



# Colorado River District

**75 Years**

**Protecting Western Colorado Water**



## MEMORANDUM

JANUARY 9, 2012

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**TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**CC: STAFF**

**FROM: JIM POKRANDT**

**SUBJECT: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES/ JANUARY BOARD MEETING MEMO**

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Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year! On June 7, 1937 Governor Teller Ammons signed the legislation that created the Colorado River Water Conservation District. On Sept. 27, 1937, the first board held its first meeting.

Six counties comprised the district: Pitkin, Eagle, Summit, Mesa, Delta and Gunnison. Grand County was so ticked off about the Colorado-Big Thompson Project negotiation that it refused to join, thinking the founders had done it dirty. By 1938, Gunnison County was in high-tempered revolt over a proposed Gunnison-Arkansas transmountain diversion and threatened to tear the new organization asunder. And so it went as the years brought internal discord amidst battles with transmountain diverters and the other six states in the Colorado River Compact of 1922.

The book to commemorate our history is progressing and should be finished by the third quarter of this year. But to start the year with a sense of the historical perspective under which we operate, author George Sibley and the staff are presenting the draft of the chapter (Chapter 5) which details the exciting events of 1936-37 that led to the formation of the District. It is behind this memorandum.

As you read it, you will understand the history behind the battles and exacting negotiations that are still part of our every-day activities. You will also be fortified in the importance and critical nature of our work. Our legacy is our future.

### **Water 2012**

2012 is a big year for water in Colorado. It's also the Diamond Anniversary of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The synergy has propelled a celebration called Water 2012, a statewide initiative to make 2012 an educational moment, to celebrate Colorado as a headwaters state and the responsibilities that come with that distinction. Aside from our own anniversary events, the River District is participating in Water 2012 at many levels.

Water 2012 kicks off with a historically themed Winter Meeting of the Colorado Water Congress, January 25-27, at the Denver Tech Center's Hyatt Regency. The Colorado River District will be prominently featured with a presentation by our author, George Sibley, and a display booth also with staff and, we hope, board attendance.

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2012 will also be the focus of a traveling library display that will hit many libraries in our district. We are working on the potential to create district-wide presentations with this effort.

One way to participate in Water 2012 from your armchair is through the Water 2012 Book Club. We on the committee have selected a reading list that consists of books about water by Colorado authors. You can learn more by going to the website <http://www.water2012.org/>.

### **Our events and others**

We will celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> at each of our board meetings with short historical presentations. Here is a rundown of currently scheduled events:

- A Water Wise Wednesday of the Eagle River Watershed Council, set for April
- A joint Colorado River District/Colorado Water Conservation Board meeting in Glenwood Springs on May 16
- Six State of the River Meetings, dates to be fully determined for presentation in May.
- A special recognition picnic for past staff and board members at our July 17-18 Board Meeting
- The Western Water Workshop at Western State in Gunnison, July 18-20
- Our Annual Seminar on Sept. 13 in Grand Junction
- The Watershed Assembly held in October
- Presentations to the three Roundtables in our constituency
- Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce Water Day in October

Additionally, we will emphasize our history and mission at the various speaking requests that come our way. By participating in the Water 2012 Speakers Bureau, we can expect more invitations this year.

### **2012 mementos**

As the Board knows, we will have a modest array of gagaws to mark our anniversary. Martha Moore will explain more at the Board Meeting.

### **Other External Affairs activities**

- A website redesign will debut in the first quarter
- The first of two H2O Outdoor camps will be April 21-23
- Annual Report will be available at the April Board Meeting