

December 10, 2012

## **Inclusion of Imports of Platte River Basin Water Supplies into the RRCA Accounting**

The importation of water from the Platte River Basin is an established element of the Final Settlement Stipulation (FSS). The Imported Water Supply Credit was established to recognize that waters from the Platte River Basin should not be included in the Virgin Water Supply, but rather credit for these imports should be given exclusively to Nebraska.

Nebraska is proposing to enhance these imports through directly pumping this water supply into the Republican River Basin from areas within the Platte River Basin and mound areas near the drainage divide (see figure 1. Project Area Map). These direct imports can easily be accommodated into the Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA) Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements (Appendix C of the FSS). Nebraska is proposing to include these imports through modifications to the accounting procedures that will reflect that portion of Platte Basin water recharge that is introduced into the Republican River Basin via pipeline, canal, stream course or combination thereof.

The general nature of the project will be to pump mound recharge from an area in northern Frontier and southern Lincoln counties via a pipeline to the headwaters of Medicine Creek. The well field area from which the pumping will occur is located in the mound area near the drainage divide of the Platte River and Republican River basins and is within the area excluded from the moratorium that was established in the FSS. The lands in the project area were formally cropland with approximately 15,800 acres of irrigated lands that will be permanently retired.

The water pumped from the project will be transported through a pipeline and measured at the point where it is delivered to Medicine Creek. From this delivery point these waters will flow through the stream course into the Main Stem and into or through Harlan County Reservoir.