

INDIVIDUALS

IN100

Sharon Rouse
4656 Greenbriar Court
Boulder, CO 80303

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Animas La Plata Project. I have lived in Colorado all my life (56 years) and I have lived in Crested Butte, Evergreen, Grand Junction, Denver and Boulder. I feel that the time has come for us to live within our means, and by that I mean our physical means, which includes water. I realize that the storage capacity is necessary in the past for agriculture and subsistence. Now the issue is how much water is needed for future needs. My opinion is derived from years of seeing more consumption by building reservoirs and dams on rivers. When is it going to be that there is no more natural flowing water in a natural waterway? We got low ratings on the Rio Grande and Green Rivers recently, and I realize that I must be willing to take one less shower, buffaloe grass the lawn, and not wash the car if it means that we can have some natural, untouched waterways left.

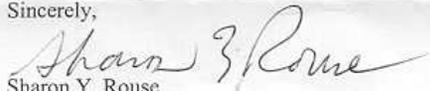
IN100-1 Comments noted.

I am begging you to go beyond the politics of the moment in your decision, which is politically loaded, as our Senator Campbell can attest. He is not one to make the decision because he is aligned with a certain group. Please, as representatives of one of the most beautiful states in the hemisphere, can you put aside the pressure coming from the vested interest groups, and look to the natural world for your answer. Please say no to the project.

If I can go to my grave seeing one less water project, and particularly for the reasons that have been put forward for the Animas LaPlata project, I will rest in peace. I hope that you will, too. Please vote no on this project. Have the courage to make a historical move, and not cave in to the pressures because of the work already invested..

Thank you for acting in conscience on this landmark decision, that affects our state's future.

Sincerely,



Sharon Y. Rouse
Colorado Resident

INDIVIDUALS

IN101

Dennis A. P. Rychlik
6325 Jackrabbit Junction
Farmington, New Mexico 87402

a-lp2-16

2-16-2000 (Public hearing, Farmington New Mexico, 7:00PM to 10:30PM)

I consider myself a resident of the four corners economic area. I am not a politician; therefore my statement will be short.

I would like to see the Anamas-LaPlata Project (A-LP) completed. First I would like to see us get what we can right now in the current form and then go after the full blown A-LP project.

Here we are; one more hearing to delay the A-LP plan less useful to the residents of the four corners area. This includes most of us at this hearing.

This is not the first hearing. The water right experts here know that there is a bunch of water diversion projects supplying Denver from the west slope waterflow. There is a bunch of water diversion projects supplying water to southern California. There is a bunch of water diversion projects supplying water to the Phoenix area. We are not isolated from them.

Here is a window of opportunity for residents of the four corners area to get water rights. The only way we get these rights is to fund the project passed by Congress. Lets get it funded!

Promises were made to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. Lets keep this promise. Promises were made to the Southern Ute Tribe. Lets keep this promise. Opportunities are being sought by municipalities, water districts, ranchers and others in our four corners economic area. Lets pursue these opportunities. Again, lets press for the funding.

If we delay, if we do not act, this water will go to someone else and become someone else's rights, not ours. Lets make the best possible economic world for the four corners area.

1 | I would like to see a growing movement to fund what project is on the table, and then go after the original full A-LP Project!

I thank you for listening to my voice and opinion.

IN101-1 Comment noted. The original ALP Project would have involved depletions from the Animas River that would have been contrary to limits placed under the RPA of the FWS under the ESA.

Fight Park - Oppose HR 3112

Pat Schumacher - BOR

It is important to note the uniqueness of the Animas River through Durango. By this time virtually every town in the U.S. has at it's fingertips a reservoir or lake of some type. This is nothing special and certainly not something a typical tourist would travel hundreds of miles to visit. What Durango has is unique and special to the western United States, a free-flowing White water river at the doorsteps of a major western tourist town. A clean, beautiful river, that can be accessed within minutes by any and all that wish to see what is left of a mighty network of rivers that once represented a riparian habitat that is almost gone.

The Animas River contains several named rapids exciting enough for experts to enjoy, yet safe enough for guided tours to take children and senior citizens to taste the fun of white-water rafting. Every person, commercial or private, who has been down the Animas, has seen how special this stretch that is threatened by the Animas La Plata Project is! Durango will lose something unique and special if the project as conceived is constructed.

The Animas River through Durango is a good example of recreation and nature in harmony. The river crafts that float the currents leave no impact what-so-ever on the river or surroundings. While the days of summer pass, a life cycle is allowed to go on unimpeded by a thriving industry. Commercial River running on the Animas in Durango, has tripled its economic benefit to this area since 1980. Meanwhile bugs hatch, birds and fish eat them, deer and elk come to the river to drink. Muskrat and beaver live undisturbed, birds, both migratory and resident, continue to use the wetlands as they have for eons. Habitat for these animals is a narrow band of wetland and flowing water. We know it will sustain what is now there, are we willing to chance another heavy-handed water project with what is left?

River Recreation does no harm and the river enhances all that it touches, it is time that the government starts protecting the last of these riparian zones, instead of subsidizing the alterations that will permanently destroy them.

As commercial river-outfitters on the Animas River in Durango, I condemn the Animas-La Plata Project, as conceived, in its present form. The pumping schedule, as outlined in the SEIS, refuses to speak to our needs. Therefore the project, if built, will essentially ruin river rafting as a viable business venture on the Animas river in Durango.

This Draft Supplement outlines the huge amount of earth-movement, pipelines, berms, electrical pumps, dikes, roads etcetera. When the effects on the environment are mentioned, teams of specialists will be made

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IN102-1 Refer to General Comment No. 8 for a discussion of the project's effects on rafting and kayaking.

INDIVIDUALS

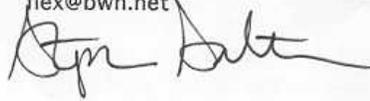
IN102

available in environmental ambulances to deal with problems, after the Project is underway.

Bandages, splints and ductape are what the Bureau of Reclamation prescribe to fix an environmental disruption of monumental proportions. Lets stick with what is here now, we came to enjoy the mountains and rivers, not to move and manipulate them.

A non-structural alternative has been discussed and should be considered as a viable alternative to the disruptive,destructive and very thinly veiled project as is being put forth before us. Let us all recognize that the project water is for the production of a coal fired power plant , not to water dehydrated Southern Ute babies. As long as those that represent this project are not forth coming with the economic or environmental facts, then the project is doomed and nonsense.

Yours Truly,
Stephan Saltsman
flex@bwn.net



IN102-2 Comment noted.

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INDIVIDUALS

IN103

March 28, 2000

Peter Schertz
112 Alamo Drive
Durango, CO 81301

Pat Schumacher
Bureau of Reclamation
835 E. 2nd Avenue
Durango, CO 81301

Dear Mr. Schumacher,

Upon reviewing the Animas-La Plata Project Summary of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, I submit the following comments:

1. The recreational advantages of the proposed reservoir sound vastly overstated. With the abundance of nearby flat-water reservoirs, it is unrealistic to imagine 218,400 user days of recreation use. I request that the study indicating this figure be made public. It would probably be a more productive use of resources to enhance the existing recreational opportunities on the Animas River than to spend it on another reservoir.
2. The additional losses of wetland habitat, wildlife habitat, and cultural resource sites to accommodate the recreational element of Alternative 4 are unjustified. The proposed reservoir's size should be minimized so that it fulfills the terms of the agreement only, not so that it fulfills someone's idea of an RV accessible fishing hole.
3. The component of establishing and maintaining 30,000 acre-feet of water for the purpose of offering a fishery environment in the proposed reservoir is unnecessary. Fishing is not defined by the Colorado Ute Tribes as a potential future water use nor is it necessary for meeting the purpose and need for the project. It is unnecessary to enlarge the proposed reservoir to accommodate fish.
4. The assertion that Alternative 6 has an "Area of Weakness" of "Likelihood of opposition from the local farming community" indicates a strong bias against this alternative. There is no corresponding "Area of Weakness" cited for Alternative 4 indicating the "Likelihood of opposition from the local environmental community or local rafting community". This bias runs throughout this document and is unfair and unjust.
5. Alternative 6 is stated to have "potential" if modified in an attempt to meet the purpose and need for the project, and if the significant loss of wetlands could be avoided. Is the Bureau making an effort to analyze what modifications are necessary to make the Alternative more viable? It seems a worthy analysis. Who is appointed to research these modifications? It is unacceptable to assume that the general public should be able to modify this alternative so that these potentials are fulfilled. Just because it doesn't include a dam, the Bureau should be able to study the potential of this alternative.

In conclusion, the DSEIS is a testament to the Bureau of Reclamation's inability and unwillingness to seriously consider alternatives that show promise but are unconventional. The bias within the

- IN103-1 Although there are five reservoirs within a 50-mile radius of Durango, Colorado, Reclamation believes that the proposed reservoir would have at least moderate visitation based on an increasing demand for reservoir-related recreation opportunities (both nationwide and in the State of Colorado), and the limited number of developed campsites in the area surrounding Ridges Basin. It is thus expected that visitation would reach an estimated 218,400 user days annually. The estimated number of user days for Ridges Basin Reservoir was first calculated in the 1996 FSFES, the method used to obtain those numbers is provided in Appendix G, Volume 1 of the document. Since the surface area of the proposed reservoir is approximately one-third the size of the reservoir proposed in 1996, it has been assumed for the purposes of this analysis that the estimated number of user days is one-third less than proposed in 1996. Estimates included in the FSEIS take into consideration a proportional reduction in the number of camping units, picnic areas, parking stalls, boat ramps, and other facilities that could potentially be constructed under Refined Alternative 4.
- IN103-2 Comment noted. Potential impacts to the environment, as well as mitigation to avoid or minimize impacts, were evaluated for several alternatives. The Preferred Alternative is recommended because it offers, on balance, the least overall environmental impacts of these alternatives.
- IN103-3 The purpose of providing a conservation pool within the reservoir in order to maintain a recreational fishery resource was in response to a request from a significant number of people residing within the general project area. It was not intended to be part of the Colorado Ute Tribes' water settlement. Once this additional water is introduced within the reservoir basin, the only additional pumping required in the future would be to replace small evaporative losses.
- IN103-4 Comment noted.
- IN103-5 Refined Alternative 6 was developed from the original Alternative 6 in order to enhance its ability to meet the project purpose and need. It was evaluated on a comparable basis with Refined Alternative 4 in the FSEIS.

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- 2 -

April 17, 2000

DSEIS is obvious and unfair. It is through this lack of creative problem solving that the West is riddled with unnecessary dams and reservoirs. It is time to introduce some creative thinking into solving the Animas-LaPlata Project. It is time for the Bureau to get beyond their conventional dam solution and be open to new ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Schertz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Schertz

Cc: Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt
Vice President Al Gore
Governor Bill Owens
Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Senator Wayne Allard
U.S. representative Scott McInnis

INDIVIDUALS

IN104

From: <LZL1@aol.com>
To: <ALPDSEISComments@uc.usbr.gov>
Date: 1/27/00 8:37PM
Subject: stop: do not build the dam

Across the USA, there has been discussions about removing dams for environment restoration. Now, I read your group is considering building a dam for a reservoir! To me, this is unbelievable. The destruction that will be created for eternity is enormous. The lost of a prime migration corridor, the possibility of depleting pikeminnow and razorback suckers, the poisoning of birds (including the bald eagle that just got off the endangered list), and finally the human enjoyment of a wild river is selfish and unnecessary. Once again, big developers are trying to force their greed on government and citizens. The world's ecosystem can't continue to handle the consumerism of the human race. I beg of you not to allow this dam to be built. We have made great strides in saving many portions of our environment. Don't allow this project to take us backwards, because it will. Then once again, the greedy developers will win and nature will lose.

CC: <dylan@frontier.net>, <bruce_babbitt@ius.doi.gov>

IN104-1 Refer to General Comment No. 5 for bioaccumulation concerns, No. 9 for endangered species concerns, and No. 11 for elk migration. In order to meet the water rights claims, some form of water storage is necessary in this region. A dam and reservoir are proposed to provide this storage in a location off of the mainstem of the Animas River to avoid the impacts you discuss. The ALP Project is proposed as the Congressional mandated settlement of outstanding water rights claims of the Colorado Ute Tribes. It will provide significant opportunities for future Tribal development.

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IN105

2/24/00

Mr. Martiney + Mr. Schumacher,

I have Multiple Sclerosis
so my wife, Janice, is writing
this for me:

ALP was never meant to
be. It is not practical
and is too costly.

Use existing storage to
fulfill ours and the Indian's
water needs.

Sincerely,
Din Schumacher

IN105-1 Existing storage at Navajo, McPhee, Vallecito and Lemon Reservoirs were considered, and found to lack sufficient capacity to meet ALP Project needs. This evaluation is contained in Chapter 2 of the FSEIS.

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IN106

2/23/00
Mr. Martiney and Mr. Schumacher,
It makes no sense
to build a reservoir
on the fragile Animas
river when water is
already stored in
Navajo Dam.
Please use common
sense and deliver water
to the Utes and to the Navajos
from the existing storage -

IN106-1 No dam or reservoir is proposed for the Animas River. Refer to General Comment No. 15. Refined Alternative 6 addresses the idea of using existing storage to meet ALP Project demands. There is insufficient capacity to meet all demands from Navajo Reservoir, especially in light of the requirement to deliver water to meet needs of endangered fish downstream. While Navajo Reservoir could meet some of the demands for the ALP Project, it is at the expense of future planned depletions in New Mexico.

INDIVIDUALS

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Use the water in
Navajo Dam to satisfy
Water demands!!

Sincerely,

Janice Schnorr
1401 Camino Monte
Farmington, NM
87401

Phone - 505-325-4124

INDIVIDUALS

IN107

Ann Dugan Schwarz
255 Wildcat Road • Durango, CO 81301 • Tel. & Fax: (970) 385-4454
email: aschwarz@frontier.net

February 9, 2000

To: Bur. Reclamation

RE: Comment on Animas-La Plata DEIS

As a resident of Durango of Durango and a member of the Animas-LaPlata Water Conversation District, I vehemently oppose the Bureau of Reclamation's preferred alternative of the Animas-La Plata Project. . .and indeed, any structural alternative.

Regarding the DEIS in particular:

1--Purpose and Need.

This project is a settlement of the Ute water rights. I oppose any addition to the project beyond satisfaction of those water rights.

Certainly there is no need -or want -for the recreation features added in the preferred alternative. What is destroyed on the river can hardly be recaptured on the reservoir.

1--Alternatives

I favor any non-structural alternatives. The proposed pumping plant, reservoir, pipes, powerlines, marina, etc. included in the other alternatives will cause irreversible - and unnecessary - environmental disasters.

3--Impact Analysis - Preferred Alternative.

Your analysis underrates the negative impacts of the proposal: those on recreational rafting and fishing will be "slight," for example. More likely it will ruin these pastimes and the tourism depending on them. You say noise impacts are only "potentially" significant - what an understatement.

You find no socio-economic impacts for this mammoth project - just for starters, what about that rafting industry? What about the town that depends on tourism for 80% of the economy, when the gateway park is overshadowed by pumping plant and deafened by five pumps going 24 hrs/day? What about the social services that will be stretched by the influx of construction workers. . .and what happens when they leave?

This project must be placed in its proper context - a huge federal project that would dominate a lovely small town and ruin all efforts to maintain the scenic and rural environment.

Your analysis also overrates the positive impacts: That reservoir

- IN107-1 The recreational facilities identified in Refined Alternative 4 were added in response to comments received at public scoping meetings to the effect that there was a desire to provide such facilities. Flat water recreation on the reservoir is not intended to replace the river recreation lost. The project has been designed to minimize river recreation losses and to mitigate them. Please refer to General Comment No. 9 for a further discussion of river recreation impacts.
- IN107-2 Both structural and non-structural solutions to providing for the purpose and need of the ALP Project have been evaluated in detail from the standpoint of economics, environmental impacts, and ability to be implemented. Based on this detailed analysis, Refined Alternative 4 was determined to provide the best overall solution for resolving the water rights claims of the Colorado Ute Tribes.
- IN107-3 Refer to General Comment No. 8 for a discussion of impacts to whitewater recreation on the Animas River. There would be less than significant impacts to commercial rafting, stream fishing, and organized/competitive events. While the impacts to the quality of boating experiences would be potentially significant because of project facilities, significant loss of recreational opportunities (e.g., past times and tourism) would not occur. In addition, the proposed mitigation measures would be initiated to lessen the potential impacts.
- IN107-4 Noise generated during operation of the Durango Pumping Plant would be reduced to minimal levels within the site boundary. As a result of existing noise sources within the area (including the noise of flowing water in the river and traffic on nearby roadways) it is expected that pumping plant noise would be subordinate to these other noise sources, and would not contribute to increased noise levels in the area. However, due to the presence of Santa Rita (formerly, Gateway) Park and use of the river as a place of relative solitude, it is recognized that even a slight increase in noise could be considered adverse by park and river users. As such, the analysis has resulted in a determination of "potentially significant" to recognize this unlikely, but possible, impact.
- IN107-5 There have been a number of detailed socio-economic analyses completed on this project, all of which indicate a positive impact to the local economy. While a high percentage of income to Durango is derived from tourism, there is no indication this approaches near 80% of all revenue. With respect to the impacts to the rafting industry, please refer to General Comment No. 8 for a discussion of the potential impacts to recreation from the project. As discussed in Chapter 3.12 of the FSEIS, this would be an average loss of \$67,675 per year to the commercial rafting industry. To put this amount into perspective, the estimated county-wide direct base income from tourism receipts in 1999 was \$130,000,000. The impact due to loss of commercial rafting user days on the tourism receipts of the county would be less than 0.01%. It is estimated that the physical construction of Ridges Basin and support structures will have a seven-year build out period and will create 878 direct, indirect and induced jobs (see Chapter 3.12). Based on the size of the local labor force, and the amount of workers who would be involved in the construction of the ALP Project, there would be a potential for an approximate 3.65% increase in the local labor force. Reclamation does not believe this will result in significant stresses to local social services.

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IN107

6 | shoreline will be mud. All those boats, campers, cars, etc. will disturb the peace for the many hikers, horseback riders, & xc skiers.

PLEASE, if the project is built, do not allow jet skis on the reservoir. Too much noise effecting too many people, not to mention wildllife.

4--Impact Analysis - Alt 6

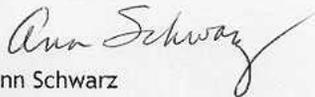
Your analysis finds impacts of Alt 6 to be generally the same as those of your preferred alternative. This is most unfair, as the difference in scale of those impacts is immense.

One example among many: you say both alternatives will have significant noise impacts from "dynamite blasting for pipeline trenching and spillway enlargement." This is true, but impacts will be much greater from Alt 4 because it is so much bigger.

No socio-economic impact? And none for the preferred alternative, either? Makes it hard to compare. The non-structural alternative will have smaller impacts, however, just by virtue of its smaller scale.

In summary, I am against this project. I am concerned about its massive environmental and economic costs. I see no benefits beyond satisfaction of Ute water rights. Isn't there another way to satisfy those rights?

Sincerely,



Ann Schwarz

IN107-6 The proposed Ridges Basin Reservoir will have periods of drawdown, where shoreline and bottom will be exposed. This situation, however, is similar to that which occurs on other reservoirs throughout the west. The drawdown that occurs every summer at Vallecito and Ridgeway reservoirs are good examples. Recreation use projections were made incorporating these annual water level fluctuations. The size of the Ridges Basin area will be large enough to accomodate diverse, dispersed recreation users.

IN107-7 Comment noted. Refer to the significance criteria that we have established for each impact in determining the relative significance. For example, noise impacts and their significance are set forth in Chapter 3.1.7 of the FSEIS.

INDIVIDUALS

IN108

From: "Jack Schweitzer" <jack@terapath.com>
To: <ALPDSEISComments@uc.usbr.gov>
Date: 1/29/00 8:33PM
Subject: Opposition To Project

1 |

I am opposed to yet another "porkbarrel" project which does not clearly demonstrate a cost/benefit ratio in favor of the US taxpayer.

John E. Schweitzer
573 Van Gordon Street
3-217
Lakewood, CO 80228
303-986-7166

IN108-1 Refer to General Comment No. 1 for a discussion of the need for a benefit-cost analysis.

INDIVIDUALS

IN109

From: Peter Shelton <pshelton@infozone.org>
To: <ALPDSEISComments@uc.usbr.gov>
Date: 2/9/00 12:26PM
Subject: Animas-La Plata

Dear Mr. Schumacher,
Concerning the Draft EIS and the Bureau's preferred alternative for the Animas-La Plata project: I urge you to reconsider the reservoir at Ridges Basin.
Far more harm than good would come from the pump station and reservoir. Particularly, since the benefits of the project have been in doubt from the beginning. Why build a \$300 million water diversion that would divide the community, damage the river, harm recreation, a wildlife refuge, roadless wilderness, and use great gulps of energy, when alternatives exist for getting the tribes their allotted water? I can see none. Please consider adopting Alternative #6.
Thank you,
Peter Shelton
Montrose, Colorado

IN109-1 Comment noted. Please refer to General Comment No. 2 for a discussion of project costs.

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INDIVIDUALS

IN110

From: "Pete Skartvedt, Ann Rilling" <rlazys@frontier.net>
To: <ALPDSEISComments@uc.usbr.gov>
Date: 4/1/00 9:14AM

1

I know that you expect these comments to be steeped in bureaucratic jargon and governmental doublespeak, but let's just get real. The idea of pumping water up a hill to fill a reservoir, is at its very core, an absurd, inefficient, ridiculous concept. The water rights of the Utes can be satisfied by buying land and water rights in the appropriate watersheds. Accordingly, I urge support for Alternative 6.
Thanks, Peter Skartvedt

IN110-1 Comments noted. The recommendation of the Preferred Alternative which includes Ridges Basin and structural components, over the non-structural alternative, was made after an objective evaluation of the project purpose and need, and the best way to reliably meet those needs, with a minimum of environmental, social, and engineering impacts. Refer to General Comment Nos. 2 and 3.

INDIVIDUALS

IN111

From: TP <trishpegram@frontier.net>
To: <pschumacher@uc.usbr.gov>
Date: 4/11/00 12:51PM
Subject: ALP Comments.

First let me go on record as Opposing the current incarnation of ALP. This includes ALP, ALP Lite, ALP Ultra-Lite and any other scheme to dewater the Animas at Santa Rita Park and to flood Ridges Basin.

I am not opposed to a solution that supplies wet water to the Utes as we are lawfully bound to do.

The impact on the fisheries and the recreational river use of the Animas between the proposed outtake and Basin creek are too great to justify this solution. Not to mention the terrible impact the flooding of Ridges Basin will have on the wildlife. Make no mistake, this will not result in a recreational opportunity as you are trying to sell. Instead we will have a great big, eutrofied piece of water surrounded by mud flats. We can only speculate on the mosquito problem in the future.

If the Animas has to be dewatered, go downstream and dewater it on the reservation and store the water on the reservation. I'm sure a suitable site could be found.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Who is going to pay for the relocation of the 3 or 4 high tension electric line standards that will be flooded at full pool?
2. To where will CR 211 be relocated? Please note that this road is scheduled to be improved to take pressure off Wildcat Canyon Road so it won't have to be 4 laned.
3. Is 225 cfs April through Sept. enough to flush the silt load that collects during runoff?
4. Will the silt load downstream of the out take be increased during runoff?
5. How do the farmers on the dry side expect to be able to pay a fair price for the water they had hoped to get or were us taxpayers expected to subsidize them as well as the relatively wealthy Utes who are the original beneficiaries?

Finally, if this does go through please understand that I will fight as hard as possible the establishment of anymore coal fired power plants and/or golf courses in the Four Corners. We don't need the death and disease the former would bring and we don't need another "cadiillac desert".

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Skillen
385 Old Snag Cir.
Hesperus, CO 81326
970/382-8248.

IN111-1 Comment noted.

IN111-2 Several alternative reservoir sites and locations for diversions were evaluated in Section 2.4.2 of the FSEIS. None, however, met the requirements of the project purpose and need, including a storage site on the Southern Ute Indian Tribe reservation. No diversions from the La Plata or Mancos rivers are possible to meet the water needs of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe due to the flow realities of these two streams.

IN111-3 The federal government would bear the cost of relocation of utilities required by the filling of Ridges Basin. These costs would then be charged back to the project beneficiaries.

IN111-4 CR211 would be relocated north of the Ridges Basin Reservoir, and would follow the contours of the land along the edge of the reservoir. It would be designed as a two-lane, gravel road to reduce traffic speeds and the potential for wildlife-traffic accidents. The relocation of CR211 is further discussed in Sections 3.15.3 and 5.4.5.

IN111-5 Naturally occurring high water flows during spring runoff is the mechanism for flushing silt buildup from the Animas River downstream. This will not be altered by the operation of the Durango Pumping Plant. See Table 3-2.4 for information on the changes in flow by month anticipated as a result of the operation of the pumping plant.

IN111-6 The silt load in the Animas River generally increases during the runoff period. The Durango Pumping Plant is designed to pump both clean water and entrained silt during operation in these periods of high silt loading. There would be little or no effect on the silt concentration in the Animas River downstream of the pumping plant as a result.

IN111-7 No water deliveries to dry side farmers are planned under the current ALP Project.

INDIVIDUALS

IN112

From: "Bill Smart" <bsmart2@fone.net>
To: <ALPDSEISComments@uc.usbr.gov>
Date: 4/11/00 4:48PM
Subject: Comments

April 11, 2000

Mr. Pat Schumacher, Manager
Four Corners Division
Bureau of Reclamation
835 East Second Avenue, Suite 300

Re: Comments on Draft Supplemental Impact Statement for A/LP

Dear Mr. Schumacher:

I support a structural alternative, Alternative 4, as the Bureau of Reclamation's preferred alternative for the Final SEIS. Animas-La Plata Project opponents claim that the cost of A/LP outweigh the benefits. I have been a member of the Dolores Water Conservancy District Board of Directors for over six years. For more than 18 years I was a member of the Cortez City Council and Mayor of Cortez for eight of those years. Everyone knows that cost-benefit analysis is a very subjective endeavor. Opponents of the Animas-La Plata Project don't place any value on the settling of the Indian reserved water rights claims and the avoidance of a long, immensely costly and divisive court battle. As a District Board member, I have seen the value of water stored in a reservoir for both the City of Cortez and irrigated agriculture and the value of settling Tribal reserved water rights. The two Colorado Ute Tribes have already rejected a non-structural alternative time and time again. The Indians have already been down the road of accepting money in exchange for natural resources, and they decidedly prefer the water. We can't force a solution on the Tribes that they don't want. The opponent's proposals do not meet the needs of the Tribes. Therefore, I support Alternative 4 and H. R. 3112, the bill introduced by Representative McClinnis.

IN112-1 Comments noted.

Respectfully Yours,

Bill Smart
1018 S. Oak
Cortez, CO. 81321

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INDIVIDUALS

IN113

Box 126
Norwood, Colorado 81423
Fax: (970) 327-4469

April 10, 2000

Mr. Pat Schumacher, Manager
Four Corners Division
Bureau of Reclamation
835 East Second Avenue, Suite 300
Durango CO 81301

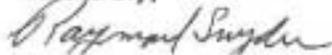
Dear Mr. Schumacher:

I support the selection of Alternative 4 by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ("Reclamation") in the DSEIS for the Animas La Plata Project with changes as suggested by representatives of the Animas-La Plata water conservancy district in their comment letters to you. I have been a member of the Board of Directors of the Southwestern Water Conservation District for over 18 years and a member of the Board of Directors of the San Miguel water conservancy district for over 15 years. I was on the Board of the Lone Cone Ditch and Reservoir Company for over 38 years. I know the value of stored water. The Company is seeking to enlarge Lone Cone Reservoir to allow ranches in the Norwood area to irrigate past mid-July. The Town of Norwood's need for a more reliable municipal water supply will probably depend on more storage.

Reclamation properly rejected the non-structural alternative analyzed in great detail the DSEIS. The non-structural alternative contemplates, in lieu of storage at Ridges Basin Reservoir, the purchase by the Southern Ute Indian and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes of thousands of additional acre feet of water and thousands of acres of land. This alternative provides no assurance to the two Colorado Ute Tribes that they will obtain their water for municipal and industrial uses. Those who say they support the Tribes but also support the non-structural alternative are paying only lip service to the needs of the Tribes. The Tribes have soundly rejected the non-structural alternative and support the structural alternative in HR 3112, introduced by Representative Scott McInnis.

Thank you for supporting the principles of the Colorado Ute Indian Tribes' Final Water Rights Settlement by selecting Alternative 4 and recognizing the value of stored water.

Yours truly,



IN113-1 Comments noted.

1

INDIVIDUALS

IN114

John Spezza
PO Box 2256
Steamboat Spr, CO 80477

Feb. 16, 2000

Mr. Schumacher,

I am unable to attend the Hearings in Durango or Farmington, but I wish my comments to be included for the supplemental Animas La Plata EIS.

- 1- The proposal will not satisfy the needs of the Ute Indians. Almost all of the water will be diverted for irrigation of non-Indian land, development and coal-power plants.
- 2- The cost to Durango, national and state tax payers is unnecessary... let those who will benefit produce the \$300-350 million up front.
- 3- There are other alternatives that will produce water, power and fulfill the Indian's water rights.
- 4- The other alternatives will protect wildlife, be sustainable, cheaper, less damaging to the human community & the environment.
- 5- The water uses that are claimed to justify the project are not benefiting us, the people, and too costly in terms of damage they will cause.

Sincerely, John Spezza

- IN114-1 The Preferred Alternative, Refined Alternative 4, will satisfy the water right claims of the Colorado Ute Tribes. The ALP Project is now an M&I only project and the projected water uses are considered to be non-binding on the Colorado Ute Tribes. They may or may not decide to use their water for development and coal fired power plants. Refer to General Comment No. 6 for further discussion.
- IN114-2 The costs of the ALP Project will be allocated to the beneficiaries of the project. Attachment E of the FSEIS identifies these beneficiaries and provides a preliminary allocation of project costs. The City of Durango will only pay for the water from the ALP Project to which they subscribe.
- IN114-3 Numerous alternatives have been evaluated and Refined Alternative 4 was determined to be the most reliable and least environmentally damaging.
- IN114-4 The Preferred Alternative, Refined Alternative 4, is less environmentally damaging than the non-structural alternative of Refined Alternative 6. These results are discussed in Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the FSEIS.
- IN114-5 The water developed by the ALP Project will benefit the Colorado Ute Tribes, communities in the Durango area, and communities in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico. Mitigation measures will be taken for the environmental impacts of the ALP Project.

INDIVIDUALS

IN115

30 MAR 2000

Mr PAT SCHUMACHER
Div. MGR BUREAU REC.

1 Sir, IN MY OPINION, AFTER LIVING IN
CAPLATA COUNTY SINCE 3 JAN 1934, AND HAVING
KNOWN WELL MANY OF THE PEOPLE ON BOTH
SIDES OF THE ALP. ISSUE, TO EVEN CONSIDER
THE PROJECT IN ITS PRESENT FORM WITH
PUMPING STATION ON ANIMAS RIVER WOULD
BE A CRIMINAL ACT, TO BUILD IT WOULD
BE THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY!

2 ONE OF THE EARLY PLANS WAS TO DIVERT
WATER FROM CASCADE CREEK DOWN THE
FALLS CREEK BENCH, THROUGH LAND THAT I
OWNED IN 1960'S GRAVITY FLOW MIGHT MAKE
A LITTLE SENSE, FOR FILLING THE PROPOSED RES-
ERVOIR IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE PROBABLE UNDER
GROUND VOIDS AND TUNNELS LEFT UNDER THE
RES. SITE FROM BURNING COAL VEINS OVER
THE LAST CENTURY OR SO. LAWRENCE HARPER SR.
TOLD ME THAT COAL SMOKE CAME OUT OF
SEVERAL HOLES ON SOUTH SIDE OF RIDGES BASIN
WHEN HE WAS A KID. HIS FATHER HOMESTEADED
SEVERAL HUNDRED ACRES THAT ARE TO BE

IN115-1 Comment noted.

IN115-2 The Ridges Basin Dam Geologic Design Data Report identified and investigated an abandoned coal mine downstream along the lower right abutment. The mine would be further investigated and properly sealed, if necessary, as part of the dam construction project. However, results of the geologic investigations at the proposed Ridges Basin Dam site have concluded that conditions are suitable for design and construction of an embankment dam.

INDIVIDUALS

IN115

Flooded by A.L.P. Project.

3 | THERE ARE SEVERAL ANCIENT NATIVE
AMERICAN DWELLING SITES ALSO TO BE
DEFILED BY THE PROPOSED LAKE ETC.

4 | IT IS OBVIOUS TO ME AND OTHERS
THAT THE PROJECT IS PRIMARILY ~~MOTIVATED~~
PROMOTED BY SPECIAL INTERESTS TO ROB
THE TAXPAYERS AND CONVERT AN AREA OF
HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE INTO A PLAY-
GROUND FOR MERCHANTS AND OTHERS
WITH MONITARY MOTIVATION.

THE UTE'S COULD GRAVITY EMIGRATE
SEVERAL MILES OF ANIMAS RIVER BANK
NOW OR IN THE PAST IF THEY WANTED TO.

SO IT APPEARS THAT THEY AND OTHERS
WANT TO LING THEIR POCKETS AT TAXPAYERS
EXPENSE BY ONE MORE "WRECK THE NATION"
PROJECT.

A.L.P. SHOULD STAND FOR:
AVARICIOUS LITTLE PEOPLE.

Jim Stoddard

IN115-3 The potential impacts to these and other cultural resources have been surveyed and coordination with the Historic Preservation Office is now underway. Refer to Section 3.9 for a discussion of cultural resources.

IN115-4 The amount of lands that could be gravity irrigated within the Animas River floodplain by the Colorado Ute Tribes would not meet the obligations of the federal government under the Settlement Act.