

5/20/2013

Metro Roundtable New Supply Development Statement:

The Metro Roundtable agrees with the intent of the West Slope caucus' New Water Supply Development statement and concurs with the desire to have substantive discussion in order to make additional progress on developing New Supply from the Colorado River.

Recent efforts have advanced the discussion of the key points needed to begin crafting a consensus-based agreement regarding responsible development of a multi-purpose water supply using the Colorado River. This water supply would help fill the long-term municipal supply gaps on the East and West Slopes beyond existing water agreements and planned projects. The Metro Roundtable further recognizes the importance of meeting conservation, alternative agricultural transfers, reuse, and non-consumptive objectives, and of implementing local IPPs, as key elements for helping to fill the long-term gaps on both the East and West Slopes.

The IBCC framework included in the 2010 letter to the Governors, the Metro Roundtable's water supply white paper, the Flaming Gorge Task Force, and the West Slope water caucus statement each include principles that can help guide the State's approach in reaching an agreement for developing New Supply that is protective of existing uses and provides long-term protection and benefits for the West Slope.

It is now time to apply those principles and produce an inter-basin agreement for development of New Supply. Such an agreement should be the IBCC's primary focus for the next year.

We look forward to working with the IBCC, the CWCB and the other basin roundtables to help move this discussion forward. Only by doing so can we truly balance the needs of the state while effectively addressing our water future.