



Attachment A

Colorado subsurface storage study for the beneficial use of all Coloradans

Bill Title: Study Underground Water Storage max Beneficial Use

Bill # HB21-1043

What: This bill creates a contract to conduct a water study. This study will be conducted by an institution of higher education under a contract by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the State Engineer. The study analyzes ways to minimize the amount of water leaving our state borders. It will specify underground storage that is accessible and geologically sound. Identify sources of revenue to finance these projects and examine the roles of water interests affected and recommend any legislation to implement these managed underground storage projects.

Why: Colorado lets 100,000's of acre-feet of water leave Colorado every year that are over and above our interstate compact obligations in certain watersheds, in years with unusually high snowpack and/or high Spring/Summer rainfall. Much of this water can be retained in Colorado if the proper storage systems can be developed to manage and direct water to geologically sound subsurface storage (Managed Aquifer Recharge/Storage). These formations can be filled with excess water prior to leaving our state borders.

How: Managed Aquifer Recharge and underground Storage is no longer a new technology. This methodology has been perfected by Civil and hydrological engineers around the world. This technology is currently being used in Colorado by Denver Water here along the front range. There are experts today that will discuss this technology and answer your questions.

Additional facts: Colorado needs more water storage capacity. Subsurface storage can be a solution for our future water needs in a rapidly growing Colorado population. This study is not for every river basin in Colorado but in certain basins this methodology can help the negative impact of the "buy and dry" movement that is hurting agricultural in Colorado river basins.