

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 30, 2023

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator John Kennedy
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein and Ranking Member Kennedy:

We write to request funding for the Bureau of Reclamation in fiscal year 2024 (FY24) to continue planning and construction for Colorado's Arkansas Valley Conduit project. The Conduit project is a priority for Colorado, and we request continued investment in this project, in line with the \$10.059 million provided in the President's FY24 Budget.

The Arkansas Valley Conduit is a planned 130-mile water-delivery system from the Pueblo Dam to communities throughout the Arkansas River Valley in Southeast Colorado. The Conduit is the final phase of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, which Congress authorized in 1962. When completed, the Conduit will help bring clean drinking water to more than 50,000 people in over 40 communities in the lower Arkansas Valley of Colorado.

Colorado water providers have worked to finish the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project since Congress first authorized it. Annual funding, in line with our \$10.059 million funding request for FY24, can shorten the Conduit's construction timeline and expand Coloradans' access to a secure and safe supply of water.

We join the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the State of Colorado, and the many local water providers in support of the Administration's FY24 Budget Request for the Arkansas Valley Conduit. These funds will allow Coloradans to maintain on-time delivery of pre-construction activity, including updating environmental documents, design activity, contract negotiation, land acquisition, and right of way work.

Additionally, we request a strong overall FY24 funding level for the Bureau of Reclamation. While the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provided substantial and necessary funding for Western water infrastructure, the needs in our region will remain significant for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator



John Hickenlooper
U.S. Senator