

Presentation & Workshop on . . .

Evolving Regional Frameworks for Ag-to-Urban Water Transfers

**December 11, 2008: 8:30 AM – NOON,
University of Colorado Law School**



The permanent transfer of water from agricultural users to municipalities has become a common feature of water management in several western states. In many cases, these voluntary market-based transfers provide significant benefits to both the buyers and sellers, but many third parties—including remaining irrigators, rural businesses and communities dependent upon agricultural economies—have been negatively impacted. While some impacts of these so-called “buy and dry” transfers are largely unavoidable, many can be lessened by temporary arrangements that only shift water to cities in years when municipal supplies are inadequate, such as drought and post-drought storage recovery, and by consolidating individual farm-to-city water transfers within a regional framework where cumulative impacts can be anticipated and mitigated. Additionally, regional water transfer frameworks can potentially reduce the transactions costs (e.g., legal and engineering expenses, approval time) associated with shifting water, making water transfers a more cost-effective mechanism for cities adapting to the challenges associated with growth and climate variability.

In May 2008, the Lower Arkansas Valley “Super Ditch” Company was established to play this role in the active water market in southeastern Colorado, building upon the experiences and innovations of other regions—namely, the Palo Verde Irrigation District in Southern California, and the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District in Idaho. Please join us for a review of the experience in these three regions.

- **Peter Nichols** — General Counsel of the Lower Arkansas Valley “Super Ditch” Company. Trout, Raley, Montano, Witwer & Freeman, Colorado
- **Ed Smith** — General Manager, Palo Verde Irrigation District, Southern California
- **Jerry Rigby** — Counsel for Fremont-Madison Irrigation District, Idaho. Rigby, Thatcher, Andrus, Rigby & Moeller

Following the presentations, a panel of respondents, lead by the Dean of the CU Law School **David Getches**, will discuss the findings and concerns.

CLEs: 4

**Fee: Attendance FREE
\$20 for CLE
\$8 parking**

RSVP to:

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Presented by:



Western Water Assessment

Also of Note: *The Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance's 7th Annual Convention in Pueblo (Feb. 19-20, 2009) will address: "Ag to Urban Transfers of Water: Can Ditch Companies Come Out Ahead?"* See <http://www.darca.org/content/view/243/2/> or contact DARCA at john.mckenzie@darca.org (970- 412-1960).