

Work Group Meeting Report Out

Work Group: Monitoring and Verification Meeting #6 **Date:** April 24, 2020

Meeting Topics: Agenda topics included: introductions and updates from other workgroups and contractor; additional discussion about monitoring and verification of transmountain diversion projects; special considerations for municipal and industrial monitoring and verification; special considerations for well use participation; initial discussion about creation of hypothetical scenarios; and discussion of next steps.

Key Take Aways: There is uncertainty in the group whether transmountain diversion projects need an identified water reduction project or specified replacement source or if accounting at the tunnel is adequate for monitoring and verification; well user participation will need to consider lagged depletions, but should otherwise be treated like a surface diverter in terms of monitoring and verification; there is uncertainty whether moving up the schedule of a municipal conservation project (e.g. turf replacement) constitutes “temporary” and how long credit should be given for; there is uncertainty whether municipalities issuing watering restrictions to create demand management water would be “voluntary” for municipal customers; West Slope municipal participation in the program will be straightforward, but monitoring and verification will likely be costly because water reduction will have to be on a small scale (e.g. turf replacement); any hypotheticals considered should consider input from one or more large municipalities, System Conservation Pilot Program (SCPP) projects, and Irrigators of the Lands in the Vicinity of Kremmling (ILVK) projects.

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

- Would transmountain project applicants be required to identify a specific conservation project or replacement source of non-Colorado River water? Either at the time of application or at the time of credit?
- Would a municipality imposing drought restrictions in order to conserve consumptive use violate the voluntary condition of demand management for water customers?
- How long would credit be given for a municipality fast-tracking a conservation, reuse, or other project where water savings are applied to DM for the approved period?

Additional technical, informational, or other needs: Workgroup members agreed to do additional reporting on monitoring and verification considerations, including for transmountain diversion projects, hypothetical projects, and for existing streamlined tools.

Other: One public comment was heard during the sixth meeting. The group will meet next on May 15 from 9am-12:30pm via web meeting.