



IN REPLY REFER TO:

EC-1300
ENV-6.00

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Eastern Colorado Area Office
11056 West County RD 18E
Loveland, Colorado 80537-97111



Colorado Springs Utilities
Bruce McCormick
Water Services Division Officer
P.O. Box 1103, MC0940
Colorado Springs, CO 80947-0940

Subject: Request to Revise Colorado Springs' No Action Alternative (NAA) and Alternative 7 – Southern Delivery System Project (SDS) – Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, Colorado

Dear Mr. McCormick:

Your letter dated January 24, 2007, requested changes to Colorado Springs' NAA and Alternative 7 for the Southern Delivery System Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). After review, the Bureau of Reclamation finds both proposed changes to be reasonable and accepts them subject to the following comments:

We note that the NAA for the other Project Participants (City of Fountain, Security Water and Sanitation District, and Pueblo West Metropolitan District) will not change. We also note that the Alternative 7 changes apply to all Project Participants except Pueblo West, which is a conditional participant in the SDS and would not participate in any alternative that does not include a connection to Pueblo Dam.

During initial scoping meetings and subsequent input, the public expressed a strong interest in an alternative including planned indirect potable water reuse. Given that reuse was a primary component of Colorado Springs' original NAA, but is not included in Colorado Springs' new NAA, Reclamation will develop and analyze a new alternative that includes potable reuse for Colorado Springs. Since your analysis has demonstrated that Denver Basin groundwater is not a feasible source of the required "blend water," the new alternative will incorporate a different source. The new alternative will be structured so that it meets the stated Purpose and Need for the SDS, including: meeting most or all projected future demands through 2046; providing system redundancy; and perfecting and delivering the Participants' existing Arkansas River Basin water rights.

The requested changes to alternatives and Reclamation's forthcoming evaluation of a potable reuse alternative will require that an addendum be prepared and issued to Reclamation's Alternatives Analysis report issued in March 2006.

Revisions will also be made to a number of previously-drafted technical reports and EIS sections. Reclamation will work with our consultant, MWH Americas, Inc., to implement these changes.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Jaci Gould of my staff at 970-962-4338 or jgould@gp.usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

Fred R. Ore
Area Manager

cc: Colorado Springs Utilities
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bc: GP-4200 (Fritz, LaFontaine)

EC-1200 (Musgrove), EC-1300 (Gould)
WBR:JGOULD:lnguyen:2/15/07:970-962-4338
G:secretary/Jaci/SDS/SDSAlternatives