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EXECUTIVE ORDER

Recreating the Colorado River Advisory Council

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order recreating the Colorado River Advisory Council.

1. Background and Need.

Colorado is entitled to water from the Colorado river system under compacts and statutes collectively known as the “Law of the River”. The Law of the River apportions the right to use water from the Colorado River for present and future generations. The United States Bureau of Reclamation (“Reclamation”) has conducted “Colorado River Operation and Planning Studies” evaluating alternative operational scenarios for Colorado River reservoirs. Reclamation reviews the long-range operation of Colorado River reservoirs every five-years and consults with the seven basin states. New federal laws or amendments to existing laws may affect Colorado River reservoir operations and the future use of Colorado River water.

The lower basin states of California, Nevada and Arizona, are exceeding the 7.5 million acre feet of Colorado River water apportioned to them under the Colorado River Compact. Those states are attempting to address their future water needs and have developed specific proposals for consideration, including a plan being developed by California to reduce its consumptive use of Colorado River water to the 4.4 million acre feet allocated to it. The seven states that consume Colorado River water are engaged in discussions concerning these issues among themselves and with the United States Department of the Interior and its agencies. Colorado must develop, coordinate and implement a strategic response to these challenges to protect its interests.

Up until January 1, 1998, the State of Colorado had a Colorado River Advisory Council to serve as an advisory body to the Governor and other top policy advisors on Colorado River matters. Due to the continuing need for expert advice and specialized attention to Colorado’s interests on the Colorado River, I am recreating this important advisory council.

2. Mission and Scope.

The Colorado River Advisory Council (“Council”) is hereby reestablished to help the State of Colorado to develop its position and to protect its interests on interstate on

the Colorado River. The Council shall provide advice and guidance to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources, and the Governor concerning Colorado's position and response to the positions of the other states or the United States on the Colorado River.

- A. The Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources shall convene the Council as often as necessary.
- B. The Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources or the Director's designee shall serve as chairperson of the Council.
- C. The Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the State Engineer, shall recommend persons to serve on the Council to the Governor.
- D. Members of the Council shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
- E. The Executive Director or the Director's designee shall report to the Governor on a regular basis on the status of Colorado River matters.

3. Past Executive Orders Superseded and Replaced.

This Executive Order shall repeal and supersede all previous executive orders pertaining to the Colorado River Advisory Council, and specifically Executive Order D 0015 92, Executive Order D 0020 92, and Executive Order D002 95.

4. Duration.

The Colorado River Advisory Council shall terminate on January 1, 2003, unless extended by further order of the Governor.

Given under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this 5th day of
November, 1999.

Bill Owens
Governor