



Mesa County  
Water Association  
[www.mesacountywater.org](http://www.mesacountywater.org)

**HISTORIC WEST SLOPE - DENVER WATER AGREEMENT FOCUS OF MESA COUNTY STATE OF THE RIVER SEMINAR MAY 19, 6:30PM AT GRAND JUNCTION CITY HALL**

The public is invited to a free presentation on a historic proposed agreement between Denver Water and West Slope water users at the annual Mesa County State of the River seminar on May 19 at 6:30pm in the Grand Junction City Hall Auditorium at 250 North 5th Street in downtown Grand Junction.

Western Colorado receives most of the precipitation that falls on the state, while most of the population lives on the Front Range. This has led to decades of wrangling over transfers of water across the Continental Divide, particularly from the Colorado River watershed. The proposed agreement involves concessions from both Denver Water and West Slope interests in exchange for enhanced certainty for all parties.

Denver Water's Chief Executive Officer Jim Lochhead and Colorado River District General Manager Eric Kuhn will present the proposed agreement; they will be followed by two panelists who will provide Grand Valley perspectives on its benefits and limitations. The panel will consist of Dick Proctor, Manager of the Grand Valley Water Users Association (GVWUA) and Mark Hermundstad, counsel at Williams, Turner & Holmes, PC, who has represented GVWUA, Ute Water, and other West Slope interests in negotiations over the agreement. Mesa County Commissioner Steve Acquafresca, also a Colorado River District Board member, will give introductory remarks and moderate the panel. A question and answer session for public participation concludes the panel.

For full details of the proposal, download briefing documents and the proposal itself at [www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org](http://www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org). Features of the very complex proposed agreement, which has been under negotiation for over 5 years, include:

- A protocol for maintaining historic flows in the middle and lower Colorado River when the Shoshone Hydropower Plant in Glenwood Canyon, which holds a senior water right, is not operating.
- Agreement by Denver Water not to expand its service area, except for in very specific, limited circumstances.
- Agreement by West Slope entities not to oppose Denver Water's Moffat Collection System Project.
- Agreement by Denver Water not to undertake any new water project in the Colorado Basin without the cooperation of impacted West Slope communities.
- Agreements to operate reservoirs to enhance ecological conditions in the Colorado River's headwaters.

The seminar will also include updates on this year's snowpack and water supply projections, presented by Erik Knight of the US Bureau of Reclamation.

The seminar is being organized by the Colorado River District and the Mesa County Water Association.

For more information, please contact:

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