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Glade opponents out in force

BY KEVIN DUGGAN

KevinDuggan @coloradoan.com

Opponents of Glade Reservoir and the Northern Integrated Supply Project turned out in force Wednesday to urge the Larimer County commissioners to oppose the controversial project.

Some urged the commissioners to take on the authority that would give the county more say in how the project is developed if it is permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The commissioners have a responsibility to protect the interests of the county and the Poudre River, said Josh Metten of Fort Collins.

The county should use its land-use process to assume greater authority over water projects as allowed by state law, he said.

"If you do not do this, you are doing a great disservice to your constituents," Metten said.

Supporters of the project, including representatives of entities that would build the \$426 million project, said NISP is needed to meet the water needs of growing communities in Northern Colorado.

"We're not here advocating growth ..." said Gary Klaphake, city administrator for Lafayette. "We need to build more water supply storage, or we won't have a very good vision for the future."

The commissioners held the meeting to take comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for NISP to assist them in forming an official position on the document. The commissioners are expected to send their comments to the Corps close to the Sept. 13 deadline.

The draft EIS does not look closely enough at costs associated with the project, said Ramon Ajero of Fort Collins. The county needs to scrutinize the document and its shortcomings, he said.

"As county commissioners, I think it's your duty to do that reading behind the lines," he said.

The document examines four alternatives for 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.

Glade would hold 170,000 acre feet of water, a little more than Horsetooth Reservoir. An acre foot is enough water to meet the annual needs of one or two urban families.

The project would produce 40,000 acre feet a year for the 15 regional communities and water districts that would pay for its construction. The Fort Collins-Loveland Water District is one of the participating entities.