



Colorado River District

75 Years

Protecting Western Colorado Water



MEMORANDUM

JANUARY 3, 2012

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CRWCD

FROM: ERIC KUHN *EK*

SUBJECT: *ROUNDTABLE/IBCC REPORT*

1. Roundtable/IBCC Schedule

A second statewide roundtable meeting has been scheduled for March 1st at the Omni Interlocken Hotel in Broomfield. The IBCC will be holding a half-day meeting on the afternoon of February 29th at the same location.

Four draft goals for the statewide meeting have been identified by the IBCC and CWCB staff:

Goal 1: Explore a range of portfolios for several scenarios and their commonalities.

Goal 2: Brainstorm initial common implementation elements across portfolios.

Goal 3: Identify implementation elements that need cross-basin discussion.

Goal 4: Promote long-term and short-term implementation efforts to meet both consumptive and non-consumptive needs.

Within the IBCC, there was some debate about the timing of the statewide meeting. Some members believe that we should wait and give the roundtables more time to develop and analyze their own scenarios.

On November 10th, the Metro and Colorado River Roundtables had a joint meeting. The reports are that the meeting went well and more meetings will be scheduled in the future. Jim Pokrandt can provide additional details.

2. Colorado River Water Availability Study (CRWAS) Phase II/Risk Management Study

The CWCB endorsed the concept of proceeding with Phase II of the CRWAS, but with the focus on risk management issues. Prior to the CWCB meeting, the IBCC also endorsed this general approach.

The next step will be to begin the scoping process. I expect that scoping this study will take some time. From a classic hydrologic viewpoint, we're proposing something relatively new. The study is going to address issues related to the risk of a Colorado River Compact curtailment. Can we put in a place a mechanism based on reservoir storage triggers (or an alternative) that curtails junior uses prior to an actual curtailment? Can we ever bank enough water to avoid a curtailment? Would additional storage increase or decrease the risk of a curtailment? At what level of development is the risk and consequences on the West Slope simply too large to accept?

As the scoping process proceeds, I expect that we will encounter some pushback. Lawyers from the Attorney General's Office expressed a concern that disclosing the wrong kind of information could hurt Colorado's legal position. The River District staff is considering whether or not we should engage a separate consultant to help us with understanding some of the modeling details. The Front Range Water Council has contracted with a consultant to provide it with outside advice. The River District, in cooperation with other key West Slope water providers should consider something similar.

REK/ldp