



Colorado River District

Protecting Western Colorado Water Since 1937

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

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July 2011



Reclamation studies river supply, demand

General Manager Eric Kuhn briefed the Colorado River District Board of Directors at its July 19-20, 2011, regular quarterly meeting on the Bureau of Reclamation's [Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study](#) that examines current and future imbalances in water supply and demand in the basin with a 50-year planning horizon.

This first ever basin-wide study will assess the risks to vital river resources and agreements including water allocation and delivery; electric power generation; and recreation and fish, wildlife and associated critical habitats.

Reclamation will be analyzing potential solutions to address anticipated strains upon the water resources of the Basin.

Kuhn noted that the first interim report was issued in early June and dealt with baseline information, methodologies and related technical background.

Analysis of climate change scenarios

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Staff anniversaries recognized by Board

The Colorado River District Board of Directors honored four staff members for longevity of service. Those cited were, top left, Dan Birch, Deputy General Manager, 10 years; Eric Kuhn, General Manager, top, third from left, 30 years; Chris Treese, External Affairs Manager, top right, 20 years; and Lorra Nichols, bottom photo, Paralegal, 10 years. Presenting the awards was Board President Tom Sharp, top, second from left.

Update given on Flaming Gorge Task Force proposal

General Manager Eric Kuhn told Directors that water managers see challenges with the proposed Flaming Gorge Pipeline Project that would bring water to the Front Range. The Board's concerns included 1) is there enough water for a project such as the pipeline; and 2) will the project proponents agree to acquire a Colorado water right for the project and thus be subject to the

same legal standards and curtailment requirements as other Colorado users.

Deputy General Manager Dan Birch participated in the June 29th initial meeting of the Flaming Gorge Task Force and noted that there was a strong consensus expressed to convene a Basin Roundtable dialogue in lieu of a separate stakeholder process.



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Board discusses two Colorado River studies

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indicate that an increase in temperature will increase crop irrigation demands about 5 percent for each degree F in the Upper Basin and 3.5-4 percent for each degree F in the Lower Basin.

Overall, the study is designed to quantify, if and how, the basin water resources are to be stressed in the future and how such stresses might be mitigated. The final report is scheduled to be published July 2012.

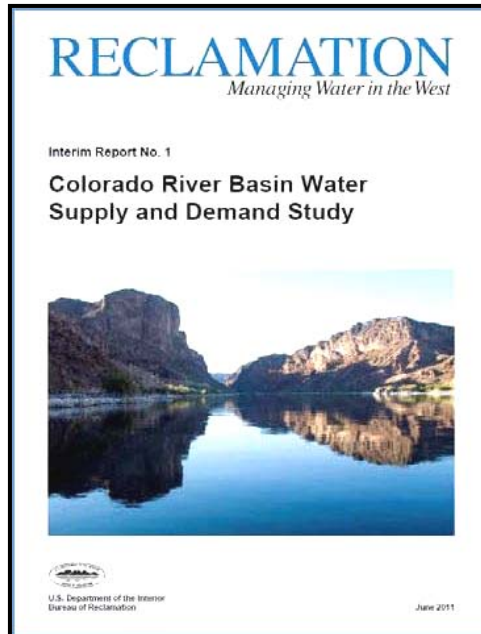
The report will be presented at the Colorado River Districts Annual Water Seminar set for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, at the Two Rivers Convention Center in Grand Junction, CO. Registration is open and costs \$25 to defray lunch. For more information, see pages 6 and 7.

Terry Fulp, Deputy Regional Director of the Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region, will give an overview of the study at the Seminar.

Study: www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy.html.

Kuhn also reported that the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is in the process of deciding how to proceed with the public comments received on the public draft of Phase 1 of its commissioned [Colorado River Water Availability Study](http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy.html).

Kuhn suggested that the true value of the study may not be to address how much water from the Colorado River is available for Colo-

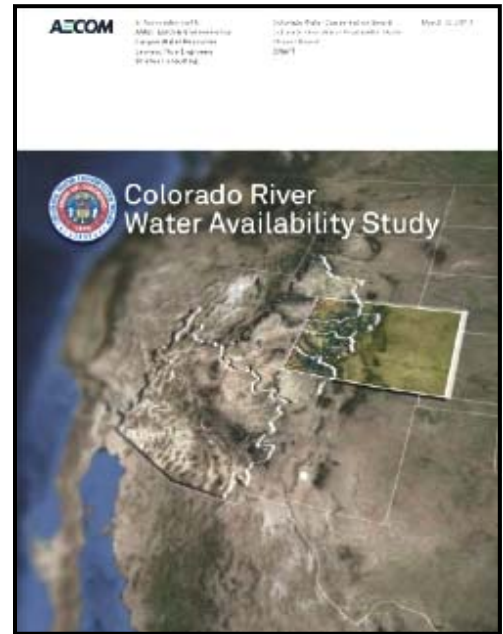


Interim Report No. 1 of the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study is available for review. It can be downloaded at www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy.html.

rado to develop but educating the public and water managers about the associated risks with developing this water.

Understanding the risks will require examining the hydrological uncertainty of 1) delivery obligations at Lee Ferry; 2) hydrological variability (droughts, floods); and 3) longer-term impacts of climate change upon water supply reliability.

Board discussion included whether or not the CWCB should proceed with Phase 2 because of the expense and the debatable utility of doing so.



The Colorado River is under heavy study, in addition to the Bureau of Reclamation study, the Colorado Water Conservation Board has released Phase I of its own Colorado River Water Availability Study. It can be viewed at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/technical-resources/colorado-river-water-availability-study/Pages/main.aspx>.

At a minimum, the Board concluded that Phase 1 should include and analyze future operations of existing projects that are projected to increase transmountain diversions.

As an example, this includes the use of currently unused capacity in systems such as the Roberts (Dillon Reservoir) and Adams (Colorado-Big Thompson Project) Tunnels, which are currently not accounted for.

Study: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/technical-resources/colorado-river-water-availability-study/Pages/main.aspx>.

Board reviews, updates guiding policies

Consistent with the regular schedule of annual review of Colorado River District policies, the Board of Directors analyzed, discussed and approved the following policies:

- **Colorado River Compacts**
- **Colorado's Remaining Allocation of Colorado River Basin Water**
- **Interstate Water Marketing**
- **Colorado River Storage Project Act**
- **Transmountain Water Diversions**

Policy summaries:

The “**Colorado River Compacts**” policy reaffirms that the primary purposes of the compacts are to provide legal certainty regarding how much water each of the seven basin states can develop, to allow states to develop their water resources when the water is needed, and to implement the Prior Appropriation Doctrine.

The “**Colorado's Remaining Allocation of Colorado River Basin Water**” policy advocates for statewide efforts to determine Colorado's current use and remaining water development potential of its Colorado River Compact allocation.

Impacts of a curtailment of water rights to meet Colorado's obligations under the 1922 and 1948 compacts would cause significant harm to the welfare of the state; therefore, the first priority is to avoid such a curtailment.

The “**Interstate Water Marketing**” policy states that the Colorado River District opposes any proposal to market Colorado River water between the states of the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins without the unanimous consent of all seven states.

The District also opposes marketing of Compact-related waters among states of the Upper Colorado River Basin without similar, unanimous consent of the Upper Basin states.

The “**Colorado River Storage Project Act (CRSPA)**” policy reaffirms the Colorado River District's



Lake Powell, part of the Colorado River Storage Project Act, lies behind the Glen Canyon Dam. The reservoir is the Upper Basin's savings account to meet its obligations under the Colorado River Compact.

support for the development of authorized and participating projects under the CRSPA wherever economically, hydrologically and environmentally feasible.

The River District will advocate for fulfillment of the purposes of the Upper Basin Fund, including its use to support construction and development of CRSPA projects.

The “**Transmountain Water Diversions**” policy acknowledges that the vast majority of Colorado's water is on the western side of the Continental Divide, while Colorado's population lives predominantly along the Front Range on the state's eastern slope.

As a result, Colorado has dozens of water projects that divert water from the Colorado River Basin across the Divide.

Large transmountain diversions significantly impact the basin from which the water is diverted; therefore, water diverted across the Continental Divide should be used and reused whenever legally allowable and be integrated into an overall program of water conservation.

For full-text of these and previously approved policies, please visit www.crwcd.org/page_9.



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Monitoring devices to be installed in dam

Anglers and passers by will be seeing earth-moving and drilling equipment on the Ritschard Dam at Wolford Mountain Reservoir from late August 2011 through early November 2011 as the Colorado River District continues to install sophisticated monitoring devices in the dam.

In addition to monitoring devices that are usually and customarily installed in any dam when it is constructed, a second round of enhanced monitoring devices were placed in 2009.,

The enhanced monitoring devices are part of a continuing effort to better understand what is causing a portion of the dam to settle more than what is usual in earthen dams.

The safety of the dam is not in question and it remains fully operational, storing and passing water at the 66,000-acre-foot reservoir on Muddy Creek, north of Kremmling in Grand County.

The Colorado River District engineering staff, consultants and an expert review panel reported to the Board of Directors that enhanced monitoring and data



Construction equipment will be returning to the Ritschard Dam at Wolford Mountain Reservoir to install monitoring devices inside the dam.

collection are the next steps to finding a cause for the settling in order to indentify a plan to remedy the issue.

Future meetings

- **August 24-26, 2011:** Colorado Water Congress Summer Convention, Steamboat Springs.
- **September 14, 2011:** Special Joint Meeting with the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Grand Junction
- **September 14, 2011:** Colorado River District Board Budget Workshop, Grand Junction
- **September 15, 2011:** Colorado River District Annual Water Seminar, Grand Junction
- **October 18-19, 2011:** Fourth quarterly CRD meeting, Glenwood Springs
- **December 14-16, 2011:** Colorado River Water Users Association Convention, Los Vegas

Colorado River District 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 it is entitled.

How to contact us

For more information about the Colorado River District or board actions, call Jim Pokrandt at (970) 945-8522 x 236 or e-mail edinfo@crwcd.org. Visit www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org.

Board updated on state, federal affairs

State Affairs

The 2011 session of the Colorado Legislature was relatively quiet at least concerning water matters, according to External Affairs Manager Chris Treese.

While the session was marked by further budget wrangling and the politics of a Democrat majority in the Senate and a Republican majority in the House, the Colorado River District nevertheless invested considerable time and attention in an effort to serve as a resource to our state elected officials.

Treese thanked Directors for their dedication to bi-weekly board meetings that provided direction on water-related legislative matters and allowed the District to respond to changing proposals.

Treese then directed the Board to his quarterly memo summarizing the session and providing a brief outlook for the Interim Water Committee's summer agenda and an early preview of next year's session.

http://www.crwcd.org/media/uploads/20110719_state_memo_gen.pdf

Federal Affairs

Treese dedicated the majority of his report to the Board to federal matters of interest to Western Colorado. He began by listing the significant cuts in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Interior agency budget proposals for 2012.

He also highlighted the many oversight hearings targeting the scope and activities of the EPA and related policy riders being attached to 2012 appropriations bills by the Republican-led House. He noted, however, that few, if any, of the policy riders are likely to survive in the Democratic-led Senate.

Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO) introduced her Colorado wilderness bill, as she has for the past six Congresses. This year's bill creates 31 new or expanded wilderness areas in Colorado.

None is duplicative of Congressman Jared Polis' (D-CO) "Hidden Gems" wilderness proposals in Eagle and Summit Counties. Notable in DeGette's bill this year is her water language. H.R. 2420 includes language relying principally on Colorado's state-led instream flow program to protect water resources within the proposed wilderness areas. The language is very similar to that which the River District developed for the successful Dominguez Canyons wilderness legislation.

Treese also noted that Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) had just recently introduced the long-awaited bill to extend funding authorization for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Recovery Programs for endangered fish. S. 1224 authorizes continued annual funding for these two successful programs through 2023.

Without this legislation both programs and the protections they provide water users from Endangered Species Act provisions would be in jeopardy.

Finally, the Board heard about progress for a legislative proposal that arose from the stakeholders group evaluating Wild and Scenic recommendations in the lower Colorado River (in Colorado).

Congressman Scott Tipton (R-CO) is anxious to introduce the legislation that would remove the mainstem of the Colorado River from Grand Junction to the state-line from further evaluation under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

It would also expand the boundaries of the Black Ridge Wilderness area but keep the area away from the Colorado River. And the bill would remove Wilderness Study Area restrictions from areas adjacent to the recently formed Dominguez Canyons Wilderness Area that were not included in the final wilderness boundaries.

To view the full federal affairs memo: http://www.crwcd.org/media/uploads/20110719_fed_memo.pdf



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2011 Annual Water Seminar

"Seeking Balance under Imbalanced Conditions"

Supply and Demand in the Seven State Colorado River Basin

How Big Was the Runoff?

Risk Management in Water Project Planning

Rethinking the future of the Colorado River

West Slope Family Feud: Who Contributes Water to Fill the Gap?

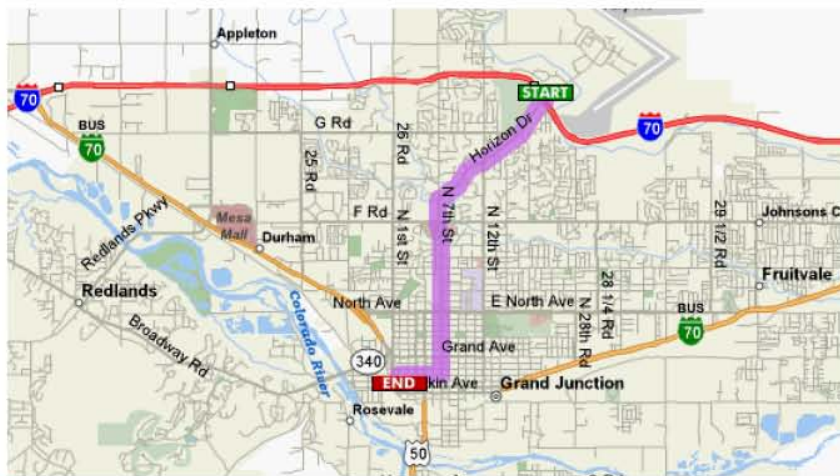
Thursday, September 15th Two Rivers Convention Center, Grand Junction, 9 am – 3:30 pm
(Check in will begin at 8:15 am)

Pre-registration: \$25 (check only) must be received by 5 p.m. **Friday, September 9th.** \$35 (check and cash only) thereafter or at the door. Cost for college students is \$10.

Meal: Lunch will be provided **Continuing education credits for attorneys and Realtors**

For Additional Information: Please contact Meredith Spyker, 970-945-8522, ext. 221, email: mspyker@crwcd.org, website: www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org

Two Rivers Convention Center (identified on map as **END**)
159 Main Street, Grand Junction, CO



Driving directions:

From I-70 head SW on Horizon Dr. & continue 1 mile

At the traffic circle take the 2nd "exit" to continue on Horizon Dr. 0.6 miles

Left on N. 7th St. 2.0 miles

Right on Main St. 0.5 miles

Look for surface and underground parking



2011 Colorado River District Water Seminar Pre-Registration

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Pre-registration and \$25 check (Sorry, no credit cards) must be received by Friday, September 9th.

Make checks payable to "CRWCD" and mail to:

Colorado River District, PO Box 1120, Glenwood Springs CO 81602



Seeking Balance under Imbalanced Conditions

The Colorado River District's Annual Water Seminar

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, Two Rivers Convention Center, 159 Main St., Grand Junction, Colorado
8:15 Registration opens; coffee, tea and pastries served

- 9:00** **Introductions**
- 9:10** **Bureau of Reclamation Colorado River Basin Supply and Demand Study**
Supply and demand in the seven-state Colorado River Basin: What does the future hold as population grows, drought threatens and the climate changes?
Terry Fulp, Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region
- 9:45** **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**
How big was the runoff? What do the new 30-year averages mean to forecasting?
Kevin Werner, Hydrologist, Colorado River Basin Forecast Center
- 10:15** **Risk Management Strategies for the Upper Colorado River Basin**
How should the risk of a Colorado River Compact curtailment on Colorado water users be viewed as new water development continues?
Eric Kuhn, General Manager, Colorado River District
- 10:45** **Break**
- 11:00** **Rethinking the Future of the Colorado River**
A Project of the Colorado University School of Law's Natural Resources Law Center that re-examines the structure and functioning of the "Law of the River," the suite of laws and policies governing water allocation and river management.
Professor Mark Squillace, Director, Natural Resources Law Center
- 11:45** **Lunch**
- 1:15** **Colorado River Cooperative Agreement Update**
What's up with the historical, proposed peace agreement between Denver Water and the West Slope in the battle over the Colorado River? What are the next steps to ratification? What lessons does the proposal hold for the Colorado River Basin as it tries to develop a comprehensive approach to dealing with the Front Range? How it might fit the overall strategy to develop Colorado River water?
Peter Fleming, General Counsel, Colorado River District
Dave Little, Director of Planning, Denver Water
- 2:00** **West Slope Family Feud (or Not)**
Does the West Slope have anything more to offer the Front Range to help close the water-supply gap that will stalk a predicted doubling of Colorado's population by 2050? The Colorado River mainstem is about to give more. What can the other basin's do?
John McClow, General Counsel, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, Colorado Water Conservation Board member, Interbasin Compact Committee member
Panel of Four West Slope Roundtable members responding
- 3:15** **Concluding remarks**
- 3:30** **Adjourn**

H₂O OUTDOORS

An Outdoor Water Camp for Colorado High School Students

October 15-17, 2011



Keystone
Science
School



AURORA
WATER

The Colorado River District, Aurora Water, Denver Water and Keystone Science School are sponsoring a three-day Water Camp for students who want to learn in-depth information about water in the West.

- The Keystone Science School is a well-established and licensed facility dedicated to natural resource education. For more information about the school, the facilities, or about H2O Outdoors please visit: www.keystonescienceschool.org
- With the help of Colorado River District, in-district students will pay only \$25. This is due, paid in full by Sept. 30. Scholarships are available.
- For more information about the program, the dorms, or scholarship options, contact Jim Pokrandt at 970.945.8522 or email: jpokrandt@crwcd.org
- For more information about Colorado River District, please visit: www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org.
- To register for H2O Outdoors, please call the Keystone Science School at 970.468.2098 or Jim at 970.945.8522 x 236.