

Work Group Meeting Report Out

Work Group: Monitoring and Verification Meeting #8 **Date:** June 1, 2020

Meeting Topics: Agenda topics included: introductions and updates from other workgroups and contractor SGM; additional discussion about transmountain diversion (TMD) project document; Lease Fallow Tool and ET datasets demonstration and presentation; discussion about agricultural hypotheticals document; group wrap up and discussion of final deliverables and Board presentation.

Key Take Aways: The uniqueness of Colorado's TMD projects was reiterated, making rules of thumb for monitoring and verification (M&V) difficult. The M&V document was re-written to convey more general principles that project participants would need to prove in their project proposals. A presentation was made on one of the State's tools (the Lease Fallow Tool) to assess historic consumptive use (HCU) for irrigated parcels. A presentation was also made on the State's future climate and ET dataset using the Penman Monteith equation. Agricultural hypotheticals were considered and discussed. For verification and maintenance of return flows, the importance of augmentation stations (or alternative measurement) and on-farm recharge to replicate return flow timing was discussed. Non-use of these two pieces of infrastructure is possible but would require project participants to describe how injury will be avoided. The use of remote sensing and/or monitoring wells was also discussed to quantify levels of sub-irrigation to be subtracted from conserved consumptive use. The importance of maintaining river flow for environmental purposes, whenever possible, was discussed, as well as other ways to provide multiple benefits to various stakeholders.

Questions/Concerns to Raise: The group identified some "parking lot" questions and issues for other groups to consider, including but not limited to:

- How will injury be evaluated with respect to return flows?
- Is the concept of "foregone consumptive use" an acceptable alternative to "historic consumptive use"?

Additional technical, informational, or other needs: Workgroup members will review all deliverable documents and make suggestions for final deliverables and Board presentation.

Other: Three public comments were heard during the eighth meeting. This was the final workgroup meeting.