

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

136 State Capitol  
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792  
Phone (303) 866-2471



Roy Romer  
Governor

B, 016 93

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
FRONT RANGE WATER FORUM

**WHEREAS,** the need for water supply planning and management for the Denver metropolitan area has been heightened by the veto of the Two Forks Project by the Environmental Protection Agency, by the increasingly stringent requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, and by the existence of continued growth throughout the area;

**WHEREAS,** the State of Colorado is concerned about water supply for cities in the Denver metropolitan area because their demands have created: (1) a situation in which many communities in the Denver metropolitan area lack a reliable water supply while others have more than enough water for the foreseeable future; (2) conflicts with agricultural, rural, and environmental interests when water is transferred to municipal users; and (3) litigation costing millions of public and private dollars in engineering and legal fees;

**WHEREAS,** participants at the 1993 State Water Convention indicated: (1) a priority for enhanced cooperation in pursuing water supplies for cities; and (2) the need for the state of Colorado to provide a forum for the discussion and resolution of these issues, providing data and information, and exploring mutually beneficial arrangements between agricultural and municipal water users;

**WHEREAS,** the General Assembly authorized the Colorado Water Conservation Board to expend up to \$450,000 to investigate opportunities for enhanced coordination in meeting the water supply needs of metropolitan Denver;

# B 016 93

FRONT RANGE WATER FORUM

PAGE 2

**WHEREAS,** the State of Colorado can: (1) provide state agency support to pursue cooperative solutions; (2) use the expertise of personnel within state agencies to address these issues; (3) use state resources as incentives to foster cooperation; and (4) help develop data and information systems to help make informed decisions on water supply;

**NOW THEREFORE, I, Roy Romer, Governor of the State of Colorado, under the authority vested in me under the laws and Constitution of the State of Colorado, DO HEREBY ORDER THE FOLLOWING:**

1. A Front Range Water Forum is hereby created and shall be comprised of (the following): the Governor of the State of Colorado; the Mayors of Denver, Aurora, Thornton, Arvada, Westminster, Commerce City, Parker, Castle Rock, Northglenn, Broomfield, Littleton, and Lakewood; one representative each from the Denver Water Board, the Colorado River Water Conservancy District, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the Colorado River Headwaters Forum, Club 20, the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District, the Denver Metro Wastewater Reclamation District, the entities consisting of the Barr Lake Group, the Arapahoe County Utility Advisory Board, the Douglas County Water Resource Authority, the Board of Waterworks of Pueblo, the Colorado Springs Utilities Department, Centennial Water and Sanitation District, and the Willows Water District; up to four members of the General Assembly, two from each political party, designated by the Chairs of the Senate and House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees; and the Executive Directors of the Departments of Natural Resources, Health, Agriculture, and Local Affairs, and the director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and the Colorado State Engineer.

The Governor may appoint additional representatives to the Forum as necessary.

2. Each member of the Forum representing an entity with technical expertise on water supply is invited to nominate one person to be a part of a Technical Advisory Committee. It is understood that it will not be necessary for all members of the Forum to nominate a person to serve on the Technical Advisory Committee. The Technical Advisory Committee will meet regularly during the course of the investigation and will provide technical oversight and guidance in the investigation of water supply solutions that may enhance the Denver metropolitan, municipal, and industrial water supplies in efficient, practical and environmentally sound ways. These targeted opportunities may include:
  - (a) the potential integration of the Burlington, Henrylyn, and the Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Systems into municipal and industrial water supply systems, (a part of which may involve the reallocation of storage in Chatfield and Bear Creek Reservoirs);
  - (b) the potential for voluntary and cooperative integration of water supply systems in the Denver Metropolitan area and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and Municipal Subdistrict, in order to provide for existing and future water municipal, industrial, agricultural, and recreational demands throughout these areas;
  - (c) conjunctive use of surface and groundwater, including the use of tributary sources of water in groundwater recharge projects, the use of nontributary sources of groundwater available for use in the Front Range, and the use of nontributary groundwater available and under the control of the State Board of Land Commissioners; and
  - (d) other opportunities decided upon by the Technical Advisory Committee.
3. The State of Colorado shall designate a management team with staff from the Colorado State Engineer, the Water Conservation Board, and the Water Quality Control Commission. The Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources will designate a team leader for the management team. The State of Colorado will also hire a

B, 016 93

FRONT RANGE WATER FORUM  
PAGE 4

RECEIVED

DEC 20 1993

COLORADO STATE LIBRARY

State Publications Library

management consultant to coordinate and manage the investigation. The management consultant may conduct parts of the study or investigation and may use subcontractors to conduct parts of the investigation. The members of the Technical Advisory Committee will provide technical oversight and guidance in the conduct of the investigation.

4. The role of the Forum will be to consider any policy issues which emerge from the investigation. The intent for the creation of the Forum is to provide an open and technically sound atmosphere to support the investigation. Further, it is not intended that this investigation comprehensively review all possible options for water supply development and management to meet existing and future demands for water for the Denver metropolitan area. Other proposed projects are being planned by various entities. The principal focus of this investigation will be on certain options that involve integration of elements of previously disparate existing systems, in which the Forum may have a unique coordinating role.
5. It is anticipated that the members of the Forum shall meet at the beginning of the investigation, and then again only as needed as the investigation proceeds. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Governor and the members of the Forum will decide whether to continue the Forum.
6. The scoping and selection of targeted water supply opportunities will be completed within three months from the date of this executive order. Unless otherwise extended by executive order, the investigation will be completed within two years from the date of this executive order.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive seal of the State of Colorado, this sixth day of October, 1993.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Romer".

Roy Romer  
Governor