

# Sakata Farms, Inc.



August 7, 2007

Mr. John Stulp  
Mr. Harris Sherman  
Co-chairmen Water Task Force  
Colorado Department of Agriculture  
700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000  
Lakewood, CO 80215

Dear John and Harris:

I regret that I have not been able to attend any of your task force hearings, so I am writing my recommendations to you.

1. Since there is a study showing that all wells drilled before 1958 had no adverse effect on the Platte River I would strongly recommend that the State Legislature amend the 1969 Senate Bill #81 to allow all wells drilled prior to 1958 be allowed to pump without any augmentation. A similar action was taken on Senate Bill #120 on evaporation loss of gravel pits.
2. We have been blessed this year with an abundant snow pack and so far a record amount of rainfall filling every reservoir and all the wetlands. In my 62 years of farming I have never witnessed a year like this where there was no call on the Platte River. Therefore there should be a formula where we as well users should not have to replace depletions, where it is replaced by the act of God. This should not have any impact or undermine the prior appropriation doctrine we follow.
3. Return the administration of the river and the wells back to the State Water Engineer to manage, including the augmentation of wells. Also any entity that appears at an augmentation hearing to object must have actual engineering proof of injury on the specific area they represent.
4. We need more reservoirs to store water during these wet years. The future destiny of northeastern Colorado agriculture lies on your shoulders. No community, state or nation can survive without a strong viable agriculture economy.

Thank you for taking your valuable time in serving on this most important task force.

Sincerely,

Robert Y Sakata  
Sakata Farms Inc.