

COMPACT WATER BANK

Presentation to members of the

Four West Slope Roundtables

May 26, 2011

Grand Junction, CO

COMPACT WATER BANK

FOUNDING MEMBERS:*

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
(SWCD)**

**Colorado River Water Conservation District
(CRD)**

***early 2008: held two joint board meetings**

WATER BANK WORK GROUP

FUNDING MEMBERS:

SWCD

CRD

Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)

Front Range Water Council (FRWA)

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

WATER BANK WORK GROUP

PARTICIPANTS:

Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)

Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Three West Slope Irrigators

STUDIES:

Blue Mesa Reservoir

State Compact Compliance

USBR Colorado River Basin

WATER BANK OBJECTIVES

1. **Avoid compact curtailment**
2. **Protect pre-compact water uses**
3. **If a curtailment occurs cooperatively provide for *critical water uses* using pre-compact irrigation and reservoir storage rights**

WATER BANK PROCESS

PHASES OF INITIAL INVESTIGATIONS:

PHASE 1. Roughly estimate potential supply during curtailment and *critical water* demand to generally determine feasibility

PHASE 2. Develop test cases of supply to meet demand to evaluate how the water bank would operate

PHASE 3. Environmental and regional economic evaluations

PHASE 1

State's Compact Compliance Study provides a CDSS list of *pre-1922 water rights* and consumptive uses

Consultant conducts evaluations and sorts CDSS list to estimate a range of the *pre-1922 water rights* and consumptive uses suitable for the water bank

PHASE 1 (con't)

FRWC inventories front range *critical water uses*

SWCD and CRD inventories west slope *critical water uses*

PHASE 1 (con't)

Following *critical water uses* inventories, quantification of potential supply and critical demand will be determined to assess if supply meets demand

Work will either proceed to Phase 2 or entire process is re-evaluated

Planned completion of Phase 1 early 2012

WATER BANK STATUS

The Work Group has funding of \$300,000:

\$180,000 grant from CWCB

30,000 each from SWCD, CRD, FRWC and TNC

A portion of these funds will be used for Phase 1, then depending on results may be applied to Phase 2

A consultant has been selected

ELEMENTS of the FUTURE DEVELOPMENT of the WATER BANK

Statewide participation necessary

Time-line not established

Logical, transparent manner will continue

Outcome unpredictable at this time

FUTURE ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS?

**The one thing the Work Group
can say with certainty . . .**

**the COMPACT WATER BANK
will be a topic at future
Roundtable meetings.**

Stay tuned.

Thanks for your interest!