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March 5, 1998

Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District
275 South Spruce
Gunnison, CO 81230

Re: Not One Drop

A letter published by the Denver Post on February 11, 1998, written by Marie Mackenzie, one of the Arapahoe County Commissioners invites comment. She is correct in stating that new developments, which are urban-density-subdivisions, will need to seek other sources of water than ground water, but she and others like David Miller, the man who sold Aurora Neco's conditional water rights in the Taylor River in Gunnison County, are in error. They propose that Front Range water needs can be satisfied by capturing "unused" portions of the Colorado River Water which they believe flows out of state below Grand Junction.

Of course, much of the Colorado river water flows down stream from Colorado. It has all be used one or more times in Colorado, however, and all of such water is owned by the Lower Colorado River Basin states of California, Arizona and Nevada, and by the country of Mexico. If Colorado prevent such waters from flowing out of Lake Powell and past Lee Ferry in the quantity such states require, Colorado will find a federal referee ruling, as recently one did regarding Arkansas River Waters, namely; "Shut down your upstream uses and let the waters flow downstream where they belong."

Colorado is not permitting water to waste away downstream. The upper basin states, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming and Utah are required by compact and treaty to insure that 7,500,000 to 8,500,000 acre feet of water per annum passes the point of measurement at Lee Ferry. The Mexican treaty requires the Upper Basin States to release at least another 750,000 acre feet. Accordingly, the total downstream legal requirement will be at least 9,250,000 acre feet per annum.

What quantity of water have the Upper Basin States been releasing? During the past 10 years, which are considered to have been wet years, the average annual releases have been about 7,500,000 acre feet. The Upper Basin States are potentially shorting the Lower Basin States and Mexico by almost 1,750,000 acre feet per year.

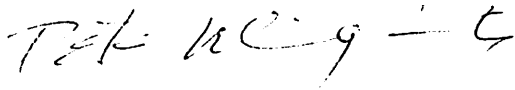
Colorado water officials hope the Lower Basin people will continue to overlook or consent to this shortage, and we can all hope they do but, the old wisdom, "Beware the anger of a patient man" suggests we not increase the risk of being shut down as Colorado has recently been shut down in the Arkansas River by adding to the existing shortfall.

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In light of the foregoing, I hope the Upper Gunnison Water Board holds fast to its position that not one drop of water goes across the mountain to Arapahoe County or anyone else.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P.C. Klingsmith".

P.C. Klingsmith

xc: Crested Butte Chronicle & Pilot
Gunnison Country Times