

Water & Sewer Agenda Summary

Date: October 19, 2022

Key Staff Contact: Sean Chambers, Director

Title: Colorado River Supply and Demand Update

Summary:

Over the past 18 months, the Department of Interior declared a Tier 1 Water Shortage in August of 2021, followed by and a Tier 2 shortage declaration in August of 2022. Despite a strong Western drought, Colorado River water demands continued to significantly outpace supply, further drawing down Lakes Mead and Powel to critical levels that warrant a federal response and action by Colorado River water users across the West.

Greeley's municipal water portfolio and the much of the Agricultural lands around Greeley in Weld County utilize significant Upper Colorado River water supplies to supplement water in storage and the water supplies from the Cache la Poudre, Big Thompson, and Laramie River Basins. Greeley Water tracks and engages in conservations on the Colorado River and Western drought because approximately 45% of the city's water resource portfolio is sourced from transbasin Colorado River sources.

NCWCD Water Rights Manager: Kyle Whitaker is well informed on the Colorado River shortage conditions and discussions among the Western states and the Upper Colorado River Basin. Mr. Whitaker's presentation will share information, data, and insight with the Greeley.

Recommended Action:

Advisory – Information only

Attachments:

Presentation