Effective Water Supply Solutions During Times of Drought – Kevin G. Rein, Deputy State Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources

The General Assembly has provided approaches for reacting to drought conditions that result in water supply shortages. In its water administration capacity, the Divisions of Water Resources has approval and administrative responsibility when it comes to implementing these approaches. These approaches acknowledge the need for expedited approval but also are grounded in the need to ensure that the approaches do not result in material injury to other water users. Whether the solution to water supply shortages relies on a substitute water supply plan, an interruptible water supply agreement, a loan to an instream flow right, or some other administrative action by the division engineer, the Division of Water Resources has relied on communication between all parties and cooperation toward completing efforts to address shortages.