

RESOLUTION NO. 2009 - 66

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED "MILLION CONSERVATION RESOURCES GROUP WATERSHED SUPPLY PROJECT" IN THE STATE OF WYOMING.

WHEREAS, a group identified as the Million Conservation Resources Group has proposed a project of transferring 250,000 acre-feet of water from the Green River upstream of Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Sweetwater County, Wyoming across the State of Wyoming, including a portion of Albany County, to be disbursed along the "Front Range" of Colorado; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed project entails utilizing Lake Hattie in Albany County as a storage facility of the water on its route to Colorado; and,

WHEREAS, such a water pipeline connecting the Green River with the Laramie River watershed could facilitate the influx of invasive species such as zebra mussels or quagga mussels, which could cause millions of dollars in damage to local water and sewer systems connected to the Laramie River; and,

WHEREAS, the removal of 250,000 acre-feet of water from the Green River is likely to have major negative impacts on trout fisheries in the Green River and on kokanee fisheries in Flaming Gorge Reservoir, and is further likely to impair recreational opportunities for boating, swimming, and other recreation in Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area; and,

WHEREAS, the removal of 250,000 acre-feet of water from the Green River is likely to imperil the survival of four species of Endangered fishes downstream in the Green and Colorado Rivers, specifically the Colorado pikeminnow, bonytail, humpback chub, and razorback sucker;

WHEREAS, the construction of a pipeline corridor through the Laramie River Basin may become an avenue for noxious weed invasion, and noxious weeds such as cheatgrass and kosha could spread into surrounding lands to the detriment of local agriculture; and,

WHEREAS, the construction of a pipeline connecting Lake Hattie, into which the flow of the Laramie River can be diverted via canal, with Colorado Front Range water markets could make it easier for water speculators to buy up and remove water from the Laramie River basin for sale to Colorado communities, to the detriment of the interests of the City of Laramie and surrounding agricultural operations in Wyoming; and,

WHEREAS, the removal of a large proportion of the flow of the Green River could alter the balance of salinity in the system, both in the Green River and downstream; and,

WHEREAS, the creation of a private for-profit corporation as a water broker in Wyoming and Colorado does not serve the best interests of water users anywhere within the State of Wyoming;

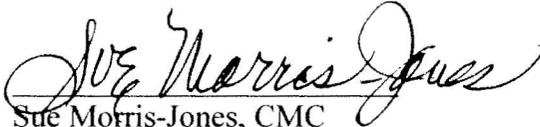
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the City Council of the City of Laramie that the City hereby expresses its opposition to the construction of the Million Conservation Resource Group's Regional Watershed Supply Project and recommends that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Wyoming Board of Control withhold any and all permits and approvals for the proposed project.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF July, 2009.



Jodi Guerin, Mayor and President  
of the City Council of the City of  
Laramie, Wyoming

ATTEST:



Sue Morris-Jones, CMC  
City Clerk