



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Additional Information Contact:
Charie Smith, Board President
970 799-2468

Durango, Colo. May 22, 2026.

Following a nationwide search for a successor General Manager (GM) to current GM Steve Wolff, the board of the Southwestern Water Conservation District (Southwestern) today named Andrew Straub-Heidke as the sole finalist for the position. Straub-Heidke is currently a Senior Hydrologist with Spheros Environmental, formerly LRE Water, in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

The Southwestern board is impressed with Straub-Heidke's extensive Colorado water rights and water project experience with a wide variety of stakeholders across diverse and complex projects. The board is also pleased with Straub-Heidke's familiarity with and knowledge of the hydrology and communities of southwestern Colorado, along with his experience working for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

Colorado law requires a two-week waiting period between publicly naming a finalist and making a formal offer of employment for chief executive officers at public entities. Terms of employment and Straub-Heidke's start date will be included in any formal offer of employment.

Straub-Heidke will replace Steve Wolff, who will retire this summer after five exemplary years as Southwestern's General Manager. The board expresses its best wishes to Steve in his retirement.

The Southwestern Water Conservation District is the principal water policy body for the San Juan and Dolores/San Miguel river basins. The District (<https://www.swwcd.org/>) was created by the Colorado General Assembly in 1941 to protect, conserve, use, and develop the water resources of the Southwestern basins for the welfare of the District and to safeguard for Colorado all waters of the basins to which the state is entitled.