

Center Soil Conservation District
Board of Supervisors
0048 West County Road 10 N
Center, CO 81125

February 7, 2022

Douglas County Commissioners
100 3rd Street
Castle Rock, CO 80104

RE: Opposition to Renewable Water Resources Proposal

Dear Douglas County Commissioners,

We are writing to ask that Douglas County, as our neighbors, take a hard look at how RWR's proposal will impact our community that is already struggling to sustain our water source in the Rio Grande Basin. The Center Soil Conservation District opposes this export, as it will adversely affect not only the economy but the soil health of the San Luis Valley.

The Center Soil Conservation District Mission Statement: "The prudent use and adequate treatment of all land, water and related resources within its boundaries, to sustain the use of these resources for future generations and to restore that portion of these resources damaged through improper use." We feel that this proposal is not an adequate treatment of the land or water of this area and will not sustain the resources for future generations. The district was formed in 1941 and has been working with farmers and ranchers to sustain these resources in order to continue to grow food for a growing population.

The permanent dry up of at least 10,000 acres of farmland would increase soil erosion and noxious weed management needs. It is our belief that soil erosion and noxious weed management will not be dealt with by Renewable Water Resources after the water is shipped out of the valley. Cover crops are extremely difficult to maintain in the valley's climate with no irrigation water to support them. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District and Subdistricts are working on these priorities. When subdistricts buy land or retire water rights, to recover the aquifer levels, they work with producers to plant cover crops to avoid soil erosion.

The Nature Conservancy has helped to preserve land in this area in the past from "Buy and Dry" proposals. The Baca National Wildlife Refuge and Great Sand Dunes National Park and Reserve were created to protect these sensitive ecosystems during a previous proposal. Once again, these ecosystems will be at risk if water is pumped out of the basin. Please consider the value of this community, landscape, and ecosystem to your constituents. The Grant Sand Dunes, Baca Wildlife Refuge, Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge, Rio Grande River and local foods grown in the San Luis Valley surely have great value to your constituents physical and mental health.

Sincerely,

Center Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors