



General Assembly
State of Colorado
Denver

September 6, 2012

Department of the Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building
CENWO-PM-AA
Attention: Gwyn Jarrett
1616 Capitol Ave.
Omaha, NE 68102-4901

RE: Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation

Dear Ms. Jarrett:

The Water Resources Review Committee is an interim committee of the Colorado General Assembly that is authorized to review water issues and propose legislation related to the conservation, use, development, and financing of Colorado's water resources. We the undersigned members of the committee are writing to support the proposed Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Project in Colorado as described in the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report (FR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Study recently released for public comment. We believe this is a much needed water supply opportunity for the Front Range and northeastern Colorado water providers.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that Chatfield Reservoir, located in Douglas and Jefferson counties, can safely store an additional 20,600 acre feet of water beyond that currently held without jeopardizing the reservoir's flood control purposes. The Reservoir's current authorized purposes include flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife and water supply and the reallocation of storage space.

A Draft Integrated FR/EIS on the Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Project has been prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the State of Colorado and in consultation with 15 prospective water users groups and many other interested parties. The water providers who contract and pay for use of the water storage space in Chatfield Reservoir have agreed to undertake and pay for needed mitigation of environmental impacts and to undertake and pay for modification of recreation facilities as needed.

The Chatfield study has been supported by the Colorado Congressional delegation (FY2007-FY2012 appropriations bills and numerous joint letters), the Colorado General Assembly (SJR 07-019) and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (serving as non-federal sponsor for the study, January 2010 resolution, and allocation of \$13 million to assist with implementation) including an appropriation of \$5 million dollars in the Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Fund Bill (House Bill 12S-1001).

Storing more water in Chatfield Reservoir will make better use of an existing facility and capture additional runoff flowing down the South Platte River and Plum Creek without pumping. Allocating that added storage space to entities holding current water rights to that water will prevent the loss of as much as 20,600 acre feet of South Platte River water in wet years to out-of-state flows.


There is an anticipated water supply shortage of approximately 99,000 to 360,000 AF per year in the South Platte River Basin over the next 40 years. We believe that every opportunity to make better use of the water we have must be pursued, along with conservation and reuse efforts.

In a drought year like this one, the added water storage space in Chatfield (along with aggressive water conservation efforts) could make the difference in having enough water for municipal, industrial, agricultural and environmental purposes.


We support the Tentatively Recommended Plan in the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement on the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project and direct that this letter be delivered to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to made part of the record of public comments on this draft FR/EIS.

In addition, we urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete its final review of the project and issue a Record of Decision in a timely manner so that additional water can be stored in Chatfield Reservoir as soon as possible.

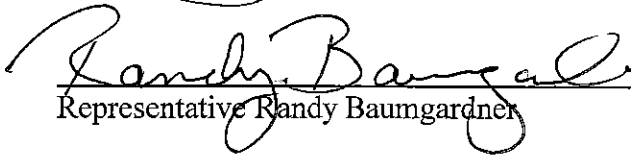
Sincerely,



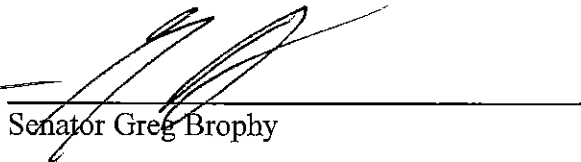
Representative Jerry Sonnenberg, Chair



Senator Gail Schwartz, Vice-Chair



Representative Randy Baumgardner



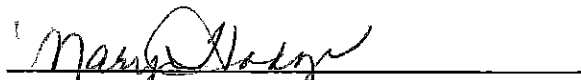
Senator Greg Brophy

Representative Keith Swerdferger

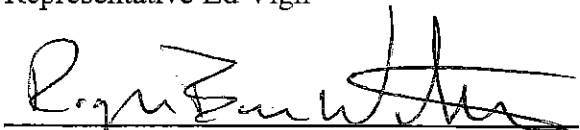
Senator Angela Giron



Representative Ed Vigil



Senator Mary Hodge



Representative Roger Wilson



Senator Ellen Roberts