

## **Framing the Water Discussion for Colorado Business - Abstract from Bart Taylor**

As the water dialogue moves into the economic mainstream, a troubling picture is emerging for business throughout the Colorado River Basin. Business prefers a high degree of certainty relating to costs, processes, and outcomes, and as economic interests increasingly peer into our water future, uncertainty is arguably the rule.

In this session, Bart Taylor, business-to-business publisher and journalist, will frame Colorado's water challenge from a business perspective, and describe how Colorado's water reality places the state's business community at risk. Has the proverbial 'perfect storm' materialized for business? Prices are forecast to rise; the value of water is increasingly well-measured with sobering results for some business; data has projected a supply "gap" that may curtail use in some industry sectors with no clear path to resolution; and procedural issues may be blocking decisive action.

One unresolved, contentious issue within Colorado water circles will be a useful lens to focus the discussion: Should Colorado pursue its remaining Colorado River Compact allocation?