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(Long/Stockley/Wockner/Karan are all members of the Save The Poudre Coalition:

<http://savethepoudre.org>)

## **NISP/GLADE “AN EXPENSIVE, UNSUSTAINABLE BOONDOGGLE”, SAY CRITICS**

Local and regional critics of the proposed Northern Integrated Supply Project, which includes the proposed Glade Reservoir called the project “an expensive, unsustainable boondoggle that threatens to kill the Poudre River.”

“This project is environmentally and economically unsustainable. The recent decision by the town of Berthoud to drop out of the project underscores the problems with NISP,” said Becky Long, spokesperson for the Colorado Environmental Coalition.

The Berthoud Town Council voted on Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> to drop its participation in NISP, citing the project’s cost and environmental concerns as important factors in the decision.

“Like most of the NISP subscribing communities, the town of Berthoud has pretty much maxed out its credit cards,” said Karen Stockley, a community resident of Berthoud and local activist. “Erie, Fort Morgan, Windsor, and most of the other NISP subscribing communities are considering the same financing scheme that Berthoud had proposed to use, but had to drop because of the extreme costs involved.”

Financing plans provided by Red Oak Consulting, an economic consulting firm hired by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, who is promoting the project, recommend that nearly all the communities subscribing to NISP borrow money through revenue bonds to finance their share of NISP.

Revenue bonds can be used to raise the municipal debt for towns and water districts without requiring voter approval. “Revenue bonds are an end run around TABOR and taxpayers,” said Stockley. “And I don’t see how they could sustain the huge debt loads they would incur,” said Stockley.

The town of Erie, with a population of about 15,000, will have to raise nearly \$65 million for their share of the project. If financed as proposed, their total cost, including interest, would exceed \$130 million. The Central Weld County Water District, which serves Firestone, Dacono, and Frederick, needs to raise nearly \$72 million (nearly \$150 million, including interest) to pay for its share of NISP. Windsor and the Fort Collins-Loveland water district will have to raise about \$30 million each (more than \$60 million, including interest).

“We are talking about debt loads exceeding \$20,000 per four person family in Erie in order to pay for this project,” said Gary Wockner, a Fort Collins resident. “That goes beyond the pale. It’s completely unsustainable.”

“The Poudre River is already dry for part of the year in dozens of places. NISP will make that problem worse, all for an economically and environmentally unsustainable project,” said David Karan of Poudre Paddlers.

Long, Stockley, Karan, and Wockner are all members of the Save The Poudre Coalition ([www.savethepoudre.org](http://www.savethepoudre.org)), a coalition of Colorado conservation groups that supports saving the Poudre River through economically and ecologically sustainable solutions to meet future water supply needs.

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