

**ALLOCATION & STORAGE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 5, 2026**

A meeting of the Allocation & Storage Committee was held on Thursday, February 5 at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81001 and via Zoom virtual conference.

Chairman Andy Colosimo announced a quorum was present.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Andy Colosimo – Chairman, Matt Heimerich - Vice-Chairman (virtual 10:30), Alan Hamel, Curtis Mitchell, Greg Felt (remote), Mike Bartolo (remote 10:05), Tom Goodwin, Bill Long and Leann Noga.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:**

Justin Di Santi

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Abby Ortega (remote) and Pat Edelman, District Board; Roy Vaughn, H2O Consultants; Mitch Frischmeyer (remote), Wilson Water Group; Katie Garrett, (from????), Dan Tucker and Scott Lorenz (remote), Colorado Springs Utilities; Chris Woodka, Gordon Dillon, Peter Levish, Misty Bellino, Trevor Singleton, Margie Medina and Robert Banham, District staff.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Colosimo confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the January 8, 2026 Allocation & Storage Committee minutes and asked if there were any corrections or discussions. Alan Hamel moved, Bill Long seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

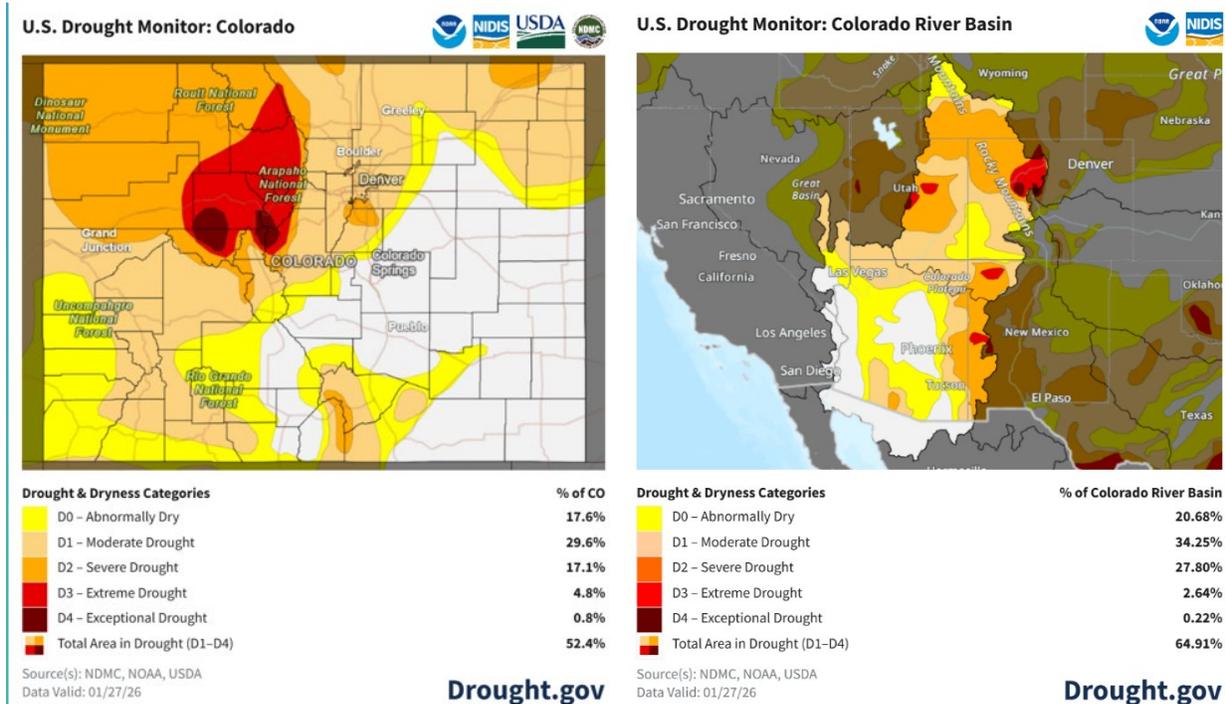
**Water Resources Update**

Robert Banham gave a summary of weather conditions in the state of Colorado, concentrating on the Collection System of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project. Colorado has seen minimal precipitation over the past 7 days, and the 60-day outlook shows conditions trending drier, with percent-of-normal precipitation below average. The upper basin in Colorado currently has less soil moisture compared to the lower basin. Despite this difference, both basins are close to normal soil moisture levels for this time of year. Streamflow has been low and is starting to improve slightly.

The one-month outlook shows persistent drought conditions remain on the west slope. Indicates limited short-term improvement in that region. The three-month outlook shows persistent

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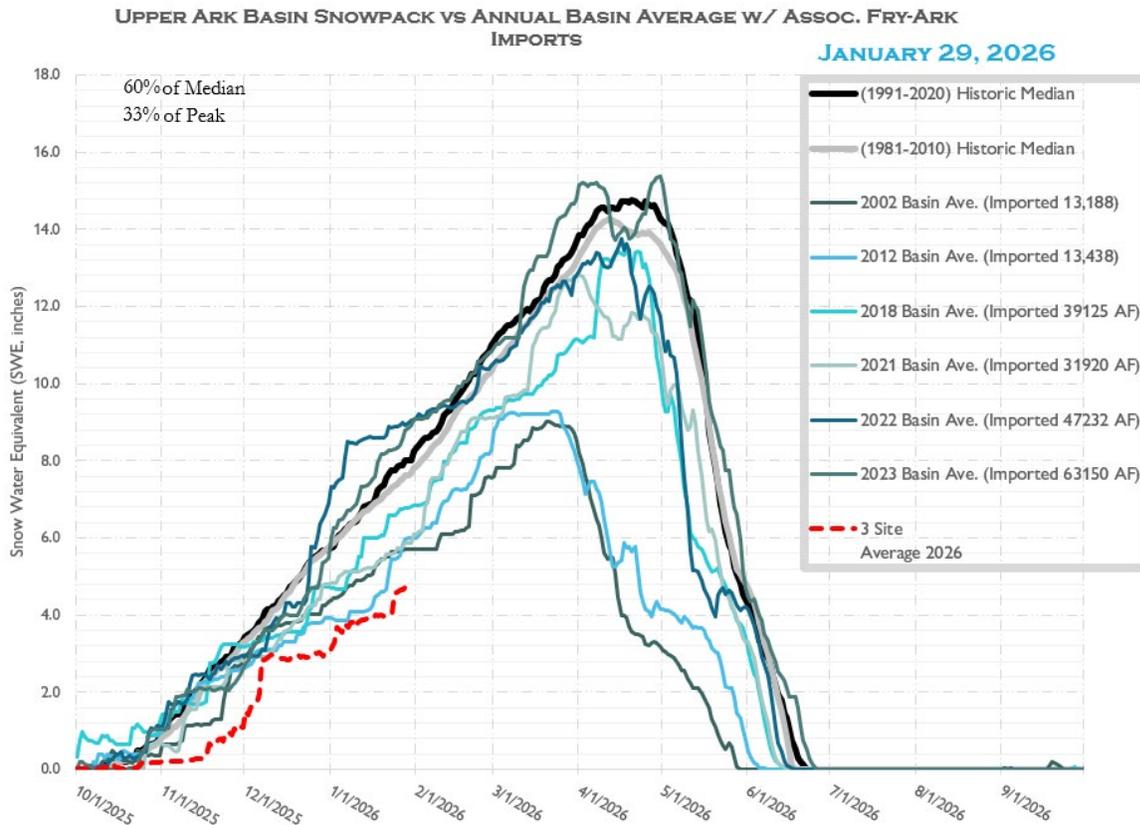
drought conditions remain on the west slope, indicate limited short-term improvement in that region. U.S. Drought monitor for Colorado reports shows we are in exceptional drought (D4) in the collection basin (see graph above), conditions are increasing. Last months percentages were D4 0.5; D3 2.2; D2 12.5; D1 22.4 and D0 33.1 percent.

Next seven days: Upper Colorado River Basin is expected to receive more precipitation than the lower basin. Indicates potential improvement in water supply for the upper basin.

Next 60 days: Lower basin forecasted to be slightly wetter than the upper basin. Suggests a shift in precipitation patterns over the coming weeks.

Upper basin shows less soil moisture compared to the lower basin. Both upper and lower basins are close to normal levels for this time of year. Streamflow conditions show 45 percent of stream flow sites are below normal, and 13 percent of streamflow are above normal.

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Upper Arkansas basin snowpack versus annual basin average with associated Fry-Ark imports chart was shown. Shown on the graph are year 2002 imports at 13,188 AF and 2012 import at 13,438 AF. Reference to 2002 water year was mentioned that the storage situation in the reservoir wasn't used to capacity like it currently is. The Committee requested the legal constraints regarding a low allocation be provided. The Committee wanted a large range of responses regarding this years allocation.

**ACTION ITEM**

**Policy 3 Redline – Emergency Water and Initial Release**

District staff identified the need to revise Section 16 to reflect current practices and to provide clearer administrative guidance for evaluating emergency water requests. The existing framework, originally adopted in 2006, provides emergency authority but lacks detailed criteria and modern language to address present-day operational considerations.

Consistent with the District's broader policy modernization efforts, the revised Section 16:

- Updates the definition of emergencies.
- Establishes clear factors for evaluating emergency requests.
- Defines and limits the emergency reserve (1,200–1,500 AF, with 3,000 AF maximum carryover).

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- Authorizes creation of a conditional allocation buffer that can temporarily support initial allocations without compromising Tier 1 emergency response capacity.
- Introduces nonbinding guidance tiers (Tier 1–Tier 3) for classifying emergency types.

These changes enhance administrative clarity, maintain operational flexibility, and preserve full Board discretion—an approach consistent with the redline methodology described in the current Allocation Policy update process.

### 16: Emergency Allocation (2192026 / 4202006)

#### a. Definition and Authority

The District Board has the discretion to make emergency allocations of Project Water. An emergency is an unforeseen circumstance or combination of circumstances requiring prompt action and/or assistance, including but not limited to distribution system failure, dam or structural failure, or contamination caused by natural disaster, fire, epidemic, riot, unusually severe drought, earthquake, or similar conditions creating an unanticipated need for additional water.

#### b. Review Process and Ratifications

Requests will be considered case-by-case by the Allocation Committee. Factors include:

1. The extent to which the circumstance constitutes an emergency.
2. The need for immediate action.
3. Other emergency needs within District boundaries.
4. Water availability.
5. Public health and safety impacts.

Any emergency allocation decision is subject to Board ratification at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

#### c. Emergency Reserve

Each year, subject to availability, the District shall hold 1,200–1,500 AF of Project Water in reserve for emergencies. If unused, up to 1,500 AF may carry over to the following year. At no time may the District hold more than 3,000 AF in storage for emergency purposes.

#### d. Conditional Allocation Buffer

Of the emergency reserve described in subsection (c), the Board may designate a portion as a conditional allocation buffer. This buffer may be temporarily used to support increased initial Project water allocations, including but not limited to agricultural allocations, when and if hydrologic and operational conditions reasonably indicate sufficient supply. Use of the conditional allocation buffer shall not impair the District's ability to respond to Tier 1 public health and safety emergencies.

#### e. Emergency Evaluation Tiers

Emergency allocations may be evaluated using the following nonbinding categories:

- Tier 1: Public health and safety emergencies

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- Tier 2: Infrastructure failures or operational emergencies
- Tier 3: Systemic supply shortfalls identified after initial allocations

Nothing in this section limits the Board's discretion to act in the best interest of the District.

In the future the Committee suggested looking into changing the term used currently "emergency allocation." Discussion was raised regarding past emergency allocations.

Curtis Mitchell moved to recommend that the Board approve the proposed redlined revisions to the Allocation Policy Section 16: Emergency Allocation. Bill Long seconded the motion, motion carried. This will be revisited in the future.

### **Upper Arkansas Voluntary Flow Management Program (VFMP) Five-Year Contract Renewal**

Robert Banham reported since 1991, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (CDNR) on behalf of the Division of Wildlife (DOW), and the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR), now Colorado Parks and Wildlife or CPW, has made annual recommendations, with annual concurrence and implementation by Reclamation and the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District), for operation of a Voluntary Flow Management Program. An integral part of the VFMP is the method in which Reclamation operates Twin Lakes and Turquoise Reservoirs to manage flows in the Arkansas River above Pueblo Reservoir. The flows are managed to benefit recreational and fishery purposes while fully satisfying the primary purposes of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Project) and other contractual obligations, pursuant to its recommendations made by the CDNR in consultation with the District. The District participates in the VFMP as the holder of the decreed water rights for Project Water.

The VFMP participants have a strong interest in the continued operation of the VFMP in a similar manner to the operations conducted under the "2006 Agreement." The specifics are described in the attached "Agreement."

Robert mentioned rafting versus fishing criteria were discussed and instead of addressing that in the agreement it was proposed that those items be addressed in an operational plan. Greg Felt addressed fact sheets for the program would assist on options to add/not add water and using exchanges as strategies.

Alan Hamel moved, seconded by Tom Goodwin, to recommend the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to execute the Upper Arkansas Voluntary Flow Management Program Five-Year Contract Renewal, which is substantially similar to the agreement presented. Motion passed unanimously.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise Water Allocation Policy Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Water policy dated January 15, 2026, was provided to the Committee.

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**OTHER BUSINESS**

Leann Noga reported attending a work session with Pueblo Water, Colorado Springs, and Southeastern on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Also, with the Project water applications, the water policy will be included and an outlook on what the water supply is currently looking at.

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Colosimo adjourned the meeting at 11:05a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Medina

Water Resources Administrative Analyst