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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0602

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Ms. Kara Lamb
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Eastern Colorado Area Office
11056 W. County Road 18E
Loveland, CO 80537-9711

Dear Ms. Lamb:

I am writing to urge the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation extend the public comment period for the Southern Delivery System draft environmental impact statement by an additional 60 days.

This project could have significant impacts on a variety of economic and environmental values in this region. The draft document is large and will take time to review and analyze.

Because of the implication of this project on the Arkansas River valley and the communities and people who rely upon this river for their livelihood, it is essential that these affected interests be allowed the additional time they need to review this document.

Not only is it important to allow more time to review this document, it is also important to allow the public a chance to be heard about their concerns with this project and to ask specific questions regarding it. Accordingly, I would urge the Bureau to conduct some formal public hearings in addition to the less-formal "town meetings" so that people can become more informed about this project and be given the chance to express their views and comments.

The communities in this river valley are very reliant on clean water supplies. They are also being affected by a number of water projects and proposals that can impact their future. It is essential that federal agencies involved in these projects and proposals provide ample opportunity for these affected communities to have a say in their future. Providing more time and full hearings would demonstrate that commitment and respect.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

Mark Udall