

To Whom It May Concern:

I, C. Jacob Hobson, am president of Pueblo County Farm Bureau and have several serious concerns regarding the SDS project that is being proposed by the city of Colorado Springs and other municipalities, chiefly in El Paso County. Since they are varied I will address them in subsequent letters:

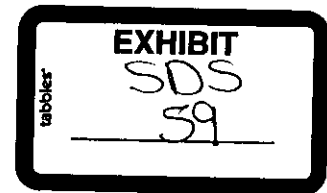
1). I was dismayed to learn that using the imported water to extinction was never considered as viable due to its high cost (estimated to be \$78,000 per acre foot), above the acceptable cost (\$50,000) of the use and exchange of water.

However, this use of the water is that which is contemplated in the ability of importing transmountain water which can be used to extinction.

The total cost and more is being born by downstream users, both voluntary (those facilitating the exchange) and involuntary (all other parties along the path of the discharged waters from the treatment plants in El Paso County). It is just that these costs, though very real, are not part of what Colorado Springs et al have to consider.

Sincerely,

C. Jacob Hobson  
President  
Pueblo County Farm Bureau  
March 12, 2009



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2) I have grown up and lived a good portion of my adult life in the Arkansas Valley west of Pueblo and on trips through Colorado Springs and by Camp Carson have seen the combined population of 40,000 within the confines of the Fountain Creek on the south, Knob Hill on the east, and Filmore on the north, nestled against Manitou Springs on the west, getting its water from the native sources and was complaining about needing more water.

During the 60 plus years I remember I have known the municipal authorities carefully craft requests and elicit decisions by others that, though clearly within the stated parameters of the law have been definitely a heads-I-win-tails-you lose outcome. This is borne out in the determinations

- that the Fountain is a severely impacted stream and therefore effluents have to be treated only to the minimum the EPA has established;
- that gallon for gallon effluents discharged are credited against water taken from the stream and water authorities can therefore draw new fresh and almost pristine water from high up in the Arkansas watershed;
- that historic decisions concerning the Fountain automatically pertain to all further discharges;
- that though withdrawals are made from the Arkansas, discharges and quality of discharge are measured at their highest level—at the discharge point on the Fountain—miles from the Arkansas;
- that all impacts below the point of discharge are not the responsibility of Colorado Springs et al but are acts of God (as though He were an ogre).

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3) The SDS project as envisioned by the City of Colorado Springs et al will affect a number of citizens of either Fremont or Pueblo County and El Paso County, most of whom will have no benefit from the project. I do not dispute the right and need for the use of eminent domain in these cases, but the market value of the properties considered is less than should be that acceptable. The individual citizen, for the benefit of other citizens, should be made whole in his or her situation. It is incumbent on the counties so affected to guarantee this be so.

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4) Since all versions of the Southern Delivery System project using the Fountain as the recipient of all effluent from the system and the increased storm runoff due to additional municipal construction in El Paso County, special care must be paid to the effects on the Fountain to its confluence with the Arkansas:

- My father, Charles J. Hobson, 1905-1993, observed on the Arkansas that the Railroad was the only entity that managed to live with the vagaries of the river without severe and repeated ravages of the storm water and the river cutting out the roadbed. Upon asking a friend why, he was shown the maintenance-of-way manual which gave the specifications for riprap: a minimum of 2 feet by 3 feet by 4 feet size of any rock so used. This section foreman explained that the water could undercut, wash around and over the rock but it would remain, even though the railroad later might have to add additional rock to that put in to block the direction that the river was cutting.
- Granted that the Arkansas from Cañon City to Pueblo falls an average of 11 feet per mile while the fall of the Fountain falls an average of 40 feet to the mile in a matching distance from Colorado Springs to the confluence with the Arkansas. I would defer to people more in the know of hydrology concerning the specifics, but I feel that it is germane to require that Colorado Springs hold harmless those whose land borders the Fountain.
- Due to the ravages of the Fountain caused in part by the increased flow of the Fountain to this date and the yet increasing flows in the future, I feel that land ownership should be reset to a time definite (say 1950) modified by a committee of landowners and with representation of the county commissioners to establish the permanent boundaries of the Fountain and that SDS commit to establishing those firm boundaries, thus making whole the owners of the land on either side of the Fountain, including water diversion facilities on either side of the stream and restoring the irrigated land from Colorado Springs to the confluence with the Arkansas.