



# COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** Lindsay DeFrates, Dep. Director of  
Public Relations — 970.456.8973;  
ldefrates@crwcd.org

## Colorado River District Board Approves \$300,000 Grant to CMU Water Center

**GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colorado** — The Colorado River District’s Board of Directors held its first quarterly meeting of the year on Jan. 21-22 and approved \$480,000 in Community Funding Partnership grants to support water projects across the Western Slope. A highlight in this round of funding is a \$300,000 grant to the Colorado Mesa University’s Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center to support the Center’s growth over the next three years, including hiring an executive director and establishing a long-term growth strategy for the organization. The River District funding award will be matched by \$ 300,000 from Colorado Mesa University.

The grant and partnership with CMU will strengthen the Water Center’s ability to serve as a West Slope hub for water policy and academic education, fostering leadership and innovation in water resource management. The funding will also support strategic planning and program expansion, positioning the West Slope as a central source of research, collaboration, and leadership in Colorado’s River.

“Supporting the CMU Water Center is an investment in the expertise and leadership needed to secure Western Colorado’s water future,” said Colorado River District General Manager Andy Mueller. “CMU has long been a trusted leader in West Slope education and data-informed research. This partnership empowers local knowledge and innovation and will create future generations of water leaders in the Colorado River.”

“At CMU, we take pride in being a voice for Western Colorado, and we see the Water Center as central to that mission,” said Colorado Mesa University President John Marshall. “With this investment from the Colorado River District—matched by CMU—we are establishing a strong, foundational hub for water research and policy rooted in Western Slope expertise, helping students and professionals drive solutions for our region’s water future.”

In addition to the CMU Water Center grant, the Board approved \$180,000 in Community Funding Partnership grants for critical water projects across the Western Slope. An \$80,000 grant will support the Terror Ditch Pipeline Project in Delta County, piping just over a mile of ditches to reduce water loss and mitigate infrastructure collapse risks, benefiting over 500 acres of agricultural land in the Gunnison Basin. Another \$100,000 grant will fund the Upper Yampa Watershed and Stagecoach Reservoir Water Quality

Model Project in Routt County, which will develop decision-making tools to address harmful algal blooms and improve water quality in the Upper Yampa River Basin.

The Community Funding Partnership, launched in 2021, is designed to support the development of multi-benefit water projects across Western Colorado. To date, the program has funded over 130 projects and leveraged nearly \$100 million in funding for projects that benefit agriculture, infrastructure, healthy rivers, watershed health and water quality, and conservation and efficiency.

For more information on the Colorado River District's Community Funding Partnership and how to apply for future funding opportunities, visit [www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org](http://www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org).

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