



Commissioner Abe Laydon,
Commissioner George Teal
Commissioner Lora Thomas

Re: RWR Proposal

Dear Sirs and Madam,

I am a 7th generation Coloradan and 4th generation San Luis Valley local, born and raised in Alamosa, CO. I currently work for the local non-profit San Luis Valley Great Outdoors as Operations Director of Trails.

RWR claims that the San Luis Valley lacks the amenities of suburbia and how that must be something detrimental. The fact is people live here and choose to raise their families here because it isn't a suburb of Denver. There are already collaborative efforts underway focused on re-activating our downtowns and attracting new businesses, while preserving the wetlands and open space we are fortunate to have in and near neighborhoods.

We are fortunate to have 2 million acres of public land surrounding us and have broad collaborative efforts to improve our communities' health and wellness via our stretches of the Rio Grande and further activating public open spaces with community trail and water-based recreation development. These efforts are successful because of the willingness to work together in the healthcare, conservation, recreation, wildlife, and agricultural communities. Our common vision is that we want to conserve our natural resources and the pristine character of our public lands for current and future generations to enjoy.

A trans-basin export is unnatural and not how river basins are meant to operate. Climate change is already impacting the Rio Grande Basin's water supply causing aridification of the landscape. Exporting water out of this already depleted resource would irrevocably damage communities in the San Luis Valley. The pseudoscience RWR is proposing to the contrary, just doesn't add up. The heritage and cultures currently present in the SLV cannot continue to be experienced and preserved if there isn't enough water for our communities and for farmers and ranchers to continue their way of life. Please use your reason to recognize this is nothing but a scheme.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick B. Ortiz".

Patrick Ortiz, Operations Director of Trails, San Luis Valley Great Outdoors