



**Myton City Corporation**  
160 East Main Street  
P.O. Box 185  
Myton, Utah 84052  
(435) 722-2711 Fax: (435) 722-2796

**VIA FACSIMILE, E-MAIL, & U.S. MAIL**

June 16, 2008

Senator Orrin Hatch  
104 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Bob Bennett  
431 Dirksen Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510-4403

Congressman Jim Matheson  
410 Cannon Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Lower Duchesne River Wetlands Project**

Dear Senators and Congressman;

Myton City is writing to express our concerns about the Lower Duchesne River Wetlands Project ("LDWP" or the "Project") and request your help in calling for the relocation of the LDWP to a location away from human population. As you may be aware, the LDWP is a federal project of the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission ("Mitigation Commission") and the Ute Indian Tribe. The Project will construct wetlands and riparian habitat along the Duchesne River in Duchesne and Uintah Counties for the Ute Tribe in an attempt to fulfill obligations made to the Tribe with regard to the Central Utah Project.

We are concerned that the Project that was adopted by resolution by the Mitigation Commission on May 22, 2008 is not in the public's interest. The Project will be constructed within miles of Myton City and will require the taking of approximately 1600 acres of private land. The constructed wetlands will significantly increase the mosquito habitat within the Project area and therefore will increase the risk of additional human and animal exposure to the deadly West Nile Virus, which is already a major concern in this area.

The Mitigation Commission believes that our public health concerns are unwarranted because the Project calls for additional treatment of the mosquito habitat. Our local mosquito abatement officials have warned, however, that mosquitoes are becoming more resistant to chemicals and that the best way to treat mosquitoes is to reduce the mosquito population. By increasing the mosquito habitat the Project will increase the mosquito population, and create greater challenges for controlling the West Nile Virus. Thus, we feel that the Mitigation Commission is grossly understating the potential public health risks that this Project presents to our local communities. Given the public health risks, it is especially troubling that approximately 35 citizens will lose their property so that the Project can be constructed.

We are also concerned that the Project will raise the water levels within the Myton area. Myton City struggled with high water levels for many years until it constructed the Uresk drain. Once the drain was constructed, the land became suitable for farming and ranching. This Project will cap the Uresk drain, however. While the Mitigation Commission caused core sampling tests to be performed on the local water levels, the sampling was done during the during a drought cycle and at a point in time when water levels are naturally low therefore, we believe that the Project's impact on the water levels was not accurately reflected in the Final Environmental Impact Statement ("FEIS") relied on by the Mitigation Commission, and that the Project will have a significant negative effect on the water levels in and around Myton City.

Additionally, the Project will have a negative socioeconomic impact on the local communities closest to the Project areas, such as Myton City. The socioeconomic impact analysis utilized by the Mitigation Commission was based on the broad study area of both Duchesne and Uintah counties and did not focus on the potential



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impact on individual impacted communities. Had the analysis considered the potential economic impacts on the communities directly affected by the Project, the projected socioeconomic impact would have appeared much more significant.

For these reasons, as well as others, we feel that the Project is not in the public's interest, and that the Project should be moved to a location away from human population. In February 2004, the Duchesne County Commission requested that the Project be moved to federal BLM land located near the Green River to mitigate the public health risks and avoid the adverse impacts on local communities. A copy of this request is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

We never received an adequate answer as to why this alternative was not given full consideration. Nor have we been given a satisfactory explanation as to why other alternatives away from human population were not considered. We maintain that relocation of the LDWP, either to BLM land on the Green River or to another location away from human population, would better serve the purpose of the LDWP and the public's interest. Accordingly, we request your assistance in calling on the Mitigation Commission to have this Project relocated. Because the Mitigation Commission formally approved the Project on May 22, 2008, we request your immediate attention to this request.

We are writing to ask you to request the Mitigation Commission and Bureau of Reclamation to reconsider their plans and to consider relocation as a viable option. Alternatively, we ask that you request that we be given additional time so that we can obtain our own experts to analyze these issues in greater detail to determine the true impact of the LDWP on our community. It took the Commission several years to complete their EIS and we were only given one month to respond. We are a poor community as you are aware but I assure you that we have the full support of our whole county. I can't think of even one person who is in support of this project that *doesn't have a direct monetary stake in it or isn't a Commission member.*

As elected officials, we feel that it is our responsibility to protect the public's interest. The LDWP is simply contrary to the public's interest. We sincerely appreciate your help in taking the necessary action to ensure that the public's interests are protected in this matter. If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please contact us.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Cooper

Mayor, Myton City, UT.

435-722-6090 ph. 435-823-2711 cell

pc: Pam Juliano, Field Rep., Congressman Jim Matheson, 120 East main, Price, UT 84501  
Ron Dean, Field Rep., Senator hatch, 51 S. University Ave., #320, Provo, UT 84606  
Brad Shafer, Federal Bldg., 125 S. State St. Suite 4335, Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1188  
Reed Murray, CUP Completion Act office, 302 E. 1860 South, Provo, UT 84606-7317  
Uintah County Commission, 152 E 100 North, Vernal, UT 84708  
Duchesne County Commission, P.O. Box 270, Duchesne, UT 84021  
Harley Cambridge, Ute Tribe Wetlands Dept., PO Box 190, Fort Duchesne, UT 84066