FACT SHEET:

Aurora's Application to CDPHE for More Western Slope Water

EAGLE RIVER COALITION

Aurora Water has submitted an application to the CDPHE to construct a new 95,000-acre-foot reservoir in Park County (South Park) using water from the headwaters of the Eagle River and Colorado River.

The reservoir will be filled with *additional diversions* from the Colorado and Arkansas basins, including the Eagle, Fryingpan, and Roaring Fork rivers. The majority of additional transmountain diversion water will source from Homestake Creek in the upper Eagle basin.

This is the first application under Regulation 87 Dredge and Fill Individual Authorization. CDPHE's Regulation 87 review focuses on impacts to wetlands and streams under state jurisdiction that have recently been removed from federal Clean Water Act permitting.

The public has until November 19, 2026, to submit comments to the CDPHE. Email the division's Dredge and Fill Unit at **cdphe_df_wqcd@state.co.us** with the subject heading: "**WHS PN Comments.**" The division appreciates public interest in the proposed project.

IMPACTS

- This additional movement of Western Slope water across the Continental Divide is significant because Homestake Creek and the Upper Eagle are already deeply impacted by transmountain diversions.
- 50-70% of Homestake Creek flows are being diverted in different years, representing 25-40% of the total native flows in the Upper Eagle River at Minturn.



Todd Winslow Pierce / HomestakeValley.org

- Increased withdrawals from Homestake Creek will seasonally reduce the magnitude, frequency, and duration of high flows in the Eagle River headwaters. This can have numerous negative environmental and social/economic impacts to our communities and rivers.
- Upper Eagle River flows above Minturn are permanently reduced by 20-25% in average and wet years, and up to 44% during dry years.
- The health of Homestake Creek, the Eagle River, and the Colorado River matters to communities, wildlife, and local economies throughout the Basin.

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CONCERNS WITH AURORA'S APPLICATION

The CDPHE should require a transparent accounting of the source, volume, timing, and cumulative effects of all water movements associated with the project.

We are urging the CDPHE to consider the cumulative effects of the proposal. The CDPHE should evaluate this proposal in the context of climate pressures and the broader future of the Colorado River Basin.

We must examine all the alternatives. Conservation, reuse, demand management, and other options deserve serious consideration.

Aurora's application is not complete. Significant technical and environmental questions remain unresolved regarding how West Slope water resources will be affected. The public needs more information about the cumulative impacts to the Western Slope and Colorado River Basin.

Aurora proposes taking more water out of the Colorado River Basin. This is water that will never return. This application comes during the worst drought on record. Lake Powell is just above dead pool.

Is this the time for increasing the amount of West Slope water diverted under the Continental Divide to the Front Range?

Will there even be reliable water in the (near) future to fill this $1 billion dollar reservoir project?



Todd Winslow Pierce / HomestakeValley.org

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

This is why a coalition of people are coming together to request the CDPHE reject the current application from Aurora at this time.

To submit public comments, email the division's Dredge and Fill Unit at **cdphe_df_wqcd@state.co.us** with the subject heading: "**WHS PN Comments**."

The division appreciates public interest in the proposed project.