



WESTERN RESOURCE ADVOCATES

Protecting the West's land, air, and water

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Conservation Coalition Unveils Billboards Opposing Flaming Gorge Pipeline

Vigorous opposition precedes vote on funding for special pipeline task force

GRAND JUNCTION -- Today, a coalition of conservation groups unveiled three billboards in the Grand Junction area with a strong message against the proposed Flaming Gorge pipeline. The billboards question the wisdom of this controversial proposal that would drain 81 billion gallons of water each year from the West Slope's Green River and ship it 560 miles over the Continental Divide to the Front Range. The Colorado Water Conservation Board is meeting tomorrow in Grand Junction to decide whether to spend \$150,000 in taxpayer dollars on a special task force to further study the feasibility of the project, projected to cost as much as \$9 billion to construct.

“At a time when government budgets are in deficit and we need to create jobs, it makes no sense to spend \$9 billion on a pipeline that will hurt our economy,” said Bill Dvorak, owner of Dvorak Expeditions. “If we drain billions of gallons out of the Colorado River basin, fewer people will come out here to fish, boat and hike – businesses like mine will suffer and the West Slope will lose jobs.” Dvorak's company leads boating expeditions on the Green River, which is a tributary of the Colorado River, and other rivers in the region.

Colorado Environmental Coalition, Save the Colorado and Western Resource Advocates joined forces to unveil the billboards, which display an image of a dried-up river bed with the message, “This will only cost you \$9 billion.” The billboard cites the State of Colorado's cost estimate for the pipeline. The image on the billboard is taken from river's terminus in the Mexican desert. Due to diversions and drought, the Colorado River rarely reaches the Sea of Cortez on Mexico's west coast.

The billboard also displays a website URL – www.stopflaminggorgepipeline.org – that brings visitors to an online petition where the coalition has been gathering signatures to urge the Colorado Water Conservation Board to not fund the special pipeline task force. To date, they

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have gathered over 20,000 signatures and sent about 6,000 comments via email to the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Many will also attend tomorrow's Colorado Water Conservation Board meeting to express their opposition.

"There's huge opposition to this pipeline," said Stacy Tellinghuisen of Western Resource Advocates. "People in Colorado and Wyoming see that the proposed project does not meet the threshold of common sense."

Images of the billboards are available at this link - www.westernresourceadvocates.org/water/pipeline/million.php#billbd.



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Western Resource Advocates is a regional non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting the West's land, air, and water. Visit us online at www.westernresourceadvocates.org.