

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

May 21, 2012

Via email (Robert.J.Ruch@usace.army.mil)

Col. Robert J. Ruch
Commander, Omaha District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

RE: Northern Integrated Supply Project and Halligan-Seaman draft environmental impact statements

Dear Col. Robert J. Ruch:

We are writing to inquire about the status of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) regarding the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) in northern Colorado. We also are interested in the progress associated with the Halligan-Seaman Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

As you know, NISP, proposed by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and 15 other partners, would address significant water supply needs in this part of the state. Due to the importance of water in Colorado and the importance of wise water development, the State of Colorado generally encourages projects to provide multiple benefits when possible. NISP and Halligan Seaman propose multiple benefits in providing reliable and firm water supplies, restoration of riparian habitats, piscatorial and flat-water recreational opportunities, and the preservation of irrigated agriculture. In addition, we understand the project proponents to be actively engaged with impacted stakeholders to address concerns.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has been working diligently on the NISP SDEIS since 2008, which was initiated after working on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement since 2004. We understand that these permitting processes and requirements can take some time to make sure that impacts are assessed and mitigated. We also understand that the project proponents—as well as other state and federal agencies—have been working with you to complete this analysis.

Given the significant amount of time and resources that have been expended in this effort, we are asking the Corps to provide us an update on the completion of the SDEIS so that it can be released to the proponents and the public for comment, and to facilitate moving this project to the next stages. This would help the State and other governmental entities better prepare for the timing of further analysis required on State water quality certifications and other necessary

permits and approvals. Specifically, we would like to know when we might see the SDEIS released, and if there are any issues that are holding up the process that the State can help resolve.

The State stands ready to perform our analysis and certification processes in a timely and thorough manner under our various laws and regulations.

Given the ongoing drought conditions in Colorado and the pressing need for water supplies in both communities and agriculture, we hope that the Corps is making this project a high priority.

Also, we understand that the Halligan-Seaman project timeline is behind that of NISP even though the projects collectively are using a common technical platform. Any insights that you can provide as to the timeline of your process for Halligan-Seaman would be much appreciated.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your response and continuing work with the Corps on these important projects.

Sincerely,



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

cc: Tim Carey, Omaha District Chief, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jim Martin, Region 8 Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
John Stulp, Senior Advisor, Colorado Governor's Office
Mike King, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Dr. Chris Urbina, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Health and Environment
Eric Wilkenson, General Manger, Northern Water Conservancy District
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