



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203

September 30, 2015

## **CWCB Soliciting Water Conservation Proposals For Pilot Program**

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is soliciting proposals for temporary, voluntary, and compensated conservation of Colorado River water. The CWCB is participating in proactive planning activities that address drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin in order to maintain critical water elevations in Lake Powell.

Four major municipalities that rely on Colorado River water and the Bureau of Reclamation (funding entities) are providing funding for pilot projects to test whether voluntary, compensated conservation measures can be an effective part of drought contingency measures. The Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC) is implementing this pilot program, and the drought contingency planning efforts, in the Upper Colorado River Basin. The UCRC was created as an interstate administrative agency when Congress ratified the 1948 Upper Colorado River Basin Compact, and the UCRC represents the Upper Basin Division States of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and New Mexico.

James Eklund, Director of the CWCB and Colorado's Colorado River Commissioner stated: "Colorado's Water Plan supports efforts like these pilots that will help build a basin-wide contingency plan that benefits all of Colorado." He continued: "Colorado is proud to be at the forefront of these innovative efforts. While most of our state is no longer in drought conditions, the Colorado River Basin continues to experience the effects of this past 15-year drought as reflected in water storage at lakes Powell and Mead, and we must be prepared for the possibility that the basin's drought continues."

This is the second round of proposals that the UCRC and the funding entities will consider. On July 1, the four states approved 10 projects (5 in Colorado and 5 in Wyoming) that allow farmers, municipalities and other water users to voluntarily and temporarily forego use of their water in exchange for compensation. Approximately \$1.6 million remains available for projects in 2016 in the Upper Colorado River Basin. All users of Colorado River water are encouraged to consider developing a pilot project for consideration by the UCRC and the funding entities. The CWCB hopes to receive a wide variety of proposals from users throughout the basin. The UCRC has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for pilot projects for 2016, and the RFP and application can be found on the CWCB website (<http://cwcb.state.co.us>). Interested parties are encouraged to review the RFP and application, and contact the CWCB with questions or for assistance. Applications are due by November 1, 2015.

For more information contact Ted Kowalski at 303-866-3441, Extension 3220 or Michelle Garrison at 303-866-3441, Extension 3213.

