

February 5, 2025

Mr. David Palumbo  
Deputy Commissioner of Operations  
Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Deputy Commissioner Palumbo,

On behalf of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners—Abe Laydon, George Teal, Kevin Van Winkle—and Sheriff Darren Weekly, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the time you and your team took to meet with us to discuss critical water issues facing the county and the state of Colorado. We truly appreciate your ongoing efforts to address these complex challenges and support local communities in ensuring reliable water resources for future generations.

As you are well aware, water remains one of the most pressing issues in Colorado and across the West. Growing populations, ongoing drought conditions, and competing demands for water resources have created significant pressures on the state's water supply. In particular, the role of the Bureau of Reclamation in managing and overseeing water projects throughout the region is essential for balancing these competing needs while maintaining the long-term sustainability of our natural resources.

In Douglas County, we recognize that our water supply is a key component of our county's growth, quality of life, and economic prosperity. As our population continues to grow, securing reliable and sustainable water sources has become increasingly vital. We are aware of the challenges faced by the portions of our county and the surrounding areas in securing adequate water resources to meet current and future demands. We remain committed to addressing these challenges in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies like the Bureau of Reclamation. Your involvement in helping communities manage water issues and supporting infrastructure improvements is critical for the future of Douglas County and the broader region.

We would also like to take a moment to express our support for the Arkansas Valley Conduit, a project that has received broad support throughout the state and among various stakeholders. Although this project is not located within Douglas County, we understand the importance of such initiatives in addressing water distribution and infrastructure needs across Colorado. The Arkansas Valley Conduit will provide vital water supply benefits to communities in southern Colorado, and we fully support efforts to move this project forward and appreciate the significant resources the Bureau of Reclamation has provided for this important project. We encourage continued focus on such initiatives to ensure that water resources are accessible and equitably distributed throughout the region.

Additionally, in response to your recommendation, we plan to schedule a meeting soon with Patrick McCusker to further explore the opportunities available through the WaterSMART grants program. We are eager to discuss potential projects and how we can leverage these resources to better support Douglas County's water infrastructure and meet the increasing demands on our water systems.

Once again, we want to thank the Bureau of Reclamation for your ongoing dedication to water resource management in the West. Your work is essential to ensuring that communities like ours have the water we need to thrive. We look forward to continued collaboration with Reclamation as we work together to address these critical water challenges and secure the future of Colorado's water supply.

Sincerely,



Abe Laydon, Chairman



Kevin Van Winkle, Commissioner



George Teal, Commissioner



Darren Weekly, Sheriff