

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF  
EAGLE RIVER WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT  
AND  
UPPER EAGLE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY  
IN SUPPORT OF COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT'S BALLOT QUESTION 7A TO  
PROTECT WEST SLOPE WATER**

**WHEREAS**, the Eagle River Water and Sanitation District ("District") and the Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority ("Authority") are each quasi-municipal corporations and political subdivisions of the state of Colorado pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes Title 32 for the District and § 29-1-204.2 for the Authority that are authorized to provide water service; and

**WHEREAS**, the District and Authority have the responsibility to develop water resources and related infrastructure to meet their water service obligation, to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of current and future residents of their service areas; and

**WHEREAS**, District and Authority customers look to the entities for leadership on policy matters affecting water and water resources in the Eagle River watershed and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado River Water Conservation District ("Colorado River District") is a public entity with a mission to lead in the protection, conservation, use, and development of the water resources of the Colorado River Basin for the welfare of its residents and to safeguard for Colorado all the waters of the Colorado River to which the state of Colorado is entitled; and

**WHEREAS**, the District and Authority work closely with the Colorado River District on both intrastate and interstate water matters of interest; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to the people of Western Colorado that the Colorado River District continue to be a strong and effective voice on water matters affecting Western Colorado water users; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado River District's revenues are declining due to reduced energy production and prices, impacts of the Gallagher Amendment, and the revenue limitations in the Taxpayer Bill of Rights; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to provide for sufficient funding for necessary water projects to protect the quality of life in Eagle County and on the Western Slope; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the Colorado River District has certified and directed that the following question (7A) be placed on the November 2020 ballot in all fifteen of the counties within its District:

- *Shall Colorado River Water Conservation District, also known as the Colorado River District, taxes be increased by an amount up to \$4,969,041 in 2021 (which increase amounts to approximately \$1.90 in 2021 for every \$100,000 in residential property value), and by such amounts as are generated annually thereafter from an additional property tax levy of 0.248 mills (for a total mill levy of 0.5 mills) to enable the Colorado River District to protect and safeguard Western Colorado by:*
  - *Fighting to keep water on the Western Slope;*

- *Protecting adequate water supplies for West Slope farmers and ranchers;*
- *Protecting sustainable drinking water supplies for West Slope communities; and*
- *Protecting fish, wildlife, and recreation by maintaining river levels and water quality;*

*Provided that the District will not use these additional funds for the purpose of paying to fallow irrigated agriculture; with such expenditures reported to the public in an annually published independent financial audit; and shall all revenues received by the District in 2021 and each subsequent year be collected retained and spent notwithstanding any limits provided by law?*

**WHEREAS**, we believe that the revenues that will be raised if the above ballot question is approved by the voters are critical to the Colorado River District being able to continue its mission and be a strong and effective advocate on issues of importance to water users on the Western Slope of Colorado; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act authorizes special districts and water authorities to adopt resolutions of support or opposition to ballot issues, and it is the desire of the Boards of Directors of the District and Authority to express unanimous support for Ballot Question 7A; and

**WHEREAS**, the Boards hereby find and determine that it is appropriate and necessary to adopt this Resolution encouraging voters to support Ballot Question 7A.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Boards of Directors of the Eagle River Water and Sanitation District and the Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority officially declare support for Ballot Question 7A for the purpose of ensuring continued funding for the Colorado River District's vital work to protect water security in Western Colorado while funding projects to improve water use and healthy streams.

ADOPTED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020.

**EAGLE RIVER WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT**

By

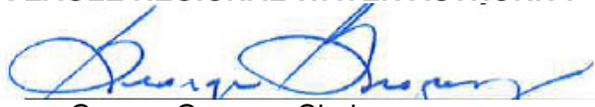
  
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William Simmons, Chair

Attest:

  
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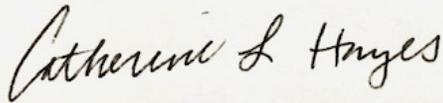
**UPPER EAGLE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY**

By



George Gregory, Chair

Attest:



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