

## **Shoshone Water Right Permanency**

Colorado River Water Conservation District
January 2024 Board Meeting

The Shoshone Hydro Plant is located on the Colorado River in Glenwood Canyon, about eight miles east of Glenwood Springs. It produces 15 megawatts of electricity and holds the most senior (1905), and influential water right on the Colorado River, returning 100% of the flows it uses to the river after use by the plant. Shoshone's flows provide critical habitat to fish listed under the Endangered Species Act and drive the recreational economies supported by rafters, kayakers, and anglers from Summit to Mesa County.

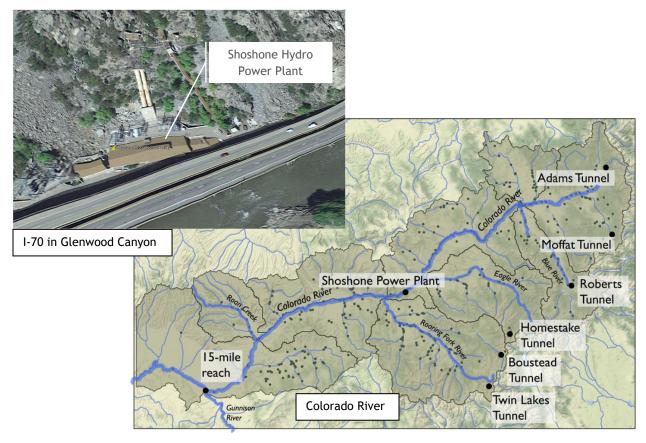
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Project Cost:					\$99,	,000,0	00
NRI Funding Re	ques	t:			\$20,	,000,0	00
Funding Source	:Sev	Taxl	PBA	via	Co	nst Fu	nd
Project Type:		Wa	ter	Rig	ht F	urcha	se
Type of Grante	e:			Go	ver	nmen	tal

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Benefits					٧	Vest S	Slope
Water Sc	ourc	e:		Colorado R			River
Drainage		Colorado River					

The Colorado River Water Conservation District (District) along with many other water entities in the area have

been working together to permanently preserve the Shoshone flows during times when the Shoshone Hydro Plant is not operating. The District and the Western Slope coalition are working to acquire the water rights and along with the CWCB to change the water rights to be used as an alternate beneficial use for instream flow purposes to preserve the Shoshone flows.

Agreement for the instream Shoshone flows will directly cover 2.4 miles of the Colorado River that are depleted, sometimes completely without flow, when the Shoshone Hydro Plant is operating. However, due to the seniority of the Shoshone water rights, permanent protection of the Shoshone flows will benefit nearly every stream reach (more than 5,000 miles of rivers, creeks and tributary reaches) because the Shoshone water rights command flows down from the headwaters past junior diverters. In addition, downstream of the plant, Shoshone flows benefit the mainstem of the Colorado River.



Non-Reimbursable Project Investments - Project Data Sheet