

# STATE OF COLORADO

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

January 25, 2008

Jeff Shoemaker  
Executive Director  
The Greenway Foundation  
1040 South Gaylord Street, Suite 201  
Denver, Colorado 80209

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

On behalf of the State of Colorado, I write to express support for the efforts of the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Coalition to secure federal funding for the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Environmental Impact Statement. As the local sponsor for the project, the Colorado Water Conservation Board is working in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete work on the EIS.

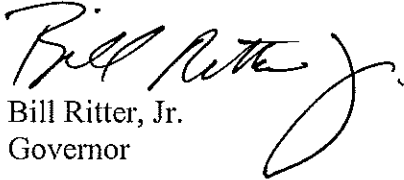
As Colorado continues to grow, particularly in the Denver metropolitan area, we must look at the resources we have to determine whether we can put existing infrastructure to better use. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that Chatfield Reservoir can accommodate an additional 20,600 acre feet of water storage without limiting its usefulness as a flood control structure. This additional storage space will be used by a group of water providers, farmers and environmental organizations to meet the diverse needs of our growing state. It is imperative that the current EIS move forward in a timely fashion. It is critical that federal funding for the EIS be available to complete this important study. This once-in-a-generation opportunity enjoys broad support from municipal, agricultural and environmental interests.

- It will make use of an existing water storage facility.
- It will not require construction of a new water storage facility.
- It may bring significant revenues to the federal treasury.
- The water will originate from snowmelt and stormwater runoff within the South Platte River Basin and will be captured and stored in Chatfield.
- It will provide additional water for Northeast Colorado farmers to help meet critical irrigation needs.
- It will help cities and special districts meet drinking water and other municipal needs both above and below Chatfield.
- It will provide opportunities for environmental and recreational enhancements along the South Platte River in the 53-mile Denver urban river corridor from Chatfield Reservoir to below the Adams County-Weld County line.

1/25/2008

The Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project is an excellent example of the solutions that Colorado must embrace to meet my vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century that calls for maximizing water supplies through a responsible mix of conservation, re-use, efficiency, cooperation and voluntary crop-to-city water agreements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bill Ritter, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor