

Administration and Accounting Work Group Meeting Summary

Work Group: Administration and Accounting Work Group Meeting #4 **Date:** May 18, 2020

Meeting Topics:

Agenda topics included: a review of the hypotheticals discussed at the April 16, 2020 Work Group Meeting and issues identified. The Work Group then reviewed Members' lists of identified issues, priorities and proposed methods for additional analysis of those issues as the next step in the feasibility investigation as to a potential Demand management Program.

Key Take Aways:

Discussion included but was not limited to (a) whether or not there is a need for "compact compliance" as a recognized beneficial use; (b) Which entities could or should utilize water for this purpose and who manages such a program; (c) accounting challenges associated with tracking water to be used for this purpose and how it is colored; (d) how to administer these water rights in relation to the available Initial Unit and questions related to NEPA; (e) how to avoid injury to water rights; (f) elements associated with administrative and judicial mechanisms and how to allow for due process; (g) how to calculate conserved consumptive use and safeguard against abandonment or loss of consumptive use credit; and (h) how to balance efficiency of deliveries with the need for equity.

Next Steps:

A brief overview was provided as to various logistics for compiling the report summarizing this first phase of the demand management feasibility investigation and timelines to provide a draft to the CWCB Board in time for the July CWCB Board Meeting and a Demand Management Workshop with the CWCB Board to be scheduled in August. Additionally, the benefits of some type of pilot project was discussed.

Other: Public comments were heard during this meeting including mention of other proposed plans for fallowing lands served by the Colorado River, the federalization of the Upper Basin and concern as to risks to water rights placed to beneficial use at the time the 1922 Compact was ratified.