

FACTS IN OPPOSITION TO BILL EXEMPTING SYSTEMS THAT REMOVE GROUNDWATER FROM LAW REQUIRING PROTECTION OF SENIOR WATER RIGHTS.

- This bill will reverse Meridian Ranch District's loss in a January 2015 hearing by changing the law statewide. Meridian Ranch is located within the **overappropriated** Upper Black Squirrel Creek Ground Water Management District east of Colorado Springs.
- In overappropriated designated basins, a replacement plan is required for new wells because the basin is being "mined" – more withdrawals than recharge—and senior water rights must be protected.
- Underdrains within a designated basin currently require well permits and a replacement plan to replace depletions in time, place, and amount, thereby preventing **injury to senior vested water rights (many of which are used for farming and agriculture)**. The Ground Water Commission has confirmed that under current law Meridian's underdrain systems require permits and a replacement plan.
- Under this proposed bill, groundwater could be transferred from one drainage basin to another, resulting in **injury to senior vested water rights**. The proposed bill also does not limit the amount of groundwater moved.
- Underdrains within a designated basin collect groundwater and convey the water from one large area (i.e. dewatering shallow groundwater for basements) and discharge the water at another area.
- Flows in underdrains can be large. For example, flows at the Meridian Ranch development are 75 gpm at one underdrain, and flows are 100 gpm at underdrains in the nearby Woodmen Hills development. Meridian's constructed underground gravel pits do not effectively recharge the designated basin water back into the aquifer without any losses; rather, the water ends up on the ground surface and is evaporated or consumed by plants because of overflow or mounding of the water. This results in **injury to senior vested water rights**.
- Without the permitting and replacement plan requirements, the dewatering will be unregulated and management districts and well users will have no ability to require measured flows and replacement of depletions to prevent **injury to senior vested water rights**.
- This is not about small quantity home sump pumps.
- For More Information Contact:

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