

Glade Reservoir scores major endorsement; Northern Water nixes "Save the Poudre" bumper sticker

By **Bobby Magill** • BobbyMagill@coloradoan.com • July 30, 2010

The same day Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District officials said they wouldn't print any-more "Save the Poudre, Store it in Glade" bumper stickers after environmentalists cried foul, Northern Water announced Friday that the Western Slope's largest coalition of local governments, Club 20, threw its support behind Glade Reservoir.

But Club 20 Executive Director Reeves Brown said Friday the club may have to re-evaluate its support of the Northern Integrated Supply Project because of a possible misunderstanding about where the water in Glade Reservoir would come from.

The reservoir, if built, would take its water from the Poudre River and permanently flood a broad valley along U.S. 287 north of Ted's Place and south of Livermore.

Club 20, a coalition of 22 Colorado county governments, two tribes and many businesses west of the Continental Divide, sent a letter to Northern Water on July 13 endorsing NISP and the reservoir. That endorsement was predicated on the idea that the water in Glade would originate exclusively in the Poudre River and South Platte River basins, not on the Western Slope.

"Rather than proposing to export water from other basins and simply seeking to solve one community's problem by creating problems in another community, the Northern Integrated Supply Project appropriately proposes to develop water supply solutions from within the basin of demand (Cache la Poudre and South Platte River water supplies)," Brown wrote.

But NISP may end up export water from another river basin – once.

In order to fill Glade Reservoir for the first time, Northern Water may have to take or "rent" thousands of acre-feet of water from the Colorado-Big

Thompson Project or other Western Slope water sources if it can't get access to water on the east side of the Continental Divide, according to the Army Corps of Engineers' draft environmental review of NISP.

"Northern provided Club 20 with false information," said Gary Wockner of the Save the Poudre Coalition. "The water district told Club 20 that all the water could come from the Front Range when in fact the (draft environmental review) clearly states that 100,000 acre-feet of water can come from the Colorado River."

Brown said Friday Club 20's support for the project was based on the idea that water for the project wouldn't come from other parts of the state, and that he was unaware the water to fill Glade for the first time could come from the Western Slope. If Club 20's understanding that NISP would have no impact on Western Slope water is incorrect, "we'd have to review our support," Brown said.

But Glade's initial fill won't have any impact on Colorado River water because whatever Western Slope water the project uses will be destined for the Front Range anyway, Northern Water spokesman Brian Werner said.

"We don't even have to factor that in," he said, adding that initial fill of the reservoir will have no impact on Western Slope water supplies whatsoever.

"We'll be touching bases with (Brown) to assure

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him," Werner said.
Meanwhile, Northern Water said it won't print any more bumper stickers boosting for NISP and Glade.

Wockner and the Waterkeeper Alliance demanded Northern Water stop distributing the stickers, which said, "Save the Poudre, Store it in Glade," because they claimed Northern Water illegally stole the Save the Poudre Coalition's name and trademark. Trademark attorney Chris Beall said last week the bumper sticker is likely protected under the First Amendment.

Werner said the stickers were meant to show that the Poudre can be saved by storing the water from the river rather than keeping water developers away from it.

"I am done with it," Werner said. "What we've decided, with the hoopla it caused, that's one battle that's taken away from what we're trying to do, which is get a project built."

He said Northern Water has been receiving numerous phone calls from people asking for more stickers.

A caller said he'd print more of the stickers himself if Northern Water won't, Werner said.

"And I said, 'You know what? I don't want to know about it,'" Werner said.

Wockner said the bumper stickers are "very damaging" to the Save the Poudre Coalition, but when asked how much damage each vehicle sporting the bumper sticker does to the environmental group, Wockner declined to say.

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