

More than 80 Mayors, Local Officials Urge Actionable Proposals To Bring Colorado River Back into Balance

On July 25, Colorado River Day was celebrated in four western cities – Denver, Grand Junction, Phoenix and Santa Fe -- on the river's 92nd birthday, honoring the waterway that serves as the backbone of the West's economy and a critical drinking source for millions.

City mayors and rural leaders across Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico were invited to sign a statement supporting improved urban and agricultural water conservation as a means to improve their communities' water security and sustain a healthy flowing Colorado River for generations to come.

This statement of commitment supports robust progress for urban and agricultural water conservation in the Southwest. The statement was launched on July 25, 2013 with a handful of founding signees at each city celebration. After collecting additional signatures from locally elected officials, the statement was delivered to state and Department of Interior officials who are currently weighing next steps on water conservation and how to maintain healthy river flows. These state and federal actors are participating in stakeholder workgroups that were created in the wake of the Bureau of Reclamation's [Colorado River Basin Study](#) and are set to conclude their work and offer recommendations next year.

Here is the final Colorado River Day statement with more than 80 signatures from concerned and dedicated local elected officials:

<http://coloradoriverday.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Final-Co-River-Day-endorsement-with-signatures.pdf>

BACKGROUND

Colorado River Day (www.ColoradoRiverDay.com) brings people together across divides in support of maintaining a sustainable Colorado River. In 2012, progressives and conservatives came together in support of river. This year, urban and rural interests united. It takes place on July 25th each year, as this was the day in 1921 when Congress re-named the river from the "Grand" to the "Colorado". The annual event is produced by a wide coalition of organizations including National Young Farmers Union, Save the Colorado, Protect the Flows and Nuestro Rio.