



WESTERN RESOURCE
ADVOCATES

**Western Resource Advocates
Sierra Club
Colorado Environmental Coalition**

September 5, 2012

Sent via email (chatfieldstudy@usace.army.mil)

Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
CENWO-PM-AA
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102-4901

**Re: Comments on Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Draft
Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement**

Dear Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District:

Western Resource Advocates, the Sierra Club, and Colorado Environmental Coalition (collectively, “Conservation Groups”) herein provide written comments on the Army Corps of Engineers’ (“Corps”) Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”). The Corps issued the DEIS on June 8, 2012.

The Conservation Groups are pleased to reaffirm their support for Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation (“Chatfield Reallocation”) as proposed under Alternative 3 in the DEIS (also referred to in the DEIS as the “Tentatively Recommended Plan”). In our view, select new-supply projects, including Chatfield Reallocation, high rates of water conservation, more aggressive use of water recycling and reuse, and voluntary sharing of water with agriculture can combine to meet and exceed 2050 water demands for the South Platte Basin. Chatfield Reallocation exemplifies the opportunities available to state water planners to meet reasonable anticipated water needs without building expensive, energy-consuming, and environmentally-damaging large-scale concrete and steel water project proposals.

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While we support the proposed action, certain elements of the Corps' analysis in the DEIS are insufficient. Specifically, we believe the Corps should revise its analysis under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act to reflect the true environmental costs and benefits of Chatfield Reallocation. We also are concerned that the opportunities for downstream flow enhancement are not significantly reflected in the DEIS' analysis of predicted hydrology downstream of Chatfield Dam. In addition, we believe that enforceable mitigation milestones are essential to successful implementation of the proposed action. Finally, we request that the Corps provide a firm yield estimate or explain in detail how the proponents intend to turn an "average year yield" into a water supply that their customers can depend on in droughts.

The Conservation Groups and their Interests

Western Resource Advocates is a nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to protecting the Interior West's land, air, and water. For over a decade, Western Resource Advocates has engaged with utilities, state, and federal government agencies to find solutions to meet growing urban water demands while protecting stream flows, endangered fish, and critical habitat.

The **Sierra Club's** members and supporters are more than 1.3 million. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

Colorado Environmental Coalition is a Colorado-based environmental advocacy organization with two field offices in western Colorado and a main office in Denver, Colorado. CEC has more than 4,000 individual members and over 90 affiliated organizations. CEC campaigns engage citizens in the protection of Colorado's wild places, healthy rivers, wildlife and quality of life.

I. Chatfield Reallocation will help Colorado chart an environmentally balanced course to meeting current and future water needs.

Colorado's millions of people, its landscape, its fish and wildlife, and its farms and businesses all depend on water. Healthy rivers and streams support a diversity of fish, wildlife, and ecosystems, and draw residents and visitors to the state's world famous natural areas. All of this is at risk, however, unless decision-makers in Colorado shift to more innovative, balanced approaches for supplying water to a growing population while sustaining Colorado's rivers and streams.

The Chatfield Reallocation Project reflects an important part of this balanced approach. The Project will contribute to solving critical multi-use water supply needs along the South Platte River in Colorado. This project would:

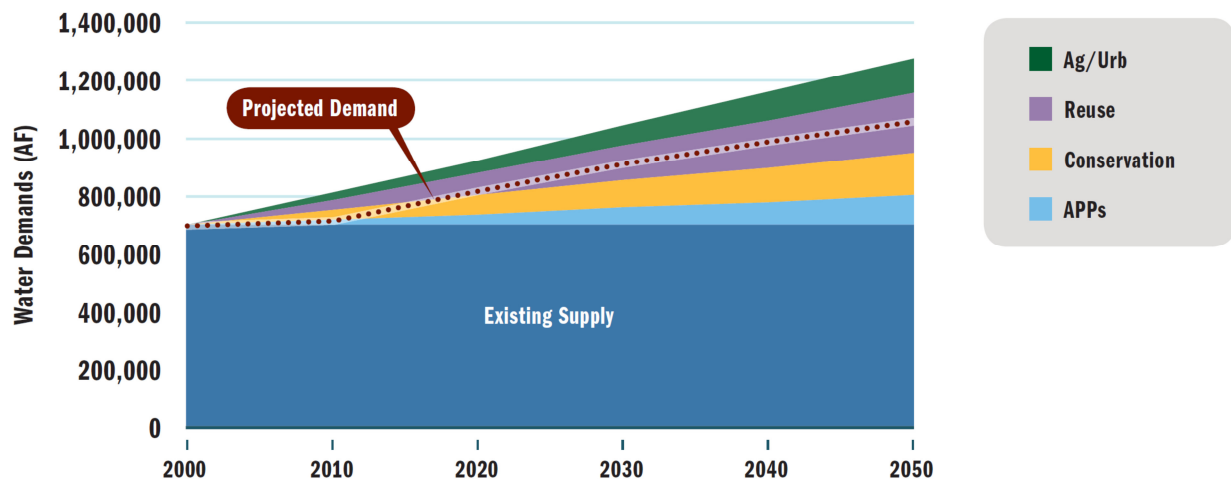
- Make use of an existing water storage facility

- Not require construction of a new water storage facility
- Reduce cities and special districts’ dependence on non-renewable groundwater resources
- Provide additional management flexibility to regional water suppliers

The State of Colorado, through its Department of Natural Resources, recently completed the 2010 Statewide Water Supply Initiative (“SWSI”).¹ The SWSI report projects future municipal water demands by river basin, estimates the additional quantity of water needed to meet future demands, and proposes strategies for increasing future water supply. SWSI states that a “portfolio approach,” including local projects, water conservation, reuse, and sharing water with agriculture, will be the best path forward for meeting future water needs.

Using data compiled in SWSI, Western Resource Advocates, Trout Unlimited, and Colorado Environmental Coalition published a report that illustrates a portfolio of future water supply options that more than meets future water needs in the South Platte basin without large, environmentally-damaging trans-mountain pipelines. The report, *Filling the Gap: Commonsense Solutions for Meeting Front Range Water Needs*, demonstrates that select structural projects, including Chatfield Reallocation, high rates of water conservation, more aggressive use of water recycling and reuse, and voluntary sharing of water with agriculture can combine to produce an excess in supply of more than 200,000 acre-feet by 2050 for the South Platte basin (Figure 1).²

Figure 1. A portfolio approach to meeting future water needs without large pipelines.



¹ Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado’s Water Supply Future, Statewide Water Supply Initiative 2010 (2011), available at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/water-supply-planning/Pages/SWSI2010.aspx>.

² Western Resource Advocates, Trout Unlimited, & Colorado Environmental Coalition, *Filling the Gap: Commonsense Solutions for Meeting Front Range Water Needs* (2011), attached as Exh. A.

The *Filling the Gap* Plan for Meeting Front Range Water Needs:

- Acceptable Planned Projects (“APPs”). In the South Platte basin, future demands are projected to increase by as much as 365,000 AF between 2010 and 2050. Chatfield Reallocation is among many water supply storage projects undergoing federal review, several of which could be built and managed in a way that adequately mitigates their environmental impacts (Acceptable Planned Projects; “APPs” in Figure 1). Together, these select projects – including Chatfield Reallocation – can provide 102,000 acre-feet of new supply annually.
- Conservation. Published literature and the Colorado Water Conservation Board’s studies indicate that per capita water use can be significantly reduced over the next 40 years through existing water conservation techniques, practices, and technology. Using only a portion of conservation savings to meet future demand, a 34% reduction in per capita demand – the SWSI “high” conservation strategy – would result in 153,000 acre-feet of new water supply by 2050.
- Reuse. Future plans for water recycling and reuse in the Denver area total about 171,000 acre-feet per year.³ By maximizing exchange opportunities and substitution plans, significantly increasing both direct and indirect reuse, and constructing a few large-scale reuse projects, the South Platte basin will have an estimated 199,000 acre-feet of reuse water available annually to meet new demands by 2050. For example, the WISE Partnership, a joint project between Denver Water, Aurora Water, and South Metro water suppliers located in Douglas County, could provide up to 60,000 acre-feet/year of reuse water. The WISE Partnership feasibility study is underway by South Metro entities, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has said rural water supply funds may be available for the project.
- Voluntary sharing of water with agriculture (“Ag/Urb”). Municipal water supplies can be increased with financial benefit to the agricultural community through the use of voluntary ag/urban sharing arrangements, like rotational land fallowing, interruptible supply agreements, and water leasing. Assuming the physical and administrative structures are put in place, sharing one-quarter of the dry-year water supplies owned by agriculture could produce approximately 120,000 acre-feet of new supply annually.

Chatfield Reallocation exemplifies that these solutions for meeting future water needs are not just proposed by the conservation community, they are being implemented by water providers across Colorado. Future water management is progressing towards these flexible and adaptable approaches, and away from environmentally-damaging large-scale concrete and steel water project proposals.

³ Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Metropolitan Water Supply Investigation Final Report (January 1999), *attached as Exh. B*.

II. The Corps should revise its Clean Water Act § 404(b)(1) analysis to incorporate impacts of inundation from Chatfield Reallocation to wetlands and riparian habitat.

While we fully support Chatfield Reallocation, we are troubled by the Corps' 404(b)(1) analysis in the DEIS.⁴ Omitting the majority of the wetlands and the aquatic ecosystem impacts of Chatfield Reallocation from the analysis sets a potentially dangerous precedent that could undermine the environmental conservation mandate of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Instead, the Corps should compare meeting Front Range water needs with several small-scale and less impactful projects – including Chatfield Reallocation – against the impacts of large-scale water imports from other river basins. In sum, we believe that the Corps reaches the right conclusion – but for the wrong reasons. Accordingly, the Corps should revise Appendix W of the DEIS.

A. Project bifurcation results in the omission of the great majority of the impacts to wetlands and aquatic habitat from the 404(b)(1) analysis.

The Corps' 404(b)(1)⁵ analysis distinguishes between impacts to wetlands and the aquatic environment caused by reallocation of storage space in Chatfield Reservoir and impacts to wetlands and the aquatic environment caused by modifying the recreational facilities and implementing environmental mitigation at Chatfield Reservoir.⁶ The former action arguably does not require the discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States, while the latter action clearly does. The Corps concludes that the reallocation of storage space in Chatfield Reservoir is not part of the project for which the applicants seek a dredge and fill permit.⁷ By bisecting the Tentatively Recommended Plan into two separate actions, the Corps thus avoids conducting a 404(b)(1) analysis for Chatfield Reallocation's full impacts to wetlands and the aquatic ecosystem under the Clean Water Act.⁸

As an initial factual matter, it is questionable whether the applicants would proceed with Chatfield Reallocation if the Corps denied the dredge and fill permit for environmental and recreational mitigation. Chatfield State Park, where the reservoir is located, is Colorado's most visited state park.⁹ Therefore, it appears unlikely that Chatfield Reallocation would be politically viable without its mitigation plan.

Even assuming that the applicants would pursue Chatfield Reallocation without a 404 permit, we are aware of no precedent for bifurcating projects into dredge-and-fill, and

⁴ See DEIS Appx. W.

⁵ See 33 U.S.C. § 1344(b)(1); 40 C.F.R. Part 230.10.

⁶ DEIS at W-2.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ We are satisfied that the DEIS takes an adequate "hard look" at the impacts of inundation for informed decision-making under NEPA. See 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(C).

⁹ Colorado State Parks, Dog Off-Leash Area Management Plan 1 (Oct. 2010), available at <http://parks.state.co.us/SiteCollectionImages/parks/Parks/Chatfield/Documents/DOLA/Management%20Plan.pdf>.

non-dredge and fill components in a manner that avoids analysis of most of the proposed action's wetlands and the aquatic ecosystem impacts. In *National Wildlife Federation v. Whistler*,¹⁰ the Federal Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit upheld project bifurcation and alternatives analysis under section 404(b)(1) where the Corps found that an uplands housing development would proceed even if the Corps denied a dredge and fill permit application to construct related boat docks. Importantly, in *Whistler*, the Corps concluded that no wetlands or aquatic habitat would have been impacted by the uplands houses alone, and that even construction of the boat docks "resulted in little or no net loss to the nation's wetlands."¹¹

Admittedly, the dredge and fill activities directly allowing Chatfield Reallocation were permitted prior to the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972.¹² We have no doubt that had Chatfield Reservoir been permitted post-1972, that the Corps' analysis in Appx. W would impermissibly expand the scope of a hypothetical original 404 Permit. However, that the bifurcation in Appendix W of the DEIS has the effect of omitting the great majority of wetlands and aquatic habitat impacts of Chatfield Reallocation from section 404(b)(1) review, is a fact adverse to the agency's position under the *Whistler* analysis.

B. The Corps should revise the Section 404(b)(1) analysis to reflect Chatfield Reallocation's true costs and benefits.

The Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") Section 404(b)(1) regulations provide an alternative path—a better scope of analysis that is more consonant with the true costs and benefits of Chatfield Reallocation. Adverse environmental consequences, other than adverse impacts to aquatic ecosystems, may be relevant to EPA's Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative ("LEDPA") analysis where such consequences are "significant."¹³ When viewed in context of water supply challenges along Colorado's Front Range, Chatfield Reallocation is well designed to help avoid numerous aquatic and non-aquatic environmental impacts region-wide.

- i. Energy use, including the use of non-renewable, greenhouse gas polluting energy, should be a key consideration in evaluating the sustainability of alternatives to the Chatfield Reallocation.*

Alternatives to Chatfield Reallocation should be considered in light of Chatfield Reallocation's stated purpose and need for a sustainable water supply. Specifically, the Draft EIS for Chatfield Reallocation states:

The purpose of and need for the action is to increase availability of water, ***sustainable*** over the 50-year period of analysis, in the greater Denver area

¹⁰ 27 F.3d 1341 (1994).

¹¹ *See id.* at 1346.

¹² *See* DEIS at 1-1.

¹³ 40 C.F.R. § 230.10(a).

so that a larger proportion of existing and future (increasing) water needs can be met.¹⁴

Using non-renewable fossil fuels to power alternatives is a significant potential environmental consequence of those alternatives, and would not address the Chatfield Reallocation's stated purpose and need of sustainability. The Corps and EPA should view the fossil fuel costs of alternatives involving the use on non-renewable energy consumption as a significant environmental consequence of those alternatives. For comparison, because no one GHG action can be linked to specific climate change impacts, but all GHG emissions, no matter how small, contribute to the problem of climate change, then all GHG emissions are collectively significant under NEPA. *Center for Biological Diversity v. Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Admin.*, 538 F.3d 1172, 1217 (9th Cir. 2008) (finding that although a proposed emissions rule for light trucks would have and individually minor effect on the global climate, the rule was "collectively significant" within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. § 1508.7). "The impact of greenhouse gas emissions on climate change is precisely the kind of cumulative impacts analysis that NEPA requires agencies to conduct." *Id.*

In particular, the south Denver Metro participants currently rely on pumping non-renewable non-tributary groundwater.¹⁵ Because of "cascading reduction in well yield," water suppliers using non-renewable non-tributary groundwater must drill and maintain non-renewable non-tributary groundwater wells over time at an exponentially increasing rate to maintain a constant minimum yield.¹⁶ These exponentially increasing energy demands would cause indirect increases in greenhouse gas emissions.

Similarly, large transbasin diversions are a foreseeable potential cumulative impact¹⁷ of the NTGW/Downstream Gravel Pits Alternative.¹⁸ Many of Colorado's other proposed water supply projects would involve substantial energy demands. The proposed pipeline from Flaming Gorge, for example, would emit an between 180,000 and 480,000 short tons of CO₂ each year; the Northern Integrated Supply Project ("NISP"), which would deliver considerably less water than the Flaming Gorge pipeline, would emit between 31,000 and 53,000 short tons of CO₂ each year.¹⁹ Upstream alternatives to Chatfield

¹⁴ DEIS at 1-1 (emphasis added).

¹⁵ *Id.* at 1-2.

¹⁶ Colorado Foundation for Water Education, *Citizen's Guide to Denver Basin Groundwater* at 21 (2007), excerpt attached as Exh. C; *see also* DEIS at 2-2.

¹⁷ *Cf.* 40 C.F.R. § 1508.7 (under NEPA, "[c]umulative impact' is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such actions.").

¹⁸ *See, e.g., supra* note 1 at Section 7 (discussing several project concepts for importing water from the Colorado's West Slope and Arkansas River Basin into the South Platte River Basin); *see also* DEIS at 2-60 to -61 (water providers have indicated that they do not intend to continue to rely on NTGW; NTGW would not meet the needs of all of the upstream water suppliers).

¹⁹ Emissions estimates for the Flaming Gorge pipeline are calculated by WRA, and reflect estimated energy demands and hydroelectric generation. The emissions range for NISP reflects the project's energy demands with and without a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation to use

Reallocation considered in the Draft EIS each involve at least some energy use in the form of water pumping.²⁰ While some of these projects are not technically direct alternatives to Chatfield Reallocation, we believe that ignoring them in the context of meeting Front Range water needs is to be blind to the political, economic, and environmental realities of filling Colorado’s water supply “Gap.”²¹

- ii. *Meeting water needs with small-scale, less impactful projects – including Chatfield Reallocation – will avoid the significant aquatic impacts of large transbasin diversions.*

In our view, the scope of Colorado’s projected water supply Gap highlights that the real choice facing Coloradans is to pursue an incremental portfolio of aggressive conservation, reuse, ag-to-urban transfers, incremental local projects like Chatfield Reallocation; or, to build outdated and high-priced large-scale concrete and steel water project proposals. Large transbasin diversions would likely have a significantly adverse impact on aquatic resources. For example, Flaming Gorge Pipeline would divert and deplete between 26% and 57% of the flow of the Green River in Wyoming during dry years.²² The threat that the Flaming Gorge Pipeline poses to federally listed endangered fish species is not yet fully understood; however, the Pipeline appears incompatible with the goals of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Implementation Program.

Chatfield Reallocation’s unique advantages as an existing mainstem storage facility located in the south metropolitan Denver area – near to one of the region’s most critically water-short areas – combined with the balanced water supply plan outlined in Part I of this letter, show that a Chatfield Reallocation is a part of the best path forward for minimizing environmental impacts to the Interior West as a whole, while meeting the Front Range’s critical water supply needs.

III. The downstream project participants should make best efforts to release stored water at times that maximize the health of downstream fish habitat.

The DEIS notes that one of the opportunities of Chatfield Reallocation is that “[s]trategically timed releases of water from Chatfield Reservoir can potentially provide recreational and environmental benefits to the urban and downstream reaches of the South Platte River.”²³ As stated in the DEIS, “Managing the timing, duration, and

Bureau facilities. For both estimates, we assume the carbon intensity of electricity used for pumping is the statewide average (for Wyoming and Colorado, respectively).

²⁰ See Chatfield Reallocation DEIS at 2-36 (discussion of Penley Reservoir as part of the No Action Alternative), 2-60 (Alternative 2), 2-62 (Alternative 4).

²¹ See *supra* note 1.

²² WRA calculates this depletion range based on 47 years of historical Flaming Gorge Reservoir inflow data, with 26% of those years classified as “dry.” WRA further assumes that the pipeline would divert 250,000 acre-feet annually.

²³ DEIS at 2-4.

amount of flow from the Chatfield Reservoir is an important tool in enhancing aquatic biota in the South Platte River.”²⁴ Furthermore, improved flows, particularly during low flow periods, may provide significant benefits to fish populations through improved water quality.²⁵

While operating reallocated storage releases to benefit downstream environmental and recreational uses may make sense conceptually, we are disappointed that these potential benefits are not clearly reflected in the DEIS’ analysis of the effects of the proposed action to downstream hydrology.²⁶ We understand that the downstream project participants and other stakeholders are in discussions to maximize the potential downstream flow benefits during low flow periods, while helping to stabilize the water levels at Chatfield Reservoir during the summer. We believe that process should be finalized and the predicted flow regime incorporated into the EIS before any record of decision approving Chatfield Reallocation. However, should these negotiations conclude after a record of decision, we believe that a well-crafted agreement that lessens the predicted environmental impacts of Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation by helping meet critical downstream habitat needs and stabilizing the reservoir storage levels should not require preparation of a supplemental EIS or EA.²⁷ We support these efforts and expect them to continue to successful completion.

IV. The Draft Compensatory Mitigation Plan must set enforceable milestones for implementing wildlife habitat mitigation activities.

The efficacy and enforceability of the Compensatory Mitigation Plan (“CMP”) for important wildlife habitat is, understandably, one of the most sensitive and important subjects surrounding Chatfield Reallocation. By linking the use of reallocated space in Chatfield Reservoir to implementation and ecological functional unit (“EFU”) gained milestones in the CMP, the Corps appropriately encourages and incentivizes proper and timely implementation of the CMP.²⁸

To make certain that the mitigation commitments in the CMP are enforceable they must be explicitly delineated in the Record of Decision, when that stage in the process is reached, and the ROD must further make clear that a majority of the Technical Advisory Committee²⁹ will have to agree that the milestones have been reached.³⁰ While Appendix

²⁴ *Id.* at 4-51.

²⁵ *Id.* at 4-52.

²⁶ See DEIS at 4-28 to -29, and -51 (Figures 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-8, 4-12); compare DEIS at H-C-4 with DEIS at H-C-6.

²⁷ See *Colorado Env'tl. Coal. v. Dombeck*, 185 F.3d 1162, 1178 (10th Cir. 1999) (supplementation of an EIS unnecessary where the agency evaluated the significance of new information, and provided a reasoned explanation for its finding that the new information was not significant).

²⁸ DEIS Appx. K at 63 (Tables 13 & 14), 64-67.

²⁹ *Id.* at 70.

³⁰ While the proposed make-up of the Technical Advisory Committee is tentative, *id.*, we believe that the active participation of relevant state and federal wildlife agencies including the U.S. Fish

K states that the “Chatfield Reservoir Mitigation Company will have discretion to accept or reject, in whole or in part, the recommendations from its advisory committee,”³¹ we believe that an exception must be made with respect to the milestones. We are confident that if this is done, the CMP milestones will be enforceable and the reallocation project will be properly mitigated.

V. The Corps should improve its analysis of the alternatives against potential use of non-tributary groundwater.

“Average year yield” is not a water supply term that urban water supplies normally use, it is not a water supply on which suppliers can depend, and it is not a water supply that allows urban utilities to sell taps. A firm supply of water (a supply that will carry a utility through a design drought) is the kind of supply utilities need and the use of “average year yield” makes the DEIS reader wonder what the project proponents really get out of the proposed Chatfield Reallocation. The DEIS is inadequate in its explanation of what the reallocation’s benefits may be and how the reallocated storage will actually be used. Moreover, the DEIS is misleading in its comparison, both on the basis of cost and yield, of the reallocation with the use of NTGW. It is a comparison of the cost and yield of one option, reallocation, on an average yield basis and another option, NTGW, on a firm yield basis.

The Metro Water Supply Investigation (MWSI, 1999) described the Chatfield reallocation yield (a firm yield) in the following way: "Preliminary modeling suggests that additional long-term water supply storage at Chatfield in the range of 5,000 to 40,000 acre-feet could produce yields of 2,000 to 8,000 acre-feet respectively." This suggests that the 20,600 AF in the DEIS will produce a firm yield, based on a linear interpolation, of slightly less than 4,400 AF. The storage/yield ratio of 4.4-to-1 is not great, but it is not bad by today's standards.

On the other hand, a simple firm yield analysis of the data contained in Enclosure 2 of Appendix BB,³² suggests that the firm yield may exceed 4,400 AF. Assuming that over-year storage is allowable and employing a simple mass balance calculation that does not account for evaporative and other losses or for interference with any other demands on the South Platte (Storage(end of year 2) = Storage(end of year 1) + Natural Inflow(year 2) + Non-natural Inflow (year 2) – Demand (year 2)) produces an estimate in the neighborhood of 5,000 AF. Accounting for losses and other complications will certainly lower this estimate. The point, however, is not to speculate about the yield of the reallocated storage, but require the DEIS to describe how the water utilities intend to use the storage so that the public and decision-makers can understand the true benefits that are being exchanged for the environmental losses that reallocation will cause.

& Wildlife Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife will be especially important to ensuring that the Technical Advisory Committee fulfills our proposed oversight purpose.

³¹ *Id.*

³² DEIS Appx. BB at 10 (table entitled Chatfield Reservoir with Project – Reallocation of 20,600 AF: Total Annual Storage Inflows in Acre Feet).

The Corps has two options on how it might deal with the yield issue. It can calculate the reallocation's firm yield and report the results on that basis in the EIS or it can describe how the proponents plan to incorporate the use of the reallocated space into their water management systems, i.e., a full and complete description of the project. What the DEIS offers now is not adequate. For example, the analysis of Chatfield reallocation's value ought to be associated with who owns NTGW wells and who does not. The interplay or coordinated operation of wells and reallocated Chatfield storage (e.g., using Chatfield water during average and wet years and NTGW during dry years) could make the "average year yield" more valuable than it would otherwise appear to be, while at the same time extending the cost-effective life of the wells. To properly assess the benefits of the reallocation, the DEIS should provide a firm yield estimate or explain in detail how the proponents intend to turn an "average year yield" into a water supply that their customers can depend on in droughts. In particular, conjunctive use of surface and groundwater may provide the justification for the providers' reliance on average year yield. However, without such an explanation – an explanation that we believe can be provided – we do not think that a full justification for the space reallocation has been presented.

VI. Conclusion

We believe that Chatfield Reallocation may serve as an important precedent determining whether water suppliers will pursue similar less-impactful small-scale intrabasin water supply projects in the future. While we have concerns regarding aspects of the analysis in the DEIS, we support Chatfield Reallocation a part of a common-sense approach to meeting Colorado's water supply "Gap."

We respectfully request that the Corps revise the DEIS, consistent with these comments.

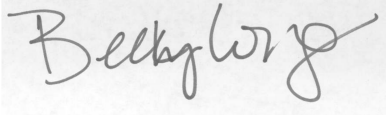
Sincerely,



Robert K. Harris
Staff Attorney
Western Resource Advocates



Michael J. Mueller
Chatfield Issues Specialist
Sierra Club

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature reads "Becky Long" in a cursive, flowing script.

Becky Long
Water Caucus Coordinator
Colorado Environmental Coalition