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**Douglas County Tells RWR No on ARPA Funding
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Alamosa, Colo -- After months of deliberation, the Douglas County Commissioners said in a work session today that they have opted not to use Covid-relief funds to advance Renewable Water Resources' San Luis Valley water export proposal. After reading Stephen Leonhardt, the County legal counsel's memo listing 26 issues of concern with the RWR proposal, Commissioner Abe Laydon who was undecided, indicated that he will not support the county's use of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds for RWR.

The County indicated that they will be releasing a redacted version of the water attorney's memos which outline numerous hurdles that Douglas County would be burdened with including RWR changing state law to advance their proposal in water court. The memos also discussed the federal permitting challenges including the Wirth Amendment that would require Secretary of Interior approval.

"This is good news for the San Luis Valley and it speaks to the hundreds and perhaps thousands of people who spoke out against this unviable proposal," said Senator Cleave Simpson, General Manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. The San Luis Valley residents, water providers, environmental and conservation groups, agricultural interests, businesses and even many Douglas County residents submitted letters expressing opposition and attended numerous work sessions presenting a mountain of evidence why the RWR proposal is not a win for Douglas County nor the San Luis Valley. We greatly appreciate Governor Jared Polis, Attorney General Phil Weiser, Senators John Hickenlooper and Michael Bennet, and Congresswoman Lauren Boebert and other leaders who joined us in this fight. We will remain vigilant to continue to monitor Douglas County's ongoing discussions with RWR to ensure that we continue to fight this at every turn," said Simpson.