

July 9, 2025

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Colorado Water Conservation Board
Jackie Calicchio
Hearing Officer
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: Notice of Hearing for the Proposed Acquisition of an Interest in the
Shoshone Water Rights for Instream Flow Use on the Colorado River, Water
Division 5

Via email: Jackie.Calicchio@coag.gov

Dear Jackie Calicchio:

My firm represents the Palisade Irrigation District and Mesa County
Irrigation District. Please accept this as a notice of party status for these entities.

The Colorado Water Conservation Board ("CWCB") held a special virtual
meeting on July 1, 2025, that determined the necessity of scheduling a hearing for
the Interest in the Shoshone Water Rights for Instream Flow Use on the Colorado
River. After consideration, CWCB granted the requests for a hearing for the
proposed acquisition of an interest in the Shoshone Water Rights for instream flow
use of the Colorado River and determined the hearing should be held in
conjunction with the September 16-18, 2025, CWCB meeting.

Palisade Irrigation District delivers irrigation water from the Colorado
River to over 8,800 parcels in the eastern portion of the Grand Valley of Western
Colorado. The District is comprised of about 6,250 acres of which 3,600 acres are
used for agricultural crops or grazing and another 1,000 acres are lawns. The
estimated crops are distributed as 1,500 acres of alfalfa hay, 1,000 acres of
orchards, 300 acres of vineyards, 600 acres of corn and small grain, 100 acres of
grass pasture, and 100 acres of specialty crops such as hops, lavender, and
vegetables.

The Mesa County Irrigation District also delivers irrigation water from the
Colorado River to a wide variety of agricultural enterprises in the eastern portion of
the Grand Valley of west-central Colorado. Within the District you can find world-
acclaimed vineyards and orchards including a variety of fruits and vegetables. The
Grand Valley Water Users Association delivers Colorado River water from their
Cameo Diversion to the Mesa County Irrigation District through the Government

Highline Canal. Part of the District's water right is diverted from the government Highline Canal as it enters the Grand Valley and flows into the Stub/Price pumping plant where water is lifted into the Stub Ditch.

On May 21, 2025, the Colorado Water Conservation Board staff presented an offer to the Board from the River District, and PSCo for an interest in the Shoshone Water rights for ISF purposes on the mainstem of the Colorado River. Under this proposal, the River District would purchase and maintain ownership of the water rights, while the Colorado Water Conservation Board would hold perpetual ISF use rights, and PSCo would hold a lease for hydropower use. The Shoshone water rights offered to CWCB total 1,408 cfs, comprised of the senior Shoshone water right in the amount of 1,250 cfs, and the junior Shoshone water right in the amount of 158 cfs. The CWCB would use these water rights, pursuant to their individual priorities, in the combined amount of up to 1,408 cfs, at the flow rates recommended by Colorado Parks and Wildlife to preserve and improve the natural environment to a reasonable degree in the 2.4-mile reach of the Colorado River between the Shoshone Power Plant Diversion Dam and Tunnel and the Shoshone Power Plan Discharge Outlets.

Both Districts are signatories to the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement, in which all signatories agreed to support the implementation of a permanent solution to ensure the perpetually continuation of the Shoshone water rights. The ISF right at issue in this matter will fulfill that commitment and will have a significant positive impact on the Colorado River. As such, Palisade Irrigation District and the Mesa County Irrigation District desire to enter this matter as parties.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nathan A. Keever

Nathan A. Keever