

# ***COLORADO DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES***

*Leading the West in Water Resource Management*

*Annual Report, 1997*

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Over the past year, the Division of Water Resources has been engaged in an intense program to redevelop a mission for the organization that captures the spirit of our dedicated employees as they provide service to the public and the state. The program involved a series of ten meetings throughout the state with the employees as they described to each other and the management of the organization the things they value most about their jobs, the public they serve, the resource and each other. As a result of this process, the Division was able to develop a new mission, created by the employees themselves, which refocuses the organization in a new direction, one which the agency believes will serve our employees and its customers well as we move toward the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This document, known as our [\*Vision for Success\*](#), sets forth what the agency is about and where we would like to go over the next five years. In the coming months, the organization will begin to set specific goals for accomplishing this mission and the State Engineer will be actively visiting with water users and the public, seeking input on our long-range strategies.

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## ***People***

People are the cornerstone of the agency. From our employees to the customers we serve, the organization recognizes and places a large emphasis on serving people in an efficient and effective manner.

We believe we have a highly dedicated staff of employees who truly care about the people they serve. And in serving those customers, the agency is committed to ensuring that we have the resources and methods available for them to meet the needs of the water user community in Colorado and the Western United States.

## ***Water***

We also recognize that the resource we administer and protect is the reason we exist. To this end the administration, safety and use of Colorado's water resources is something the Division is deeply committed to. The Division will serve the public through the generation of creative solutions in the water resource arena and help our customers understand complex water issues.

And through the use of technology, we believe we can provide the latest means to properly administer and collect timely information to effectively manage the resource.

## *Stewardship*

Stewardship of the resources at our disposal is an obligation that this agency takes extreme pride in. As an organization, we understand and accept our obligation to the taxpayers and ourselves in using and protecting all resources, including natural, human and capital, to the best of our ability.

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## *In the Field*

Seven field offices monitor and administer the waters of the state and assist in ensuring safe dams and wells for our residents. Over 120 water commissioners work in the field along with dam safety engineers, hydrographers and water resource engineers and support staff.

Accomplishments of particular distinction include:

- Timely, accurate data collection and administration of 152,763 water rights statewide.
- Delivery of over 18,000,000 acre-feet of water to irrigation, storage, municipal and other uses throughout the state in water year 1996 (October 1, 1996 to September 30, 1997).
- Review and inspection of 376 Class 1, 2 & 3 dams.

## *Special Projects*

The Division handles many special technical projects. A professionally skilled geotechnical, hydrographic, dam safety and engineering staff assist the legislature and the state in analyzing problems, developing innovative solutions and planning for the future. Some highlights include:

- Facilitation of Senate Bill 74 which examines South Platte endangered species, and conjunctive use within the Denver Basin.
- Beginning implementation of the Well Evaluation Tool (WET), which aggressively uses technology for evaluation and issuance of well permits.
- The Colorado Water Rights Administration Tool, which enhances and extends the South Platte Water Rights Management System to the western slope of Colorado. Deliverables include: real time streamflow presentation, database viewing, and water information sheets to assist in river administration.
- In cooperation with the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Colorado River Decision Support System (CRDSS) was enhanced to include water resource planning models for 100% of the basin's consumptive use. This assists in evaluating endangered species issues on the Colorado, San Juan and Yampa River Basins.
- Successfully negotiated a long standing dispute in the Horse Creek Basin (Division 2) through mediation, developing a win/win solution for all parties involved.

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# *The Information Age*

## *Data information*

- The Division's Record Section in Denver was nominated for the State of Colorado's Outstanding Customer Service Award in recognition of the excellent service they provide to the water users of the state.
- In an effort to improve convenience for our customers, the Division began accepting credit cards for payment of services and products rendered.
- Data verification standards implemented and active.
- Imaging of well permitting and sensitive documents initiated.
- Increased number of gaging stations with near real time satellite measurement.
- Geographical Positioning System (GPS) program implemented for providing precise locations of structures in field.
- Power conversion coefficient (PCC) program fully operational in the Arkansas River basin. This program calculates ground water well use via power records, saving time and money for the state and water users.
- Gaging station refurbishment program implemented in conjunction with the Colorado Water Conservation Board.
- Water level monitoring of over 1,000 wells statewide.
- Monitoring of over 450 gaging sites statewide.

## *Interstate Compacts*

- Successful compliance with the Arkansas River Compact under the Arkansas Rules and Regulations.
- Ongoing engineering support for Colorado in Kansas v. Colorado before the United States Supreme Court.
- Continuing efforts on the South Platte, Republican, and Colorado Rivers, including the Rio Grande.
- Ongoing administration of five interstate compacts and two federal decrees to protect the entitlements of Colorado water users.

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## *Future plans*

Over the following months the Division of Water Resources will be putting together goals, objectives and tactics to set forth a new strategic plan for the future, one that meets the needs of the water users and our employees. Once draft goals are set, the State Engineer will be meeting with various water user groups and our employees throughout the state to seek their input on the future direction of the organization. After the input has been received and reviewed, finalized goal for the agency will be put in place. Our employees will then develop the tactics for achieving those goals.

We invite your input on this process. If you would like to be kept informed or provide feedback to the agency, please do not hesitate to contact us at: The Colorado Division of Water Resources, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 818, Denver, CO 80203. We can be reached by phone at: (303) 866-3581 or fax (303) 866-3589. We look forward to managing the water resources of the state with you in the future.

