

PROTEST

PROTEST FEE PAID

\$15.00 18-01640

Fee Rec'd BY: ONLINE

April 6, 2018

Protestant: Gary Wockner
c/o Save The Colorado
PO Box 1066
Fort Collins, CO 80522

RECEIVED
APR 06 2018
WATER RIGHTS
ONLINE

RE: Protest of Water Right Application 41-3747

PROTEST

April 6, 2018

Protestant: Gary Wockner

c/o Save The Colorado

PO Box 1066

Fort Collins, CO 80522

RE: Protest of Water Right Application 41-3747

Save The Colorado respectfully protests this Export Application (A81080, water right 41-3747), filed by Water Horse Resources, LLC, and currently pending before the Utah State Engineer. This protest is timely filed, pursuant to published notices in the instant administrative record. Save The Colorado respectfully requests that the State Engineer deny the Export Application. Save The Colorado further states that the Application lacks necessary detail and is too vague to allow Save The Colorado to fully state the reasons that it may object to the Application.

Save The Colorado was co-founded in 2010 by Gary Wockner and is a non-profit organization (IRS Non-Profit #47-1936330). Save The Colorado,Äs mission is to protect and restore the Colorado River and its tributaries from the source to the sea. Save The Colorado focuses on fighting irresponsible water projects, supporting alternatives to dams and diversions, fighting and adapting to climate change, supporting river and fish species restoration, and removing deadbeat dams. Save The Colorado has thousands of supporters throughout the Southwest U.S. from Denver to Los Angeles and beyond.

Since its inception, Save The Colorado has worked to fight irresponsible water projects ,Ä" dams, diversions, pipelines ,Ä" throughout the Colorado River and its tributaries, including the Green River. The Colorado River system is already severely

SCANNED

degraded, with extreme problems and increasing threats to flows in the mainstem of the river and many of its tributaries. Save The Colorado is currently addressing the threat of at least ten proposed projects across the Colorado River basin including three in the Green River system ,Ä" the Fontenelle Dam re-engineering, the Big Sandy Reservoir expansion, and the West Fork Dam on Battle Creek.

Diminishment of flows in the Green River is of great concern to Save The Colorado and its members who would be affected by Water Rights Application 41-347. Removing 55,000 acre feet of water ,Ä" as proposed in the application ,Ä" would impact flows in the Green River, in the Colorado River downstream, and would have increasingly negative impacts on recreational opportunities, endangered species, and the ecological health of the river and its surrounding landscapes.

Save The Colorado is based in Fort Collins, Colorado, along the Front Range corridor of Colorado where the applicant proposes to export the water for some unknown use. Therefore, Save The Colorado has both interests and protests to the diversion of water out of the Green River as well as its export to the Front Range of Colorado. The Water Rights Application (41-347) fails to both consult with the BLM or the Bureau of Reclamation regarding impacts to the Green River as well as engage with sustainable water policy objectives on the Front Range of Colorado.

If approved, the water rights transfer would reduce downstream flows from Flaming Gorge reservoir during spring floods, impact the condition of the Green River, and could seriously raise the risk of a Compact Call on the Colorado River. Under the 1922 and 1948 Compacts, significantly more water was allocated than has flowed in the river over the last eighteen years. In addition, climate change scientists predict that flows in the Colorado River will continue to decrease in the coming years and decades.

Water Horse Resource,Äôs Water Rights Export Application is speculative and, if approved, would have extreme negative impacts on an already degraded and stressed system ,Ä" ecologically, legally, and politically.

Save The Colorado urges the Division to reject the application.

Gary Wockner, PhD

Executive Director

Save The Colorado

Save The Colorado