

Work Group Meeting Report Out

Work Group: Monitoring and Verification Meeting #2 **Date:** October 31, 2019

Meeting Topics:

Agenda topics included: report from other workgroups, including “parking lot” issues; discussion of scenario planning and its applicability to the monitoring and verification workgroup; a small group exercise to identify types of projects, mechanics, and monitoring and verification issues associated with both agricultural and municipal and industrial (M&I) projects; and a discussion of guidance for a consultant to be hired for this workgroup.

The group spent the majority of the meeting in the two small workgroups alternating between discussion of agricultural and M&I projects.

Key Take Aways:

Agricultural projects will need to be considered differently depending on project type (full fallowing, split-season/deficit irrigation, crop changing, etc.) but there are many templates of projects with monitoring and verification for estimating conserved CU. Kelley Thompson will develop a draft rubric that guides monitoring and verification based on project type, quantifies conserved consumptive use to the satisfaction of other Colorado River Basin states, and protects other intra-state water rights from injury.

Trans-basin M&I projects may come in many forms, but ultimately the measure of conserved consumptive use will need to occur at the trans-basin diversions. This will need to involve considering the entire system operations of the project participant (reservoir storage, other supplies, volumetric limits, etc.).

Augmentation stations may be critical for measurement of physical supply for agricultural projects. They are currently uncommon on the West Slope and may prove to be a financial barrier.

The application process should offer guidance, but not mandates for monitoring and verification. Templates for possible application/approval processes include the SWSP process and the HB-1248 process.

Questions/Concerns to Raise:

The group identified some “parking lot” questions and issues for other groups to consider, including but not limited to:

- Are crop switching projects feasible?
- Who will evaluate project proposals? SEO? CWCB? Committee?
- What are the economic impacts of requiring augmentation stations for agricultural projects?
- Do East Slope projects need to prove and monitor consumptive use reduction or just reduction at tunnel?

Additional technical, informational other needs:

Kelley Thompson will forward the SWIIM newsletter and Brian Macpherson will try to obtain an OpenET powerpoint presentation for review at the next meeting.

Other:

No public comments were heard during the second meeting. The group will meet next on February 10 from 10am-2pm in Salida.