Statement on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer’s Decision to Approve the Chatfield Reallocation Project

Boulder, CO (June 4, 2014) - Western Resource Advocates issued the following statement in regard to the decision made by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ to approve the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project. This decision will contribute to solving critical multi-use water supply needs along the South Platte River in northeastern Colorado. It would:

- Make use of an existing water storage facility to meet additional water demands;
- Avoid the controversy and cost of constructing a new water storage facility; and
- Reduce cities’ and special districts’ dependence on non-renewable groundwater.

The Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project exemplifies the potential of supply-side efficiency strategies to minimize the need to develop new water supplies which are often expensive, controversial, and environmentally damaging.

“Water is the lifeblood of rural Colorado and this project is notable for what it doesn’t do: it doesn’t take water out of agriculture or drain Colorado’s headwater streams,” said Western Resource Advocates Staff Attorney Rob Harris. “Implementation of select new supply projects like Chatfield, aggressive conservation, reuse, and strategic water sharing with agriculture can meet Colorado’s water supply gap for decades to come.”

Going forward, Western Resource Advocates expects the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the state, and other stakeholders to ensure that implementation of the project minimizes impacts to Chatfield State Park and preserves the multitude of uses that exist there today.