

**TOWN OF MORRISON
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MORRISON, COLORADO, STATING OPPOSITION TO A SIGNIFICANT REALLOCATION OF THE BEAR CREEK RESERVOIR AND REQUESTING ALTERNATIVE WATER STORAGE SOLUTIONS THAT ALLOW FOR PRESERVATION OF THE BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK

WHEREAS, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is investigating the feasibility of reallocating capacity in the Bear Creek Reservoir to add Water Storage as an authorized purpose to the previously authorized purposes of Flood Control, Recreation, and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement; and

WHEREAS, alternatives under consideration range from no change to a 20,000 acre feet expansion of the current maximum storage volume of 2,000 acre feet; and

WHEREAS, the proposed expansion of the Bear Creek Reservoir would reduce the land area of the Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP) by over 500 acres; and

WHEREAS, the potential areas for inundation include the riparian corridors of Bear Creek and Turkey Creek, miles of forested trails, and significant wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, expanded water storage in the Reservoir would result in significant fluctuations in pool levels, which would increase the acreage of “mud flats” that surround the Reservoir at lower levels; and

WHEREAS, the 10,000 and 20,000 acre feet reallocation alternatives assessed by the USACE are not risk-neutral and result in increased flood risk; and the assessment also concluded that risk mitigating project modifications and risk neutral alternatives likely exist; and

WHEREAS, the primary municipal partners currently interested in additional water storage in Bear Creek Reservoir are the Cities of Brighton, Berthoud and Dacono; and a growing number of sand and gravel pits are being created and repurposed for water storage along the South Platte, closer to those municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Bear Creek Lake Park hosts an estimated 800,000 visits annually, which is expected to increase as new residential development in the Rooney Valley increases Park use; and

WHEREAS, the USACE is required to consider project impacts on social well-being in the Feasibility Study; and

WHEREAS, the portions of the BCLP that would be inundated in an expansion of the Reservoir provide significant quality of life and social well-being benefits to the people of Morrison and the greater region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF MORRISON, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Town urges the US Army Corps of Engineers to take full consideration of both on-site and off-site water storage alternatives which can preserve the core of Bear Creek Lake Park's land-based recreational and environmental assets, including the riparian corridors of Bear and Turkey Creeks.

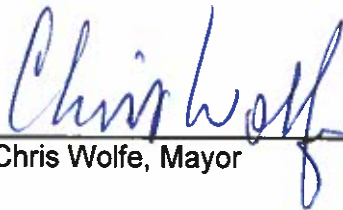
Section 2. The Town, as a Stakeholder Agency, directs this Resolution to the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

INTRODUCED, READ, PASSED and ADOPTED this 19th day of April, 2022, by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.



ATTEST:

TOWN OF MORRISON


Chris Wolfe, Mayor


Ariana Neverdahl, Town Clerk