Received
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Water Quality Control

WQCD Public Notice No. CO-2-2015

The permits attempting to be renewed by Pioneer Natural Resources and XTO Energy Inc. are so stringent that the producers in the area may not be able to meet the requirements. If this should happen the water that is now being discharged, and utilized in numerous ways by local landowners, will have to be injected and wasted.

This brings us great concern we have had this water on our properties for 15 plus years. There has been production in our area as far back as 1995. We have as of yet seen any ill effects. We don't understand why the WQCD is so insistent that this water needs to be injected. There are monitors in place to keep tabs on this water. There have been soil sample studies showing no evidence that discharges have impacted the soil.

We landowners have used this water to water our livestock to see wildlife of many different kinds thriving at these discharges. Some of the landowners do not have a CBM well on their property but still benefit from the stream that has been flowing through their property.

We have been struggling in the past 10 years to over come this drought and have only managed to make it through because of the CBM water. There has been many times when the availability of this water has helped put out a fire that could have been a major disaster. Our fire fighters work hard to protect us in this wooded area. By injecting this very beneficial water you will be taking away a huge resource for our fire fighters and our landowners.

Landowners are wondering why Governor Hickenlooper is working on releasing his water plan for our future all the while WQCD is implementing unnecessary restrictions that they know will only waste and take away a proven beneficial water source in Las Animas County. In some cases these permit limits are based on statewide standards and policies. We do not want to be lumped in with statewide regulations. Use the data that has been being collected use the fact that landowners have used this water over 15 years and have no ill effects.

Please understand if you allow these permits to pass in there present form with this over bearing restrictions you will bring grave harm to our land. We have used this water to help us continue to ranch and enjoy the wildlife over a period of devastating drought once you issue these permits and they can't be met we will see our lands dry up and many will go out of business. Not to mention the lack of available water for fire protection.

Nothing exists with out water! We would respectfully request that the WQCD reconsider the terms of the recently issued draft surface discharge permits and work with the companies to identify more site specific permit limits that would also support a continuation of this very important water supply program.

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