



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Gary Wockner, Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper, 970-218-8310

<http://SaveThePoudre.org>

Colorado Counties Inc. NISP Resolution is Sham Propaganda

Resolution gives false information to commissioners, says NISP would not use West Slope water

Fort Collins, CO -- At the Tuesday, June 7, 2011 meeting of Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI), a resolution will be considered and voted on to support the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP), the extremely controversial proposed water project in northern Colorado on the Cache la Poudre River. The resolution, placed on the agenda by Weld County commissioners, gives false information to Colorado's county commissioners, claiming that NISP "uses only in-basin supplies to meet Eastern Slope needs..." Here is the resolution: http://poudreriver.home.comcast.net/~poudreriver/NISP_resolution_CCI_6-5-2-11.pdf

"This resolution is sham propaganda and gives false information to commissioners," said Gary Wockner of Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper. "The fact is that NISP will use water from the Colorado River from the West Slope in addition to water from the Poudre River."

The NISP Draft Environmental Impact Statement very clearly stated that NISP would use West Slope water. The issue was acknowledged by the spokesperson for the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District in the [Denver Post in 2010](#). Due to the potential impacts on the Colorado River, in April of 2011 Save the Poudre sent a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requesting a cumulative impacts study for all of the projects proposed to get water from the Colorado River -- NISP, the Windy Gap Firming Project, and the Moffat Collection System Project. ([That letter is here.](#))

In addition to the false information about the Colorado River and the West Slope, the resolution also claims NISP would "preserve agriculture," a claim scientifically refuted by Save the Poudre. In the new technical report, "[The Farms Facts About NISP](#)," it is shown that NISP would help cause the dry-up and subdivision of up to 123,000 acres of Colorado farmland.

Further, the CCI resolution process suffers from serious 'errors of omission' because commissioners were not presented with the negative impacts of NISP, or positions against NISP, including:

- that NISP would [drain up to 71% of the water out of the Poudre River](#) through downtown Fort Collins
- that the [Fort Collins City Council unanimously opposed](#) NISP
- that the U.S. EPA said NISP "[is not in compliance with the Clean Water Act](#)"
- that the State of Colorado Water Quality Control Division [denied NISP an early water quality certification](#)
- and that NISP would require small, struggling Weld County towns to borrow \$400 million - \$750 million in [public debt to pay for the project](#).

"Asking commissioners to take a position without presenting the negative impacts of NISP is a sham," said Gary Wockner. "This would be like telling people cigarettes taste good and give you a little buzz without revealing that smoking tobacco causes cancer."

Save the Poudre was never contacted by CCI. When Save the Poudre contacted CCI on Monday morning June 6, CCI told Save the Poudre that no public comment or presentations are allowed at CCI meetings.

Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper has created a "[Healthy Rivers Alternative](#)" to NISP. This Alternative would be cheaper, better for farms, better for the river, and could be implemented faster than NISP. NISP is now over 6 years late and at least \$150 million over budget.

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Gary Wockner, PhD, Director
Save The Poudre Coalition: Poudre Waterkeeper
Fort Collins, Colorado
<http://savethepoudre.org>
970-218-8310

Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper is a coalition of 20 national, state, and regional groups including: Waterkeeper Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, Clean Water Action, River Network Wild Earth Guardians, the Xerces Society, Defenders of Wildlife, American Rivers, American Whitewater Association, Western Resource Advocates, Colorado Environmental Coalition, Lighthawk, Environment Colorado, Sierra Club – Rocky Mountain Chapter, Fort Collins Audubon Society, Citizen Planners, Wolverine Farm Publishing, Poudre Paddlers, Friends of the Poudre, and the Cache la Poudre River Foundation. Membership in these groups totals over 3 million American citizens.