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Council blasts Glade

Glade Reservoir proposal, NISP receives unanimous thumbs down

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The proposed Glade Reservoir and the Northern Integrated Supply Project received a unanimous thumbs down Tuesday from the Fort Collins City Council.

Citing the potential harm the massive water project could have on the city and the Poudre River, council members voted 6-0 in favor of a resolution opposing NISP as it is described in a draft Environmental Impact Statement that is under public review.

The city wants to stay engaged in the long federal process that will determine whether the project is ever permitted, council members said. But the council also wants its concerns heard by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which issued the draft EIS in April.

Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Ohlson said he is determined to see NISP and Glade stopped.

"The proposed project I think would be devastating to the Poudre and the Fort Collins community," Ohlson said.

The council was reacting to a staff-prepared comment on the draft EIS and the potential impacts of the project, which would draw water from the Poudre and store it in Glade Reservoir, which would be built north of Ted's Place.

The report cites numerous deficiencies and errors in the document, including a lack of solid information about how the project's environmental impacts would be mitigated, said John Stokes, director of natural resources.

The city's concerns with the Glade proposal include:

- > The project's impact on water quality in the river and Horsetooth Reservoir and the cost of upgrading treatment plants
- > The potential cost of upgrading wastewater treatment facilities that may be required by decreased flows in the Poudre
- > Inadequate analysis of the project's effect on vegetation and wildlife along the river

More than 30 people spoke to the council about the controversial project, with critics outnumbering supporters nearly five to one.

John Gless of Fort Collins said the draft EIS is not objective or scientifically accurate.

"What we have here is a seriously flawed document," he said.

Brian Werner, spokesman for the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, which would build the project, said the district wants to work with the city on mitigation and addressing its concerns.

The city's comments will be sent to the Corps by the Sept. 13 deadline.
