



Aurora Water



City of Aurora

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March 27, 2017

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

COMMENTS: Letter of Support for the Gross Reservoir Hydroelectric Project, docket #P-2035-099

Dear Madam Secretary:

Aurora Water is a municipal utility that provides drinking water, stormwater and sewer services to over 360,000 residents in Colorado. Colorado, which recently completed a statewide Water Plan, is projected to see substantial population growth over the next 50 years. A key finding from the Plan was the need to develop additional storage to meet increasing demands. We recognize that the nexus between energy and water is as critical as the nexus between water and development. Thus, Aurora Water supports the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) approval of Denver Water's License Amendment Application for the Gross Reservoir Hydroelectric Project.

The inclusion of hydroelectric capabilities as part of the proposed expansion of Gross Reservoir will result in clean, renewable energy that will help power our state for many years to come. Beyond FERC's role in approving the license amendment regulating creation of hydropower, the expansion of Gross Reservoir will provide multiple benefits to residents, businesses and the environment.

Water in the arid west plays a unique and pivotal role in Colorado's economy and way of life. A reliable and resilient supply of water is necessary to maintain the quality of life and for our economy to thrive, expanding Gross Reservoir will help with these guarantees.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment found the mitigation and enhancements that were committed to by Denver Water would provide the Colorado a "net environmental benefit." Aurora recognizes the detailed and lengthy efforts that Denver Water has committed to the permitting of this expansion project.

For the reasons stated above, and in light of the commitments Denver Water has made in terms of mitigation and enhancement, we urge FERC to proceed with the next step to enable this critical program to move forward by approving the amendment to Denver Water's existing hydropower license at Gross Dam.

Sincerely,

Marshall P. Brown
Director
Aurora Water