



TAKE ACTION NOW: The City of Fort Collins Should Actively Oppose and Work to Stop NISP, Not Negotiate “Mitigation” Which Would Help NISP Get Built

At its February 21, 2017 meeting, the Fort Collins City Council will be voting on a resolution that directs City staff to start negotiating for mitigation on the dam and Poudre River-destruction scheme, the “Northern Integrated Supply Project” (NISP) and its Glade Reservoir. **The City Council should vote “NO” on this resolution:**

- 1. No level of mitigation would ever make this project safe for river health.** The amount of water NISP would drain out of the river and the timing of its removal, during the peak flows of the June Rise, would profoundly damage the river and its ecosystem. “Mitigation” can’t compensate for the loss of the wetlands and water table, flushing spring flows that clean out sediment and restore fish habitat, or increased water temperature that will damage fish populations. Nothing short of **not building the project** will sufficiently protect the Poudre River’s health.
- 2. The City’s former policy was to “not support” and even “oppose” NISP.** Therefore, negotiating on mitigation for NISP is a significant change in policy that requires extensive public engagement, including a potential vote of the public, before it moves forward. The Poudre River is a cherished resource in Fort Collins – culturally, economically, and environmentally – and the public must have the final say in the Cache la Poudre River’s future protection.
- 3. The resolution gives the false impression that NISP is a done deal and is going to get built.** The resolution provides no evidence to support this impression, other than that the project is moving through the permitting process. Similar projects around Colorado have been stalled or stopped by concerned citizens and other stakeholders. The NISP controversy will continue for another 6 – 10 years at least, including potentially in court, and the outcome is completely unpredictable. If needed, negotiations about mitigation can occur later – not now – and after Final Environmental Impact Statements have been released, or even during lawsuit settlements. The City is in a very strong position and should not act out of fear.
- 4. The two City boards that are the voice for Fort Collins’ environment – the Land Conservation & Stewardship Board and the Natural Resource Advisory Board – voted unanimously to oppose this resolution.**
- 5. The resolution and the accompanying presentation falsely claim that negotiating on NISP will not increase the likelihood that NISP will get built.** This claim relies on a flawed understanding of the Clean Water Act and National Environmental Policy Act. Further, Fort Collins’ opposition to NISP is a huge political obstacle for NISP. Negotiating would help remove that obstacle and may make the project more likely to be permitted.

What you can do!

- 1.** Send an email to City Council before February 21. Send your email to cityleaders@fcgov.com. You can use an online template to send your email by going to Save The Poudre’s webpage: <http://savethepoudre.org/eblast/>
- 2.** Call key members of City Council: Councilmember Kristin Stephens: 970-217-5817; Councilmember Gerry Horak: (970) 217-2993; Mayor Wade Troxell: 970-219-8940
- 3.** Attend, and speak at, Councilmember Horak’s “Listening Session” -- 9:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, February 17 – Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive.
- 4.** Attend, and speak at, the City Council meeting on February 21st at City Hall, 300 LaPorte Ave.