



Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

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March 24, 2017

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Ms. Bose:

I am writing to express Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District's strong support for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of Denver Water's hydropower license at Gross Reservoir Dam. Northern Water is a public agency created in 1937 to contract with the federal government to build the Colorado-Big Thompson Project. The C-BT Project collects water west of the Continental Divide and delivers it to Northeastern Colorado for agricultural, municipal, domestic and industrial uses. Northern Water and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation jointly operate and maintain the C-BT Project.

Denver Water has achieved its mission of providing water to a large segment of Colorado's population by its farsighted planning, construction and maintenance of necessary infrastructure. Colorado's Water Plan recognizes, and Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper endorses, the enlargement of Gross Reservoir as one of the projects needed to meet the future water supply needs of the citizens of Colorado.

Denver Water is recognized throughout Colorado for its conservation efforts to reduce the demand for water and the impact of water projects on the environment. As Northern Water is currently involved in developing water storage projects, we understand the challenges and opportunities associated with building a project in an environmentally responsible way. We applaud Denver Water for committing to mitigation and enhancements that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment concluded will provide a "net environmental benefit." In addition to other benefits, the proposed enlargement of Gross Reservoir will create five million kilowatt hours of clean renewable energy each year.

A reliable and resilient supply of water is one of the absolute necessities for Colorado's environment, residents and economy. Denver Water has been a consistent partner in meeting these water supply needs. Please feel free to contact me if Northern Water can provide additional information concerning the benefit of an enlarged Gross Reservoir as a key piece of the puzzle in meeting Colorado citizens' water supply needs.

Sincerely,

Eric W. Wilkinson, P.E.
General Manager