



## Colorado River Water Conservation District Board supports state regulation of oil and gas

For more information

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GLENWOOD SPRINGS – Concerns about clean water prompted the Colorado River Water Conservation District Board to back the continued application of the State of Colorado stormwater regulations on the oil and gas industry.

The unanimous vote of support from board members representing 15 Western Colorado counties comes as the new federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 exempts the industry from federal stormwater permits.

The action came during the River District Board's fourth quarterly meeting on Oct. 18, 2006, at Glenwood Springs.

River District legal staff will carry the board's concern before the state Water Quality Control Commission when it conducts a hearing in January 2006 on whether to adopt new rules in the face of the new federal legislation.

The River District's water quality policy states, in part, that water quality is important to the beneficial use of water. River District directors are concerned that unmitigated construction of roads and drilling pads may increase sediment, selenium and salinity loading of the Colorado River and its tributaries.

Impairment could increase municipalities' water treatment costs, and in the worst case, shift water quality clean-up requirements to existing water users.

The Colorado River Water Conservation Districts serves Moffat, Routt, Grand, Summit, Eagle, Garfield, Rio Blanco, Mesa, Delta, Pitkin, Gunnison, Ouray and portions of Montrose, Hinsdale and Saguache counties. Its mission is to protect Western Colorado waters.

### **Other board actions**

- The board approved joining other Western Slope and Front Range water interests in a study of a possible Blue River pumpback in Summit County. The project, which eyes bringing water back upstream from as far downstream as Green Mountain Reservoir, is proposed in wide-ranging negotiations about how to solve future water needs for both Western Slope and Front Range water users.
- Approved 2006 general fund, capital fund and enterprise budgets, and set a 0.229 mill levy. The mill levy represents an 8.4 percent reduction from 2005 due to growth in assessed valuations and mandated budget limitations.
- Heard a presentation from City of Aurora Utilities Director Peter Binney about efforts to reuse Western Slope water it already diverts through its Homestake Project in Eagle County. Binney said Aurora understands the Western Slope message about the importance of conservation and reuse. He said efforts to obtain more Western Slope water could be put off to about 2020 with success of reuse and other planned projects.

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