



February 24, 2021

Ray Tschillard, Director  
Poudre Learning Center  
8313 West F Street  
Greeley, Colorado 80631

The Honorable John Gates  
Mayor, City of Greeley  
1000 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Greeley, Colorado 80631

Mr. Harold Evans, Chairman  
Greeley Water and Sewer Board  
1000 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Greeley, Colorado 80631

Re: Terry Ranch Aquifer Proposal

Dear Mayor Gates:

I am writing today on behalf of the Poudre Learning Center (PLC), expressing our enthusiastic support of the City of Greeley's Terry Ranch Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project which is currently under consideration. As you know, the PLC is an educational facility focused on the use of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) principles in shepherding stewardship of our natural resources. With current and future projected population growth along the Northern Front Range, it is essential for communities to exercise wisdom in planning for the future, with planning based strongly on STEM methodologies, the key to protecting finite natural resources, including limited water supplies. There are no cheap or easy solutions for solving Front Range Water needs, waiting to act will result in fewer options at higher costs, so acting now for Greeley's future is crucial. STEM analysis on the Terry Ranch proposal has been completed and thoroughly vetted, and from that work it is clear that implementation of the project will successfully further the City of Greeley's long legacy in innovative and cost-effective water planning!

While it is necessary to plan for future demand now, in securing additional water Greeley must exercise absolute care and due diligence! In analyzing this proposal, City staff has conducted a thorough, detailed evaluation using STEM methodologies focused on current science, gathering over 7,000 pertinent data points, testing the benefits and challenging potential limiting factors. The findings have been peer reviewed by independent third-party consultants, verifying the STEM analysis, confirming the yields, calculating that projected withdrawals/recharge rates are viable, that harvested water can be treated to accepted State and Federal water quality standards, that water can be conveyed and transferred effectively using engineered designs as specified and that project costs and remuneration rates are realistic, fair and equitable, while fulfilling the standards of Colorado water law. The analysis and documents for the project proposal are openly available for inspection by the public on the City of Greeley web site. Dr. William Hoyt, PLC Board President and Professor Emeritus of Oceanography, University of Northern Colorado, conducted an independent review of the proposal and published findings in an opinion piece in the Greeley Tribune, noting that the science presented for the project is solid. While others have expressed concerns about the Terry Proposal, a search of their web site

indicates speculative findings contradicted by the facts presented in the volumes of data compiled by the City.

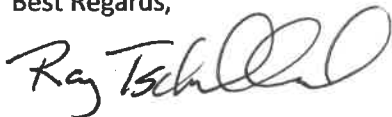
Although the yield on this project is estimated at 1.2 million acre-feet with additional storage capability, the primary purpose for Terry Ranch water will be supplementary supply to be used to cover drought deficits. In essence the Terry Ranch will be a savings account for water, withdrawn as needed and replenished in times of surplus. Carefully managed under this strategy the Terry Ranch water can be managed in perpetuity, continuing to be available long into Greeley's future.

Critical to PLC's mission of stewarding natural resources, the implementation of the Terry Ranch Project is the preferred alternative as it will eliminate the need for proposed expansion of the Milton Seaman Reservoir dam and footprint, a costly project that if implemented would have serious negative impacts on riparian habitat and wildlife use and movement corridors along the North Fork of the Cache La Poudre River. In its long-range plan The City of Greeley speaks eloquently, that in managing for future needs and growth we have an absolute obligation to protect essential natural resources, the lands and waters in our watershed. The Terry Ranch Proposal is responsibly designed, economically practical, with the least negative impacts to fish, wildlife, habitat and lands, and for these reasons the Poudre Learning Center supports the Terry Ranch aquifer acquisition project!

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of service as the Terry Ranch Project moves forward!

Finally, we would like to thank Harold Evans, Chairman of the Greeley Water and Sewer Board, for taking his time and energy to provide an informative program on the Terry project for PLC staff and volunteers! We are blessed in Greeley with legions of people ready, willing and able to support the PLC and the City of Greeley in innumerable projects, and Harold is always at the front of the line to pitch in and help. Thanks again to Harold, we value his support!

Best Regards,



Ray Tschillard

CC: Sean Chambers, Director, Greeley Water and Sewer