

MEMORANDUM

To: Larimer County Board of County Commissioners

From: Development Staff

Date: September 2, 2020

RE: Citizen Comments for File #20-ZONE2657

Attached to this memo please find the following information received by staff since publication of the September 1st Hearing Addendum:

1. Public comments received after the September 1st Hearing Addendum through 12:00 A.M. on September 2nd in the form of email strings.

PUBLIC COMMENT



Rob Helmick <helmicrp@co.larimer.co.us>

NISP 1041 Comments

1 message

Rodger Ames <rodger.b.ames@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 11:50 PM

To: swjohnson@larimer.org, tdonnelly@larimer.org, jkefalas@larimer.org

Cc: rhelmick@larimer.org

Commissioners Johnson, Donnelley, and Kefalas,

I want to thank each of you for your contentious review of Northern's 1041 Application for the NISP.

My comments pertain to the Commissioner's question #16, specifically the 2006-2019 data gap in hydrological modeling raised in previous public comments.

Northern's modeling predicts a 150,000 acre-feet storage deficit at Glade at the end of 2005. To refill Glade by 2019, Northern would need to divert, on average, an additional 10,000 AF per year above the average 43,400 acre-feet/year diversion modeled for the 1950-2005 period. These additional diversions would exceed Northern's long-term water right.

Northern stated that "if Glade were built in 2006, it would likely be full by 2019". However, the question posed by myself and others during public comments was, "how long would it take to refill Glade following the severe water drawdown predicted in 2005?". The intent is to evaluate the impact of recent streamflow data on simulated water levels during the entire 70 year, 1950-2019 period. Simply stating that the past 15 years saw "higher than average flows" ignores the fact that Northern's junior water rights govern diversions to Glade. Excluding the 2006-2019 time period denies the Commissioners and the public the information needed to evaluate Glade's long-term operations and refill characteristics following severe water drawdowns.

Furthermore, Northern's modeling relies on 1950-2005 streamflows and does not account for overall "declines" in runoff, or longer-lasting droughts, predicted with climate warming. The use of historical hydrology to predict future runoff has been debunked in the scientific literature for well over a decade. The 2019 Fort Collins Water Supply Vulnerability Study is an example of the robust decision-making approach that has become commonplace in the last decade. A similar comprehensive modeling approach should be the standard for the County's 1041 review process of the NISP.

Lastly, Northern stated during their Sept. 1 testimony that 600 acre-feet would provide enough water to "start using" Glade for recreation. I point out that 600 acre-feet of surface area corresponds to water level 130 feet below the proposed high waterline, and 1000 acres of exposed lake bed. Unlike Horsetooth, severe low water levels at Glade would persist for years on end during prolonged droughts. The impacts of future low water levels on recreation value at Glade have not been adequately evaluated. As it stands, Northern's 1041 Application is incomplete and does not meet the cost-benefits requirements specified by Criteria 10 of the Larimer County Land Use Code.

Respectfully,

Rodger Ames
Larimer County Resident



Rob Helmick <helmicrp@co.larimer.co.us>

Fwd: Please Do NOT grant a 1041 permit until easements are negotiated as in Weld County

1 message

Linda Hoffmann <hoffmalc@co.larimer.co.us>
To: "Helmick, Rob" <helmicrp@co.larimer.co.us>

Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 6:59 PM

It may be too late to add materials to the public record for this application but I'm forwarding the message in case it's not.



Linda Hoffmann
County Manager

Commissioners' Office
200 W Oak St, Fort Collins, CO 80521 | 2nd Floor
W: (970) 498-7004
lhoffmann@larimer.org | www.larimer.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **EL Ashbach** <samaia@earthlink.net>
Date: Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 5:09 PM
Subject: Please Do NOT grant a 1041 permit until easements are negotiated as in Weld County
To: <bocc@larimer.org>



NISPPermitEasements.png
116K



Katie Beilby <beilbykm@co.larimer.co.us>

Fwd: Fw: NISP

Katie Beilby <beilbykm@co.larimer.co.us>
Draft

Thu, Mar 19, 2020 at 12:23 PM

Hi Rob,

I had a chance to check with Stephanie, and here are the answers to your other questions.

1. Length of Pipelines in Larimer County totals 35.6 miles split into the various pipeline segments below.

Pipeline	Length (miles)
Northern Tier	17.1
Poudre Delivery	1.3
Poudre Intake	7.0
County Line	10.2
TOTAL	35.6

2. Yes, we will be pursuing a permit in Weld County – a Use by Special Review for the Galeton pipelines. Due to the permit requirements of having all easements acquired, we will be applying for this permit later in the pipeline design process.

Please let us know if you need anything else.

Christie

Christie Coleman, P.E., PMP | Project Manager
220 Water Ave | Berthoud, CO 80513
Direct 970-622-2355 | Cell 970-397-1882

Main 800-369-RAIN (7246)
www.northernwater.org | [Find us on Facebook](#)



Rob Helmick <helmicrp@co.larimer.co.us>

Please Vote Against Approval of 1041 Permit for NISP

1 message

Cole Conger <clockworx101@everyactioncustom.com>

Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 3:41 PM

Reply-To: clockworx101@gmail.com

To: rhelmick@larimer.org

Dear Larimer County Senior Planner Rob Helmick,

I am writing to you today to express my concern about the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP). Your vote on the 1041 permit for this project will prove to be a vote that will impact the water quality in the Poudre River Watershed for future generations of Coloradans, and the hundreds of thousands of visitors that recreate in Larimer County. NISP's impacts on the Poudre River will remove peak flows from the river at the mouth of the canyon, and will negatively affect the water quality and recreational benefits of the river. The Poudre River Whitewater Park, which only opened in October of 2019, will indefinitely experience reduced recreational opportunities due to flow reduction. This multi-million dollar project was built using both public and community funding in order to create a space where people can access the river safely in the heart of Fort Collins. Throughout the entire summer, the park has been filled each and every day with people boating, tubing, wading, and relaxing by the river. If NISP is approved, the flows in this stretch of river will be reduced by $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of current flows, and this valuable resource will be squandered.

I request you to vote against the approval of a 1041 permit for NISP. As a frequent user of the Poudre River, I want to be able to enjoy the world-class recreation opportunities of this river. If NISP is approved, two generations of children will not get to experience the Poudre River in the ways that we do, and the loss of local identity that the river brings to Larimer County will be felt from the Canyon's mouth to the confluence with the South Platte.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cole Conger

Sincerely,

Cole Conger

1805 Broadview Pl Fort Collins, CO 80521-3394

clockworx101@gmail.com



Rob Helmick <helmicrp@co.larimer.co.us>

Please Vote Against Approval of 1041 Permit for NISP

2 messages

Mark McWilliams <markwyoming@everyactioncustom.com>
Reply-To: markwyoming@yahoo.com
To: rhelmick@larimer.org

Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 9:44 AM

Dear Larimer County Senior Planner Rob Helmick,

Hello. I am a recreational kayaker, surfer, and a member of the Poudre River community. Please make the right decision for your community!

I am writing to you today to express my concern about the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP). Your vote on the 1041 permit for this project will prove to be a vote that will impact the water quality in the Poudre River Watershed for future generations of Coloradans, and the hundreds of thousands of visitors that recreate in Larimer County. NISP's impacts on the Poudre River will remove peak flows from the river at the mouth of the canyon, and will negatively affect the water quality and recreational benefits of the river. The Poudre River Whitewater Park, which only opened in October of 2019, will indefinitely experience reduced recreational opportunities due to flow reduction. This multi-million dollar project was built using both public and community funding in order to create a space where people can access the river safely in the heart of Fort Collins. Throughout the entire summer, the park has been filled each and every day with people boating, tubing, wading, and relaxing by the river. If NISP is approved, the flows in this stretch of river will be reduced by $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of current flows, and this valuable resource will be squandered.

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mark McWilliams
2606 Covington Ct Fort Collins, CO 80526-6709
markwyoming@yahoo.com

Rob Helmick <helmicrp@co.larimer.co.us>
To: Katie Beilby <beilbykm@co.larimer.co.us>

Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 12:39 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

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Robert Helmick
Senior Planner

Community Development Department
200 West Oak Street, Suite 3100
PO Box 1190
Fort Collins, CO 80521
970-498-7682
rhelmick@larimer.org
<https://www.larimer.org/planning>



Rob Helmick <helmicrp@co.larimer.co.us>

Please DENY The Permit For NISP

1 message

Bill Sloan <wts1965@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 5:03 PM

To: jkefalas@larimer.org, swjohnson@larimer.org, tdonnelly@larimer.org, rhelmick@larimer.org

Dear Larimer County Commissioners,

The Cache la Poudre River is the crown jewel of Fort Collins. If the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) is built, so much water would be drained out of the Poudre that the river would resemble a muddy, stinky ditch through Fort Collins. Please DENY the County permit for NISP.

1. The Poudre already has about 60% of its water drained out by farms and cities before the river reaches downtown Fort Collins.
2. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit documents indicate that NISP would drain 68% of the remaining water out of the river in the month of May, 25% in June, and 45% in July.
3. The peak flow of the river -- which is integral for the ecological health of the river through Fort Collins -- would be drained by 50%.
4. Draining this much water out of the river would cause severe negative impacts including:
 - The river water would be warmer which can lead to fish die-offs,
 - More sediment and mud would build up on the bottom of the river,
 - Native trout can't spawn in mud, and would be overtaken by warm-water fish like carp and bullheads,
 - Algae would increasingly grow in the riverbed and on rocks,
 - Pollution of City's stormwater and wastewater would be much worse due to lack of dilution,
 - Water quality would worsen, including an increase in E. coli bacteria, making the river unhealthy for human enjoyment,
 - Wetlands along the river would be increasingly dried up,
 - The forest canopy along the river corridor through town -- cottonwoods and willows -- would be increasingly dried up and die off,
 - Recreational opportunity at the new Whitewater Park would be severely diminished,
 - Flooding would increase,
 - The river would be ugly, more like a muddy stinking ditch.

NISP is by far the most controversial project in the history of Larimer County due to these severe negative environmental impacts which cannot be mitigated. Further, the proposed 'mitigation plan' for NISP is a farce and would have little impact against the overwhelming environmental devastation caused by NISP. Finally, NISP towns have other alternatives to get water that don't include destroying Fort Collins' beloved Poudre River.

Please DENY this permit and begin the more important work of restoring the Poudre River through Fort Collins instead of further draining it.

Sincerely,
Bill Sloan
wts1965@gmail.com
303 First Avenue, Box 355
Ault CO 80610



Rob Helmick <helmicrp@co.larimer.co.us>

Rebuttal Concerning Whitewater Recreation

1 message

Ian Stafford <ian@americanwhitewater.org>

Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 10:17 PM

To: bocc@larimer.org, John Kefalas <jkefalas@larimer.org>, Steve Johnson <swjohnson@larimer.org>, Tom Donnelly <tdonnelly@larimer.org>, rhelmick@larimer.org

Cc: Hattie Johnson <Hattie@americanwhitewater.org>, Evan Stafford <evan@americanwhitewater.org>

Dear Larimer County Commissioners,

Good evening to you all! I have attached a comment that I would like submitted into the official record in response to Northern Water's rebuttal earlier this evening regarding whitewater recreation. As an organization, we are extremely concerned about the fabricated skill sets that were used to justify the stated reduction of boatable days at the Poudre River Whitewater Park. We want to ensure you're aware that this reduction will affect all levels of users, not only the "experts" that Northern Water created in their presentation.

American Whitewater has a rich history of advocating on behalf of all whitewater recreationist, and continue to do so in our hope to see the Poudre River Whitewater Park protected for generations to come.

Please look over the attached comments, and feel free to contact me if you need any additional clarification.

Thank you for your time and your service to the Larimer County community,

Ian Stafford
Colorado Policy Strategist

AMERICANWHITewater.ORG

704-619-4696

420 Hawkins St

Fort Collins, CO 80521

he/him/his

Join American Whitewater!

@jstaffo

 Northern Water Rebuttal.pdf
241K



Ian Stafford
Colorado Policy Strategist
704-619-4696
ian@americanwhitewater.org

RE: Northern Water's rebuttal to questions regarding whitewater recreation at the Poudre River Whitewater Park (Sent via email to Larimer County Board of County Commissioners: bocc@larimer.org, jkefalas@larimer.org, swjohnson@larimer.org, tdonnelly@larimer.org, rhelmick@larimer.org)

9/1/2020

Dear Larimer County Commissioners,

After listening to Northern Water's rebuttal on questions that the Board of County Commissioners has developed over the past two weeks, it became clear that there was a disconnect from the information that Northern Water provided, and what Larimer County whitewater users of all skill sets have clearly stated through direct communication with American Whitewater, and through public comments to your office.

As an organization we are concerned with the way that skill level at the Poudre River Whitewater Park was considered a determining factor for the reduction of boatable days that will occur due to NISP. Northern Water wrongfully considered the reduction of boatable days to be "expert level days", which is a categorization that was fabricated and has no mention within any of the resources that American Whitewater has submitted during this process. **A boatable day is defined as any day throughout the year when flows are above minimum and below maximum acceptable levels, regardless of skill set.** Commissioner Johnson was accurate in his concern about the reduction of boatable days for all users, but was provided a misleading statement built upon false categorizations. **Through the Boatable Days study that American Whitewater carried out with avid Larimer County boaters of all skillsets, and confirmed by Northern Water in this evening's presentation, NISP will cause a 22%-36% reduction in boatable days for all whitewater users at the Poudre River Whitewater Park.**

As Northern Water stated, the Poudre River Whitewater Park is a fantastic resource because it accommodates beginner & intermediate boaters, but the resource only works to its full potential when provided the water it needs to create whitewater features. **The Poudre River Whitewater Park was intentionally designed to be a place where boaters of all levels can hone their skills**, and requires optimal flows during peak runoff in order to create the necessary whitewater features for boating. Although tubing is a popular activity along this stretch of the Poudre River, the site was created with whitewater boaters in mind, and the City of Fort Collins has actively marketed the site to the whitewater community.

Northern Water mischaracterized the use of this park in their rebuttal this evening, and it's imperative that you understand the purpose of this public resource for all skill sets of whitewater recreationists.

- **Boatable days for all skillsets will be reduced by 22%-36% annually**
- **Acceptable flow levels were quantified by data from paddlers of all skill sets preferred flows. Paddlers that live in, visit, and pay taxes in Larimer County**
- **This site was intentionally created for boaters of all skill sets to hone their skills, and requires optimal peak runoff flows to create whitewater features**

American Whitewater has a storied legacy of advocating on a range of flows that meets the needs of all skill levels of recreational paddlers. We remain steadfast in our assessment that has been submitted to the Board of County Commissioners, and strongly encourage the board to revisit the report that we have submitted with our public comments. We highly value the importance of the Poudre River Whitewater Park, and hope that this comment provides clarity on the importance of this valuable public resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Stafford'.

Ian Stafford
American Whitewater
Colorado Policy Strategist



Rob Helmick <helmicrp@co.larimer.co.us>

Please DENY The Permit For NISP

2 messages

Kristina Unrein <kunrein@hotmail.com>

Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 5:01 PM

To: jkefalas@larimer.org, swjohnson@larimer.org, tdonnelly@larimer.org, rhelmick@larimer.org

Dear Larimer County Commissioners,

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Please DENY this permit and begin the more important work of restoring the Poudre River through Fort Collins instead of further draining it.

Sincerely,
Kristina Unrein
kunrein@hotmail.com
PO Box 355
Ault CO 80610

Kristina Unrein <kunrein@hotmail.com>

Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 5:04 PM

To: jkefalas@larimer.org, swjohnson@larimer.org, tdonnelly@larimer.org, rhelmick@larimer.org

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Sincerely,
Kristina Unrein
kunrein@hotmail.com
PO BOX 355
Ault CO 80610