



MEDIA RELEASE

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AGNC LEADS WEST SLOPE COALITION IN OPPOSING TRANS-MOUNTAIN WATER TRANSFERS

PARACHUTE, CO – The Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado has sent a letter to Governor John Hickenlooper and Colorado Water Conservation Board Director James Eklund, urging them to reject any calls for further trans-mountain water diversions.

The letter, co-signed by 34 Western Slope government, community, and business leaders, pointed out that the Colorado River is already straining to support the demands currently placed on it. “While sustained drought is taking a toll on the Colorado River, we continue to supply more than 400,000 acre feet (AF) per year to the Front Range while trying to keep up with our own needs for agriculture, industry, and our own drinking water,” AGNC Chairman Mike Samson and Vice-Chair Jeff Eskelson said in the letter, adding that a 2012 Basin Study by the Department of Interior predicts a 9% reduction in water flows for the river in the coming decades.

Despite these facts, Front Range interests still insist on diverting yet more Western slope water for their own needs. The AGNC point to a letter sent this spring by various Front Range water interests specifically calling for “a new project involving Colorado River water” to be part of any statewide water plan. “This would be too much of the same old story,” AGNC said in their letter. “For too long, the thirst of the Front Range has been at the sacrifice of Western Slope communities.”

The letter goes on to recommend the adoption of a plan that includes such common sense proposals as prioritizing modernization and maximization of existing storage and delivery systems, investment in infrastructure for agricultural delivery and irrigation, additional municipal conservation and re-use.

For more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact AGNC Executive Director Scott McInnis at 970-285-7630

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AGNC is a council of governments representing cities and counties in northwest Colorado including Mesa, Garfield, Rio Blanco, Moffat and Routt.