### State of Colorado Letters and Resolutions of Support

The following letters and resolutions of support are from the State of Colorado, including Office of the Governor, General Assembly, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Water Conservation Board and Colorado Division of Wildlife (now Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife).

State of Colorado Governor Bill Ritter January 25, 2008 letter

State of Colorado General Assembly Senate Joint Resolution 07-019 Concerning Support for the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project

State of Colorado General Assembly Douglas County legislators February 27, 2007 letter

State of Colorado General Assembly Water Resources Review Committee (interim) September 6, 2012 letter

State of Colorado General Assembly Douglas County legislators June 26, 2012 letter

State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources Colorado Water Conservation Board Jennifer L. Gimbel February 26, 2013 letter

State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources Colorado Water Conservation Board Resolution July 17, 2012

State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources Colorado Water Conservation Board Resolution January 26, 2010

State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Jay W. Skinner February 27, 2006 letter

# STATE OF COLORADO

### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol Building Denver, Colorado 80203 (303) 866 - 2471 (303) 866 - 2003 fax



Bill Ritter, Jr. Governor

January 25, 2008

Jeff Shoemaker
Executive Director
The Greenway Foundation
1040 South Gaylord Street, Suite 201
Denver, Colorado 80209

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

On behalf of the State of Colorado, I write to express support for the efforts of the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Coalition to secure federal funding for the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Environmental Impact Statement. As the local sponsor for the project, the Colorado Water Conservation Board is working in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete work on the EIS.

As Colorado continues to grow, particularly in the Denver metropolitan area, we must look at the resources we have to determine whether we can put existing infrastructure to better use. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that Chatfield Reservoir can accommodate an additional 20,600 acre feet of water storage without limiting its usefulness as a flood control structure. This additional storage space will be used by a group of water providers, farmers and environmental organizations to meet the diverse needs of our growing state. It is imperative that the current EIS move forward in a timely fashion. It is critical that federal funding for the EIS be available to complete this important study. This once-in-a-generation opportunity enjoys broad support from municipal, agricultural and environmental interests.

- It will make use of an existing water storage facility.
- It will not require construction of a new water storage facility.
- It may bring significant revenues to the federal treasury.
- The water will originate from snowmelt and stormwater runoff within the South Platte River Basin and will be captured and stored in Chatfield.
- It will provide additional water for Northeast Colorado farmers to help meet critical irrigation needs.
- It will help cities and special districts meet drinking water and other municipal needs both above and below Chatfield.
- It will provide opportunities for environmental and recreational enhancements along the South Platte River in the 53-mile Denver urban river corridor from Chatfield Reservoir to below the Adams County-Weld County line.

The Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project is an excellent example of the solutions that Colorado must embrace to meet my vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century that calls for maximizing water supplies through a responsible mix of conservation, re-use, efficiency, cooperation and voluntary crop-to-city water agreements.

Sincerely,

Sell Ritter, Jr.

Governor



## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 07-019

BY SENATOR(S) Harvey, Kopp, Brophy, Isgar, Groff, Schwartz, Gordon, Kester, Renfroe, Romer, Sandoval, Taylor, Veiga, Wiens, May R., and Tochtrop;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) McNulty, Balmer, Hodge, King, May M., McKinley, Mitchell V., Rice, Roberts, Rose, Sonnenberg, Stephens, Summers, Vaad, White, Benefield, Borodkin, Butcher, Cadman, Carroll M., Carroll T., Curry, Frangas, Gibbs, Hicks, Kefalas, Kerr A., Kerr J., Labuda, Lambert, Levy, Liston, Looper, Lundberg, Madden, Marostica, McFadyen, Primavera, Riesberg, Soper, Stafford, Swalm, Todd, and Witwer.

# CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR THE CHATFIELD RESERVOIR REALLOCATION PROJECT.

WHEREAS, All water users in the state of Colorado are dependent on the effective utilization of limited supplies of water that predominantly result from runoff derived from snowmelt, which frequently moves at a high rate of flow and occurs during a relatively short period in the spring of each year; and

WHEREAS, Providing water for the beneficial use of the citizens of Colorado requires surface water storage capacity to capture runoff for later delivery to users; and

WHEREAS, The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that Chatfield Reservoir can accommodate 20,600 acre-feet of storage for municipal and other purposes without compromising its flood control function; and

WHEREAS, Additional water storage should be pursued through a reallocation project for the improvement and rehabilitation of existing structures; and

WHEREAS, This reallocation project at Chatfield Reservoir will:

- Allow water originating from snowmelt and storm water runoff within the South Platte River Basin to be stored in Chatfield Reservoir;
- Provide additional water for Northeast Colorado farmers to help meet critical irrigation needs;
- Help several water providers meet drinking water and other municipal needs, both above and below Chatfield Reservoir; and
- Provide opportunities for environmental and recreational enhancements along the South Platte River in the 53-mile urban river corridor from Chatfield Reservoir to below the Adams-Weld County line; and

WHEREAS, The majority of participants in the reallocation project have existing water rights that provide for the capture, storage, and use of water available to the South Platte River above Denver without injury to other water rights; and

WHEREAS, The municipal participants in the reallocation project have implemented, and will continue to implement, measures to increase the benefits of water savings through water conservation programs and reuse projects; and

WHEREAS, The 15 participants in the reallocation project and the state of Colorado, through the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), have contributed more than \$1.5 million in a cooperative regional effort; and

WHEREAS, Colorado law recognizes the right to capture, store, and move water from where it flows to where it is needed; and

WHEREAS, The constitution of the state of Colorado, in section 6 of article XVI, states: "The right to divert the unappropriated waters of any natural stream to beneficial uses shall never be denied."; and

WHEREAS, This once-in-a-generation opportunity to expand use of an existing facility enjoys broad support from municipal, agricultural, and environmental interests; and

PAGE 2-SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 07-019

WHEREAS, The CWCB and the USACE have jointly sponsored and are presently engaged in the Chatfield Reservoir reallocation feasibility study and environmental impact statement process to determine the best way of reallocating existing flood protection storage space to other uses; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

- (1) That the General Assembly hereby urges continued cooperation between the CWCB, the USACE, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation in the Department of Natural Resources, and water users in order to fully utilize storage capacity in Chatfield Reservoir for municipal and other purposes;
- (2) That the many offices of the state of Colorado involved in and affected by such storage reallocation are requested to cooperate in the reallocation project to the fullest extent reasonable;
- (3) That the CWCB and the USACE are requested to conduct the environmental impact statement process efficiently and expediently to resolve technical matters and approvals related to the flood operation of Chatfield Reservoir in support of the need for water supply development; and
- (4) That appropriate measures should be established to at least replace and, where reasonable, to improve the recreational and environmental resources impacted by a revised Chatfield Reservoir operation.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, each member of Colorado's Congressional delegation, and the Colorado Water Congress.

Joan Fitz-Gerald

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE Andrew Romanoff

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman SECRETARY OF

THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins

CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE

OF REPRESENTATIVES



### General Assembly State of Colorado Denver

February 27, 2007

Jeff Shoemaker
Executive Director
The Greenway Foundation
1040 South Gaylord Street, Suite 201
Denver, Colorado 80209

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

We the undersigned members of the Colorado General Assembly support the South Platte River Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project effort. Each of us represents a portion of Douglas County. The project will create storage space for up to an additional 20,600 acre-feet of water in Chatfield Reservoir, which is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Colorado Water Conservation Board serves as the local sponsor for the project.

The additional 20,600 acre-feet of water would be shared by upstream users, including South Metro Water Supply Authority, Parker Water and Sanitation District, Centennial Water and Sanitation District, Town of Castle Rock, Roxborough Metropolitan District, Castle Pines North Metropolitan District, Castle Pines Metropolitan District, Perry Park Country Club and Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District, and downstream users, including the City of Aurora, the City of Brighton, Colorado Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation, Denver Botanic Gardens, Central Colorado Water Conservancy and Western Mutual Ditch Company.

In addition, the project's five instream partners – City and County of Denver, City of Littleton, Denver Water, The Greenway Foundation and Metro Wastewater –would potentially benefit from increased flows in the South Platte River resulting in environmental benefits to the South Platte. The downstream, upstream and instream users are jointly working together to achieve the goal of securing the much needed additional water storage at Chatfield.

The Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project will contribute to solving critical multi-use water supply needs in Colorado. This project enjoys broad support from municipal, agricultural and environmental interests, and would:

Chatfield reallocation Page 2 February 27, 2007

- Make use of an existing water storage facility
- Not require construction of a new water storage facility
- Allow water originating from snowmelt and stormwater runoff within the South Platte River Basin to be captured and stored in the Chatfield Reservoir
- Provide additional water for Northeast Colorado farmers to help meet critical irrigation needs
- Help cities and special districts meet drinking water and other municipal needs both above and below Chatfield
- Provide opportunities for environmental and recreational enhancements along the South Platte River in the 53-mile Denver urban river corridor from Chatfield Reservoir to below the Adams County-Weld County line

Each of the upstream, instream and downstream groups and agencies involved in management and uses of the South Platte River have a stake in the success of the reallocation effort and are taking advantage of this once-in-a-generation opportunity to maximize the use of water and storage while improving the river. We the undersigned enthusiastically support this project and we request that the federal government join us in their continued support for the reallocation of storage in Chatfield Reservoir.

Sincerely,

Representative Mike May

House/Minority Leader

Representative Frank McNulty

Representative Victor Mitchell

Senator Tom Wiens

Senator Ted Harvey



### General Assembly State of Colorado Denver

September 6, 2012

Department of the Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District Edward Zorinsky Federal Building CENWO-PM-AA Attention: Gwyn Jarrett 1616 Capitol Ave. Omaha, NE 68102-4901

RE: Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation

Dear Ms. Jarrett:

The Water Resources Review Committee is an interim committee of the Colorado General Assembly that is authorized to review water issues and propose legislation related to the conservation, use, development, and financing of Colorado's water resources. We the undersigned members of the committee are writing to support 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. We 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) including an appropriation of \$5 million dollars in the Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Fund Bill (House Bill 12S-1001).

Ms. Gwyn Jarrett September 6, 2012 Page 2

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. We believe that every opportunity to make better use of the water we have must be pursued, along with conservation and reuse efforts.

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.

We 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, 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, Representative Yerry Sonnenberg Chair Senator Gail Schwartz, Vice-Chair Representative Randy Baumgardne Senator Greg Brophy Representative Keith Swerdferger Senator Angela Giron Representative Ed Vigil Senator Mary Hodge Representative Roger Wilson

Senator Ellen Roberts



### COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE CAPITOL 200 E. COLFAX AVE. DENVER, CO 80203

June 26, 2012

Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
CENWO-PM-AA
ATTN: Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation FR/EIS
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102-4901
chatfieldstudy@usace.army.mil

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to support 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. We 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, 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.

Army Corps of Engineers June 26, 2012 Page 2

The Chatfield study has been supported by the Colorado Congressional delegation (i.e. FY 2007–FY 2012 appropriation bills and numerous joint letters), the Colorado General Assembly (i.e. SJR 07-019) and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (i.e. 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. We believe that every opportunity to make better use of the water we have must be pursued, along with conservation and reuse efforts.

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.

We support the Tentatively Recommended Plan in the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report (FR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) 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, 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.

Yours train

Speaker Frank McNulty

House District 43, Highlands Ranch

Rep. Carole Murray

House District 45, Castle Rock

Senator Ted Hapvey

Senator Mark Scheffel

Senate District 4, Parker

Senate District 30, Highlands Ranch

Rep. Chris Holbert

House District 44, Parker

# STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper

Governor

Mike King Executive Director Jennifer L. Gimbel

**CWCB** Director

### Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, Colorado 80203 Phone: (303) 866-3441 FAX: (303) 866-4474 www.cwcb.state.co.us

February 26, 2013

Gwyn Jarrett, Project Manager U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Branch 1616 Capital Avenue Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Ms. Jarrett,

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) would like to reiterate our continued support for the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation efforts led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps). We are dedicated to maintaining a solid partnership with the Corps and local stakeholders as the non-federal project sponsor.

CWCB staff plans to participate in the meeting with Corps Headquarters by phone on March 6th. Staff will also be available to help answer any questions should they arise during other meetings on the Hill.

You are likely aware by now that the CWCB has requested that the Colorado General Assembly authorize an additional \$49 million in funding for the Chatfield Project to assist with securing orphan shares relinquished by other entities. We believe that the request demonstrates the unwavering commitment to the project by our Board and staff.

Please feel free to call us anytime at (303) 866-3441 with questions or concerns you may have. Thanks again for all of your hard work and collaboration on this important water supply endeavor.

Sincerely,

lennifer L. Gimbel, Director

cc: Tom Browning Rebecca Mitchell

### CWCB Resolution Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project July 2012

WHEREAS, The CWCB contracted with the Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to produce a Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (FR/EIS) for the Chatfield Reallocation Project; and

WHEREAS, Chatfield Reservoir is an existing federal facility that was originally designed and constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the purpose of providing flood control benefits for the Denver Metro area, and is located at the confluence of the South Platte River and Plum Creek; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental scope of the Chatfield FR/EIS is to evaluate the conversion of flood control storage space into joint use water storage space for the benefit of municipal & industrial supply, agricultural supply, and incidental downstream benefits to environmental and recreational flows as a result of reservoir releases to the downstream water providers; and

WHEREAS, the Corps of Engineers has determined that through updated engineering criteria and a fully approved Antecedent Flood Study that up to 20,600 acre-feet of additional water supply storage space can be used without adversely impacting the existing flood protection function of the facility; and

WHEREAS, a consortium of interested water providers are collaborating with the CWCB and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to seek federal approval of the FR/EIS in order to store re-use water and surface flows in accordance with Colorado water law; and

WHEREAS, the project, if approved, would involve a significant amount of on-site and off-site mitigation efforts to address environmental impacts and would involve modification of recreational facilities with the goal of achieving a like-kind recreation experience for park users; and

WHEREAS, all costs associated with project implementation would be the responsibility of the non-federal project interests; and

WHEREAS, the Draft FR/EIS has been developed through a lengthy, thorough, and open process involving a large number of government, non-profit, and private sector stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the CWCB, IBCC and Basin Roundtables have determined through various studies and the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) that a water supply "gap" is projected due to growth and future water demands in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the Chatfield Reallocation Project represents a small but vital way to not only curb the water supply "gap" but also to reduce reliance on non-tributary (non-renewable) groundwater in the southern Metro area and to assist agricultural producers in Weld County and adjacent areas with immediate needs for well augmentation and related water uses; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Colorado Water Conservation Board supports the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project, which would provide additional water supply storage space within the South Platte River Basin by reallocating up to 20,600 acre-feet of flood control space to joint use water supply storage space within the existing federal facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Colorado Water Conservation Board strongly encourages the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to work expeditiously to address public comments, produce the Final FR/EIS, and move forward to obtain a positive Record of Decision that will allow for implementation of the project in a timely manner.

#### CERTIFICATE

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted unanimously by vote of the members of the Colorado Water Conservation Board in regular session assembled at Gunnison, Colorado, on the 17th day of July 2012, at which a quorum was present.

Jennifer Gimbel CWCB Director

# CWCB Resolution – January 2010 In Support of the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project

WHEREAS, The CWCB has contracted with the Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to investigate the feasibility of reallocating existing storage space within Chatfield Reservoir through a contract known as the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Corps and the CWCB pertaining to a Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project (Project); and

WHEREAS, the fundamental scope of the Project is to evaluate the feasibility of converting up to 20,600 acre-feet of existing flood control storage space in the federal facility into water supply storage space (joint conservation pool) for municipal, industrial, agricultural, and other beneficial uses; and

WHEREAS, the Corps has determined that through updated watershed modeling, antecedent flood criteria, and administrative operations of the reservoir during conditions of flooding, water supply storage space can be made available without adversely impacting the existing flood protection function of the facility; and

WHEREAS, A consortium of 15 Water Users signed Letters of Commitment with the CWCB pledging cost-share funding assistance and notice of interest in potentially receiving predetermined portions of the reallocated storage space within the reservoir; and

WHEREAS, each of the 15 water users would be financially responsible for their portion of the total cost of the reallocated space resulting from the Project and pursuant to a future contract between the CWCB and the Corps; and

WHEREAS, the Project has broad support from a strong coalition of water supply and environmental interests as well as from a multitude of elected officials, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders throughout Colorado.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Colorado Water Conservation Board supports the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project, which could provide additional raw water supply storage volume within the South Platte River Basin by reallocating up to 20,600 acre-feet of reservoir storage space within the existing federal facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Colorado Water Conservation Board strongly encourages the Federal Government to work expeditiously in completing and approving the necessary studies and documents in order to obtain a successful Record of Decision that will allow the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project to move forward in a timely manner.

### **CERTIFICATE**

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by a majority vote of the members of the Colorado Water Conservation Board in regular session assembled at Denver, Colorado, on the 26th day of January, 2010, at which a quorum was present.

Jennifer L. Gimbel, CWCB Director

STATE OF COLORADO

Bill Owens, Governor
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Bruce McCloskey, Director 6060 Broadway Denver, Colorado 80216 Telephone: (303) 297-1192



February 27, 2006

Jeff Shoemaker Executive Director The Greenway Foundation 1040 South Gaylord Street, Suite 201 Denver, Colorado 80209

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

RE: South Platte River Chatfield Reallocation Environmental/Ecosystem Restoration

On behalf of the Colorado Division of Wildlife (Division), I am writing to support the environmental restoration effort of the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Coalition (Coalition). It is our understanding that the Coalition's goal is to devise a plan to maximize the environmental beneficial use of Chatfield Reservoir's available storage capacity for downstream instream flow use. This needs to be accomplished without compromising municipal and agricultural water supply needs or injuring senior water rights. An important component of this unified effort is to identify and evaluate potential environmental options that can be leveraged to partially finance the cost of reallocation. The Coalition represents the type of multi-jurisdictional resource management effort that needs to occur along this reach of river to be able to balance traditional water uses with current environmental and human needs.

The Division has successfully worked with the Army Corp of Engineers on a number of local projects, including the initial grant which made the Coalition's preliminary work possible. In addition, the Division has a long history of supporting and working on environmental restoration efforts on this reach of the South Platte River. Recently, the Division worked on Denver's South Platte River Commission Project for the Mayor's office. The Division will continue to assist the Coalition in its' efforts to identify and evaluate potential environmental benefits related to increased Chatfield Reservoir releases.

Sincerely,

Jay W. Skinner

Water Resources Unit Manager Wildlife Conservation Section Colorado Division of Wildlife