

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO
TO SUPPORT THE ANNEXATION OF OURAY COUNTY INTO THE
LOWER GUNNISON SALINITY AREA**

WHEREAS, the Colorado River and its tributaries provide municipal and industrial water for more than 23 million people in the seven Basin States and irrigation water to nearly 4 million acres of land; and

WHEREAS, the threat of salinity in the waterways is a major concern in both the United States and Mexico affecting agricultural, municipal and industrial users. Damages in the United States typically range between \$500 million and \$750 million per year and could exceed \$1.5 billion per year if future increases are not controlled; and

WHEREAS, high salinity levels make it difficult to grow winter vegetables and popular fruits, and salt in water systems plugs and destroys municipal and household pipes and fixtures; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Land Management in the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program to build many salinity control projects on the Colorado River. The program's overall goal is to cost-effectively reduce the amount of salinity in the river water and, as a result, reduce the associated damages; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program's overall goal is to cost-effectively reduce the amount of salinity in the river water and, as a result, reduce the associated damages; and

WHEREAS, Ouray County has considerable irrigated acreage in the Lower Gunnison Salinity Area as designated on the USGS SPARROW COLORADO dataset map, the county has arbitrarily been excluded from the Salinity Control Area as designated in Plan 7 contrary to the intent of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program's goals;

WHEREAS, Ouray County and its landowners would benefit greatly from being included in the Lower Gunnison Salinity Control Area;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO, that Ouray County should be included in the Lower Gunnison Salinity Control Area and requests such inclusion at the earliest opportunity.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS ____ DAY OF _____ 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

Attest:

Heidi M. Albritton, Chair

K. Keith Meinert, Vice-Chair

Michelle Nauer, Clerk and Recorder
By: Linda Munson-Haley, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Lynn M. Padgett, Commissioner