

February 24, 2021

Greeley City Council
1000 10th Street
Greeley, Colorado 80631
RE: Letter of Support for the Terry Ranch Project

Dear City of Greeley Council Members:

I am writing this letter to voice my support for the Terry Ranch Project. There are many reasons for my support, including the continuance of Greeley's legacy of being the leading innovators of water protection and supply, good stewards of the citizen's financial resources and keeping our efforts local. Greeley's water supply management is a crown jewel for us and has left us in a position where we can continue to plan smartly and thoroughly. Rather than being forced to make rash decisions that cost significantly more, produce poor results, and relies on other entities with conflicting interests, our leaders have found a better way. By approving the Terry Ranch Project, Greeley's future generations will continue to say these things about our era's innovative approach to acquisition and storage.

The ability to acquire the 1.2 million acre feet is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I do not think people can really wrap their minds around. This amount of water ensures Greeley's water supply for many, many generations to come. Almost as important and impressive is the fact that this water is stored within an isolated aquifer. This not only protects the available water, but also eliminates loss due to evaporation. This saving of the evaporative loss combined with the innovative purchase method is truly remarkable and honors Greeley's legacy while taking care to protect its citizen's resources.

The essentially, "pay as you go" financial agreement is one that is quite creative and looks out for the citizens of Greeley. Unfortunately, Greeley has been dragged through the wringer trying to permit the expansion of Milton Seaman Reservoir over the years. The continued studies, evaluations, legal battles etc.... have cost the City millions to no avail. The Terry Ranch Project is something that should be looked at as environmentally friendly and with the water laws applying differently to this source than surface water laws, the time and cost to put into operation will be dramatically reduced. The project's elevation is higher than that of Greeley's which will allow gravity flows into town. Much better than having to pump it most of the way. The lines from the project are also all within Weld County borders which is a very significant thing.

As seen in countless news articles, the city in the Denver Metro area that has been buying Northern Colorado farms in order get the water that comes with them, has been having a heck of a time getting easements from the county with different interest from their own. This project keeps it local. The City of Greeley and Weld County have common interests lending itself to true cooperation.

This opportunity is so unique, impactful and unprecedented, I cannot think of a reason why one could appose it. I understand Colorado water rights can be confusing which could leave many to write it off as "too expensive". However, to pass this opportunity by would be hundreds of times more costly. Another opportunity like this will not come again. I strongly urge you to vote in support of this project and keep Greeley in position to grow sensibly and safely.

Sincerely,



Tim Pike