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Colorado River District Board Adopts New Strategic Plan to Guide West Slope Water Future

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colorado — The Colorado River District Board of Directors unanimously approved and adopted a new five-year strategic plan at its quarterly meeting on July 15–16, 2025. The new Strategic Plan outlines a clear vision and action-oriented roadmap for advancing the District's mission to lead in the protection, conservation, use, and development of the water resources of the Colorado River Basin for the benefit of West Slope water users.

The newly adopted plan is the product of a year-long collaborative effort between the Board, staff, and strategic consultants. Through surveys, interviews, retreats, and intensive staff workgroup sessions, the plan identifies focused priorities and initiatives aligned with the evolving water challenges facing the West Slope.

"This plan is the result of close collaboration between our Board, staff, and consulting team, and it charts a strong course for the next five years," said Marc Catlin, Board President of the Colorado River District. "It positions the River District to act as a leader, respond quickly to change, and deliver real, lasting benefits to West Slope communities."

The new Strategic Plan is built around three key focus areas: Community Protection, Trusted Resource, and Recognized Leader on Colorado River Matters. It outlines goals and actionable steps to address the water needs of western Colorado in a hotter, drier future, protect water resources for agriculture and local communities that rely on them, and reinforce the River District's role as a trusted, data-informed voice in water policy across the district and the basin. The plan also includes efforts to support core organizational services and retain staff, ensuring that essential day-to-day work continues alongside new strategic priorities.

"The Strategic Plan is a collaborative, working strategy that affirms our commitment to our constituents and communities," said Amy Moyer, the District's Chief of Strategy. "Implementation is already underway, and we're building internal structures to ensure that the initiatives are aligned with the realities of Colorado's water future."

To support implementation, the River District plans to develop internal workgroups for each focus area and track progress through regular updates to the Board each July, with quarterly updates embedded into staff reports throughout the year. The River District extends its gratitude to the Board and all who contributed to the planning process. The complete 2025-2030 Strategic Plan is available at ColoradoRiverDistrict.org.