

The Shoshone call helps maintain better water quality in the Colorado River which is critical for the irrigation of orchards, vineyards and row crops under the OMID system.

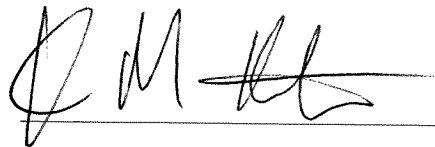
The Colorado River PBO relies, in part, on releases of surplus HUP water stored in GMR to help recover the endangered fish. The existence of surplus water requires that the Check Case settlement be operative. If the Shoshone call is not maintained at historic levels, the Check Case settlement can be declared to be inoperative. If this were to occur, there is no surplus HUP water in GMR that can be released for the benefit of endangered fish. The surplus HUP water is currently the largest source of water to help recover the endangered fish. Thus, failure to maintain the Shoshone call at historic levels could adversely impact the PBO to the detriment of the entire state.

Water rights planning on the Colorado River has historically relied on the existence of the Shoshone call. Reducing or eliminating the call will invalidate these planning assumptions, resulting in a windfall to some water rights and a possible shortfall to others. Large transmountain diverters will probably get a windfall, resulting in more water being taken from the West Slope to the East Slope.

OMID has an interest in making sure that the timing and amount of return flows from the use of the Shoshone water rights for ISF purposes are not changed from the historical return flow patterns.

Dated this 7th day of July, 2025.

McDONOUGH LAW GROUP



Kirsten M. Kurath, Of Counsel

300 Main St., Suite 102

Grand Junction, CO 81501

970-776-3311

kirsten@mcdonoughlawgroup.com

Attorneys for Orchard Mesa Irrigation
District

BEFORE THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED INSTREAM FLOW ACQUISITION
WATER DIVISION 5: SHOSHONE HYDROPOWER WATER RIGHTS

NOTICE OF PARTY STATUS: ORCHARD MESA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Pursuant to 2 CCR 408-2, Rule 6m(5)(e) and the Notice of Hearing and Deadline for Notice of Party Status on July 2, 2025, the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District hereby submits its Notice of Party Status as follows:

1. Name and Mailing Address:

Orchard Mesa Irrigation District
Attn: Jackie Fisher, General Manager
668 38 Rd.
Palisade, CO 81526

2. Statement of Reasons for Party Status:

Orchard Mesa Irrigation District ("OMID") is an irrigation district organized in 1904 and operating under Colorado state law. OMID became a division of the Grand Valley Project in 1922. Most of OMID's water rights are also diverted at the Cameo Diversion Dam on the Colorado River. OMID delivers irrigation water to approximately 9,200 acres of land in Mesa County. OMID has long been involved in the West Slope's effort to maintain the Shoshone call on the Colorado River and is a member of the West Slope Coalition that has committed money towards the purchase price of the Shoshone water rights.

The Shoshone call maintains a steady base flow of water in the Colorado River. This helps the large irrigation entities in the Grand Valley, like OMID, operate their diversions in an efficient manner. This steady base flow also helps eliminate unnecessary calls for releases from the Historic Users Pool (HUP) in Green Mountain Reservoir (GMR) (there is a three day travel time from GMR to the Grand Valley; if there is a hole in the Colorado River and water is called from the HUP, a rain event during the travel time could fill the hole, making the release unnecessary.)