

Mayor and Councilmembers:

As a former Greeley City Councilmember, during my service, I was very interested in our water history, issues, acquisition, rate pricing, storage, sewer, and storm water. Therefore, the Terry Ranch Water Aquifer Acquisition Project is important to me today.

Water – what are our first thoughts when we think about water? I will share my thoughts. When I am thirsty, I want to turn on the faucet to get a drink of good, clean water from the sink, frig, or drinking fountain at the mall or park. I want to get a shower or soak in a bathtub, not to mention, flush my toilet and wash my hands often. Vegetables grown in my garden and a pretty green lawn at my house are things important to me. Clean clothes from my washing machine is a priority for our family. We need water to extinguish a potential fire at my house or yours, or in our forests or grasslands. I also really like going to restaurants and eating out. Swimming pools, splash parks, hot tubs, fishing and boating are recreational activities enjoyed by thousands of people that all involve water. And let's not forget our water and sewer bills, keeping them reasonable. There are countless water usages, some absolutely necessary and some luxuries, of course.

But, do we think about where that water comes from and how it gets to our homes when we turn on the faucet? No, probably not, or for some folks, never. But we should. Most of the time we don't even think about it unless it isn't there. I am glad that there are skilled, knowledgeable, professional planners, technicians, engineers, attorneys and leaders who do think about our water all the time. Greeley has positioned itself extremely well through our history of strong visionaries securing water resources for Greeley, yesterday, today and for the foreseeable future. But, what about 100+ years from now (and, no, that is not an exaggeration)? I want to be assured that the same opportunities for safe clean water, with nationally recognized quality that I enjoy today, are available to my children, grandchildren and for all our generations to come for many years into the future.

Terry Ranch Water Aquifer Acquisition Project enters the scene now as a potential water source and storage for our future. That is a huge issue and, in my opinion, THE most important decision for you, ever, in your Council service and in reality, yours and all of our lifetimes. Is the Terry Ranch aquifer perfect – no. Are Milton Seaman and Joe Wright Reservoirs perfect – no. Is anything perfect – no. Do we need to plan for and provide safe, quality water for generations to come with the projected population growth – yes.

I have read through all of the agendas and meeting minutes of both the Water and Sewer Board, and the Greeley City Council related to Terry Ranch; watched all the available website videos, social media information, newspaper articles and commentaries and webinars; and asked numerous questions of all involved, and have received responsive and satisfactory answers. I have talked with numerous people in support AND opposed to this project. I have read all the information in opposition, as well. I appreciate all the information available and respect the care for and passion of everyone in support and opposed to the Terry Ranch Project.

Will there be surprises and perhaps challenges in the future with the Terry Ranch Aquifer Project, maybe and perhaps probably. Obviously we don't know what those precisely might be, but on-going testing and modeling has and will continue to provide some reassurances and skill in response to any potential future occurrences.

I could go extremely techno here, but I won't, you all have total access to all of that detailed information. In my opinion, the staff, consultants, attorneys, professionals and Water and Sewer Board have done their demanded and expected, in-depth and detailed due-diligence on this project, and I believe acquisition of this water aquifer and the water storage and water source it provides for our water future is in the very best interest of the residents of Greeley today and well into the future. I am completely confident that the safety and quality of this water is priority one for all.

Mayor and Councilmembers, thank you for the opportunity to provide my input on this project. You have a fiduciary responsibility, both financially and operationally, to the residents of Greeley, therefore I support Council voting in favor of the Terry Ranch Water Aquifer Acquisition and move forward with the vision of our forefathers, to continue providing us a legacy of the safe, clean and abundant quality water resources we have today.

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