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*Via Electronic Mail: [ColoradoRiverBasinStudy@usbr.gov](mailto:ColoradoRiverBasinStudy@usbr.gov)*

We are writing to urge the Bureau of Reclamation to consider water supplies needed for oil and gas and other industrial uses in its Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study. While oil and gas uses very little water compared to agricultural and municipal uses, reliable access to water used in drilling and completion is critical to the industry, our economy and the nation.

Energy and power have long been inexorably linked to water supplies. Irrigation has transformed the West into productive and healthy landscapes that supply food, fiber and drinking water to millions of people while providing benefits to recreation and wildlife. Energy from hydroelectric and from oil and gas has: heated homes and businesses in the wintertime, cooled them in the summer; produced electricity and moved people and goods domestically and abroad.

Oil and gas contributes over \$600 million of annual revenue to Colorado and local governments from severance and ad valorem taxes on production. According to University of Colorado, Leeds School of Business, in 2010, oil and gas generated \$3.1 billion in direct labor income; 43,836 direct jobs; and \$32 billion of economic activity in the State of Colorado alone.

Water is required for drilling and completion of oil and gas wells. During drilling, water is used to cool the drill bit and to help bring drill cuttings to the surface. Water is also used for hydraulic fracturing which pumps water down the wellbore under pressure to create fractures to release oil and gas. Water sources include municipalities, water districts, agricultural water right holders and leased or purchased effluent as well as nontributary groundwater. When practicable, flowback and produced water from oil and gas is also recycled for use in future operations.

We urge the Bureau of Reclamation to carefully consider current and future needs for water for industrial purposes.