



UNIVERSITY *of*
DENVER

STURM COLLEGE OF LAW

University of Denver Clinical Programs

Settlement in Environmental Law Clinic case
April 21, 2021

A settlement agreement that was signed today in one of Denver Law's Environmental Law Clinic (ELC) cases. The ELC has been in litigation for many years challenging what is known as the Windy Gap Firing Project, which is a plan to divert a large quantity of water from the Colorado River on the western slope over to the Front Range to be stored in a new reservoir and eventually used by Northern Colorado communities. ELC litigation was unsuccessful in stopping that project, but after getting an adverse ruling from the district court, the clinic was able to negotiate a \$15M settlement with the project proponent, Northern Water, in order to avoid litigating an appeal in the Tenth Circuit. This money will be used to fund environmentally beneficial projects in the headwaters of the Colorado River, addressing such things as water quality in Grand Lake, the largest natural lake and Colorado and formerly one of the clearest and most beautiful.

This is one of the largest settlements the ELC has been involved in, so clinic faculty and students are encouraged by the good this will do for the environment in Grand County.

Many ELC students have worked on this case over the years, including

Kelsey Siebel
John Sherry
Stephen Hanks
Ian Carmen
Megan Paschke
Blake Peterson
Alexandra Tressler
Zach Lass
Leigh Horton
Rioux Jordan
Kelsey Holder
Whitney Phillips

Along with ELC faculty members Kevin Lynch, Tim Estep, Sarah Matsumoto and Wyatt Sassman.

["Save the Colorado" PRESS RELEASE: Settlement Agreement Reached for Windy Gap Firing Project Litigation](#)