WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PUBLIC RULEMAKING HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO RULES CONCERNING THE COLORADO INSTREAM FLOW AND NATURAL LAKE LEVEL PROGRAM (2-CCR 408-2 Rules)

The following constitutes the written testimony of the Colorado River Water Conservation District:

- 1. The Colorado River Water Conservation District is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado formed by the Colorado Legislature (*See*, C.R.S. § 37-46-101, *et seq.*) in 1937 for the purpose of safeguarding that portion of the waters of the Colorado River apportioned to the state by interstate compact and of promoting the welfare of the inhabitants of the River District. Geographically, the River District encompasses an area of approximately 29,000 square miles, including all of twelve and parts of three western Colorado counties. Included in that area are the headwaters and tributaries of the Colorado River mainstem and its principal tributaries, the Gunnison, the White and the Yampa Rivers.
- 2. The general powers of the River District, set forth in C.R.S. § 37-46-107, *inter alia*, direct the River District to make surveys and investigations to ascertain the best method of utilizing stream flows within the River District and to make appropriations "for the use and benefit of the ultimate appropriators" This statute further directs the River District "to perform all acts and things necessary or advisable to secure and ensure an adequate supply of water, present and future, for irrigation, mining, manufacturing, and domestic purposes within said districts [*sic*]."

- 3. Accordingly, the River District participated in the legislative process that lead to the passage of House Bill 20-1157.
- 4. The River District believes that the proposed amendments to the Instream Flow rules, as submitted by the staff of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, are consistent with the language of House Bill 20-1157.
- 5. In summary, the Colorado River Water Conservation District supports the adoption of the amendments to the Instream Flow rules as proposed.

Respectfully submitted on January 12, 2021.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE RULEMAKING HEARING TO REVISE RULES CONCERNING THE COLORADO INSTREAM FLOW AND NATURAL LAKE LEVEL PROGRAM, 2 CCR 408-2, I hereby certify that on January 12, 2021, a true and correct copy of the foregoing WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF THE COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT was served via email to the Parties as follows:

HEARING OFFICER:

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