

RESOLUTION OF THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION

**June 6, 2017
Jackson Lake Lodge, Wyoming**

2016 Upper Basin Depletion Demand Schedules

WHEREAS, the Upper Colorado River Commission supports water resource development in the Upper Colorado River Basin to enable the Upper Division States to develop their Compact apportionments of Colorado River water while meeting the Compact requirements at Lee Ferry; and

WHEREAS, the Commission resolved in its June 5, 2006 meeting in Jackson, Wyoming, following review of a draft hydrologic determination for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project in New Mexico, that it would not object to a determination by the Secretary of the Interior that at least 5.76 million acre-feet of water is available annually for use by the Upper Basin, exclusive of reservoir evaporation at Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge Reservoir and the Aspinall Unit reservoirs of the Colorado River Storage Project; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior issued a hydrologic determination on May 23, 2007 concluding that there is at least 5.76 million acre-feet per year of Colorado River water available for use in the Upper Basin on average, exclusive of reservoir evaporation at Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge Reservoir and the Aspinall Unit reservoirs of the Colorado River Storage Project; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is regularly evaluating the reasonable supply of Colorado River water with respect to Compact apportionments and potential shortages; and

WHEREAS, these depletion schedules are best estimates of potential water use based on positive economic conditions and favorable hydrology and climate. As such, they are not predictions of what future water use will necessarily be, but projections for planning purposes to be used for modeling only; and

WHEREAS, the Commission continues to evaluate and improve existing consumptive use estimation and measurement procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation uses Upper Division States' estimates of depletions in its modeling of Colorado River system operations; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Division States recognize the use of these revised depletion estimates for planning and River operations purposes, but also recognize that these estimates may be changed in the future based upon new assumptions or information; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Division States and the Commission have attempted to make reasonable

estimates of future depletions by not incorporating the highest projections or the lowest projections, but utilizing existing uses, future uses that will occur in systems already built but not yet at capacity and projected additional future uses for which specific plans exist; and

WHEREAS, these revised estimates of depletions do not constitute an interpretation of, nor shall anyone construe them as interpreting or in any manner limiting or constraining, Upper Colorado River Basin Compact apportionments.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Upper Colorado River Commission requests that the attached December 2016 projected estimates of Upper Basin depletions be used for planning purposes and water supply studies within the Colorado River Basin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be transmitted to the Regional Director, Upper Colorado Region of the Bureau of Reclamation in Salt Lake City, Utah and as appropriate to other federal, state and congressional officials who may need to use these depletion estimates.

CERTIFICATE

I, Don A. Ostler, Executive Director and Secretary of the Upper Colorado River Commission, do hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted by the Upper Colorado River Commission at its regular meeting on June 6, 2017 in Jackson Lake Lodge, Wyoming.

WITNESS my hand this 28th day of June, 2017.



Don Ostler, P.E.
Executive Director and Secretary
Upper Colorado River Commission