

To: Pueblo County Commissioners Nunez, Chostner and Cordova

From: Carole Lange

RE: SDS 1041 Application

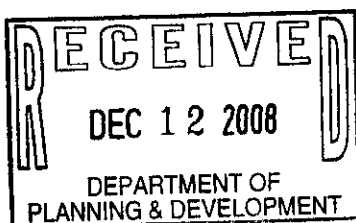
For the past 3 years I have worked for Colorado Springs Utilities as a liaison between Pueblo and Colorado Springs. And as a Pueblo resident, I have long felt that it is important to Pueblo County to not only work with our neighbors, but to do so in a manner that benefits BOTH communities. We have an opportunity here to not only establish important regional cooperation for our collective economic future(s), but to do so in a fashion that will greatly benefit Pueblo County.

In the past, County Commissioners have been criticized for decisions that some constituents felt cost us jobs. SDS from the dam will not only provide jobs in a difficult economy, but do so at a time when the XCEL project is winding down, thus providing a seamless transition as opposed to a boom/bust cycle. Local contractors will have an opportunity to bid on the project and local businesses will have procurement opportunities. In short—we are talking jobs and an economic infusion at a time when we can ill afford to turn our backs on these benefits to “our own.”

A point that is seldom made is the fact that if Colorado Springs utilizes the Highway 115 option as opposed to going through Pueblo County we would most likely lose our Flow Management program and the protections for agricultural lands that keep signers of the IGA agreement from transporting more water from the basin. I believe the former is critical for recreation and tourism and the latter is important for the viability of our farming and ranching heritage.

Of particular importance to me is the mitigation(s) for Fountain Creek. We have an opportunity to truly realize the dream/vision of Fountain Creek as a Crown Jewel. And while the entire region will benefit, Pueblo will benefit most of all. We will be unique in having 2 rivers running through the heart of our city. By turning them both into amenities, we can have an enormously positive impact on tourism, recreation, economic development and general quality of life for our own citizens. If, however, Colorado Springs is forced to take the 115 option, there will be far less dollars available for Fountain Creek, thus Fremont County, not Pueblo County, will be the beneficiary.

I certainly expect my Commissioners to be diligent in their review, but also fair and reasoned. As a constituent and “Pueblo booster”, I ask that you focus your decision making on the benefits to Pueblo and not be distracted by unrelated issues and those who fail to see the long term vision and ramifications to our County. I urge you to approve this 1041 application for SDS from the dam as one that is in the collective interests of our watershed, regional economics, and, most importantly, in the best interests of all of Pueblo County.



*Carole Lange*  
3911 Augusta LN  
Pueblo, Co 81001  
546-1947 671-9673 cell