



## MEMORANDUM

July 7, 2011

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**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ERIC KUHN, GENERAL MANAGER

**FROM:** DAN BIRCH, DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** 10825

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There have been some recent developments with 10825, the effort to develop a permanent supply in the amount of 10,825 acre-feet by water users pursuant to the 15-Mile Reach Programmatic Biological Opinion.

*The following is informational; no Board action is requested at this time.*

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

We received an internal review draft of the Environmental Assessment (EA) earlier this spring. We expect the draft EA out for a 30-day public comment period within the next month or so.

A public meeting on the draft EA will take place in Glenwood Springs at some time during the comment period, i.e. later this summer. In order to save time and money and because 10825 is generally received as a positive, Grand County agreed to forego a formal public meeting. We agreed to make an informal presentation in Grand County at some point to explain the proposal.

### IMPACT TO GREEN MOUNTAIN RESERVOIR

The Water Resources Assessment, completed in March of this year, shows an impact to Green Mountain Reservoir of the Redtop Valley Ditch/Granby Reservoir component of the preferred alternative. On average, this amounts to an impact of 474 acre-feet per year. During the critical period of 2001-2004, the impact amounts to about 1400 acre-feet per year.

The impact stems from the additional out of priority diversions that take place at Granby as the result of the retirement of the Redtop Valley Ditch shares. Attached to Peter Fleming's General Report is a memorandum from Eric Kuhn which explains the nature of the impact.

The impact is to the West Slope's 100KAF pool in the reservoir. The Redtop Ditch/Granby Reservoir component will also increase Denver's and Colorado Springs' (CSU) substitution requirements.

Denver, CSU, and the Grand Valley have all indicated they need to be kept whole. Eric's memorandum outlines three possible solutions that would keep at least the West Slope whole. These include:

- Bypass out of priority diversions under the Redtop Valley Ditch. This will reduce the yield of the Granby Component by as much as 1500 AF in a 2001 year and therefore an additional amount of water would need to be secured to meet the 10825 obligation.
- Establish an insurance pool in Ruedi Reservoir. Perhaps we would secure a 6412 AF contract in Ruedi, rather than 5412 AF, and it has been suggested that the East Slope would pay for this additional amount of water.
- Establish an insurance pool in Wolford Reservoir. The source of this supply would be Upper Colorado River environmental water that could be exchanged into Wolford when and if it is not needed below the confluence with the Blue River. We have talked about this with Grand County and they are amenable in concept.

We will be meeting with Northern prior to the Board meeting to further discuss this matter.

As with so many other matters we are working on, it will take some time to work through and implement a solution. So, the immediate question and concern is whether we can avoid further delaying completion of the EA while we work on a solution.

#### 10825 PERMANENT AGREEMENT

Peter Fleming's General Report addresses the 10825 Permanent Agreement and the sidebar agreement proposed with Northern to address the contracting issue.