

## Work Group Meeting Report Out

**Work Group:** Monitoring and Verification Meeting #3 **Date:** February 10, 2020

**Meeting Topics:** Agenda topics included: report from other workgroups and the regional workshop, including “parking lot” issues; discussion about the upcoming RFP selection and desires from the group for the contractor; planning for the upcoming joint IBCC meeting and joint workgroup meeting. Brian Macpherson gave an OpenET presentation with slides provided by the OpenET team. Kelley Thompson gave a presentation on draft considerations for irrigation demand management project monitoring and verification.

**Key Take Aways:** Additional outreach to the agricultural community is needed relating to demand management. The Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA) may be a good forum to reach producers.

OpenET, and more generally remote sensing based ET measurement, is perhaps best applied for deficit irrigation projects or end of season validation, and not for a historic consumptive use analysis or for real-time monitoring of conserved consumptive use.

There will be a balance and tradeoffs between accuracy and transaction cost for monitoring and verification of demand management projects. Conservative safety factors may be employed to reduce cost and risk of injury to other water users.

The requirement of an augmentation station for measurement of conserved consumptive use is site-specific. In areas of abundant flow, it may not be necessary.

For the length of the HCU analysis, there was uncertainty if a long period of record similar to change case should be used, or if a short period of record better captures the foregone CU.

Lagged return flow obligations (RFOs) may be repaid with on-farm recharge ponds (which are expensive to construct and operate) or with reservoir storage filled via exchange or lease of reservoir water.

The group would like the consultant to perform a literature review on change cases, organized by region and attribute (crop type, whole ditch vs. partial ditch, elevation band, etc.)

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

- Is there opportunity for regional opportunities for reservoir releases to pay RFOs?
- Who will approve M&V project plans? Advisory Group? DWR? Who will be responsible for performing M&V? The State? The Applicant?

**Additional technical, informational other needs:** Workgroup members agreed to do additional research on monitoring and verification considerations.

**Other:** No public comments were heard during the third meeting. The group will meet next on March 30 from 10am-2pm in Silverthorne.