

DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 6 STATE OF COLORADO, ROUTT COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER P.O. BOX 773117 1955 SHIELD DRIVE STEAMBOAT SPRINGS CO 80477	DATE FILED: June 25, 2014 3:51 PM
Concerning the Application for Water Rights of: COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD, IN GOVERNMENT CREEK, A NATURAL STREAM, IN THE NORTH PLATTE HEADWATERS WATERSHED, IN JACKSON COUNTY, COLORADO.	COURT USE ONLY
	Case No. : 13CW3018 Div. 6
AMENDED FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, RULING OF REFEREE, JUDGMENT AND DECREE OF THE WATER COURT	

This matter comes before the Water Referee by Application of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (“CWCB”) for a water right to preserve the natural environment to a reasonable degree. The Application was filed on August 28, 2013. The Application was thereafter referred to the Water Referee for Water Division 6, by the Water Court for Water Division 6, in accordance with section 37-92-101, C.R.S. (2013).

The Referee, having made such investigations as are necessary to determine whether or not the statements in the Application are true, having consulted with the Division Engineer for Water Division 6, and being fully advised in the premises, does hereby make the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and enters the following ruling in this matter:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The statements in the Application are true.
2. The name and address of Applicant:
Colorado Water Conservation Board

1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721
Denver, CO 80203

3. Notice and Jurisdiction: All notices of this matter required by law have been fulfilled and the Court has jurisdiction over the Application and all parties affected thereby, whether or not they have chosen to appear.
4. Objectors: No Statements of Opposition were filed and the time for filing additional Statements of Opposition has expired.
5. Summary of Consultation: The Division Engineer filed a Summary of Consultation pursuant to section 37-92-302(4), C.R.S. (2013) dated December 4, 2013, and the Referee has given it due consideration.
6. Name of natural stream: Government Creek tributary to the Canadian River.
7. Location: The natural stream channel from the headwaters extending to the Government Ditch No. 2 headgate being a distance of approximately 5.03 miles. This segment can be located on the Kings Canyon U.S.G.S. quadrangle. The Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) and geographical descriptions (e.g., confluences) of the upstream and downstream termini are provided as the decree locations. The Public Land Survey System (PLSS) and Lat/Long coordinates are provided as cross-reference locations only.
 - a) Upstream Terminus = Headwaters in the vicinity of
UTM: Northing: 4527002.57 Easting: 402519.24 (NAD 1983 Zone 13 North)
PLSS: SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 28, Township 11 North, Range 78 West of the 6th PM
932' East of the West Section Line, 349' North of the South Section Line
Lat/Long: latitude 40° 53' 17.9"N and longitude 106° 09' 25.64"W
 - b) Downstream Terminus = Government Ditch No. 2 headgate
UTM: Northing: 4526731.68 Easting: 395567.14 (NAD 1983 Zone 13 North)
PLSS: SE1/4 NE1/4 Section 34, Township 11 North, Range 79 West of the 6th PM
782' West of the East Section Line, 1,576' South of the North Section Line
Lat/Long: latitude 40° 53' 6.04"N and longitude 106° 14' 22.49"W
8. Metadata for Locations:
 - a) The UTM, PLSS and Lat/Long locations for the upstream and downstream termini were derived from CWCB GIS using the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD).
 - b) The PLSS locations in this decree were derived from CWCB GIS using 2005 PLSS data from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Geographic Coordinate Database.

9. Use of the Water: Instream flow to preserve the natural environment to a reasonable degree.
10. Date of Appropriation: Appropriation and beneficial use occurred on February 1, 2013, by the action of the CWCB under the provisions of sections 37-92-102(3) and (4) and 37-92-103(3), (4) and (10), C.R.S. (2013).
11. Amount of water claimed: Instream flow of 3.6 cfs (May 1 – July 31), 1.0 cfs (August 1 – September 30) and 0.5 cfs (October 1 – April 30), absolute.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

12. The foregoing Findings of Fact are incorporated herein to the extent they constitute conclusions of law.
13. Notice and Jurisdiction: The Water Court for Division 6 has jurisdiction over the subject matter of these proceedings and over all persons, owners of property and water rights that may be affected hereby, whether or not they have chosen to appear. The Application in this matter and the resume publication of the Application placed such persons on notice of the relief requested by the Application and granted by this decree. §§ 37-92-203 and -302, C.R.S. (2013).
14. The CWCB has fulfilled all legal requirements for a decree for water rights including sections 37-92-302, -304 and -305, C.R.S. (2013).
15. Burden of Proof: The CWCB has complied with all requirements and has met its burden of proof to adjudicate the water rights required in the Application and is therefore entitled to a decree approving the requested water rights.
16. This instream flow water right will not deprive the people of the State of Colorado of the beneficial use of those waters available by law and interstate compact, specifically as decreed in *Wyoming v. Colorado*, 259 U.S. 419 (1922), *as modified at* 260 U.S. 1 (1922), *as further modified at* 298 U.S. 573 (1936), *as further modified at* 309 U.S. 572 (1940), *as further modified at* 353 U.S. 953 (1957).

RULING OF REFEREE, JUDGMENT AND DECREE

17. The foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law are hereby approved and incorporated as the Judgment and Decree of the Court by this reference.
18. The application is granted and a decree in the amount of 3.6 cfs (May 1 – July 31), 1.0 cfs (August 1 – September 30) and 0.5 cfs (October 1 – April 30), absolute, is hereby entered

to preserve the natural environment to a reasonable degree in the reach of Government Creek between the upstream and downstream termini described in paragraph 7 above. The appropriation date for this water right is February 1, 2013.

19. The priority herein awarded was filed in the water court in the year of 2013 and shall be junior to all priorities filed in previous years. As between all rights filed in the same calendar year, priorities shall be determined by historical date of appropriation and not affected by the date of entry of ruling.
20. The Applicant shall install and maintain such measuring devices and keep such records as the Division Engineer may require for administration of this right.

It is accordingly **ORDERED** that this Ruling shall be filed with the water clerk subject to judicial review.

It is further **ORDERED** that a copy of this Ruling shall be filed with the Division Engineer and the State Engineer.

Dated this 25TH day of April, 2014.

BY THE REFEREE:

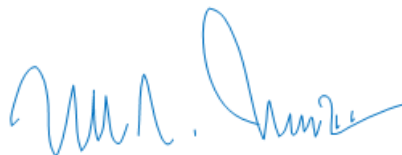
/s/ Daniel R. Birch

Daniel R. Birch, Water Referee
Water Division No. 6, State of Colorado

No protest was filed in this matter. The foregoing Ruling is confirmed and approved, and is made the Judgment and Decree of this Court.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2014.

BY THE COURT:



Michael A. O'Hara, III, Water Judge
Water Division 6, State of Colorado

DATE FILED: August 28, 2013 3:08 PM

