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AUG 15 2007

COLO DEPT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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August 14, 2007

John Stulp
Commissioner of Agriculture and
Co-Chairman of the South Platte River Task Force
Colorado Department of Agriculture
700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000
Lakewood, CO 80215

Harris D. Sherman
Executive Director and
Co-Chairman of the South Platte River Task Force
Colorado Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Co-Chairman Stulp and Sherman and South Platte River Task Force Members:

It has recently come to the attention of the Grand County Board of Commissioners that one of the options proposed for consideration by the South Platte River Task Force is: "Support of existing storage projects (e.g., Windy Gap Firming Project) and proposed projects (e.g., pump back projects from Colorado River Basin)." *South Platte River Task Force: Options for Consideration* at ¶ 2.d. (July 27, 2007).

In its attempt to solve the problems associated with junior well pumping in the South Platte River Basin the Task Force should not create additional problems for the Colorado River basin. The County respectfully requests that the Task Force remove this proposal from any further consideration for the following reasons:

1. The proposal outlined above impacts the Colorado River Basin. The Colorado River Basin is not represented on the Task Force and therefore any consideration by the Task Force of this proposal is wholly inappropriate and beyond the scope of the Governor's executive order, which was in part to "bring together a broad range of stakeholders to analyze the existing situation."

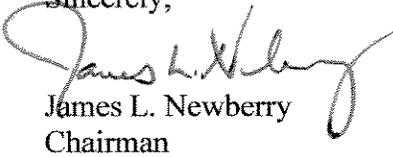
John Stulp/Harris Sherman

August 14, 2007

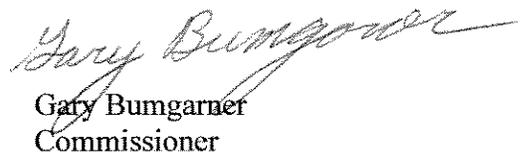
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2. Colo. Rev. Stat. § 37-75-101 *et seq.*, established Basin Roundtables and the Interbasin Compact Committee to discuss interbasin issues. Any discussion of the above referenced proposal is more appropriately raised in that format where all effected parties are given a voice.
3. Pursuant to Senate Bill 07-122, the Colorado Water Conservation Board ("CWCB") is charged with evaluating water availability in the Colorado River basin and its tributaries. Prior to the evaluation of available supplies by the CWCB any consideration given to the above outlined proposal as a solution to the South Platte basin issues is premature.
4. The above referenced proposal implicates a number of intergovernmental agreements, court decrees, interstate compacts, federal and local permits, and Acts of Congress, the scope of which cannot be fully appreciated by the Task Force prior to its September 30, 2007 deadline. This is not simply a matter of looking west to solve the South Platte River basin issues.

Sincerely,


James L. Newberry
Chairman


Nancy Stuart
Commissioner


Gary Bumgarner
Commissioner

cc: Senator Joan Fitz-Gerald; Representative Al White
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