

Colorado Congressional Delegation Letters of Support

The following letters and resolutions of support are from members of the Colorado Congressional delegation, including:

U. S. Senator Mark Udall and U. S. Senator Michael Bennet September 6, 2012 joint letter

U. S. Rep. Mike Coffman (6th District, Colorado) August 30, 2012 letter (email)

U. S. Rep. Diana DeGette (1st District, Colorado) September 5, 2012 letter

U. S. Rep. Cory Gardner (4th District, Colorado) September 5, 2012 letter

U. S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter (7th District, Colorado) August 31, 2012 letter

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 6, 2012

Gwyn Jarrett
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building
CENWO-PM-AA
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102-4901

Dear Ms. Jarrett:

We are writing in regards to the proposed Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Project in Colorado as described in the draft Integrated Feasibility Report (FR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) released for public comment on June 8, 2012. Colorado faces many water supply challenges in the coming years, and the Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Project proposes one solution to these challenges for the Front Range and northeastern Colorado water providers.

There is an anticipated water supply shortage of approximately 99,000 to 360,000 acre-feet per year in the South Platte River Basin over the next 40 years. To fill this gap, Colorado must pursue every opportunity to make better use of the water we have, including aggressively implementing conservation and reuse efforts, which many water providers throughout the South Platte River Basin already do.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a draft Integrated FR/EIS on the Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Project in cooperation with the State of Colorado and in consultation with 15 prospective water users groups and many other interested parties. It has determined that Chatfield Reservoir can safely store an additional 20,600 acre-feet of water beyond what is currently held, without jeopardizing the reservoir's flood control purposes. The water providers who contract and pay for use of the water storage space in Chatfield Reservoir have agreed to undertake and pay for needed mitigation of environmental impacts and to undertake and pay for the modification of recreation facilities as needed.

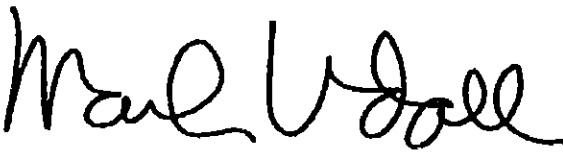
The Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Project has broad stakeholder support throughout Colorado due to the many benefits it offers over other possible water supply projects. It will make use of an existing water storage facility and does not require any significant new infrastructure development. Located in the path of the South Platte River, Chatfield Reservoir will efficiently capture additional runoff flowing down the South Platte River and Plum Creek without the need to pump water. In addition, reallocation of water in Chatfield Reservoir will prevent the loss of as much as 20,600 acre-feet of South Platte River water in wet years to out-of-state flows.

We have been encouraged by the open and inclusive process the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has used to develop the draft FR/EIS. Working with the State of Colorado through the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Corps held many public meetings throughout the development of the FR/EIS. The Corps also worked closely with over thirty Cooperating Agencies and Special Technical Advisors that were given the opportunity to review and comment on the Preliminary Draft chapters of the FR/EIS. We also commend the Corps on its decision to extend the public comment period by 30 days to allow time for even greater public participation.

At the same time, we recognize that there remain outstanding concerns with the preferred alternative, including mitigation of the environmental impacts. The draft FR/EIS includes a draft Compensatory Mitigation Plan (CMP) to address such concerns. Effective implementation of the CMP will be a critical component of the project going forward. We encourage the Corps and project participants to continue to work with interested project stakeholders to address the remaining environmental concerns, enhance the recreational experience and help provide ecological benefits worthy of the State's most visited state park.

We urge the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete its final review of the project in a timely manner – consistent with all applicable laws and regulations – so that stakeholders can adequately plan for their future water needs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Udall
U.S. Senator



Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator

David / Price Howlett

From: Armstrong, Evan [Evan.Armstrong@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2012 11:50 AM
To: 'David / Capitolrepresentatives'
Subject: RE: Chatfield Reallocation - Congressman Coffman meeting request 9/12/12 or 9/13/12: Meeting confirmation 11:00 a.m. 9/12/12 REVISED: Representative Coffman's statement

I unfortunately cannot find the signed copy of the letter but here is the text. Ill keep looking.

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building
CENWO-PM-AA
Attention: Gwyn Jarrett
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102-4901

Dear Ms. Jarrett:

I am writing you to offer my support for the proposed Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Project in Colorado as described in the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report (FR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Study recently released for public comment. I believe this is a much needed water supply opportunity for the Front Range and northeastern Colorado water providers.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that Chatfield Reservoir, located in Douglas and Jefferson counties, can safely store an additional 20,600 acre feet of water beyond that currently held without jeopardizing the reservoir's flood control purposes. The Reservoir's current authorized purposes include flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife and water supply and the reallocation of storage space.

A Draft Integrated FR/EIS on the Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Project has been prepared by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the State of Colorado and in consultation with 15 prospective water users groups and many other interested parties. The water providers who contract and pay for use of the water storage space in Chatfield Reservoir have agreed to undertake and pay for needed mitigation of environmental impacts and to undertake and pay for modification of recreation facilities as needed.

The Chatfield study has been supported by the Colorado Congressional delegation (FY2007–FY2012 appropriations bills and numerous joint letters), the Colorado General Assembly (SJR 07-019) and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (serving as non-federal sponsor for the study, January 2010 resolution, and allocation of \$13 million to assist with implementation).

Storing more water in Chatfield Reservoir will make better use of an existing facility and capture additional runoff flowing down the South Platte River and Plum Creek without pumping. Allocating that added storage space to entities holding current water rights to that water will prevent the loss of as much as 20,600 acre feet of South Platte River water in wet years to out-of-state flows.

There is an anticipated water supply shortage of approximately 99,000 to 360,000 AF per year in the South Platte River Basin over the next 40 years. I believe that every opportunity to make better use of the water we have must be pursued, along with conservation and reuse efforts.

9/5/2012

In a drought year like this one, the added water storage space in Chatfield (along with aggressive water conservation efforts) could make the difference in having enough water for municipal, industrial, agricultural and environmental purposes.

I support the Tentatively Recommended Plan in the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement on the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project and direct that this letter be delivered to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to made part of the record of public comments on this draft FR/EIS.

In addition, I urge the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete its final review of the project and issue a Record of Decision in a timely manner so that additional water can be stored in Chatfield Reservoir as soon as possible.

DIANA DEGETTE
1ST DISTRICT, COLORADO

2335 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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<http://degette.house.gov>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4329

September 5, 2012

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP
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RANKING MEMBER
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INVESTIGATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS
AND TECHNOLOGY

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building
CENWO-PM-AA
Attention: Gwyn Jarrett
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102-4901

Dear Ms. Jarrett:

I write regarding the proposed Tentatively Recommended Plan described in the Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report (FR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Plan will enable water providers to supply water to local users in response to rapidly increasing demand.

We face a water supply crisis in Colorado. In the South Platte River Basin, there is an anticipated water supply shortage of approximately 99,000 to 360,000 acre feet per year over the next forty years. Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation unites diverse municipal, industrial and agricultural interests to help address this challenge. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that Chatfield Reservoir can safely store an additional 20,600 acre feet of water beyond that currently held without jeopardizing the reservoir's flood control purposes, preventing the loss of South Platte River water in wet years to out-of-state flows.

I ask that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers remain open to comments, yet also complete its review of the project and issue a Record of Decision in a timely manner. Thank you for your consideration, and please enter this letter into the record of public comments for the draft FR/EIS.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

CORY GARDNER
4TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
ENERGY AND POWER SUBCOMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SUBCOMMITTEE
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0604

September 5, 2012

213 GANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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301 5TH STREET
LAMAR, CO 81052
(719) 931-4003

109½ SOUTH 3RD STREET
STERLING, CO 80751
(970) 522-0203

Ms. Gwyn Jarrett
Project Manager
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102-4901

Dear Ms. Jarrett:

I am writing to support the proposed Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Project in Colorado. The Draft Integrated Feasibility Report (FR) and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Chatfield project were recently released for public comment. I believe this is a much needed water supply opportunity for the Front Range and northeastern Colorado.

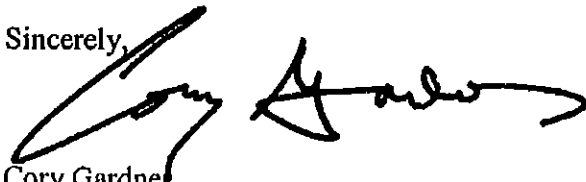
The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that Chatfield Reservoir, located in Douglas and Jefferson counties, can safely store an additional 20,600 acre feet of water beyond its current capacity without jeopardizing the reservoir's flood control purposes. The reservoir is currently authorized for flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife, and surface storage. Storing more water in Chatfield Reservoir will make better use of the existing facility and capture additional runoff from the South Platte River and Plum Creek watersheds.

The draft FR and EIS for the Chatfield project has been prepared by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps has worked in close cooperation with the State of Colorado and consulted over 15 prospective water user groups and other interested parties. The water providers who contract and pay for water storage space in Chatfield Reservoir have agreed to undertake and pay for needed mitigation of environmental impacts. The water providers have also agreed to pay for modifications of recreation facilities as needed.

In drought years similar to 2012, the added water storage space in Chatfield could make the difference in having enough water for municipal, industrial, and agricultural purposes. I urge the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete its final review of the project and issue a Record of Decision in a timely manner so that additional water can be stored as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
Member of Congress (CO-4)

ED PERLMUTTER
7TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

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GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES (GSEs)
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

August 31, 2012

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building
CENWO-PM-AA
Attention: Gwyn Jarrett
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102-4901
chatfieldstudy@usace.army.mil

Dear Ms. Jarrett:

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prevent the loss of as much as 20,600 acre feet of South Platte River water in wet years to out-of-state flows.

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In addition, we urge the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete its final review of the project and issue a Record of Decision in a timely manner so that additional water can be stored in Chatfield Reservoir as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Perlmutter", written over a horizontal line.

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress