



The West Slope's main source of water is the Colorado River, and it is at risk:

- The Colorado River originates on the West Slope, but 40 million people in seven states and two countries rely on the river for their drinking water. Millions more people depend on the farms and ranches it supports, and a \$1.4 trillion economy is tied to the river system.
- Long-term drought and rising temperatures mean there already is less water in the river, and the pressure on the river is increasing as the population expands.
- **The Colorado River District** is a strong voice at the water policy table for the people and water of 15 West Slope counties, **but it needs resources to fight for a secure and stable water supply for generations to come.**

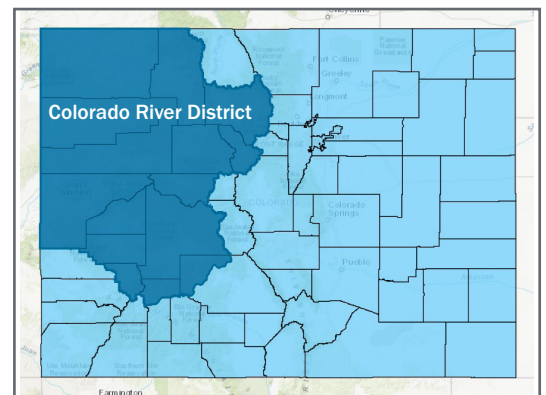
Question 7A allows the Colorado River District to keep fighting for West Slope water.

- Colorado's tax laws – which severely limit the state's ability to raise revenue, even to protect water – have required the Colorado River District to tighten its belt for several years. Without additional resources, it will have to cut back again, and this will jeopardize its ability to protect the West Slope's water security.
- The consequences are serious: If water users are forced to rely on funding from the federal or state government, those leaders, rather than local leaders, will decide which projects get funding.

The Colorado River District ensures our rivers can keep providing clean drinking water for West Slope families, create jobs, and put food on our tables – and the tables of people all across Colorado.

Voting YES on Question 7A will enable the Colorado River District to continue to prioritize **productive agriculture, infrastructure, healthy rivers, watershed health and water quality, conservation, and efficiency** here on the West Slope. Cost to homeowners will be \$1.90 per \$100,000 of market value, but it will raise almost \$5 million a year. Annual tax on a median priced home in the district will be \$7.03. Businesses will pay \$7.72 per \$100,000 of commercial value, per state constitution. These property taxes are often tax deductible on federal income tax.

The West Slope can't afford to see its water redistributed to cities like Phoenix and Las Vegas. This is our water. **We want to keep rivers flowing and crops growing HERE.**



Question 7A will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot in the 15 counties that make up the Colorado River Water Conservation District:

Grand, Summit, Eagle, Pitkin, Garfield, Routt, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Mesa, Delta, Ouray, and Gunnison counties, and parts of Montrose, Saguache, and Hinsdale counties.

Question 7A Protects West Slope Water

Question 7A requires the Colorado River District to use the revenue raised to protect and safeguard Western Colorado water by:

- Fighting to keep water on the West 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.






Question 7A Prevents “Buy and Dry”

Question 7A explicitly says that the Colorado River District “will not utilize these additional funds for the purpose of paying to fallow irrigated agriculture.”

Question 7A Helps ALL West Slope Counties

The Colorado River District will allocate about \$4.2 million annually across its 15 counties. **No funds will go to add District personnel.** Instead 86% will go toward partnerships with water users and communities within the District for **projects identified as priorities by local communities and Basin Roundtables.** The remaining 14% will help the River District make up its budget shortfall so it can keep fighting for West Slope water.

What Question 7A will do for Colorado River District communities:

-  **Improved agriculture efficiency:** 7A will help farms and ranches become more water efficient by helping invest in multiple-use storage, and innovative and functional water leasing projects.
-  **Upgrades to infrastructure:** 7A will allow for upgrades to older infrastructure and for collaborative projects that will improve flows and improve watershed health and habitat.
-  **Healthy rivers:** 7A will help support and sustain healthy aquifers, recreation, wetland habitat, and fish passage through projects such as stream restoration and recreational enhancements.
-  **Protected water quality:** 7A will help communities make watersheds more resilient so they can reduce the risk from fires and floods and protect drinking water.
-  **Reliable water systems:** 7A will help cities improve the reliability and efficiency of water systems -- such as by finding and fixing leaks -- and implement water-smart development and conservation programs.