

DENVER BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: July 27, 2011

Board Item: VI-B-1

Endorsement of Wild & Scenic Management Plan Alternative

Action by Consent

Action

Information

Contract #

On April 27, 2011, Denver Water staff presented to the Board an overview of the Upper Colorado River Wild & Scenic Management Plan (Plan) Alternative that has been negotiated by a diverse group of stakeholders over the last three years. An important element of the Plan is a 2011 CWCB In-stream Flow (ISF) filing on the Colorado River between Kremmling and Dotsero. In recommending a negotiated ISF to the CWCB, the stakeholder group proposed terms and conditions for the appropriation, and recommended that the CWCB make certain statements of intent in the record of the CWCB deliberations pertaining to Colorado River compact call curtailments and the timing of water right filings by Denver Water necessary to implement the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement, among other issues. At its meeting in Walden, Colorado on July 12, 2011, the CWCB unanimously declared its intent to file the recommended ISF application in the amounts recommended by the stakeholder group, including the proposed terms and conditions and statements of intent.

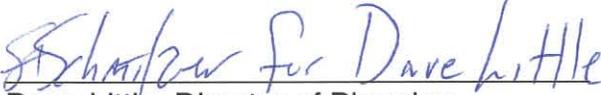
This Information Item is a letter signed by Jim Lochhead expressing Denver Water's endorsement of the Plan submitted to the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service in February 2011. The Plan will be included in the agencies' Environmental Impact Statement, which will be released to the public this fall 2011. Denver Water staff who have participated in the drafting and negotiation of this Plan thought it was important to know the outcome of the CWCB's deliberations on the ISF recommendation before seeking the Board's endorsement. Endorsement of the Plan by each stakeholder is a demonstration of commitment, which is important to the federal agencies reviewing the Plan as an alternative to Wild & Scenic designation.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board approve the submittal of a letter of endorsement of the Upper Colorado Wild & Scenic Management Plan Alternative to the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

Respectfully submitted,

Approvals:


Dave Little, Director of Planning


James S. Lochhead, CEO/Manager