scan is the best practices for land use – water integration contained in the Growing Water Smart Self-Assessment. Communities that have participated in previous workshops have completed this self-assessment and it is used during the workshop to inform team discussions.

While an effective tool, the Self-Assessment only measures the presence of specific policy elements and relies on the team’s discussion to explore the quality of those policies.

The purpose of a policy scan is to collate all relevant policies into a single document then assess the quality of a community’s policies drawing out recommendations for action. While individual recommendations were not developed for each community within the limited scope of this project, the policy opportunities were developed using the policy scans as background context.

The policy scan can be used by communities to explore:

- What trends influence water supply & demand?
- What do we know about our current water supply & demand?
- What water conservation and efficiency programs do we have or plan to do?

- How do our community plans, policies and processes address the wise use of water?
- Where are opportunities in our community to become more water smart?

COMPLEMENTARY COMMUNITY POLICY ASSESSMENTS

In the Appendices of this report are two complementary policy studies. The first is a summary of the purpose and recommendations that emerged from the 2020 Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Water Quality and Quantity Committee (NWCCOG QQ Committee) *Water Savings Resource Guide and Model Provisions for the Colorado Headwaters Region*. This report conducted a high-level policy scan of twenty-eight communities across six regions. The second is a summary of a survey conducted by the Sonoran Institute to assess the progress of eighteen Western Slope communities that participated in Growing Water Smart workshops prior to the most recent one held in Grand Junction in the fall of 2023. While the scope of this scan did not include an analysis of these communities, these summaries were used to inform the development of the policy opportunities.

POLICY OPPORTUNITIES REPORT SUMMARY

The opportunities provided in this report are a starting point for conversations about how individual jurisdictions and the region can strengthen the integration of water and land use to secure a vibrant and thriving future. They were identified based on federal and state policy, local government goals and policy gaps, and the 2023 Fall Growing Water Smart Workshop.

The opportunities are organized by five overarching themes:

1. Ensure Adequate Water Supply for New Development
2. Reduce How Much Water New Development Requires
3. Protect Watershed Ecosystem Services and Processes
4. Adopt 1041 Regulations in All Counties

5. Utilize New Methodologies for Water Supply Planning

Under these themes are nine policy opportunity areas for how local government and the Colorado River District can work together to advance water resilience and sustainable communities.

- A. Review and Revise Water Adequacy Standards and Development Review Procedures.
- B. Revise Landscape Ordinances to Promote Water Efficient and Climate Adapted Landscapes.
- C. Promote Water Efficient Irrigation in Dual Systems Using Non-Potable or Raw Water Sources.
- D. Adopt Water Efficient Policies For Commercial And Indoor Use.
- E. Minimize Development in the Floodplain.
- F. Update and/or adopt river and wetland protection standards.
- G. Integrate Low Impact Development in New Development Site Plans and Landscape Policy.
- H. Adopt County 1041 Regulations.
- I. Align Water Supply Plans with Future Land Use Plans.

These are not in any prioritized order, nor do they represent a comprehensive list of all potential opportunities for integration of water and land use in the region. Given communities are in different stages of policy implementation with different challenges, not all of the opportunities will be applicable or relevant to every community. Rather, the intent is to highlight policy action that local governments can take that is timely, achieves multiple benefits, builds on existing efforts, and/or can have a significant water saving impact through land use policy.

THE POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

THEME ONE | ENSURE ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

A. REVIEW AND REVISE WATER ADEQUACY STANDARDS AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCEDURES.

Colorado local governments are often unaware that they are given significant statutory authority to ensure new development has an adequate water supply. Rural counties, especially those outside the Denver Basin, often lack clear standards and expertise for assessing adequate water supply for new subdivisions despite statutory requirements.

The following best practices can strengthen local government water supply policies:

- Include a direct citation of state policy and the definition of adequate and sustainable water supply.
- Specify permitted water sources for development (e.g., wells or water providers, renewable, augmentation, etc.).
- Include a specific methodology for how to determine the total water demand within a development including calculations for both indoor and outdoor use.
- Specify how water adequacy will be demonstrated for wells and water providers.
- Clarify the submittal materials and timing for material review.
- Clarify decision making criteria for approval and denial.

Updating these policies often requires support with technical code writing. More frequently, support is needed to help align different water providers with local government on how to effectively implement procedures and include data during development review. Finally, where there is a lack of hydrological data or expertise, local governments also benefit from support with

evaluation of applicant water supply reports and/or the Division of Water Resources agency review letters.

In-depth information on statutory compliance with the adequate water supply policy is covered in the [Growing Water Smart Guidebook, Section 2](#). In 2024, the Department of Local Affairs will be releasing a model land use code that will include many of the best practices. The model code will offer local governments a tool to evaluate their current policies for statute compliance and gaps. Additionally, Sonoran Institute will have a complementary resource guide available to further support decision makers to apply these best practices to development review more effectively.

Across the Colorado River District boundaries, the content of community adequate water supply policy varies. Mesa County, Rio Blanco County, and Gunnison County are examples of regulations that are more closely aligned with C.R.S. §29.30.305 *Adequate Water Supply*. Delta County has a draft of a new code that includes a well written policy. The Summit County team, a participant in the 2023 Growing Water Smart workshop, prioritized working with regional water providers to refine their adequate water supply review process and policy. The Eagle County Water and Sanitation District has created a model to evaluate water portfolio impacts to local decision makers as part of development review. This model demonstrates the value of using high quality data to inform local decision makers of water availability prior to development approval.

THEME TWO | REDUCE HOW MUCH WATER NEW DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES

B. REVISE LANDSCAPE ORDINANCES TO PROMOTE WATER EFFICIENT AND CLIMATE ADAPTED LANDSCAPES.

The Western Slope lags behind the Front Range on using land use policy to curtail outdoor water use, although this is beginning to change. The City of Aspen led the way adopting a water efficient landscape code in 2017. They have been followed recently with high quality policies adopted by the Town of Avon and City of Grand Junction.

The State Legislature has proposed a non-essential turf bill which will aggressively accelerate installation of resilient landscapes in new development across Colorado. The bill defines non-functional turf as “turf that is predominantly ornamental and located in or adjacent to a street, sidewalk, driveway, parking lot, frontage area, or median that is not regularly used for civic, community, or recreational purposes.”

The proposed policy will not apply to private residential landscapes. Local governments that want to adopt more comprehensive turf standards have other options available, including to:

- Limit turf to a percent of the total landscaped residential area.
- Limit turf to specific locations within the residential landscape.
- Allow a maximum square footage of turf within a residential project.
- Limit the type of grass that can be installed to low-water turf.

For local governments and entities with turf replacement programs, regulating all turf is essential for preventing new turf from being installed at the same time that public investments are being made to remove it.

In addition to addressing turf, landscape policies should be updated to include:

- Climate and drought adapted plant lists.
- Addition of soil amendments and mulch.
- Water efficient irrigation best practices.
- Incorporation of rainwater harvesting.

If the non-essential turf policy passes, most local governments will require technical assistance in drafting revised landscape policies. Western Resource Advocates, with support from CWCB, plans to scale up their programs across the state to support landscape transformation.

Replacing turf on a community wide scale begs the question of what plant and/or other material to replace it with. Front Range communities are now employing a number of useful tools – landscape guidelines and landscape model designs. These are intended to simplify

landscape conversion by providing examples of designs, and include:

- [Fort Collins Xeriscape Design Brochure](#) Guide.
- Castle Rock Residential Landscape “Coloradoscape” [Design Guidelines](#)
- City of Aurora [Water Wise Residential Designs](#)
- Northern Water [Marshall Fire Recovery Landscape Templates](#)
- Colorado Stormwater Center [Rain Garden Design Templates](#)

Except for the Colorado Stormwater Center, these are suited for the Front Range Foothills and Plains ecoregions. These types of guides can be applicable regionally and well suited to collaborative projects.

Finally, as Colorado communities move to reduce non-essential turf in streetscapes and shift towards water efficient design, historical approaches to irrigating trees need to change. Turf and trees have different irrigation needs with trees needing deeper watering at the drip line and turf requiring shallower watering. As turf areas are being converted to more xeric landscapes with less frequent irrigation schedules, irrigation requirements need to be modified to sustain tree health in rights of way. Future landscapes should be designed to support healthy trees by requiring trees to be watered on their own emitter using a spiraled soaker hose and/or a drip system.

C. PROMOTE WATER EFFICIENT IRRIGATION IN DUAL SYSTEMS USING NON-POTABLE OR RAW WATER SOURCES.

Across the Western Slope, residents have access to low-cost raw water for outdoor irrigation from ditches and water companies. Requiring alternative water sources has long been considered a good policy that reduces pressure on treated water systems. However, as water in rivers and reservoirs declines, *all* water sources need to be used efficiently.

Local governments and domestic water providers in the Grand Valley and Montrose have identified significant challenges in trying to address inefficient outdoor water use where these dual systems exist. Under these

circumstances, local governments should focus on adopting strong plant standards in a landscape policy. For example, establishing a requirement that 75-95% of plant material be chosen from a list of low to very low-water xeric and native plants can greatly reduce the water needed for a landscape.

While local governments are unlikely to regulate the source of irrigation water, they can establish irrigation system design standards for residential and non-residential irrigation systems that connect to irrigation ditches. The City of Fruita, for example, has developed engineering standards for the design of irrigation systems connecting to raw water supplies. Their policy does not include standards to regulate the efficient application of that water on a landscape although it could expand the irrigation system design requirements. The agricultural sector has a long history of applying efficient irrigation practices to raw water supplies. These best practices could be adapted for the municipal context on the western slope to be incorporated into irrigation system design as well as educational programs focusing on water user behavior change.

On some ditch systems the water rights are tied directly to the land while in others it is sold as a fee for service. It is in the irrigation companies’ best interest to continue to put those water rights to beneficial use. With “use it or use it” provisions of water law, these companies are unlikely to engage in conservation. Like with agricultural water rights, identifying opportunities for irrigation and water companies to put municipal irrigation water to other uses in a community would require significant effort given it involves thousands of individual shares and users. For municipalities that require an irrigation water dedication for new subdivisions, they can reduce the irrigation water dedication when they adopt more water efficient plant materials.

D. ADOPT WATER EFFICIENT POLICIES FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDOOR USE.

Within the Colorado River District service area, building codes promoting indoor water efficiency are found almost exclusively in the region’s resort communities where there is a strong commitment to sustainability.

The State of Colorado requirements for water efficient plumbing fixtures (Water Sense) went into effect in 2019. This policy has resulted in new developments being more water efficient than older buildings, generating significant passive savings for water providers.

In 2024, local governments in Colorado must meet the state requirement for updating building codes to the 2021 Energy Code. While this code does not explicitly address water conservation, it may also generate some passive savings, particularly from better insulation R-values that could reduce the demand for evaporative cooling in the lower elevation communities. As summers break even more records, the use of cooling systems is only growing. For Ute Water Conservancy District, for example, peak demand in the summer is from evaporative cooling and not from outdoor use.

Water-intensive commercial businesses (car washes, hotels, and restaurants) and institutional uses (schools and hospitals) top the list of highest demand water customers. In resort communities, indoor use accounts for a second peak in demand during December and January. While programs are focusing on mitigating existing users, local governments should consider adopting water conservation requirements for water recycling and water efficiency in applications for renovations and new construction.

THEME THREE | PROTECT WATERSHED ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND PROCESSES

E. MINIMIZE DEVELOPMENT IN THE FLOODPLAIN.

Many of the community comprehensive plans and nearly all hazard mitigation plans recommend limiting development in the floodplain. While most communities across the region have adopted floodplain regulations consistent with the State of Colorado, they often fail to utilize other land use tools to accomplish floodplain protection that could:

- Minimize disturbance to the river system and hydrologic cycle.
- Limit the density of development in the floodplain.

- Require additional setbacks from the floodway.

F. UPDATE AND/OR ADOPT RIVER AND WETLAND PROTECTION STANDARDS.

Natural resource protection standards and floodplain standards should align, as they offer resource elements different levels of protection. In addition to floodplain regulations, communities should adopt wetland and river protections.

DREDGE AND FILL PERMITS

The Supreme Court's Sackett ruling left a gaping hole in the State of Colorado's protection of rivers, streams, and wetlands. It is estimated that up to 50% of Colorado's wetlands and ephemeral and many intermittent waters are left unprotected under the revised Clean Water Act.

In response, the State of Colorado, under the authority of the Water Quality Control Act, has authorized the Water Quality Control Division under policy CW-17 to enforce violations of dredge or fill material into *Sackett gap waters*, defined as any waters that would have otherwise been subject to oversight by the Army Corps of Engineers' 404 permit prior to the Sackett decision. In any project where an unpermitted discharge of dredge or fill material into state waters will occur, individuals must notify the division via forms submitted via a new state [website](#). For Sackett gap waters, the state will use enforcement discretion as long as conditions for conducting dredge and fill are consistent with best practices that would have applied to the project prior to the Sackett decision. This rule provides a temporary process until a state regulatory program can be developed. The State of Colorado has included over \$500,000 for a new program in the FY2024 budget pending legislative approval.

To ensure adequate coverage of Sackett gap waters, jurisdictions across the region should update their development regulations for wetlands and rivers to include protection by the State of Colorado as soon as possible. Most code language has historically focused on federal agency oversight, as demonstrated in this excerpt from Routt County's regulations, which states that development must comply with "applicable Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps

of Engineers (ACOE) standards and regulations.” Language should include the state oversight and read more like Garfield County’s compliance standard “Any development impacting a waterbody shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws, including, but not limited to, CDPHE Water Quality Control Division regulations and the Army Corp of Engineers regulations and permitting for waters of the U.S. “.

The SCOTUS ruling does not prohibit local governments from developing their own permitting process to cover all wetlands. The principal barrier to this approach is how to access the technical expertise to conduct the necessary review. Communities with their own wetland permit programs either build staff capacity, develop a wetland technical advisory board, or use application fees to cover external consultant review. A statewide program would make a local program unnecessary.

WATERBODY SETBACKS AND VEGETATION STANDARDS

In the Colorado River District region, the quality of river and wetland policies varies greatly. Many jurisdictions lack any additional river and wetland protection other than minimally required under the Clean Water Act. Where setbacks do exist, the size of the setback varies from 35-300 feet, and some exclude protection for riparian vegetation. The size of a setback, or buffer, achieves different goals. Smaller setbacks (35 feet) narrowly address water quality protection from phosphorous and nitrogen runoff. Larger setbacks, 100-300 feet, are more effective for protecting wildlife habitats and river function. The City of Grand Junction may have one of the largest setbacks, although only for the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers. It requires a 100-foot set back from the boundary of the floodway rather than the ordinary highwater mark.

G. INTEGRATE LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT IN NEW DEVELOPMENT SITE PLANS AND LANDSCAPE POLICY.

Stormwater management approaches are undergoing a paradigm shift. Historically, stormwater management focused on capturing runoff through centralized conveyance systems of curb–gutter–pipe networks. Across Colorado, urban and rural stormwater managers

are seeing the economic and ecological value in green infrastructure approaches that:

- Integrate on-site infiltration through site scale development standards.
- Require more space in natural drainage systems to absorb, infiltrate and help restore hydrological functions.
- Recommend natural (e.g., bioswales, vegetation buffers, etc.) and engineered systems (e.g., storm sceptor) to filter runoff.

Incorporation of features for integrating low volumes of stormwater into landscape design is also a growing practice across Colorado where additional water can enhance landscapes as well as protect water quality. Low Impact Development (LID) implementation manuals have proven useful in ensuring regulatory goals are achieved.

For communities wanting to promote LID design in buffers, parking lots, and rights of way, they should incorporate more explicit standards including:

- Defining LID treatment types and where those treatments are most appropriate.
- Providing guidance on landscape treatments to make integration into landscape design easier.
- Using physical infrastructure standards (curb cuts, slopes, percentage of total site drainage, etc.) that support site scale LID treatments and not only large detention.
- Illustrating what LID treatments look like in different landscape contexts.

It is most helpful when policy or manuals define the types of desired treatments, clarifying where they are most appropriate, identify LID adapted plant materials, and specify what locations (parking lots, buffers, streets, etc.). This [LID Implementation Manual](#) from the City of Fort Collins, for example, offers illustrations of the types of designs they want to incorporate into site design. The [City of Aurora](#) has integrated LID into their landscape and stormwater policies by describing the types of desired treatments and pictures of treatment types. They permit LID treatments as possible replacement for up to a maximum of 35% of the landscaped area treatment.

Many of the communities on the Western Slope have regulations that “encourage” rainwater harvesting, detention, vegetated swales, and permeable pavement

as part of their stormwater and landscaping requirements. They may even cite the Mile High Flood Control District and City of Denver manual.

Unfortunately, the scale of the MHFCD manual often does not transfer to smaller communities.

Development of regional guidance manuals for stormwater management may be beneficial and help reduce future expensive infrastructure investments. Preparing a manual like this for every community is not fiscally viable and should instead be pursued at the county level. The Grand Valley, with its focus on water quality and stormwater, would also be an appropriate scale.

THEME FOUR | ADOPT 1041 REGULATIONS IN ALL COUNTIES

H. ADOPT COUNTY 1041 REGULATIONS.

These powers are one of the most powerful tools in a county's toolbox to have influence over trans-basin diversions, water projects, or new water districts. The NWCCOG QQ Committee has been active in ensuring Headwaters counties understand and adopt 1041 regulations that include water as one of the areas and activities of state interest. Counties with adopted 1041 regulations are not comprehensive across counties in the Colorado River District's region. Counties without these regulations should discuss the value of these policies and how they might support community goals. The NWCCOG QQ Headwaters communities offer excellent examples and are peers to learn from on how these powers can benefit Western Slope counties.

THEME FIVE | UTILIZE NEW METHODOLOGIES FOR WATER SUPPLY PLANNING

I. ALIGN WATER SUPPLY PLANS WITH FUTURE LAND USE PLANS.

Urban development patterns across Colorado are changing, even on the west side of the divide. The high price of land and water are pushing development patterns away from historically large single-family suburban lots (e.g., 10,000 square feet per lot) towards redevelopment, multiplexes, and higher density compact urban form. *Per household*, higher density development uses less water than low density large-lot single-family homes due to the significant reduction in irrigable land area. Densification can, however, increase the *per acre* water demand.

Many water supply plans rely solely on the formula of "population multiplied by gallons per capita projections equals future water demand" for forecasting. For nearly every growing and urbanizing community, the comprehensive plan includes goals for diversifying housing types, redeveloping corridors and centers, and creating vibrant downtowns. For these growing and densifying communities, the future land use plan provides the most accurate vision for future land use densities and uses. Water supply plans should be forecasting future water demand based on more accurate methodologies to plan for adequate water supply and infrastructure. An approach that is often used is quantifying per acre water demand based on land use typologies proposed in the future land use plan.

At the 2023 Growing Water Smart workshop, the City of Grand Junction and the City of Cortez (outside River District boundaries) prioritized working with CWCB to access technical assistance for water supply modeling to gain a better understanding of their growth patterns and water supply resilience. The shift to this type of planning will require technical expertise and, in some cases, changes to billing systems and data management to generate the data necessary to calculate water projections. Also, likely to be part of the legislative agenda, the Governor has proposed that regional planning organizations (COGs and MPOs) provide advanced modeling of transportation, land use, and water. It is unclear if this proposal will only apply to specific geographies, but it is indicative of the

interrelated nature of these planning elements to long term sustainability.

CONCLUSION

Across the region served by the Colorado River District, communities are grappling with the realities of declining water availability in the Colorado River, competing interests, threats to water quality, and growing communities. As these communities' plan to respond to these complex challenges, integrating water into land use can support goals for natural resource protection and saving water.

The recommendations in this report offer communities opportunities that are timely due to state and/or federal policy changes, a focus of the Colorado Water Plan, and/or identified from gaps in their own policies. These are offered as a starting point for discussion and to help narrow down where to begin, or advance, on land use – water integration to build more resilient communities.

APPENDIX A: NWCCOG QQ COMMITTEE HEADWATERS COMMUNITIES WATER SAVING RESOURCE GUIDE

SUMMARY OF 2020 RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2020, the NWCCOG QQ Committee produced the [*Water Savings Resource Guide and Model Provisions for the Colorado Headwaters Region*](#). To inform the content and development of this resource guide, a high-level review of community comprehensive plans, water plans and development codes was conducted to identify the presence of policy elements across twenty-eight (28) QQ communities and six regions, including:

- Eagle County, Eagle, Gypsum, Minturn, Red Cliff, Vail
- Grand County, Granby, Grand Lake, Fraser, Kremmling, Hot Sulphur Springs, Winter Park
- Gunnison County, Gunnison, Crested Butte
- Pitkin, Aspen, Basalt, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs
- Routt County, Steamboat Springs, Yampa
- Summit County, Breckenridge, Dillon, Frisco, Silverthorne

The report included best practices for strengthening comprehensive plans, adequate water supply policies, and indoor and outdoor water conservation policies.

While the document includes a great deal of detail about best practices, it also provided a baseline of these communities' policies as well as best practices that could be adopted across the Colorado River District region.

The project developed high level recommendations for the Headwaters communities that are repeated in the recommendations of this Opportunities Report.

1. Local governments need to think about water supply and demand, even if they are not a water service provider.
2. Collaboration is essential.
3. Local community plans should include a vision for how to manage water resources.
4. Communities should consider Water Smart development patterns during comprehensive planning.
5. Development approval standards for adequate water supply should follow state statute.
6. Development regulations should use zone overlay districts for areas with limited water and/or recharge areas.
7. All communities should adopt or strengthen outdoor watering regulations.
8. Resort-based communities should explore opportunities for commercial water efficiency.

While much of this report was focused on the Headwaters, it is applicable to all of the Western Slope.

APPENDIX B: PAST GROWING WATER SMART PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY TEAMS

GWS COMMUNITIES PROGRESS UPDATES

Prior to the 2023 Growing Water Smart Workshop in Grand Junction, eighteen (18) communities and 3 water districts from the River District region participated in prior Growing Water Smart workshops. During these workshops, teams prepared Self-Assessments summarizing their water resource and land use plans and policies then crafted action plans intended to build momentum and be implemented within 1-2 years.

While a synthesis of these individual GWS self-assessments and action plans was outside the scope of this project, Sonoran Institute conducted a survey to evaluate team progress and how the organization can continue to support progress. Responses were received from 56% (10) of the 18 participating communities.

- In 2024, **Summit County**, the High Country Conservation Center (HCCC) has been supporting the adoption of unified outdoor watering schedules across multiple jurisdictions. In 2022, HCCC began offering irrigation assessments and landscaper certifications. In landscape management contracts, towns are offering additional points for certification.
- HCCC is creating demonstration gardens on town owned properties to inspire turf alternatives on private property. They aspire to create a turf replacement program.
- The **Town of Breckenridge** modified the green building code to include points for water conservation best practices and has added a new tier to their water rates to incentivize conservation.
- In Gunnison County, the High Country Conservation Advocates (HCCA) received two technical assistance grants from the Sonoran Institute. They first developed recommendations for water saving policy options for the **Town of Mt. Crested Butte** and **City of Gunnison**. Mt. Crested Butte adopted an indoor

water conservation ordinance, a rarely used tool in Colorado.

- **Mt. Crested Butte** also updated their master plan in 2023 which includes a section dedicated to water. The town also updated their design guidelines to incorporate rainwater harvesting and other stormwater best management practices language to support watershed health. HCCA is now working with Mt. Crested Butte and a landscape architect to develop an outdoor water conservation ordinance.
- **Gunnison County** and the municipalities therein collaborated on new processes to evaluate water supply and infrastructure connections in the 3-mile planning area.
- **Grand County** received two technical assistance grants which they used to develop a Drought Preparedness Program. They are now working on the development of a water conservation program.
- The **Eagle River Water and Sanitation District** (ERWSD) continues to be an advocate using a new water supply model to educate about water allocation prioritization. They also recently updated their conservation-oriented water rates to further incentivize conservation.
- The **Town of Avon** and ERWSD succeeded in integrating a maximum water allocation for indoor and outdoor use into development approvals in 2022. After more than a year, in 2023 the Town adopted a new water efficient landscape ordinance. The ordinance incorporated some significant modifications including a water budget of 7.5 gallons/season /square foot (12 inches per season). The code offers an incentive for inclusion of greater percentage of non-irrigated native landscapes, rainwater harvesting and green infrastructure, and ecological restoration with increase in the water budget to 8 gallons/season /square foot (12.8 inches season). Finally, ERWSD and the Town are collaborating on a new turf replacement program.

GWS teams receiving technical assistance have sustained momentum and interest in more resilient water resource management and sustainable communities. The success of using mini-grants and technical assistance is reinforced in the findings of a survey conducted by the Sonoran

Institute that asked what additional support Sonoran Institute could provide.

Survey participants responded overwhelmingly with more opportunities for additional technical assistance grants. In addition, they identified the following insights about the challenges and opportunities of implementing local action:

- Regional action requires significant convening support to bring individual actors with differing priorities and limited resources together to coalesce around a single vision.
- Even when a community has local expertise for collaborative and process support, it often still needs technical and policy professional expertise. Consultants are invaluable in helping move ahead policy action where there is support, but not the technical know-how.
- It takes time to build understanding and prioritize pursuing water and land use projects after a workshop. Communities need sufficient time to build internal support and understanding of issues before they seek financial and technical support. Following a Growing Water Smart workshop, for example, it can take 1-2 years before a team is ready to apply for a grant.



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CRWCD
ANDY MUELLER, GENERAL MANAGER
PETER FLEMING, GENERAL COUNSEL

FROM: AMY MOYER, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
MELISSA WILLS, COMMUNITY FUNDING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MANAGER
HUNTER CAUSEY, P.E., DIRECTOR OF ASSET MANAGEMENT/ CHIEF ENGINEER

SUBJECT: Community Funding Partnership Funding Recommendation and Elkhead Water Marketing Contract Request

DATE: MARCH 29, 2024

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- 1. Staff requests that the Board approve a grant of up to \$218,585.57 or no more than 25% of the actual total project cost in funding from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to the Colorado Water Trust for the Yampa River Reservoir Releases Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Agriculture (25%); Healthy Rivers (50%); and Watershed Health and Water Quality (25%).*
- 2. Staff requests Board authorization for the General Manager to execute a three-year water supply contract with the Colorado Water Trust for up to 2,000 acre-feet per year for releases from Elkhead Reservoir, subject to review and approval by legal counsel.*

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

2. Outreach in All Basins: While we have not ignored or been unhelpful to needs in other basins, a significant amount of the River District's time, energy and resources in the recent past have been focused on the mainstem of the Colorado River and helping to address the long-term needs of the mainstem. A priority in the near-term will be to put significant focus on the needs of the other basins within the River District.

2. A. The River District will increase its outreach efforts with water organizations and other local organizations in the Gunnison, White and Yampa River basins. The goal will be to use River District resources to help those basins address their consumptive and non-consumptive water needs.

2. B. The River District will look for and focus on opportunities where the River District can act as a catalyst to create partnerships that work for these other basins. A recent



example of this is the cooperatively funded Lower Gunnison Project, orchestrated by the River District.

3. Climate and Hydrologic Uncertainty: *Climate and hydrologic uncertainty should be a major driver of what the River District does in the mid- to long-term. The impacts to precipitation are not clear. However, the overwhelming evidence indicates a warming and increasingly variable climate. Hotter temperatures will certainly result in increased demands for agricultural and municipal water supplies due to longer and warmer growing seasons. Patterns of snowpack accumulation and runoff will change. Runoff is projected to occur earlier and quicker, and there will be an earlier return to possibly lower base flows after runoff. These factors will stress storage supplies. On a local and regional basis, storage supplies may prove inadequate.*

3. A. The River District will continue to evaluate and pursue options to increase local water storage supplies and optimize and expand, where appropriate, existing water storage.

3. C. The River District will engage in and support water supply planning efforts, local and regional, which include adapting to climate change impacts.

3. D. The River District will work with water users to ensure practicable and cost-effective water use efficiencies in all sectors where appropriate for the local conditions.

6. Agricultural Water Use: *Most West Slope agricultural water use is senior to the Colorado River Compact. As Colorado nears full development of its Colorado River system water there will be pressure for temporary and permanent conversion of senior agricultural water rights to other uses. The Colorado River Compact Water Bank may provide a mechanism to protect agricultural water uses.*

6. D. The River District will protect the integrity of senior agricultural water rights within Colorado's prior appropriation system, recognizing the potential risks to those rights posed by the constitution's municipal right of condemnation.

7. Water Needs/Project Development: *Through Colorado's Water Plan and the Basin Implementation Plans, water needs within the River District have been, and will continue to be, refined and prioritized. The River District owns a large portfolio of conditional water rights that may be suitable for meeting a portion of the identified water demands. However, developments in judicial case law have made it more difficult for all water users, including the River District, to maintain conditional water rights.*

7. C. The River District will look for opportunities where its efforts are needed as a catalyst to help in-District interests plan for and meet their water needs in a manner that is consistent with the District's compact contingency planning goals and objectives.

7. D. The River District will actively pursue funding sources and provide financial assistance to be used for the refurbishment and modernization of the aging water supply infrastructure within the District in order to help preserve and improve existing supplies and operations.

9. Water Efficiency and Conservation: *We are transitioning from an era emphasizing new supply development to an era which includes higher emphasis on wise use of our limited water resources, including higher water use efficiency and conservation of consumptive use. This is driven by both environmental imperatives, changing values, and increasing shortages of water resources available for development. The River District historically has supported efforts to increase water use efficiency and conservation. Examples of this are the number of grants the District has awarded for efficiency and conservation and the District's financial and staff*

GO BACK TO AGENDA

CFP Funding Recommendation and Elkhead Water Marketing Contract Request

March 29, 2024

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support of the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Efficiency Project and the Lower Gunnison Project.

9. A. The River District will continue to promote, encourage and support wise and efficient use of all of Colorado's water resources

12. Financial Sustainability: The above strategic initiatives cannot be achieved without financial sustainability. The River District enjoys a diversified tax base for its Governmental Funds, which helps to reduce the impacts of dramatic downturns in its overall assessed valuation. Over the long-term, the Enterprise Fund is intended to be self-sustaining, managing the River District's business-type activities.

13. A. Asset Management. The River District will carefully plan and implement operation, maintenance and replacement (OM&R) activities to ensure the reliable and safe operation of District assets.

This memorandum describes a Community Funding Partnership grant request and a contract request for a water contracting request for Elkhead Reservoir.

BOARD ACTION ITEM #1 – Yampa River Reservoir Releases Project

Project Applicant: Colorado Water Trust

Request: \$218,585.57

Recommended Amount: **\$218,585.57**

Location: Routt and Moffat Counties

Staff Recommendation: Staff requests that the Board approve a grant of up to \$218,585.57 or no more than 25% of the actual total project cost in funding from the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to the Colorado Water Trust for the Yampa River Reservoir Releases Project. Staff further recommends for the purpose of internal River District accounting that the awarded funds be attributed to the CFP funding categories: Agriculture (25%); Healthy Rivers (50%); and Watershed Health and Water Quality (25%).

I. Project Description:

The Colorado Water Trust (CWT) is applying for funding to support reservoir releases for Water Years 2024, 2025, and 2026 out of Elkhead Reservoir and Stagecoach Reservoir in the Yampa basin.

Since 2012, CWT has been using reservoir releases out of Stagecoach Reservoir to support healthy flows in the Yampa River. The applicant also holds a 5-in-10-year instream flow loan agreement with CWCB for the Stagecoach releases. The applicant is seeking funding to support reservoir releases when the instream flow loan is not in effect for the next three years. The releases will ensure the Upper Yampa remains in the "preserve" rate of the instream flow agreement - thus reducing river temperature and increasing river levels. Both support the aquatic life and habitat of the river. Over the past few years, the Yampa River has experienced very low flows with high temperatures. Both have negatively impacted the water quality and river ecosystems.



The Colorado River District has also been using CFP funding for releases from Elkhead Reservoir through the Yampa River Flow Pilot Project in 2021 and 2022 to support the Upper Colorado River Basin Endangered Fish Recovery Program and to prevent a call from being placed on the mainstem of the Yampa River. The Elkhead Releases will support a continuation of this effort to benefit consumptive and in-channel uses during low flow periods. The releases will be placed to the decreed beneficial uses including, but not limited to, “piscatorial use, including in-river fish habitat and river flow maintenance and enhancement uses, and uses in furtherance of the Upper Colorado River Basin Endangered Fish Recovery Program” from the outlet of Elkhead Reservoir, continuing downstream to the Yampa River near Maybell, USGS gage location #09251000 (Maybell gage). After benefiting in-stream uses for this 66-mile reach of Yampa River mainstem, the water releases will continue to benefit in-channel uses, while also being available for diversion by downstream consumptive water users. An analysis of the 2021 pilot releases estimated that 73% of pilot releases reached the Deerlodge gage. Previous efforts demonstrated the value of strategically releasing stored water from Elkhead Reservoir during low flow periods to benefit a range of beneficial uses.

Release Plans:

Stagecoach Reservoir: Operation of the reservoir release program for Stagecoach Reservoir may differ in each year of the three-year grant period depending on the hydrology and the administrative mechanism by which releases are made. In the years that the decision to utilize the instream flow loan (ISF Loan) is made, operational guidelines outlined in the ISF Loan Agreement will be followed. In years that the ISF Loan is not operated, and releases are made for municipal use to mitigate high instream temperatures, a three-phase release plan outlined in the Final 2023 Stagecoach Reservoir Release Plan (linked [HERE](#)) will guide operations. The Final 2023 Stagecoach Reservoir Release Plan may also be used in years the ISF Loan operates if reduction to streamflow temperatures scenarios outlined in the temperature forecasting model coincide with releases for instream flow. A decision to operate the ISF Loan will be made by May 1st each year.

Elkhead Reservoir: Operation of the reservoir release program for Elkhead Reservoir will utilize a three-phase plan that is outlined in the Elkhead Reservoir Release Plan (linked [HERE](#)).

The applicant plans to coordinate multi-benefit releases from both reservoirs and to continue to gain more fiscal support for the program.

II. Staff Analysis:

Staff has completed a full staff analysis for this project and confirmed that the project aligns with the River District Mission, Strategic Plan, and Policy Statements. Colorado River District’s participation as a funder and project partner in CWT’s Yampa River Reservoir Release project aligns with the River District’s strategic plan to support projects with multi-beneficial outcomes in the Colorado River basin. This project has a direct impact on maintaining healthy rivers, supporting agriculture and several indirect benefits to support



water quality improvements, conservation, smart water management, local businesses and recreation opportunities, and public engagement. This project ensures the water from Stagecoach Reservoir and Elkhead Reservoir is released strategically to support the health and community of the Yampa River. This project continues a multi-year, multi-party effort to secure water supplies in the Yampa River basin for historic water users, while enhancing river flows for the endangered fish and recreation.

Staff worked with the Colorado Water Trust to develop this funding request and to ensure that both release plans align with the River District's mission and priorities. This project is a great opportunity to support a regional champion in strategically releasing water to support flows in the Yampa River basin. The Colorado Water Trust (CWT) is applying for funding to support reservoir releases for Water Years 2024, 2025, and 2026 out of Elkhead Reservoir and Stagecoach Reservoir in the Yampa basin.

a. Project Funding and Leverage of CRD Funds:

Table 1 below identifies the project funders and matching dollars. The Applicant requested the River District contribute \$218,585.57 representing 25% of the total project costs including a total cash match ratio of 1:3 (\$655,756.71: \$218,585.57). The Yampa River Fund (if approved) will cover 50% of the total cost.

The applicant intends to fundraise each year to cover their 25% portion and will submit an annual funding application to the Yampa River Fund for 50% of the total project cost. They have demonstrated many years of strong fundraising development for the organization's projects. Additionally, the applicant has applied to the Yampa River Fund for 2024 releases and will continue to do so in years to come. The applicant will commit to ensuring 75% of the project will be secured each year. The applicant and CRD will meet each spring to determine if all funding has been secured. CRD funding will not exceed 25% of the total cost of the project, nor over 25% of each reservoir release cost.

The total project cost of \$874,342.28 and requested contribution of \$218,585.57 from the River District are premised upon the annual availability of 5,100 acre-feet of storage water for releases out of Stagecoach Reservoir and the annual availability of 2,000 acre-feet of storage water for releases out of Elkhead Reservoir over the three-year grant period. These amounts may not be available each year due to hydrology or if the instream flow loan is being fully utilized for releases. Therefore, the total project cost and requested River District contribution are "up to" amounts.

In total, the applicant is providing 25% of the total project cost and has noted that they intend to use these next three years to secure more diverse, local, and sustainable funders for the project into the future. Staff believe this approach is a strong outgrowth from the River District's initial contributions beginning in 2021 to fund multi-benefit releases from Elkhead Reservoir.

**Table 1: Funding Partners**

| Funding Partner | Cash | In-Kind | Total | Funds Committed (Y/N) |
|---|---------------------|---------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Colorado Water Trust | \$218,585.57 | | \$218,585.57 | Y |
| Yampa River Fund | \$437,171.14 | | \$437,171.14 | N*Application submitted |
| Colorado River District – Requested Community Funding Partnership | \$218,585.57 | | \$218,585.57 | N*application submitted |
| Total | \$874,342.28 | | \$847,342.28 | |

Table 2: Project Budget

| Task Name | Total |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Elkhead Reservoir Storage Contract | \$251,720.00 |
| Stagecoach Reservoir Storage Contract | \$622,622.28 |
| Total | \$874,342.28 |

The CWT will contract with the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District for water purchases and releases from Stagecoach Reservoir, and the CWT will contract with the CRD Enterprise Fund for water purchases and releases out of Elkhead Reservoir.

- b. Local Community Support:** The applicant has provided a letter of support from the Moffat County Board of County Commissioners and the Routt County Board of County Commissioners.
- c. Human Resource Requirements:** CRD Director of Asset Management, Hunter Causey, will continue to work closely with CWT to ensure the Elkhead Releases continue to support both consumptive and in-channel uses during low flow periods.
- d. Risk Analysis:** Staff has completed a risk analysis and have not identified any significant legal liability or exposure to the District that warrants additional legal review. However, Staff consulted CRD's legal team to disclose the following:
 - i. Director Doug Monger serves on the board of the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District that will contract with the CWT for the Stagecoach Releases.
 - ii. Director Tom Gray serves on the Yampa River Fund grant review board and will review an application from CWT for this project.
 - iii. The CRD Enterprise will contract with the CWT for the Elkhead releases and therefore will financially benefit from the transaction.



e. **Additional Factors to Consider:**

Promote innovation within a water use sector: In the future, CWT and partners are working to develop forecasting tools to account for the climate's increasing variability. This "Yampa River Dashboard" will also be made publicly available, and many different parties will be able to access real-time observations and valuable historical data all throughout the year.

Enhancement of a project's long-term viability: This funding provides a 3-year planning horizon to bolster fundraising efforts that support the health of the Yampa River. It also provides the opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of the combined reservoir release program. By providing leadership and funding each year to make this project possible, CWT builds trust and the tools needed to support both consumptive and in-channel uses on the Yampa River. Each year, this project, the tools used, and the partnerships get stronger, ensuring the long-term viability of this project.

Board Action #2: Colorado Water Trust Option Contract

In 2021, the River District implemented the Yampa River Flow Pilot Project funded by the Community Funding Partnership (CFP) to reduce calls on the Yampa River. 1,500 acre-feet of water from the River District's contract pool was released in time and amount to reduce the likelihood of a call being placed. The project demonstrated the value of these releases, and staff has been pursuing outside funding and partnerships to make the effort sustainable, including a fifty percent contribution by the Yampa River Fund in 2022.

Staff has been in discussions this year with the Colorado Water Trust (CWT) for three years of releases from Elkhead Reservoir utilizing CWT funding, recommended CFP funding, and requested grant funding from the Yampa River Fund. Pending Board approval, up to \$26,662.75 and no more than 25% of funding in any given year will be provided by the CFP for Elkhead releases by the grant described above. The releases will differ from 2021 and 2022 efforts. You will recall, that the River District's efforts in those years had the primary goal of removing or preventing a call from going on the mainstem of the Yampa River. The proposal this year will utilize water from the River District's water marketing enterprise to remove and or prevent a call, but CWT may also release to benefit the endangered fish critical habitat. District engineering and legal staff have worked out contractual language with CWT to ensure that there remains a sufficient supply for call prevention in each of the three subject years.

Pursuant to the Yampa River Water Marketing Policy, 2000 acre-feet exceeds the maximum allowed contract amount (Set at 250 acre-feet) unless otherwise approved by the Enterprise Board. Secondly, the CWT has requested a contractual agreement that differs from the standard water marketing take-or-pay contract wherein contractees have a set supply and pay for leased water whether it is released or not. The CWT has requested that they only pay for water physically released from the reservoir, accepting that the availability of the water is not guaranteed. Water in this pool would remain available for contract to third parties until it is physically released from the



reservoir for the CWT. The board approved a similar contract with CWT for 650 acre-feet of Elkhead water in 2022.

Staff is providing this recommendation because the contract will enable in-channel releases that align with River District and Yampa River water users' goals while maintaining the capability to serve consumptive users. The proposed agreement would not diminish the River District's ability to provide water to other users, including consumptive ones, because the proposed contract would not prevent CRD from leasing the CWT pool water to third parties unless the CWT has affirmatively exercised and paid for the contracted supply. The CWT would pay the existing standard "in-channel use" rate for the released water.

Staff requests the Board authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with the Colorado Water Trust for a three-year water contract for up to 2000 acre-feet per year for water releases from Elkhead Reservoir, subject to review and approval by legal counsel.



COLORADO WATER TRUST

Memorandum

To: Upper Yampa River Coordination Group

From: Blake Mamich, Colorado Water Trust

Date: 10/03/2023

Re: **Final 2023 Stagecoach Reservoir Release Plan**

This memorandum is intended to outline Colorado Water Trust's (CWT) 2023 Stagecoach Reservoir release plan. This plan originated from discussions with various stakeholders, is informed by temperature and flow forecasting tools and is premised upon up to 5,100 af of water being available for release from Stagecoach Reservoir at CWT's request in 2023.

1. Phase 1. (~July-August)

- 1.1. Maintain flows at 40 cfs below Stagecoach (@ YAMBSRSCO)
- 1.2. Releases will be made for hydropower use, with no administration below the dam
- 1.3. In order to maintain 40 cfs, CWT releases will be on top of UYWCD bypass (per FERC Permit) as follows:
 - 1.3.1. 40 cfs or inflow (whichever is less) before August 1; or
 - 1.3.2. 20 cfs or inflow (whichever is more) after August 1

2. Phase 2. (~August-September)

- 2.1. On the day preceding each UYWCD turn day beginning in July, utilize the forecast tool to predict water temperature conditions on the Yampa River at Steamboat Springs associated with projected flow releases from Stagecoach Reservoir.

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- 2.2. If water temperatures are not currently above the CS-II standard and forecast values across the 5-day forecast period do not surpass the risk threshold, maintain status quo operations. Return to Step 1.
- 2.3. If current temperatures surpass the CS-II standard or if the 5-day forecast indicates water temperatures will exceed the risk threshold, examine the alternative flow release forecasts provided by the tool.
- 2.4. If any of the alternative flow release forecasts can achieve water temperature management objectives relative to the selected risk threshold, either in part or in full, begin a deliberative process with stakeholders that evaluates the relative costs and benefits of the alternative strategy.
- 2.5. Where costs (e.g. financial costs, operational challenges, required water volumes) are determined to outweigh the expected benefits, maintain status quo operations. Conversely, if the benefits are determined to outweigh costs, implement the alternative management strategy on the following turn day. Return to Step 1.

3. Phase 3. (~September-October)

- 3.1. When temperatures drop below relevant standards (per Steamboat Discharge Permit) or ~1,000 af left in CWT pool, or where costs outweigh expected benefits (whichever occurs first), CWT may begin tapering off releases
- 3.2. Tapering will reduce CWT release gradually to zero while attempting to mimic the slope of the natural hydrograph, avoid sudden drops in flow rate, and reduce flow in increments feasible for UYWCD's operations
- 3.3. Tapering may be limited when management goals require maintenance of CWT release for as long as possible
- 3.4. Releases will be for municipal or hydropower use depending on status of temperature, with appropriate administration according to use
- 3.5. CWT releases will be on top of UYWCD's 20 cfs or inflow bypass (whichever is more) and will cease when CWT pool is exhausted, or gradual taper reaches UYWCD's bypass

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COLORADO WATER TRUST

Memorandum

To: Colorado River Water Conservation District
From: Blake Mamich – Water Resources Specialist
Date: 03/07/2024
Re: Draft 2024-2026 Elkhead Reservoir Release Plan

This memorandum is intended to outline Colorado Water Trust's (CWT) initial draft of an Elkhead Reservoir release plan. This plan originated from discussions with Colorado River Water Conservation District (River District) staff Hunter Causey and Bruce Walters, David Graf of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Recovery Program). The plan is also informed by the Wilson Water Group Technical Memorandum "Tracking Elkhead Reservoir 2021 Pilot Releases Study" and assumes the availability of up to 2000 af of water for release from Elkhead Reservoir at CWT's request in operative years 2024-2026 (CWT Pool).

1. Phase 1. (July 1st - July 31st)

- 1.1. If YAMAYBCO gage flows drop below 400 cfs and weekly Lower Yampa Coordination calls have been initiated, then CWT staff will monitor river flows at YAMDEECO or YAMAYBCO and associated Colorado River Basin Forecast Center (CBRFC) streamflow forecasts.
- 1.2. If flows at YAMAYBCO drop to 100 cfs or below or if CBRFC forecasts project a likely Lower Yampa call scenario, then CWT staff will reserve entire CWT Pool for call prevention releases.
 - 1.2.1. If call prevention releases are required, then CWT staff will meet and confer with River District staff and Lower Yampa Coordination Group as soon as reasonably practicable to determine appropriate release rates.
 - 1.2.2. CWT staff will document the conferral and release rate decisions and provide a written record (including by email) of such decisions to River District staff.

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- 1.2.3. CWT staff will notify Division of Water Resources (DWR) staff of imminent releases for beneficial use consistent with 02CW106 Decree no later than 48 hours before the anticipated release. CWT staff will provide DWR staff with a basis for the flowrate and a beginning and endpoint of the reach through which the releases will satisfy the beneficial use.
- 1.3. CWT staff will monitor releases and basin hydrologic conditions and adjust releases as necessary after conferral with River District staff and the Lower Yampa Coordination Group.
 - 1.3.1. CWT staff will document the conferral and release rate decisions and provide a written record (including by email) of such decisions to River District staff.
- 1.4. If basin hydrologic conditions change such that a call is no longer imminent and/or releases are no longer needed, CWT staff will adjust to the release strategy in Phase 2.

2. Phase 2. (~August-September)

- 2.1. If YAMAYBCO gage flows drop below 400 cfs and weekly Lower Yampa Coordination calls have been initiated, then CWT staff will monitor river flows at YAMDEECO or YAMAYBCO and associated CBRFC streamflow forecasts.
- 2.2. If Recovery Program Releases have been initiated, then CWT staff will use a default strategy of supporting Recovery Program flow rate objectives by coordinating releases with the Recovery Program.
 - 2.2.1. CWT staff will document the conferral and release rate decisions and provide a written record (including by email) of such decisions to River District staff.
 - 2.2.2. CWT staff will notify DWR staff of imminent releases for beneficial use consistent with the decree entered in Case No. 02CW106 (02CW106 Decree) no later than 48 hours before the anticipated release. CWT staff will provide DWR staff with a basis for the flowrate and a beginning and endpoint of the reach through which the release will satisfy the beneficial use.
- 2.3. If an alternative release program to the default strategy described in 2.2 is identified and can achieve water management objectives in the context of a Lower Yampa call risk threshold, then CWT staff will begin a deliberative

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process with the Lower Yampa Coordination Group and River District staff to establish a release strategy.

2.3.1. CWT Staff will document the conferral and release rate decisions and provide a written record (including by email) of such decisions to River District staff.

2.3.2. CWT staff will notify DWR staff of imminent releases for beneficial use consistent with 02CW106 Decree no later than 48 hours before the anticipated release. CWT staff will provide DWR staff with a basis for the flowrate and a beginning and endpoint of the reach through which the release will satisfy the beneficial use.

2.4. If either flows at YAMDEECO or YAMAYBCO flows drop to 100 cfs or below or if CBRFC forecasts project a likely Lower Yampa call scenario, then CWT staff reserve any water remaining in the CWT Pool for call prevention releases.

2.4.1. If call prevention releases are required, then CWT staff will meet and confer with River District staff and Lower Yampa Coordination Group as soon as reasonably practicable to determine appropriate release rates.

2.4.2. CWT staff will document the conferral and any release rate decisions under 2.4.1 and provide a written record (including by email) of such decisions to River District staff.

2.4.3. CWT staff will notify DWR staff of imminent releases for beneficial use consistent with 02CW106 Decree no later than 48 hours before the anticipated release. CWT staff will provide DWR staff with a basis for the flowrate and a beginning and endpoint of the reach through which the release will satisfy the beneficial use.

2.5. If basin hydrologic conditions change such that releases are no longer imminent, or if releases are already occurring but are no longer needed to meet agreed upon objectives or call prevention, adjust to the release strategy in Phase 3.

3. Phase 3. (~September-October)

3.1. When Elkhead releases are no longer required to meet biologic or agreed upon flow rate objectives, or when Recovery Program and CWT Pool is nearing exhaustion, CWT staff will begin a deliberative process with the Lower Yampa Coordination Group and River District staff to establish a release program conclusion strategy.

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- 3.1.1. The Lower Yampa Coordination Group might also consider a strategy to reduce releases from the CWT Pool gradually to zero while attempting to mimic the slope of the natural hydrograph, avoiding sudden drops in flow rate, and reducing flow rates in increments feasible for the River District's operations.
- 3.1.2. CWT staff will document the conferral and release rate decisions and provide a written record (including by email) of such decisions to River District staff.

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COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CRWCD

FROM: HUNTER CAUSEY, P.E., DIRECTOR OF ASSET MANAGEMENT/ CHIEF ENGINEER
SAM CALAHAN, WATER RESOURCES DATA SPECIALIST

SUBJECT: WOLFORD MOUNTAIN PROJECTS CONTRACT REQUEST AND UPDATES

DATE: APRIL 5, 2024

ACTIONS:

Staff requests Board authorization for the General Manager to execute a three-year agreement with McDonald Farms Enterprises, Inc. for waste pumping services at the River District's Wolford Mountain Reservoir Project, in an amount not to exceed \$75,000, subject to review and approval by legal counsel.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

13. A. Asset Management. The River District will carefully plan and implement operation, maintenance and replacement (OM&R) activities to ensure the reliable and safe operation of District assets.

This memorandum provides an update on the upcoming Ritschard Dam Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation (CDSE), describes a contract request for waste pumping services at the Wolford Mountain Project, and offers two maintenance project updates.

2024 Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation

After consultation with the Colorado Dam Safety Branch, staff made the decision to postpone the Ritschard Dam Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation (CDSE) until September 2024. Staff will report to the Board on the CDSE results and next steps no later than the October 2024 quarterly meeting.

McDonald Farms Waster Services Contract

The Wolford Mountain project utilizes several types of onsite wastewater treatment systems, including six dry vaults, four composting units, four RV dump station tanks, and eight septic tanks. Each of these systems requires periodic pumping to remove waste. The River District has contracted with McDonald Farms Enterprises, Inc. since 2019 for waste pumping services. McDonald Farms has consistently provided satisfactory service, and the staff has not identified a



viable alternative contractor. Staff requests authorization for a three-year continuing services contract for \$75,000 for waste pumping services.

Gate Actuators

Staff reported to the board at the July 2023 quarterly meeting that the main gate actuator at Ritschard Dam was found to be leaking oil and in need of refurbishment or replacement. The system for raising the gate consists of three primary components: an electric motor, an actuator that converts the motor's rotary motion into a vertical motion to raise and lower the gate, and a gear operator that increases the torque applied to the gate stem. Under an existing continuing services agreement, Marine Diving Solutions, LLC (MDS) removed and delivered the actuator and gear operator to MSEC, Inc. in November. The River District is currently under contract with MSEC for this refurbishment work, which is nearing completion. MSEC determined that the motor could be repaired but the gear operator needed to be replaced, along with a few smaller components of the actuator. The motor repair was completed in December, and the work on the actuator was completed in March after several manufacturer delays. The gear operator replacement is expected to arrive in late April or early May, when MDS will re-install it along with the actuator and motor. The actuator will then be adjusted to ensure safe operation by Bay Valve Service, the contractor that performed this task the last time it was required, in 2019. The total cost of repairs to the motor and actuator, plus the replacement of the operator, will be \$29,589. The cost of all actuator repairs is \$11,621, whereas the cost of replacing just the actuator would have been roughly \$70,000. The cost for MDS to remove the equipment and deliver it to MSEC, which included the fabrication of a platform to support a small crane on the tower bridge, was \$11,500. The cost for MDS to return and install the repaired and replaced equipment at Ritschard Dam is expected to be approximately \$6,000.

In addition to four gates on the tower, Ritschard Dam includes a guard gate, which is a secondary safety gate that allows for the isolation of the tower gates. The guard gate still uses the original actuator and operator and has seen similar wear to the main gate actuator. Staff will refurbish or replace the guard gate actuator as soon as is practical. Removing this equipment from the guard gate is complicated by the requirement that the guard gate remain open in order to release water through the conduit, as there is no alternative outlet that bypasses it. As configured, however, the actuator cannot be removed unless the gate is fully closed. Staff is working with our counterparts at the Division of Water Resources Dam Safety Branch, Denver Water, and contractors to develop a plan for safely completing this work, targeting summer or fall of 2025.

Shop Heat

The radiant heaters in the maintenance building garage at Wolford Mountain Reservoir are currently inoperable. As these comprise a large portion of the building's heating demands, the opportunity is being taken to explore the electrification of the entire building's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. Electrifying the system would address safety issues with a propane system, provide cooling for the office, operate more consistently and efficiently, eliminate the need for propane deliveries, and be a more environmentally sustainable energy source. MSS Solutions, LLC (MSS) has been contracted to design feasible all-electric options, issue a request for proposals



(RFP) to contractors for both the electric options and a propane replacement, and provide recommendations regarding contractor bids. MSS has finalized two designs with input and feedback from River District Staff, and RFPs are expected to be issued in April. Staff will review the bids, select a contractor, and complete any replacements or upgrades as soon as practicable. Staff will seek Board approval of the contract, if appropriate, pursuant to District's policies.

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13. Future Meetings:

- a. Third Regular Joint Quarterly Meeting, July 16-17, 2024, Glenwood Springs, CO.**
- b. Fourth Regular Joint Quarterly Meeting, October 15-16, 2024, Glenwood Springs, CO.**
- c. Budget Workshop, Grand Junction, Colorado, September 19, 2024.**
- d. Annual Water Seminar, Grand Junction, Colorado, September 20, 2024.**
- e. Other Meetings:**
 - i. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Middle Colorado, Garfield County, May 7, 2024.**
 - ii. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Grand County, May 9, 2024.**
 - iii. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Summit County, May 23, 2024.**
 - iv. Colorado River District State of the River Meeting, Eagle County, May 29, 2024.**