

HOUSING & BUILDING ASSOCIATION

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June 12, 2008

Ms. Kara Lamb
Bureau of Reclamation
RE: Southern Delivery System EIS
Eastern Colorado Area Office
11056 W. County Road 18E
Loveland, CO 80537-9711

Project	ENV 6.00
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Dear Ms. Lamb:

The Board of Directors of the Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs supports the findings and recommendations identified in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Southern Delivery System (SDS). The Preferred Alternative, identified and selected by your Bureau as the recommended alternative, was properly reviewed and is the best alternative among the seven submitted to serve the needs of our community and has minimal impact on the environment and the communities along the route. Additionally, we support the finding that the other six alternatives, while not meeting the objectives as well as the recommended alternative, are also viable and buildable if the first alternative is not permitted by other governmental agencies.

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Our members' review of the facts and the Bureau's well-reasoned analysis used in determining the best alternative for the SDS project is the basis for this letter. It is undeniable that Colorado Springs is and will continue to grow. This growth is driven as much by the children of current residents having families of their own as by new job growth at our thriving military installations, the United States Olympic Committee and Training Center, the Broadmoor Hotel and the tourist industry and other aspects of our local economy. According to the State's demographer, the population is projected to grow to over 800,000 people in the next 40 years.

Colorado Springs has properly planned to accommodate our local community's water needs for the next 50 years. Our community is relying on the water rights that were perfected many years ago. None of the opponents dispute that the water that would be used from Pueblo Reservoir under the recommended alternative is owned by our community and the rate payers of our municipal utility; this is not a speculative source. The pipeline alternatives and plans are the results of years of long range planning. The NEPA process is only the latest and next step in this dedicated and consistent process.

The best way to meet the water needs of both current and future members of our community is to develop the proposed SDS alternative. Colorado Springs is located in a semi-arid area, and does not have access to significant local water sources. Recognizing that, the alternative identified by the Bureau will provide a reliable water source to the community that utilizes existing water rights in a manner that will keep rates affordable for all of the people in our community without negatively impacting water resources of the region. This represents a result that will help this community grow, accommodate the expressed desires of the community, and help the economy of the region remain vibrant for many years to come.

The City of Colorado Springs values the water resources that it has been able to develop. Despite the fact that the last major water delivery system was built nearly 50 years ago, the City has

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continued to grow and thrive through proper planning. The City's continued commitment to conservation allows growth to continue in a more environmentally sensitive way which better utilizes our current resources and systems. The City's award-winning conservation program is one of the best among Front Range communities. It is our belief that by developing the alternative recommended by the Bureau and continuing with the aggressive conservation program, our water utility will be able to meet the growing needs of the families and businesses of our community for the next fifty years.

Our Association expresses full support for the proposed alternative recommended by the Bureau of Reclamation in the draft EIS.

Respectfully submitted,



Bobby L. Ingels, President
Colorado Springs Housing and Building Association

Cc: Mayor Lionel Rivera, Chairman, Colorado Springs Utilities Board
Jerry Forte, CEO, Colorado Spring Utilities