

# Northern Colorado BUSINESS REPORT

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## Cost of NISP project up 15 percent over 2006 estimates

By Staff

BERTHOUD - The cost for the proposed Northern Integrated Supply Project is 15 percent higher than initial estimates.

The NISP regional water project is now anticipated to cost \$490 million, according to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. The last cost estimate was made in 2006. NISP would be one of the largest water supply and storage projects in Northern Colorado history. The project, which includes the construction of two reservoirs, would provide 40,000 acre feet of water to 11 cities and four water districts in Northern Colorado.

A statement from NCWCD indicated that the members are still committed to the project despite the increased cost. It goes on to identify added capacity for pump plants and pipelines and increased storage at Galeton Reservoir as the reasons for the cost increase. Additionally, NCWCD pointed to additional costs to address concerns around water quality, hydrology and riparian corridor issues.

"We wanted to make sure, as does the Army Corps (of Engineers) that all questions are being answered," said NISP Participant Chairwoman Kathy Peterson, in a prepared statement. "It costs additional dollars and is taking additional time, but we believe it's necessary."

The release of the new cost estimate comes after a public record request filed by Save The Poudre, a coalition opposed to the proposed Glade Reservoir at the mouth of the Poudre Canyon northwest of Fort Collins. The group pointed out that the Windsor Town Board recently discussed looking at other options.

"We encourage all NISP participants to look for alternatives to NISP," said Gary Wockner, director of Save The Poudre. "Our goal is to stop NISP and find ways for NISP participants to meet their water supply needs without draining and destroying Colorado's rivers, including the Poudre."

NISP participants are now waiting for a supplemental environmental impact statement from the Army Corps of Engineers. The initial EIS was released last year, but additional work is being done following a litany of concerns brought up during the public comment period.