

November 12, 2008

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Eastern Colorado Area Office  
Attn: Kara Lamb  
11056 W. County Road 18E  
Loveland, CO 80537-9711

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Lamb 1002		
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**RE: Southern Delivery System Supplemental Information Report**

Dear Ms. Lamb:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Supplemental Information Report (SIR) prepared for the Southern Delivery System (SDS). The findings of the SIR do not change the conclusions of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) related to agriculture in the lower Arkansas Valley. I support the Bureau of Reclamation's choice in Alternative 2 as the Agency Preferred Alternative and urge the Bureau of Reclamation to move forward in preparing the final EIS.

Having been a State Legislator and former Commissioner of Agriculture I know first hand that grain, hay and vegetables are currently grown in the lower Arkansas Valley. Nine major feedlots are located in the Valley, ranging from 3,000 head to about 35,000 head of cattle. Overall, the lower Arkansas Valley is one of Colorado's major centers for irrigated agriculture and livestock, producing nearly \$242 million in agricultural products in 2002.

The SIR analysis shows water quality for agricultural use will not be adversely affected. In response to public comments during the DEIS, the Bureau of Reclamation conducted additional water quality monitoring on sulfate, which is an indicator to increases in salinity. The Bureau of Reclamation conducted a different monitoring method for sulfate in the SIR than the DEIS but the findings still reach the same conclusion. Also, the changes the Project Participants made to Alternative 2 further protect the interests of agriculture by decreasing the impacts to prime farmland. SDS will not adversely affect crop yields or the agricultural economy in the project area.

To reiterate, the Bureau of Reclamation should move forward with SDS Alternative 2, as it will allow the Project Participants to continue providing quality water to its consumers while protecting agriculture in the Lower Arkansas Valley. Please move forward with the final Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you,

  
Don Ament

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