## **BEFORE THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**

## IN THE MATTER OF PROPOSED INSTREAM FLOW ACQUISITION DIVISON 5: SHOSHONE

## NOTICE OF PARTY STATUS: EAGLE COUNTY, COLORADO

Pursuant to CFR 2 CCR 408-2 6m.(5)(e) Eagle County, Colorado by and through its Board of County Commissioners hereby submits its Notice of Party Status as follows:

1. Name and Mailing Address:

Eagle County, Colorado By and through its Board of County Commissioners P.O. Box 850 Eagle, Colorado 81631

2. Basis for Party Status:

Eagle County, Colorado, through its Board of County Commissioners (Eagle County) is requesting party status to advocate for permanent protection of the Shoshone water rights through an instream flow. Eagle County is a signatory to the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement, which seeks among other things to maintain the flow regime generated by the operation of the Shoshone Power Plant water rights and to facilitate the acquisition of the Shoshone water rights by a Western Slope government entity. Eagle County has pledged \$2 million toward the acquisition of these water rights by the Colorado River Water Conservation District for donation to the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Given this history, Eagle County has a direct and immediate interest in the subject matter of this hearing.

Further, Eagle County values the Shoshone water rights for their inherent agricultural, recreational, ecological and economic values, recognizing their critical role in protecting working farms and ranches, preserving recreational opportunities and river access, and safeguarding the ecological values of the Colorado River Watershed, all while protecting the County's vested water rights.

Shoshone's flows also provide critical habitat to four fish listed under the Endangered Species Act in the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River. For most of the year, the river would not come close to meeting the flow targets set by the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program. All Colorado River water users – both east and west slope users – rely upon the benefits of the Shoshone flows as a bedrock for the success of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program.

If the Shoshone Power Plant were to cease operation without permanent protection of the water right through an instream flow, the negative economic and environmental impacts to Eagle County and to the State of Colorado would be immediate and profound.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025.

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