

DONALA

Water & Sanitation District

Mr. Ray Alvarado
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1580 Logan Street, Ste. 200
Denver, Colorado 80203

July 12, 2010

RE: Colorado River Water Availability Study (CRWAS), Phase 1 Report

Dear Mr. Alvarado;

The Donala Water & Sanitation District would like to register its concern with the CRWAS Phase 1 Report as it stands in its draft form. Donala is a small district in northern El Paso County. Although our current source of water is the Denver Basin, we are interested in Colorado River water as a substitute, renewable source. Hopefully you are aware of the situation that all entities on the Front Range are facing with the depletion of the Denver Basin.

Donala is a member of the Colorado Water Authority (CWA), formerly the Colorado Water Resources Project Cooperative Development Authority. As such, we are looking at the Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Wyoming and the use of Colorado's entitlement to that water. For that reason, the accuracy and viability of the CRWAS is very important. It is especially important that a study commissioned by the taxpayers of Colorado does not imply that there is not enough water available for Colorado to realize its rightful share of Colorado River water. As you well know, the lower basin states have long been using more than their Compact share, and for Colorado to state that there may be no more water available - therefore we (Colorado) will not claim any more than we are now using - would be very unfortunate.

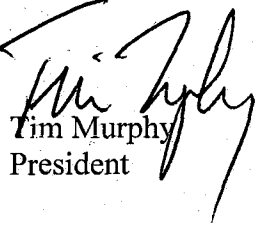
Any "scientific" engineering report that claims a range of available water from zero to 900,000 acre feet has questionable technical value at best. We urge you to refine the various scenarios and the resulting forecast so that the study can be appropriately used for water manager planning. Already engineering and legal firms in the state with clients on Colorado's West Slope are lining up to cite this study to make their clients' case that there is no more water for the citizens of Colorado.

As has been documented in court and discussed many times in the past, Colorado's water is there for ALL the citizens of the state. In the past, Colorado water politics has been driven by the West Slope - where 15% of the population controls 85% of the water. This draft appears to us to continue that deference to West Slope interests over Colorado interests in general. Colorado's Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources, Harris Sherman, gave credence to that policy in 2008 when he issued letters to the two parties interested in Flaming Gorge water. He basically stated that the outcome of CRWAS would answer important questions that would determine, or at least influence, Colorado's support for the project. The study does not appear to answer those important questions. Additionally, the primacy of West Slope interests will result

once again in the 85% of the population on the Front Range standing in line behind the lower basin states when it comes to use of Colorado River water which we rightfully own.

In summary, we urge you to take a hard look at the study, acknowledge that it falls short of developing policy guidelines for use of the River, initiate a peer review process that includes Front Range interests, and issue a strong statement that reiterates that all the people of Colorado are entitled to the waters under the Compacts. Finally, we urge the state to give up on relying on this study for analysis of the Flaming Gorge project, and move ahead to support the project on that basis of sound science and logic, not internal politics.

Cordially;


Tim Murphy
President

CC: Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority
El Paso County Water Authority
Colorado Water Authority