



**SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION 2016-04
IN SUPPORT OF INITIATIVE 96 (AMENDMENT 71)**

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Water Conservation District (District) was established pursuant to C.R.S. 37-47-101, et. seq. to conserve and develop water resources of the Dolores and San Juan River Basins; and

WHEREAS, the District supports the Colorado Constitution, which includes protections for water rights and property rights, as well as citizen rights to initiate both statutory and constitutional amendments by petition; and

WHEREAS, the current initiative process in the state of Colorado requires that proponents of both Constitutional and statutory changes submit signatures equaling only 5% of the previous Secretary of State vote total—with no geographic diversity requirement—to place the initiative on the ballot, and once placed on the ballot, only a simple majority to pass a Constitutional or statutory amendment; and

WHEREAS, the District believes the Colorado Constitution should not be so easily amended, and the current initiative process for Constitutional amendments poses significant risks to the stability and balance achieved by the state's water rights system, which is based on prior appropriation and more than a century of case law and legislation; and

WHEREAS, the District believes that Constitutional changes should only be adopted if carefully considered and largely supported by the citizens of Colorado, and the requirements for the ballot initiative process should foster a higher level of civic engagement and disincentivize out-of-state special interest groups;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the District supports "Raise the Bar, Requirements for Initiated Constitutional Amendments" (Initiative 2015 No. 96 or Amendment 71) asking voters to hold our state's constitution to a higher standard by mandating minimum signature requirements with geographic diversity of 2% of voters in all 35 State Senate Districts, and increasing the threshold for voter approval from 50% to 55% in order to amend Colorado's Constitution.

DATED this 12th day of October, 2016.

SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: 
John Porter, President

By: 
Robert E. Wolff, Secretary-Treasurer

Passed by a vote of 7 to 0.