



COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1120
GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO 81602
970/945-8522

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT: Chris Treese
970 945-8522

March 16, 2000. Glenwood Springs. The Colorado River Water Conservation District sees no need for Colorado's Eastern Slope to continue raiding Western Colorado for Front Range water requirements occasioned by rapid population growth. In a policy statement adopted today, the River District states, "There is no current or reasonably foreseeable need for new transmountain diversion projects." Recent studies conducted by the state concluded that there are nearly 400,000 acre feet¹ of water available annually to the Front Range metropolitan area without construction of any new projects. This amount of water represents more than twice the water available to the Denver metro area annually from Denver's Dillon Reservoir. Accordingly, thirsty Front Range interests should address their needs with their own resources before coming to the West Slope for additional transmountain water diversions.

The policy statement includes a commitment to the various East Slope-West Slope cooperative water supply investigations in which the District is currently involved. The statement acknowledges that any or all of these may result in additional East Slope use of Colorado River water, but any required diversion will be accomplished only with the acceptance and involvement and to the mutual benefit of West Slope interests.

This policy statement was adopted in partial response to a press conference held in Denver today to announce the formation of the "Colorado Water Partnership." The Partnership's stated purpose is to support a state water project to remove a minimum of 120,000 acre feet of water annually from the Colorado or Gunnison Rivers to fuel East Slope growth.

A copy of the policy statement is attached.

¹ An acre foot of water is the amount of water required annually to support a family of four or five.