



"Kara Lamb"
<KLAMB@gp.usbr.gov>
03/25/2008 03:58 PM

To "Patrick - Colorado Springs CO Espinoza Jr"
<patrick.espinozajr@usps.gov>
cc
bcc

Subject Re: Southern Delivery System

Patrick,
Thank you for your comments on the SDS. I will make sure they are incorporated into our environmental review process.

Best,
Kara

Kara Lamb
Public Information
Eastern Colorado Area Office
Bureau of Reclamation
(970) 962-4326

>>> "Espinoza Jr, Patrick - Colorado Springs, CO" <patrick.espinozajr@usps.gov> 03/25/08
10:29 AM >>>

Kara Lamb,

I am writing to comment on the Southern Delivery System to provide water to Colorado Springs. I have lived in Pueblo all my life, 57 years. I have also worked in Colorado Springs since 1984, first at Ft. Carson and then at the United States Post Office at Fountain and Academy since 1998. A water treatment facility is located just north of Exit 139 on I25, the Martin Luther King Bypass. There are also water treatment facilities at Fort Carson, the Nixon Power Plant and in Fountain along I25. All of these facilities discharge water that makes its way into the Fountain Creek. These are just the ones along I25. There are many others farther east and west that impact the Fountain Creek.

I have seen the Fountain grow from a trickle, a foul smelling trickle at times, that one could jump over at almost any point, to a real river with fast flowing water. Because of the Colorado Springs policy of releasing effluent, partially treated water into the Fountain, the people, fish and wildlife all along the river to Pueblo have been adversely affected. At the confluence of the Fountain and the Arkansas River, just south of Pueblo, one can see the amount of contamination in the Fountain. There is a distinct line of demarcation where the two merge.

I feel that to be truly fair to the people of Pueblo and all those communities along the course of the Arkansas River, the Southern Delivery System should take its water from south of the confluence of the Fountain and the Arkansas River. The disregard that the community of Colorado Springs has shown toward the people of Pueblo and the southern Arkansas Valley has caused the pollution that permeates the Fountain. If Colorado Springs were to be allowed to take their water from anywhere above the confluence, I believe it would be a great injustice to the people of Pueblo and the Arkansas Valley.

Colorado Springs has a track record of reluctance to address the pollution issues of the Fountain. It may cost them more to pump from below the confluence because they have to treat the water more than they would have to otherwise, but that is only fair since the City of Colorado Springs is the main cause of the pollution in the Fountain. Pumping from the below the confluence would benefit the people of the

southern Arkansas valley in the long run because the City of Colorado Springs would be forced to take the steps needed to correct the pollution problems to improve the quality of water they pump. The highest cost would be initially as Colorado Springs implements those steps that have been needed for quite some time to correct the problems. As the problems are corrected and the quality of water discharged after pumping improves, the quality of water that is pumped would improve.

The entire State needs to be considerate and accountable for water quality. Water is a rare and precious commodity. The towns in the Southern Arkansas Valley have already had to implement costly measures to purify the water they need. This purification is more costly because of the pollution of the Fountain which dumps into the Arkansas. All communities along these waterways must be accountable in the least and considerate at the most of other communities that they are linked to through these waterways. Good clean water is important to everyone. One community must not provide clean water to its citizens at the expense of the citizens of another community.

The problems along the Fountain have been ignored for too long. It is time for action to be taken by the polluters to stop the pollution. I believe the only way communities along the Fountain will be responsible is if they have to clean up their mess before they can use clean water. The City of Pueblo and those communities in the southern Arkansas Valley have been ignored and given lip service for too long. It would be morally wrong for the City of Colorado Springs to be allowed to pump clean water from the Pueblo Reservoir in exchange for their dirty discharge into the Fountain. They would be literally crapping on those they benefit from.

Thank you for your time. I hope you will give these comments some consideration. I am not alone in the way I feel.

Sincerely,

Patrick Espinoza Jr.

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Pueblo, CO 81005

719-542-4183