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## County boards want more info from Glade EIS

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An environmental study of Glade Reservoir and the Northern Integrated Supply Project needs to dig deeper into the project's potential impacts on natural resources, transportation and land use, Larimer County officials say.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, for the project also needs more analysis of the consequences of not building the controversial project, which would draw water from the Poudre River to meet the future needs of growing regional communities.

Those and other comments are likely to be aired tonight as the Larimer County commissioners conduct a public hearing on the draft EIS as they prepare formal comments on the document to be sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which will decide whether to issue a permit for its construction.

The commissioners are not likely to adopt an official position on the document until closer to the Sept. 13 deadline on comments set last week by Corps officials, said Commissioner Randy Eubanks.

Eubanks said the commissioners want to gather as much information as possible on NISP. While it's a regional project, he said, the commissioners should keep their focus close to home.

"We have to consider what's best for Larimer County and our constituents," he said. "What's best for Weld County is not always best for Larimer County."

Several county departments, citizen advisory boards and commissions have been studying the draft EIS since it was released April 30. The document examines four alternatives for the project, which is known as NISP, including not building it.

The alternative proposed by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District calls for building Glade Reservoir north of Ted's Place, Galeton Reservoir near Greeley and several miles of pipeline to transfer water.

The project would produce 40,000 acre feet of water a year. An acre foot is enough to meet the annual needs of one or two urban families.

Critics of the project say it would cause irreparable environmental harm to the Poudre by decreasing its flows. Supporters say the project's impacts can be mitigated.

Comments forwarded to the commissioners already include:

- > The recreational benefits of Glade are overstated
- > The rerouting of U.S. Highway 287 and its impacts on county roads need to be more completely described

- > The project is not compatible with the county's master plan or its open lands program
- > The county should adopt land-use powers that would give it authority over how the project is developed

Chandler Peter, who is overseeing the EIS process, has said the public-comment period is intended to alert officials of potential problems with the document and the need for additional research.

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