

RESOLUTION NO. 43

Series of 2020

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BALLOT INITIATIVE TO PROTECT WESTERN COLORADO WATER RESOURCES THROUGH AN INCREASED MILL LEVY

WHEREAS, the Colorado River Water Conservation District (Colorado River District) is a public entity with a mission to lead protection, conservation, use and development of the water resources of the Colorado River Basin for the welfare its residents and to safeguard for Colorado all the waters of the Colorado River to which the State of Colorado is entitled;

WHEREAS, the Town works closely with the Colorado River District on both intrastate and interstate water matters of interest;

WHEREAS, it is critical to the people of Western Colorado that the Colorado River District continue to be a strong and effective voice on water matters affecting Western Colorado water users;

WHEREAS, the Colorado River District's revenues are declining due to reduced energy production and prices, impacts of the Gallagher Amendment and the revenue limitations in the Taxpayers Bill of Rights;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Colorado River District has certified and directed that the following ballot question (7A) be placed in the November 2020 election across the District's 15 counties:

Shall Colorado River Water Conservation District, also known as the Colorado River District, taxes be increased by an amount up to \$4,969,041 in 2021 (which increases amounts to approximately \$1.90 in 2021 for every \$100,000 in residential property value), and such amounts as are generated annually thereafter from an additional property tax levy of .248 mills (for a total mill levy of 0.5 mills) to enable the Colorado River District to protect and safeguard Western Colorado by:

- o Fighting to keep water on the Western Slope;
- o Protecting adequate water supplies for West Slope Farmers and Ranchers;
- o Protecting sustainable drinking water supplies for West Slope communities; and
- o Protecting fish, wildlife, and recreation by maintaining river levels and water quantity;

Provided that the District will not utilize these additional funds for the purpose of paying to fallow irrigated agriculture; with such expenditures reported to the public in an annually

published independent financial audit; and shall all revenues received by the District in 2021 and each subsequent year be collected retained and spent notwithstanding any limits provided by law?;

WHEREAS, we believe that the revenues that will be raised if the above ballot question is approved by the voters are critical to the Colorado River District being able to continue its mission and be a strong and effective advocate on issues and importance to water users on the Western Slope of Colorado;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VAIL, COLORADO THAT:

The Vail Town Council strongly supports the Colorado Rover District's ballot question set forth above.

INTRODUCED, PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Vail held this 6th day of October 2020.

Dave Chapin, Town Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy Nagel, Town Clerk