

Governor Ritter Appoints Brownstein Shareholder to Colorado Water and Power Authority Board of Directors

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Governor Ritter recently named **Steven Sims**, a Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck shareholder, to the Board of Directors of the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority. Through this appointment, Sims will represent the South Platte drainage basin, providing oversight and guidance in the funding of water and wastewater facilities and projects.

“We are pleased to have someone of Steve’s caliber join the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority,” said Governor Bill Ritter. “Steve’s passion for Colorado’s valuable water resources and environment will greatly benefit the Authority.”

A well-known authority on Colorado water law, Sims is a member of Brownstein’s natural resources, water and land use groups, focusing his time on litigation, appeals, administrative and transactional matters. Sims has represented a multitude of clients on water rights transactions including the City of Aurora in its \$800 million Prairie Waters Project, the City of Wray on the Republican River compact curtailment issue, and the State of Colorado, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the State Engineer on litigation matters defending water rights, water integrity and water conservation.

A true steward of Colorado’s precious water resources, Sims has extensive experience on issues surrounding ground water and surface water conflicts. He has litigated matters in Division 1 and Division 2 Water Courts as well as the Colorado Supreme Court. Sims also has negotiated House and Senate bills passed by the Colorado General Assembly concerning substitute water supply plans and the South Platte well augmentation plans. Additionally, he co-led the U.S. Supreme Court original jurisdiction litigation between Kan., Neb. and Colo., concerning wells that use the Ogallala aquifer in the Republican River Basin.

Sims is the former water counsel and first assistant attorney general for the Water Unit of the Colorado Attorney General’s Office, where he acted as the primary water law advisor for the State and Division Engineers, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Division of Wildlife, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, and other state agencies with water rights issues.

The Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority Board of Directors is a nine-member governing body appointed to four-year terms by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Board members are selected geographically from eight major drainage basins around the state and from the City and County of Denver. The Authority may fund all types of water and wastewater facilities including treatment plants, pump stations, water storage projects, stormwater facilities and non-point source pollution control projects. For more information, visit www.cwrpda.com.

Meet The Team

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