Mitchell shares priorities in ongoing Colorado River negotiations

Mitchell, Colorado's representative on the Upper Colorado River Compact, has devised a set of "irrefutable truths" for the state as the rules governing Colorado River water allocation are revised.

"We absolutely have to stand together. Nobody is more important than anyone else. What I've seen is a real push to weasel our way out of responsibilities," said Becky Mitchell, Colorado's representative on the Upper Colorado River Compact.

The seven Colorado River Basin states are working to temporarily revise the operating guidelines of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, due to the long-term drought in the basin. Mitchell said that the revised rules are needed to help the river.

The second irrefutable truth is that we need flexibility and the ability to adapt to changing conditions — and not just us in the Upper Basin. The first thing is climate change, in real time. The reason I say that is, if we talk about climate change in terms of not, we don't have to talk about that transition. We're going to have a more volatile future, and it could be hotter and drier. We do have to talk about that. What are we willing to do and what are our boundaries?" Mitchell said.

The third irrefutable truth is defending against curtailment. "We are all about being a part of a solution. We're not about being part of continuing the problem." Mitchell said.

The fourth irrefutable truth is knowing that we are all here for a reason. "We are here for a reason. We are here for a reason. We are here for a reason. We are here for a reason. We are here for a reason. We are here for a reason. We are here for a reason. We are here for a reason. We are here for a reason." Mitchell said.

The fifth irrefutable truth is that we need to be accountable. "If the money runs out, and we have not solved the problem, the money runs dry and so will the river." Mitchell said.

The sixth irrefutable truth is defending against curtailment. "We are all about being a part of a solution. We're not about being part of continuing the problem." Mitchell said.

The seventh irrefutable truth is that we need flexibility and the ability to adapt to changing conditions — and not just us in the Upper Basin.