



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 07-019

BY SENATOR(S) Harvey, Kopp, Brophy, Isgar, Groff, Schwartz, Gordon, Kester, Renfroe, Romer, Sandoval, Taylor, Veiga, Wiens, May R., and Tochtrop;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) McNulty, Balmer, Hodge, King, May M., McKinley, Mitchell V., Rice, Roberts, Rose, Sonnenberg, Stephens, Summers, Vaad, White, Benefield, Borodkin, Butcher, Cadman, Carroll M., Carroll T., Curry, Frangas, Gibbs, Hicks, Kefalas, Kerr A., Kerr J., Labuda, Lambert, Levy, Liston, Looper, Lundberg, Madden, Marostica, McFadyen, Primavera, Riesberg, Soper, Stafford, Swalm, Todd, and Witwer.

CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR THE CHATFIELD RESERVOIR
REALLOCATION PROJECT.

WHEREAS, All water users in the state of Colorado are dependent on the effective utilization of limited supplies of water that predominantly result from runoff derived from snowmelt, which frequently moves at a high rate of flow and occurs during a relatively short period in the spring of each year; and

WHEREAS, Providing water for the beneficial use of the citizens of Colorado requires surface water storage capacity to capture runoff for later delivery to users; and

WHEREAS, The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that Chatfield Reservoir can accommodate 20,600 acre-feet of storage for municipal and other purposes without compromising its flood control function; and

WHEREAS, Additional water storage should be pursued through a reallocation project for the improvement and rehabilitation of existing structures; and

WHEREAS, This reallocation project at Chatfield Reservoir will:

Allow water originating from snowmelt and storm water runoff within the South Platte River Basin to be stored in Chatfield Reservoir;

Provide additional water for Northeast Colorado farmers to help meet critical irrigation needs;

Help several water providers meet drinking water and other municipal needs, both above and below Chatfield Reservoir; and

Provide opportunities for environmental and recreational enhancements along the South Platte River in the 53-mile urban river corridor from Chatfield Reservoir to below the Adams-Weld County line; and

WHEREAS, The majority of participants in the reallocation project have existing water rights that provide for the capture, storage, and use of water available to the South Platte River above Denver without injury to other water rights; and

WHEREAS, The municipal participants in the reallocation project have implemented, and will continue to implement, measures to increase the benefits of water savings through water conservation programs and reuse projects; and

WHEREAS, The 15 participants in the reallocation project and the state of Colorado, through the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), have contributed more than \$1.5 million in a cooperative regional effort; and

WHEREAS, Colorado law recognizes the right to capture, store, and move water from where it flows to where it is needed; and

WHEREAS, The constitution of the state of Colorado, in section 6 of article XVI, states: "The right to divert the unappropriated waters of any natural stream to beneficial uses shall never be denied."; and

WHEREAS, This once-in-a-generation opportunity to expand use of an existing facility enjoys broad support from municipal, agricultural, and environmental interests; and

WHEREAS, The CWCB and the USACE have jointly sponsored and are presently engaged in the Chatfield Reservoir reallocation feasibility study and environmental impact statement process to determine the best way of reallocating existing flood protection storage space to other uses; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That the General Assembly hereby urges continued cooperation between the CWCB, the USACE, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation in the Department of Natural Resources, and water users in order to fully utilize storage capacity in Chatfield Reservoir for municipal and other purposes;

(2) That the many offices of the state of Colorado involved in and affected by such storage reallocation are requested to cooperate in the reallocation project to the fullest extent reasonable;

(3) That the CWCB and the USACE are requested to conduct the environmental impact statement process efficiently and expediently to resolve technical matters and approvals related to the flood operation of Chatfield Reservoir in support of the need for water supply development; and

(4) That appropriate measures should be established to at least replace and, where reasonable, to improve the recreational and environmental resources impacted by a revised Chatfield Reservoir operation.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers, each member of Colorado's Congressional delegation, and the Colorado Water Congress.

Joan Fitz-Gerald
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Andrew Romanoff
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OF REPRESENTATIVES

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SECRETARY OF
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