



September 2, 2008

## City ready to oppose Glade plan

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Fort Collins officials are preparing to formally take a stand against the proposed Northern Integrated Supply Project and Glade Reservoir.

The City Council tonight will consider a resolution opposing the project as it is described and proposed because of its potential impacts on the city and the Poudre River.

The resolution also directs city staff to submit a set of comments highlighting deficiencies in a draft Environmental Impact Statement for NISP to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which released the document April 30. The deadline to comment on the document is Sept. 13.

An extensive review of the draft ESI by city staff and consultants found numerous problems with its analysis, methodology and conclusions, said John Stokes, director of natural resources for the city.

"The bottom line is the draft EIS does not adequately address the environmental impacts of this project, which is what it was supposed to do," Stokes said.

The city's comments, if approved by council, would call on the Corps to issue a supplement draft EIS, which would require redoing some of the scientific research and analysis in the document. It also would require another comment period, including public hearings.

Corps officials will weigh all comments received on the document before deciding what their next steps may be, said Chandler Peter, project manager for the draft EIS.

A supplemental draft may be necessary if a substantive change between draft and final versions of the document - such as exploring another alternative to the project - is warranted, he said.

NISP is proposed by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and participating regional municipalities and water districts to meet the needs of future growth. The draft EIS looks at four alternatives.

The alternative preferred by Northern Water includes drawing water from the Poudre River and storing it in Glade Reservoir, which would be built north of Ted's Place. Water would be diverted to Glade primarily during times of high flow, although some water would be taken most months of the year depending on conditions.

Flows through Fort Collins could be reduced 71 percent in May during years of average runoff and 26 percent in August of dry years, according to the draft EIS.

The city's comments on the document focus in three overarching themes, Stokes said: source water quality, wastewater treatment and environmental impacts.

If water is piped from Glade to Horsetooth Reservoir, which is possible under the proposal, degraded

water quality in Horsetooth would require the city to invest in expensive upgrades to its treatment facilities, according to the staff report. Reduced flows in the river might also require the city to upgrade its wastewater-treatment facilities.

"Right now, it wouldn't make sense for the city to support something that could end up costing it hundreds of millions of dollars and cause extensive environmental problems along the river," Stokes said.

The draft EIS also does not adequately look at the impact reduced river flows would have on vegetation and wildlife, according to the report. It also does not weigh the economic impact on the city of reducing river flows.

Issues raised by the city, environmental groups and other government agencies will be addressed by Corps officials after the comment period ends, Peter said. Some information in the draft EIS already is being reanalyzed based on comments from entities such as the Environmental Protection Agency, he said.

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