

BEFORE THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
STATE OF COLORADO

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**NOTICE OF PARTY STATUS OF THE COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED INSTREAM FLOW ACQUISITION, WATER  
DIVISION NO. 5: SHOSHONE WATER RIGHTS

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The Colorado River Water Conservation District (the “River District”) hereby submits this Notice of Party Status in the matter of the proposed Acquisition of an Interest in the Shoshone Water Rights for Instream Flow Use in the Colorado River, Water Division No. 5.

1. Name and Mailing Address:

Colorado River Water Conservation District (the “River District”)  
201 Centennial St., Suite 200  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601  
(970) 945-8522

Please direct all filings and correspondence in this matter to:

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2. Brief Statement of the Reasons the River District Desires Party Status:

Pursuant to its organic act, the River District is charged with, among other duties and powers, the “conservation, use, and development of the water resources of the Colorado River and its principal tributaries” in order to promote the growth and development of the River District, the welfare of its inhabitants, and the “health and general welfare of the state of Colorado.” C.R.S. § 37-46-101.

On behalf of a large and broad coalition of West Slope water user organizations, governmental entities, and other supporters, the River District is the lead proponent of the Shoshone Water Rights Preservation Project (the “Project”). On December 19, 2023, the River District signed a Purchase and Sale Agreement (“PSA”) with Public Service Company of Colorado (“PSCo”) for the transfer of ownership of the historic Shoshone Water Rights to the River District for \$99 million. The PSA contemplates that the River District will assign to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (“CWCB”) an interest in the exclusive right to use the Shoshone Water Rights for instream flow purposes.

Together with PSCo and CWCB staff and counsel, the River District developed the proposed Shoshone Water Rights Dedication and ISF Agreement presented to the CWCB Board at its meeting on May 21, 2025, in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Permanent protection of the Shoshone Water Rights will secure multiple benefits to Colorado River water users on both sides of the Continental Divide, including by: (a) stabilizing stream flows during dry periods which facilitates more efficient irrigation operations, (b) diluting salinity concentrations that assists both irrigation and municipal uses, (c) supporting streamflow critical to West Slope fishery and recreational uses, and (d) facilitating the continued success of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Species Recovery Program.

The River District anticipates that other supporters of the Project also will submit notices of party status. The River District will work with those entities to avoid duplication in prehearing statements and presentations at the September hearing.

The River District submits this Notice of Party Status because it holds a direct and substantial interest in the matter as the contract-purchaser of the Shoshone Water Rights and as one of the primary proponents of the proposed acquisition for the reasons outlined above.

Respectfully submitted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025.



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Peter C. Fleming

*GENERAL COUNSEL, COLORADO RIVER  
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT*