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March 15, 2017

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington DC 20426

RE: Letter of Support for Denver Water's Gross Reservoir Hydroelectric Project (Docket P-2035-099)

The South Metro Water Supply Authority (South Metro), which represents 13 water providers in Douglas and Arapahoe Counties, supports the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) approval of Denver Water's License Amendment Application (Project 2035-099). Ten of our members will soon begin to receive water supply from Denver Water through the Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency (WISE) Partnership. The WISE Partnership is a regional agreement between Denver Water, South Metro, and Aurora Water, utilizing the parties' existing infrastructure and unused reusable water sources to develop new reliable water supplies. The project initially provides up to 7,250 acre-feet of water to the South Metro WISE members. (An additional 2,750 acre-feet has been made available to Douglas County for future needs.) This water provided by Denver Water and Aurora Water through WISE is from fully treated return flows, and it will supplement water from other South Metro sources. The WISE project has allowed South Metro to utilize existing infrastructure and develop new facilities needed for the region's future water development.

South Metro, through the WISE Partnership, relies upon the robustness of Denver Water's raw water system; however, currently, Denver Water's system is simply not in balance. Ninety percent (90%) of Denver's storage is in its southern system, with only ten percent (10%) in the north, where Gross Reservoir is located. An emergency or natural disaster occurring on either end of Denver Water's supply system could cause disruption of service to communities that rely upon Denver for deliveries. The expansion of Gross Reservoir not only protects against these vulnerabilities, but it also provides more water storage for a more balanced water system in the future. This sustainability is of great importance to South Metro; the ability to utilize Denver Water's supplies regionally emphasizes the importance of the Moffat Collection System Project itself.

The South Metro Water Supply Authority urges FERC to proceed with all necessary approvals to amend Denver Water's existing hydropower license, and we believe that this approval is the next step to making this project a reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Lisa Darling, Executive Director