



## Over Thirty and Growing: Diverse Groups Representing Agriculture, Ranching, Recreation and Environment Endorse Measure 7A to Protect West Slope Water

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Janie VanWinkle, President - Colorado Cattlemen’s Association.*

***Counties Supportive of Yes on 7A Include Delta, Summit, Garfield and Eagle***

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Leaders across the West Slope are endorsing ballot Question 7A to increase the Colorado River District mill levy and protect West Slope water. These leaders include both conservative and progressive counties, water providers, agricultural associations, ranchers, business leadership groups, and environmental organizations. Yes on 7A officially launched a week ago and already has thirty organizational and government endorsements with that list growing every day. The full list is below and can be [found here](#).

The Colorado River District was founded over 80 years ago to keep water accessible across 15 West Slope counties. And it ensures rivers in the District provide clean drinking water for West Slope families, create jobs, and put food on our tables — and the tables of people all across Colorado and beyond.

“I am proud to stand alongside so many West Slope leaders in supporting Question 7A,” said **JanieVanWinkle, President - Colorado Cattlemen’s Association**. “Our water resources are in jeopardy and the time to act is now to ensure that our supplies for farming and ranching, recreational, and drinking water are secure.”

“The importance of strong water advocates can’t be overstated,” said **former Moffat County Commissioner T. Wright Dickinson**. “My time on the district board was a very eye-opening experience to me to get a look into how the entities that we deal with downriver and across the Continental Divide in Colorado, how well funded they are and how people in these areas have both invested in their infrastructure as well as the entities that represent them in water.”

“There’s a lot of ballot measures this year, but the absolutely most important one for Western Colorado and our way of life is 7A,” said **former Mesa County Commissioner Kathy Hall**. “The District needs additional support to continue to properly serve residents and conserve our water, and Question 7A is the right way to stand up for the West Slope.”

“We know that river related recreation is a major economic driver across the West Slope with nearly \$19 billion generated in the state every year and more people than ever using our rivers and waterways for recreation. Question 7A ensures that we can protect those rivers and waterways for all users and continue to see those dollars coming to our communities, businesses and local tax revenues,” **Molly Mugglestone, Director of Communications and Colorado Policy, Business for Water Stewardship**.

Question 7A would increase the District’s taxing authority from 0.25 mills to 0.5 mills, which would cost \$1.90 per \$100,000 of home value per year - only \$7.03 a year for an average home in the district. This would raise \$5 million a year for the Colorado River District’s critical work, with 86% of the funding going to projects identified by local communities and Basin Roundtables and work to improve productive agriculture, infrastructure, river and watershed health, and water quality, conservation, and efficiency. None of the funding would be used for hiring staff.

“The Colorado River District is a model for an efficient and well-run organization,” said **Christian Reece, Executive Director for Club 20**. “This measure (7A) won’t create new staff positions to spend money on overhead. Instead it will fund on-the-ground projects that create meaningful and lasting protections for our water.”

“The conservation of our rivers and water is of paramount concern,” said **Ken Neubecker, Colorado Project Director for American Rivers**. “Without local control to ensure our rivers are well-cared for, we will lose our high quality life here on the West Slope.”

“This is an investment in our future,” said **Doug Monger, Routt County Commissioner (I) and President of the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority**. “Whether it’s environmental, recreational, agricultural, municipal, or industrial, this is an investment to make sure we keep Colorado water on Colorado lands.”

“This is so important. Water is our economic future,” said **Tom Jankovsky, Garfield County Commissioner (R)**. “It’s our lifeblood. We need to have the dollars in the

arsenal to be at the table to protect our water. I'm really happy to see that there are specific projects listed so people know where their money's going to be spent."

"Agriculture is central to the economy and quality of life on the West Slope" said **Paul Bruchez, Grand County rancher and representative to the Colorado Basin Roundtable**. Agriculture is under tremendous pressure from drought and out of state interests. We need a strong Colorado River District more than ever to protect West Slope water for farms and ranches, the environment and our communities."

"Trout Unlimited often works with the River District on innovative projects to improve river health and deliver quality of life benefits to western Colorado. TU supports 7A because it will help us to continue to do good things for the West Slope," said **Drew Peterzell, director of Trout Unlimited's Colorado water program**.

"If we do not step up and protect our Western Slope water a significant amount can be taken away," said **Kathy Chandler Henry, Colorado River District Board of Directors and Eagle County Commissioner**. "Our very existence and the vitality of our economy is completely dependent on water. The Colorado River District is our advocate for protecting our Western Slope water. Please join me in voting Yes on 7A."

## [Endorsements](#)

### **Associations & Groups**

American Council of Engineering Companies-Colorado

American Rivers

American Whitewater

Audubon Rockies

Business for Water Stewardship

Club 20

Colorado Cattlemen's Association

Colorado Livestock Association

Colorado River Basin RoundTable

Colorado Wool Growers Association

Conservation Colorado

Craig Chamber of Commerce

De Beque & Plateau Valley Conservations Districts

Eagle River Watershed Council

EDF Action

Friends of the Lower Blue River

Friends of the Yampa

Fruita Chamber of Commerce

Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association

Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce

Grand Junction Economic Partnership

Grand Valley Audubon Society

Trout Unlimited

Upper Yampa Water Conservancy  
Ute Water Conservancy District  
Western Resource Advocates

**Counties, Towns, & Municipalities**

City of Glenwood Springs  
Delta County  
Eagle County  
Garfield County  
Summit County  
Town of Minturn  
Town of Snowmass  
Town of Yampa