

RESOLUTION CONCERNING  
AN OFFSET ACCOUNT IN  
JOHN MARTIN RESERVOIR FOR  
COLORADO PUMPING

WHEREAS, Article IV-D of the Arkansas River Compact provides as follows:

The Compact is not intended to impede or prevent future beneficial development of the Arkansas River basin in Colorado and Kansas by Federal or State agencies, by private enterprise, or by combinations thereof, which may involve construction of dams, reservoirs and other works for the purposes of water utilization and control, as well as the improved or prolonged functioning of existing works: Provided, that the waters of the Arkansas River, as defined in Article III, shall not be materially depleted in usable quantity or availability for use to the water users in Colorado and Kansas under this Compact by such future development or construction;

and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has determined that post-Compact well pumping in the State of Colorado has caused material depletions of usable Stateline flows of the Arkansas River in violation of the Arkansas River Compact [hereinafter the "Compact"], *Kansas v. Colorado*, 115 S.Ct. 1733 (1995); and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado [hereinafter "Colorado"] desires to continue to allow ground water pumping by its water users in excess of the pre-Compact pumping entitlement of 15,000 acre-feet per year determined by the United States Supreme Court as long as any

depletions to usable Stateline flows caused by such pumping are replaced; and

WHEREAS, Section 2 of the Act of Congress approving the Compact provides in relevant part as follows:

[T]he Chief of Engineers is hereby authorized to operate the conservation features of the John Martin Reservoir Project in a manner conforming to such Compact with such exceptions as he and the Administration created pursuant to the Compact may jointly approve[;]

and

WHEREAS, the issue of Compact compliance by Colorado is presently pending before the Special Master appointed by the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, an account in John Martin Reservoir [hereinafter the "Reservoir"] is not necessary for Colorado's compliance with the Compact, but an account would be of benefit to Colorado by facilitating compliance with the Compact by Colorado and its water users to the extent that Colorado allows post-Compact well pumping by its water users in excess of the pre-Compact entitlement of 15,000 acre-feet per year, and Colorado has requested such an account

WHEREAS, the Offset Account [as hereinafter defined] would create benefits for water users in Kansas but also monitoring and accounting burdens for the State of Kansas [hereinafter "Kansas"]; and

WHEREAS, the existence of an account in the Reservoir does not, in and of itself, assure compliance with the Compact by Colorado and its water users; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas River Compact Administration [hereinafter the "Administration"] recognizes that it has the authority to create the Offset Account as provided for herein, but that neither the Administration nor either of its member states has any obligation to create the account provided for in this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, concurrently with the adoption of this Resolution, Colorado and Kansas are entering into a Stipulation Re Offset Account in John Martin Reservoir [hereinafter the "Stipulation"];

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 2 of the Act of Congress approving the Compact, the Administration and the Chief of Engineers of the Corps of Engineers or his duly authorized representative, jointly approve a storage account in the Reservoir to be established and operated as follows:

1. There is hereby established a new storage account in the Reservoir to be known as the "Offset Account in John Martin Reservoir for Colorado Pumping" [hereinafter the "Offset Account"]. The size of the Offset Account shall be 20,000 acre-feet. Deliveries of water to the Offset Account shall be stored in the conservation pool but shall not be inflows into the Reservoir which accrue to conservation storage, and water in the Offset Account shall reside below elevation 3,851 feet above mean sea level (bottom of flood control storage). The establishment of the Offset Account is for the primary purpose of facilitating Compact compliance by Colorado and its water users after the effective date of this Resolution and is not for the purpose of repayment for violations of the Compact by Colorado prior to the effective

date of this Resolution or replacement to Colorado ditches except as authorized herein. The intent of this Resolution is that, to the extent that Colorado allows post-Compact well pumping in Colorado in excess of the pre-Compact entitlement of 15,000 acre-feet per year, any depletions to usable Stateline flows caused by such pumping be contemporaneously offset by delivering replacement water to the Stateline or by making replacement water available in the Offset Account where it can be called for by Kansas in accordance with this Resolution.

2. The Offset Account shall be separate from and in addition to the accounts established by the Administration's Resolution Concerning an Operating Plan for John Martin Reservoir as revised through December 11, 1984 [hereinafter the "1980 Operating Plan"] and the John Martin Reservoir Permanent Pool authorized by the Administration Resolution of August 14, 1976 [hereinafter the "Permanent Pool"].

3. The Colorado State Engineer or his delegate [hereinafter the "Colorado State Engineer"] may deliver or permit the delivery by Colorado water users of water to the Offset Account upon timely notice to the Kansas Chief Engineer or his delegate [hereinafter "Kansas Chief Engineer"]. Such notice shall specify and document the following: the source of the water delivered, the amount of water, the purpose for which the water is delivered, the time of delivery, the rate of delivery, the extent to which the water is fully consumable, and the quantity, timing, and location of any associated return flows.

4. Only water approved for storage in the Offset Account by the Colorado State Engineer may be delivered to the Offset Account, provided that adequate transit losses shall be charged during delivery of water to the Offset Account, which losses shall be determined by the Colorado State Engineer using the method set out in the U.S. Geological Survey Water Resources Investigations 78-75 (Sept. 1978) [hereinafter the "Livingston Formula". At the time of deliver of water to the Offset Account, the Colorado State Engineer shall determine the extent to which water delivered to the Offset Account is fully consumable and shall thereafter demand the release of any water necessary to maintain historical return flows to Colorado ditches and Stateline from deliveries of water historically used for agricultural irrigation; provided, however, that the Kansas Chief Engineer may, at his option, direct that water necessary to maintain historical return flows to the Stateline [hereinafter "Stateline Return Flow"] remain in the Offset Account or be transferred to the Kansas account provided for in Section II of the 1980 Operating Plan [hereinafter "Kansas Section II Account"] for later release, and provided further, that the Colorado State Engineer's determination of the extent to which water delivered to the Offset Account is fully consumable shall not be binding on the Administration or Kansas. Once the Colorado State Engineer has determined the extent to which the water delivered to the Offset Account is fully consumable or is Stateline Return Flow, and has notified the Kansas Chief Engineer in accordance with paragraph 3 above, the Kansas Chief Engineer may demand the release of the water in the Offset Account which is fully consumable at any time and at any rate and

may demand the release or direct the transfer of water in the Offset Account which is Stateline Return Flow at any time and at any rate.

5. Evaporation charges shall be made against water stored in the Offset Account in the manner set forth in Subsection II F of the 1980 Operating Plan. The evaporation charges shall be prorated amongst conservation storage and the accounts, including the offset Account, according to the amounts in them. Evaporation from water in the Offset Account shall be charged against Colorado until:

- A. The water is released or transferred in accordance with this Resolution, or
- B. Thirty days after the Colorado State Engineer has determined and notified the Kansas Chief Engineer of the estimated monthly net depletion to usable Stateline flows caused by post-Compact diversions of tributary ground water from the Valley Fill Aquifer and surficial aquifers along the Arkansas River between Pueblo Dam and the Stateline ("the estimated monthly net depletion of usable Stateline flows"), to the extent the Kansas Chief Engineer has not previously demanded the release of water available for replacement of the Offset Account in an amount equal to or greater than the estimated monthly net depletion to usable Stateline flows, the evaporation loss on that amount of water or portion thereof shall thereafter be charged to Kansas. In order to determine the estimated monthly net depletion to usable Stateline flows for

purposes of this paragraph only, the Colorado State Engineer shall use the following procedure unless he and the Kansas Chief Engineer agree otherwise: the Colorado State Engineer shall use the presumptive stream depletions established in Rule 4.2 of the Amended Rules and Regulations Governing the Diversion and Use of Tributary Ground Water in the Arkansas River Basin, Colorado, effective June 1, 1996 [hereinafter "Amended Rules"] and unit response functions presently utilized in accordance with the Amended Rules to determine stream depletions at the Stateline caused by post-Compact diversions of tributary ground water from the Valley Fill Aquifer and surficial aquifers along the Arkansas River between Pueblo Dam and the Stateline. Further, the Colorado State Engineer shall use the same procedures currently used under the Amended Rules to determine the timing and location of return flows from diversions of imported waters and other augmentation water in determining net stream depletions at the Stateline. For the summer storage season in the Reservoir (April 1-October 31), the Colorado State Engineer shall assume that net depletions to usable Stateline flows are 81.9 percent of the net stream depletions at the Stateline, and for the winter storage season (November 1-March 31), the Colorado State Engineer shall assume that net depletions to usable Stateline flows are 34.9 percent of the net stream depletions at the Stateline; provided that if the monthly Stateline flow exceeds 30,000 acre-feet during the summer storage

season or 7,500 acre-feet during the winter storage season, no depletion to usable State-line flows shall be determined for such months for the purpose of this paragraph.

Notwithstanding paragraph B above, until thirty days after the Colorado State Engineer has determined and notified the Kansas Chief Engineer of the quantity and timing of any estimated Stateline Return Flow in the Offset Account, and the time for release of such water to the Stateline has passed, the evaporation loss on that amount of Stateline Return Flow shall be charged to Colorado, but shall thereafter be charged to Kansas.

6. In accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 above, the Colorado State Engineer may deliver or permit the delivery of water by Colorado water users to the Offset Account, in an amount not to exceed 1,500 acre-feet per Compact year, for the purpose of replacing depletions to the inflows to conservation storage caused by post-Compact well pumping in Colorado and may (1) direct the transfer of such water from the Offset Account to conservation storage to replace depletions to the inflows to conservation storage, or (2) to the extent such water is not needed to replace depletions to the inflows to conservation storage, may change the prior designation of water previously designated for the purpose of transfer to conservation storage. Once the Colorado State Engineer has notified the Kansas Chief Engineer of the change of designation, such water may be released or transferred in accordance with this Resolution.

7. Releases from the Offset Account may be made simultaneously with deliveries into the Offset Account.



However, such simultaneous releases and deliveries cannot create a deficit in the Offset Account.

8. Transit losses for releases from the Offset Account shall not be replenished from the Kansas transit loss account. Transit losses associated with the release of Stateline Return Flow from the Offset Account shall be replaced by the entity which delivered such Stateline Return Flow to the Offset Account, provided that any increase in transit losses which results if the Kansas State Engineer directs that Stateline Return Flow remain in the Offset Account and calls for the release of such Stateline Return Flow at a later time shall be borne by Kansas. Such transit losses on releases of Stateline Return Flow shall be determined using the Livingston Formula for Subreach 6, removing bank and channel storage from the calculation, unless the Colorado State Engineer and the Kansas Chief Engineer agree otherwise. In order to ensure the arrival of releases of Stateline Return Flow at the Stateline if the Kansas Chief Engineer calls for the release of such Stateline Return Flow during the summer storage season in the Reservoir (April 1-October 31), an amount of water equal to the transit losses determined using the Livingston Formula for Subreach 6, including bank and channel storage, shall be released with the Stateline Return Flow and shall be charged to the entity which delivered the Stateline Return Flow, except that Kansas shall bear any increase in evaporation resulting from the summer storage release.

9. Notwithstanding other provisions of this Resolution, 500 acre-feet of fully consumable water shall be delivered by Colorado or Colorado water users to the Offset Account by April 1 of each year or within two

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weeks after this Resolution becomes effective, whichever is later, which delivery shall be a prerequisite for Colorado's right to deliver or permit the delivery by Colorado water users of up to 10,000 acre-feet of water (including the said 500 acre-feet) to the Offset Account pursuant to this Resolution during the period until the next succeeding April 1. For delivery of water to the Offset Account in excess of 10,000 acre-feet during each period, five percent of the amount delivered shall be allocated to Kansas. The said 500 acre-feet and five percent of any water delivered in excess of 10,000 acre-feet during each period [hereinafter "Storage Charge Water"] shall be allocated to Kansas, not for offset of depletions of usable flow at the Stateline but as part of Kansas' equitable share of the benefits arising from the creation of the Offset Account in the Reservoir. The Kansas Chief Engineer may direct that Storage Charge Water be transferred to the Kansas Section II Account or may demand the release of Storage Charge Water at any time and at any rate. If Storage Charge Water is retained in the Offset Account, Kansas shall bear the evaporation after April 1. Colorado water users shall bear the evaporation prior to April 1. Any shortfall due to evaporation in the 500 acre-foot April 1 delivery requirement shall be made up out of the next delivery of water after April 1 by Colorado water users. Kansas shall bear the transit losses associated with the release of Storage Charge Water. Such transit losses shall be calculated using the Livingston Formula for Subreach 6, unless the Colorado State Engineer and the Kansas Chief Engineer agree otherwise.

10. No transfers, releases or exchanges shall be made of water in the Offset Account except releases and

transfers authorized by this Resolution or approved by the Administration.

11. Not later than December 1 of each year, the Colorado State Engineer shall make an accounting of the operation under this Resolution for the previous Compact year available to the Operations Committee of the Administration and to interested parties.

12. In recognition of the fact that the operation of the Offset Account is for the primary purpose of facilitating Compact compliance by Colorado in connection with increased post-Compact pumping by Colorado water users, the Colorado State Engineer shall report to the Administration and the Kansas Chief Engineer on a monthly basis the timing and amount of deliveries to the Offset Account, the monthly pumping in location and amount in excess of Colorado's pre-Compact entitlement, and Colorado's monthly accounting of Compact compliance, including documentation not already provided and a report of the status of water delivered to the Offset Account, within two months of the end of the month reported. The Administration recognizes that use of this Offset Account to facilitate Compact compliance by Colorado after the effective date of this Resolution may result in additional monitoring costs to Kansas. The Administration recognizes that Kansas is not waiving its right to claim reasonable compensation from Colorado for such additional monitoring expenses incurred by Kansas after the effective date of this Resolution. The Colorado State Engineer shall timely share relevant information with the Kansas Chief Engineer concerning use of the Offset Account in a manner that will minimize Kansas' monitoring costs. Each year the Colorado State Engineer and the

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Kansas Chief Engineer shall discuss further ways to minimize such costs.

13. In the event that runoff conditions occur in the Arkansas River basin upstream from the Reservoir that cause water to spill from the Reservoir, then water stored in the Permanent Pool in excess of 10,000 acre-feet shall spill before water stored in the accounts granted in Subsections III A, B, and C of the 1980 Operating Plan, which shall spill before the water stored in the Offset Account, which shall spill before the accounts granted in Section II of the 1980 Operating Plan, which shall spill before the Kansas Transit Loss Account, all of which shall spill before conservation storage.

14. Water available under priority rights decreed to the ditches of Colorado Water District 67 [hereinafter "District 67"] may be stored in the Offset Account only when no water is accruing to conservation storage, provided that return flows shall be maintained and accounted for in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 above; and water may be transferred into the Offset Account from accounts of the ditches of District 67 in the Reservoir provided for in Section II of the 1980 Operating Plan in accordance with this Resolution; provided that such storage or transfers are in accordance with the Amended Rules adopted by the Colorado State Engineer and, with respect to transfers from District 67 accounts, shall include both the consumable and return flow portions of such water.

15. Neither the adoption of this Resolution nor the establishment or operation of the Offset Account shall constitute a waiver of either State's rights under the

Compact (if such a waiver is possible as a matter of law) or prejudice the ability of either State to represent its interests in present or future cases or controversies before the Administration or any court of competent jurisdiction, except as provided in the Stipulation.

16. All terms employed in this Resolution which are defined in the Compact or the 1980 Operating Plan shall have the same meaning as set out in the Compact or the 1980 Operating Plan, as the case may be.

17. The effective date of this Resolution shall be the date on which the Chief of Engineers of the Corps of Engineers, or his duly authorized representative, gives his approval by signing and dating below in the space provided. This Resolution shall not be affected by the termination of the 1980 Operating Plan, except that operations contemplated in this Resolution which rely on the existence of the 1980 Operating Plan shall no longer occur if the 1980 Operating Plan is terminated. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect until March 31, 1998, and year-to-year thereafter subject to the following provisions:

A. Either Colorado or Kansas, through its Compact delegation, may terminate this Resolution effective March 31 by giving written notice to the Administration by February 1 of the same Compact year.

B. In the event that this Resolution is terminated, water in the Offset Account at that time may remain in storage in the Offset Account and be released or transferred as provided above until no water remains in the Offset Account, at which time the Offset Account shall be terminated.

18. Colorado may, as it sees fit, fulfill or, as a condition to delivery of water to the Offset Account by Colorado water users, require its water users to fulfill the delivery requirements and be responsible for evaporation and transit loss charges imposed on Colorado by this Resolution, provided that Colorado shall require Colorado water users who wish to deliver water to the Offset Account to comply with this Resolution in all respects and shall require immediate cessation of the use of the Offset Account by any Colorado water user or users in the event of any substantial failure by such Colorado water user or users to comply with this Resolution.

19. Any releases of water from the Offset Account shall not exceed the channel capacity as determined by the Corps of Engineers.

JOINTLY APPROVED:

/s/ <u>Larry E. Trujillo, Sr.</u> Chairman Arkansas River Compact Administration	/s/ <u>Don Higbee</u> Recording Secretary Arkansas River Compact Administration
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/s/ <u>Lloyd S. Wagner</u> District Engineer, Albuquerque District, Duly Authorized Representative of the Chief of Engineers U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	<u>17 March 1997</u> Date
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