



Gwen Lachelt, Chair • Bradford P. Blake, Vice Chair • Julie Westendorff, Commissioner

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October 23, 2018

CWCB Board Members
CWCB Director Mitchell
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Subj: State of Colorado's Participation in Upper Division States' Demand Management Program and Storage Account in Lake Powell or other initial units of the Colorado River Storage Project Act

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board and Director Mitchell:

The La Plata County Board of Commissioners has reviewed letters and documents related to the Drought Contingency Plan, and was briefed on the issue after the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) webinar by representatives from the Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD).

The BOCC is supportive of efforts undertaken to address drought conditions in the Colorado River system and having a contingency plan in place in the event current hydrologic conditions in the Colorado River system continue to prevail. In 2018, southwestern Colorado and La Plata County experienced "exceptional drought" conditions, and the impacts from that drought will be felt throughout the county for years to come.

After reviewing the joint letter and attached draft resolution submitted by the SWCD and the Colorado River District to the CWCB, the BOCC is expressing support for the position and sideboards proposed by the conservation districts. Please consider adopting the criteria suggested to provide some level of certainty to Western slope communities and agriculture before finalizing a Drought Contingency Plan or seeking federal legislation requesting an account in Lake Powell. A temporary, voluntary, compensated reduction in use, if needed, should be distributed across water users on both sides of the Continental Divide.

We also would like to commend the state for being proactive in preparing for ongoing hydrologic drought conditions.

Sincerely,

LA PLATA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Gwen Lachelt
Chair

Bradford P. Blake
Vice-Chair

Julie Westendorff
Commissioner