



Water Administration
26791 E. Quincy Avenue
Aurora, Colorado 80016
303.739.7370

AuroraGov.org

November 7, 2023

Ms. Kathy Chandler-Henry
Chair, Colorado River Drought Task Force
VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: kathy.chandlerhenry@eaglecounty.us

Dear Chair Chandler-Henry:

Thank you for your work chairing the Colorado River Drought Task Force (Task Force). Finding common approaches to protecting Colorado's apportionment of the Colorado River among the various interests represented on the Task Force is not easy and is critical for Colorado's success. I appreciate the time, expertise, and effort that each of the Task Force members has brought to the process. You are an impressive group. I also value the inclusion and participation of Alex Davis, Assistant General Manager of Water Supply and Demand for Aurora Water, as a Task Force member. She and I meet regularly to discuss the work of the Task Force and the options being considered. We submit this letter with the hope that Colorado's sometimes disparate stakeholder groups can come together at this critical time to provide forward-thinking solutions that consider the shared interests of all Coloradans.

Aurora Water concurs with many of the Intrastate Priority Tools identified by the Task Force that would improve water infrastructure and provide greater flexibility in water use. We support pursuing tools that not only limit the impacts to any one sector or demographic in the extremely dry times but also those tools that position Colorado to take advantage of the wet years when they occur. Aurora Water believes that it is important that we do not foreclose options or create obstacles based on speculation of monolithic future conditions that may not come to pass. Our changing climate will undoubtedly provide weather cycles that are not only dryer than we have experienced historically, but also some that are wetter. In the event of large precipitation events, Colorado needs to be ready to capture as much water as possible. We should avoid scenarios where water flows out of Colorado for use by the lower basin states because Colorado's factions have not yet come together to support statewide solutions.

Aurora Water agrees that no one sector, or demographic should be singled out to solely bear the brunt of extremely dry hydrology. Agriculture is a foundational part of Colorado's history and an indispensable part of our future. We need to support Colorado's farmers. Our human health is dependent upon the health of our river ecosystems and watersheds. We must protect our shared environment. Industry is needed to provide jobs and a good quality of life for the people living in Colorado, who of course need a reliable and safe water supply. Together, we must commit to continued dialogue and engagement across sectors and demographics so that we may find collaborative solutions that benefit all of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Marshall Brown,
General Manager of Aurora Water