

Northern Colorado Water Principles

Updated May 27, 2025

WHEREAS, Members of the Northern Colorado Water Alliance represent a variety of special districts, municipal and county governments, and utilities facing different **jurisdictional opportunities and challenges** regarding the protection of water;

WHEREAS, The citizens, civic leaders, water providers, and other water users of Northern Colorado have gone to **extraordinary lengths since the 1860s** to responsibly plan for, develop, and operate complex water systems that are essential to the region's economy and quality of life;

WHEREAS, The citizens, civic leaders, water providers, and other water users of Northern Colorado are **currently making significant investments** in additional projects to increase water system resiliency, meet future demands, and provide a greater level of water security in the region;

WHEREAS, Northern Colorado's **high quality of life** is tied to the health and well-being of communities and depends directly on the availability of water resources;

WHEREAS, **Nothing in this resolution is intended to cause harm** to Northern Colorado communities or infringe on the ability of members to fulfill their organizational missions;

WHEREAS, Water is a building block of the **regional economy** and is critical to the further economic development of the region;

WHEREAS, **Collaboration and partnerships** among water providers and other entities in Northern Colorado enable agreements to develop, maintain, and improve water storage, delivery, and treatment infrastructure that benefit water users in the region;

WHEREAS, Each water provider has the **right to acquire** sufficient water resources to meet its water users' current and future demand;

WHEREAS, Each individual water right owner has the **right to sell and/or transfer** their water rights;

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Northern Colorado Water Alliance to be **transparent** with water right owners and mutual ditch companies that manage water rights and not to diminish the value of those rights or alter the water market;

WHEREAS, We respect Colorado's **current system of water rights** that is based on the doctrine of prior appropriation and other federal, state, and local laws and regulations that honor rights and obligations under existing permits, approvals, and agreements;

WHEREAS, Availability of water for **agricultural, environmental, and recreational** uses is tied to the **economic and cultural value and character** of the region; and

WHEREAS, The parties will, in their discretion and in **good faith**, interpret and implement the stated goals; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That **[insert organization name here]** will support efforts to **retain water for local beneficial use** by discouraging the further transfer of water to entities within the Denver metropolitan area; and will support efforts to seek **appropriate mitigation to offset impacts** to affected communities in circumstances where water must be transferred to the Denver metropolitan area.

[Name, Title]

ATTEST:

[Name, Title]

DRAFT