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1905 Glenmere Blvd.
Greeley CO 80631

January 12, 2021

Mayor Gates and City Councilmembers
1000 10th Street
Greeley CO 80631

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council,

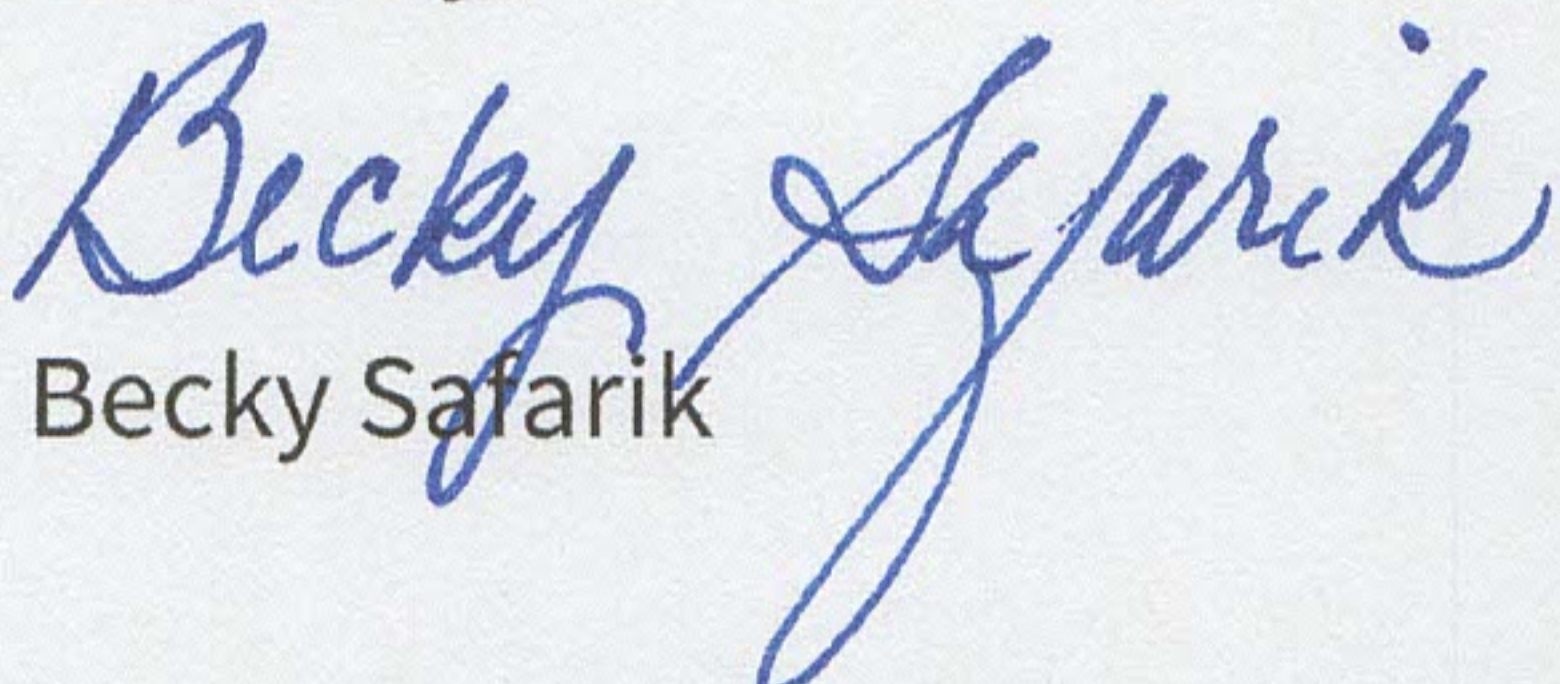
In my previous work with the City of Greeley I had the unique opportunity to observe and join the Water Department staff in their master planning to provide a reliable water supply to anticipate and meet the needs of our community. As you well know, such work has a very long planning horizon, is costly, and complicated. Water storage, in particular, is a critical aspect of development and management of a successful water portfolio.

Essential to this goal is having confidence in the security and reliability of our water supply. While our mountain reservoirs have served the city well it is clear that climate challenges, punctuated by the 2012 High Park and 2020 Cameron Peak Wildfires, make that supply vulnerable when water supply basins are impacted. Further, the permitting and management of these reservoirs is extensive, expensive, and time consuming. While this deliberative process is understandable given the significance such facilities represent, environmental, economic, legislative, and technological shifts during the permitting and development process can have profound impacts on the timely development of a water storage and distribution project. Coupling high mountain reservoirs with underground storage, such as that proposed by the Terry Ranch project, offers a way to secure and support our water future by establishing diverse storage resources.

Several aspects of the creative Terry Ranch project are especially appealing: the ability to diversify water storage sites in different geographies, limiting potential damage from a singular natural disaster; a creative financing strategy to develop the underground water supply, limiting the amount of debt the City, and therefore water users, would incur; and, developing underground water storage negating evaporative loss and augmentation, thereby minimizing environmental impacts, and associated permits, to name a few.

The due diligence process undertaken to explore the feasibility and reliability for Greeley to further develop and use this water resource appears thorough and considered. I encourage the City Council to act favorably to help secure Greeley's water future by moving forward with the Terry Ranch acquisition and water storage project.

Sincerely,


Becky Safarik