

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 10, 2014

Daniel M. Ashe
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington DC, 20240

Neil Kornze
Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, NW
Washington DC, 20240

Lowell Pimely
Acting Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Thomas L. Tidwell
Chief
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Director Ashe, Director Jarvis, Director Kornze, Acting Commissioner Pimely, and Chief Tidwell:

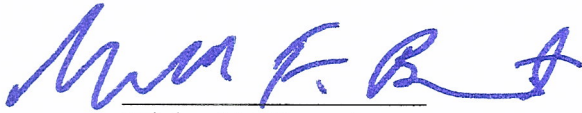
We understand that your agencies have met with officials from the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) to discuss the potential impacts of a proposed water transfer from a confined aquifer in Colorado's San Luis Valley. Our offices received the enclosed letters from the RGWCD and concerned stakeholders from the San Luis Valley, which we submit for your consideration.

The San Luis Valley region in Colorado is experiencing a multi-year drought that has placed a severe demand on existing local water resources. As you may know, area residents, agricultural producers and businesses of the San Luis Valley rely heavily on the aquifers beneath the valley to support their local economy. Recognizing the importance of these aquifers to local, state and federal interests, our offices ask that you give any proposed water transfer plan out of the Valley thorough review consistent with federal law, including statutes in PL 102-575 and PL 106-500.

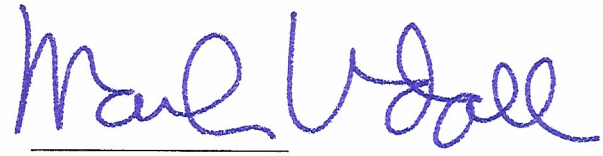
The residents of the San Luis Valley have expressed serious concerns to our offices about the potential negative impacts on local, state and federal resources from any proposed water transfer, which would drastically deplete confined aquifers. Again, letters summarizing those concerned are attached for your consideration.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this issue. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or updates regarding this issue.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator



Mark Udall
U.S. Senator



Scott Tipton
U.S. Representative



Cory Gardner
U.S. Representative



Rio Grande Water Conservation District

10900 Highway 160 East • Alamosa, Colorado 81101

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Protecting & Conserving San Luis Valley Water

August 15, 2014

Senator Michael Bennet
458 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet,

I am writing to thank you for the time you took a few weeks ago to discuss our concerns about a proposed transfer of significant and valuable water resources from the San Luis Valley's confined aquifer to the growing metropolitan area.

Since our visit, we have continued discussions with several entities both in the Valley and on the Front Range about the impacts of the proposal by Gary Boyce and his company, Sustainable Water Resources. At the same time, Mr. Boyce continues his efforts to partner with a buyer for the water which he hopes to transfer. If you have not yet seen his plan description, go to www.sustainablewaterresources.com.

Also since our visit, we have provided you with a draft letter (attached) to the various federal agencies with assets in the Valley, and we have continued our effort to educate those agencies about the impacts on those assets as well as the federal statute under which they must view any proposed transfer of water which affects them.

Our board of directors, appointed by the five elected county commissions in the Valley and accountable to those commissions and their county's residents, has voted unanimously to oppose Mr. Boyce's second attempt to transfer water resources which are more scarce than ever during this lengthy drought period.

On their behalf, I respectfully request that you assist us in communicating with the federal agencies regarding their responsibilities under PL- 102-575, Title XV, Sec. 1501.

Prompt action and attention is necessary as Mr. Boyce continues his quest to move his proposal into the Colorado water law process. We look forward to hearing from you and are happy to discuss this further with you and your staff, and will keep you updated on the proposal's status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Higel for". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Greg Higel
President, Rio Grande Water Conservation District