

STATE OF COLORADO



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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February 27, 2009

Honorable Jared Polis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Harris D. Sherman
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

Dan McAuliffe
CWCB Deputy Director

Dear Representative Polis:

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) asks for your support for a Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations request of \$310,000 for the Chatfield, Cherry Creek and Bear Creek Reservoirs, Colorado, Omaha District, General Investigations Study.

The CWCB was created in 1937 for the purpose of aiding in the protection and development of the waters of the state. The agency is responsible for water project planning and finance, stream and lake protection, flood hazard identification and mitigation, watershed restoration, water conservation and drought planning, water information, and water supply protection.

The Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Study (Study) would create storage space for up to an additional 20,600 acre-feet of water in Chatfield Reservoir. The storage space will be made available to upstream and downstream municipal and agricultural users as well as potentially achieving environmental and recreational benefits in the urban South Platte River corridor. The Study's Coordinating Committee has assembled an impressive coalition of supporters for this initiative:

Government and Non-Profit:

- Colorado Governor Bill Ritter
- Colorado General Assembly
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Douglas County Board of Commissioners
- Douglas County Water Resource Authority
- Metro Basin Roundtable
- South Suburban Parks and Recreation District
- South Platte Basin Roundtable
- Urban Drainage and Flood Control District
- Weld County Board of Commissioners
- Audubon Society of Greater Denver
- South Platte Group of the Sierra Club
- Chatfield Basin Conservation Network
- Colorado Environmental Coalition
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited
- Western Resource Advocates

Downstream Water Providers:

- City of Aurora
- City of Brighton
- Central Colorado Water Conservancy District
- Colorado Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
- Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield
- Western Mutual Ditch Company

Instream Interests:

- City and County of Denver
- Denver Water
- The Greenway Foundation
- City of Littleton
- Metro Wastewater Reclamation District

Upstream Water Providers:

- Town of Castle Rock
- Castle Pines Metropolitan District
- Castle Pines North Metropolitan District
- Centennial Water and Sanitation District
- Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District
- Mount Carbon Metropolitan District
- Perry Park Country Club
- Roxborough Water and Sanitation District
- South Metro Water Supply Authority

If funding is approved by Congress, the funding would come from the Defense Department, Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, General Investigations Studies, Account Number 010592.

The initial construction for Chatfield was authorized in 1950 by Public Law 81-516. Further modifications to this authorization were contained in Section 808 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, which allowed the Secretary of the Army to reassign a portion of the storage space in Chatfield Lake for joint flood control-conservation purposes, including fishery habitat protection and enhancement. It was amended in Section 3042 of the 2007 WRD to include environmental restoration to the purposes.

The amount requested in Fiscal Year 2010 is \$310,000 and the total cost of the study is \$4,960,000. Funding for the study is based on a 50% federal/50% non-federal share. The federal share is being matched with a commensurate amount of State of Colorado and water provider resources through cash and in-kind services. Past federal funding supported work on the Reconnaissance Study, Feasibility Study and currently the Environmental Impact Statement.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,


for Jennifer Gimbel, Director