

Work Group Meeting Report Out

Work Group: Agricultural Impacts Meeting #2 **Date:** November 4th, 2019

Meeting Topics:

Agenda topics included: review of workgroup report outs for cross-cutting issues, issue identification and prioritization; and overview of voluntary, temporary, and compensated models for a potential demand management program.

The group spent the majority of the meeting hearing presentations on pilot project results and research findings from the System Conservation Pilot Program, Colorado River Water Bank Working Group, and Grand Valley Water Users Association Conserved Consumptive Use Pilot Project. Through these presentations, the workgroup discussed key findings and identified remaining issues to be further explored through the development of a literature review and other methods.

Key Take Aways:

The workgroup reviewed the report outs from the other demand management workgroups. Some of the cross-cutting issues identified included:

- Develop a better understanding of the secondary economic impacts of a potential demand management program and assess strategies/approaches to mitigate potential impacts such as project selection criteria that maximize potential benefits. The workgroup discussed a need for more information on the economic impacts/benefits of a potential demand management program on eastern slope agriculture.
- How will projects address environmental concerns/issues such as return flows and wildlife habitat? Could a potential demand management program be designed to generate “stackable benefits” or provide a source of mitigation for other water projects?
- What role do canal companies play in determining who may participate in the potential demand management program? How will states coordinate methods for determining historical consumptive use? How could an education or outreach component of a potential demand management program encourage participation?

The workgroup spent a portion of the meeting discussing the development of more defined parameters, or guiding principles, to address concerns and encourage participation in a potential demand management program. Some of these parameters included equitability and no material injury to other water users. The workgroup expressed a desire to work with the state DMP contractor to further develop these guiding principles.

The workgroup continued to discuss conceptually developing a framework for potential demonstration projects. The workgroup believes that demonstration projects could help address information gaps such as the impacts of temporary fallowing on high elevation pasture/hay operations and inform overarching program guiding principles and feasibility considerations.

Other:

The agriculture workgroup will convene on March 3rd in Denver, Colorado prior to meeting with other workgroups during the upcoming Interbasin Compact Committee Meeting to be held March 4th and 5th, 2020.