

Colorado Water Congress

Water Buffaloes in the Mist

January 29, 2009

What Coloradans Think About Water

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Ciruli Associates**



Listening to the Public on Water

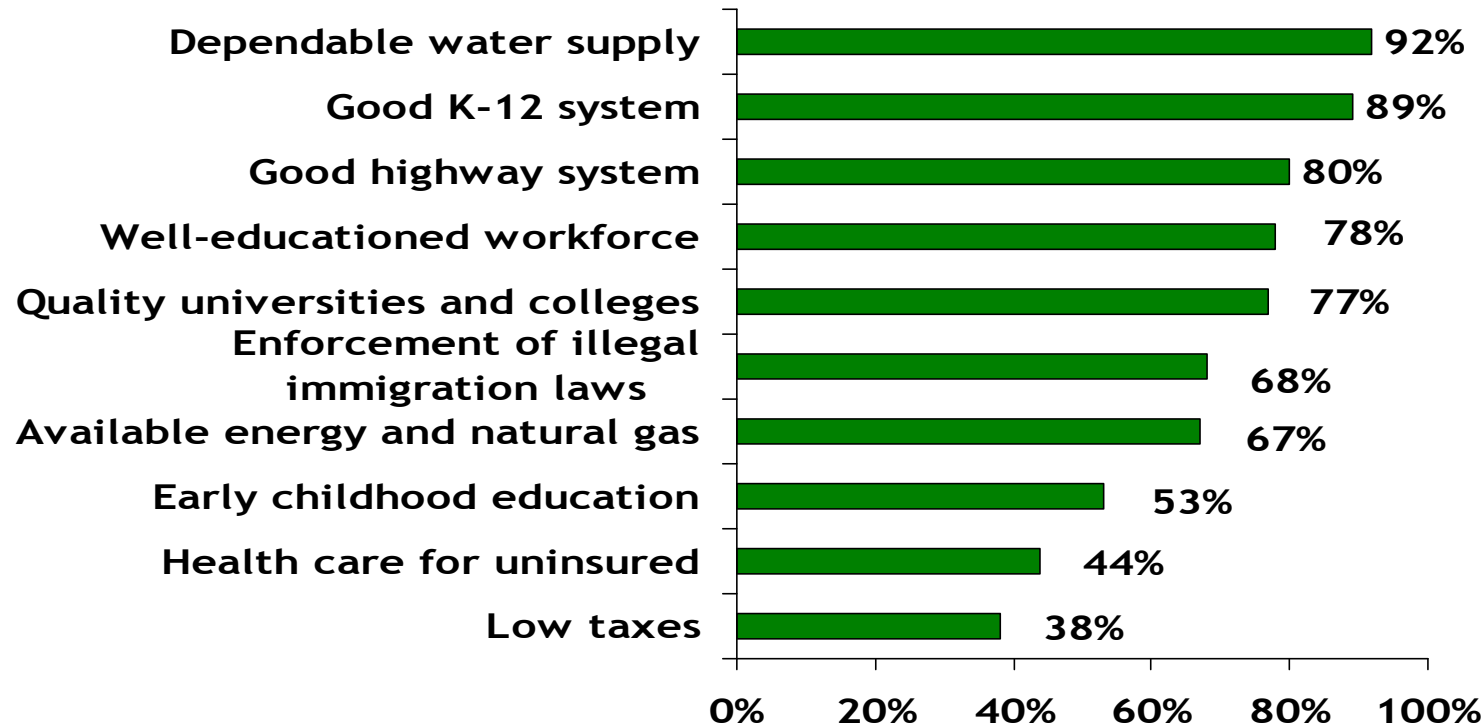


CWC/WESTCAS Presentations 2002-2008

- ❑ New Political Environment of Water, CWC, January 2003
- ❑ Political Environment of Water Conservation, June and December 2006
- ❑ Advancing a Water Agenda in a Competitive Environment, CWC, January 2007
- ❑ Changing Attitudes of the Public Based on Elections, Western Coalition of Arid States, October 2008
- ❑ Community Water Polls: Pueblo, Castle Rock, Douglas County, Parker Water, Larimer/Weld counties

Water is Top Policy Needed to Maintain a Strong Economy

Is it very important Colorado has...?



Ciruli Associates, N504, 2007

Question: Thinking about Colorado's ability to compete for jobs and maintain a strong economy, as I read the following list of public policy issues, please tell me if you believe the issue is very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important to Colorado's ability to compete for jobs and maintain a strong economy. If you don't have a view, just say so. [Rotated] Ask: "Colorado should have...": a well-balanced workforce, a health care system that provides care for uninsured, an early childhood education program, available electrical energy and natural gas, strong enforcement of illegal immigration laws, high quality universities and colleges, a dependable supply of water, a good highway and transportation system, low taxes on businesses and workers, a good kindergarten to high school public school system.

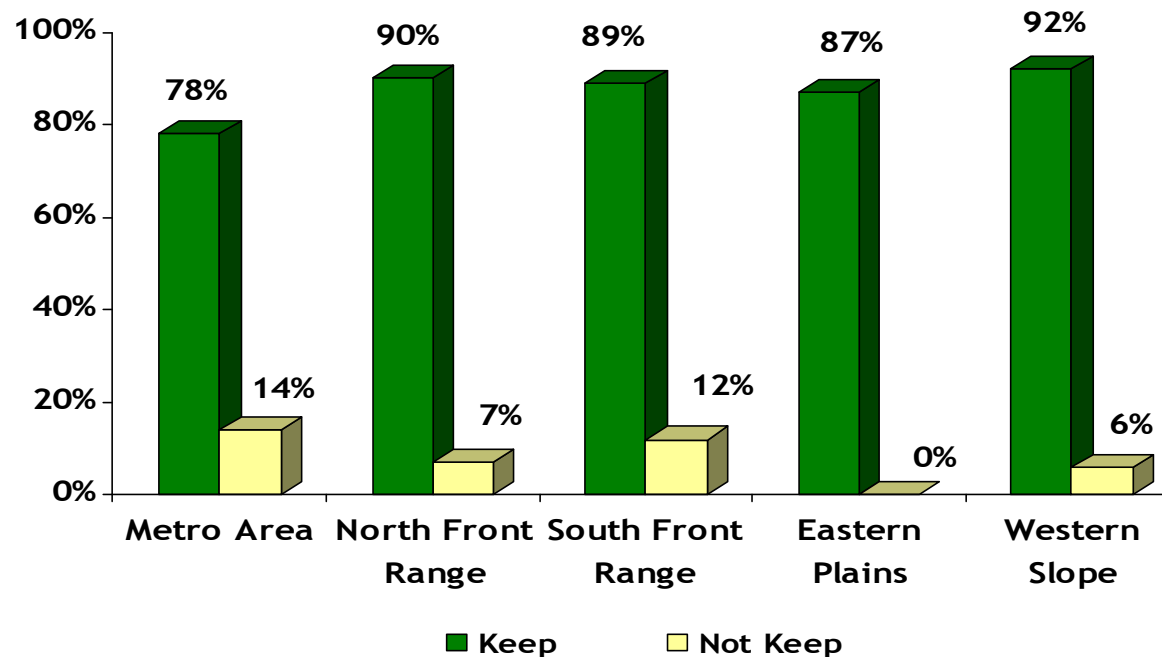
Colorado River Compact and Colorado's Entitlement

- California agrees to reduce use to 4.4 million acre-feet (in 15 years), Attorney General Norton, 2002-03
- "My water plan remains simple. I want to protect and store every drop of water that Colorado owns and put it to beneficial use within our state." Governor Bill Owens, 2002
- Agreement to share adversity, Jan. 2007
- In a telephone interview with the *Pueblo Chieftain* "...the water compact that Colorado and other upper basin states have with California and a region should be renegotiated," U.S. Senator John McCain said, 8-15-2008; "My recent remarks may have been mistakenly construed...Let me be clear that I do not advocate renegotiations of the compact." 8-20-08
 - Get a project like Central Arizona Project
 - Federal money could be available
- Colorado entitlement study begins, 2007
- We need to spend more time on the basin of origin. If they provide water or share it, how do we make sure they are protected? DNR Director Harris Sherman, 1-9-2009

Keep Colorado River Water 2003-2008

- March 2003 – 91% keep Colorado River water
- Sept. 2008 – 82% keep Colorado River water

Should Colorado River water stay and be used in Colorado...?

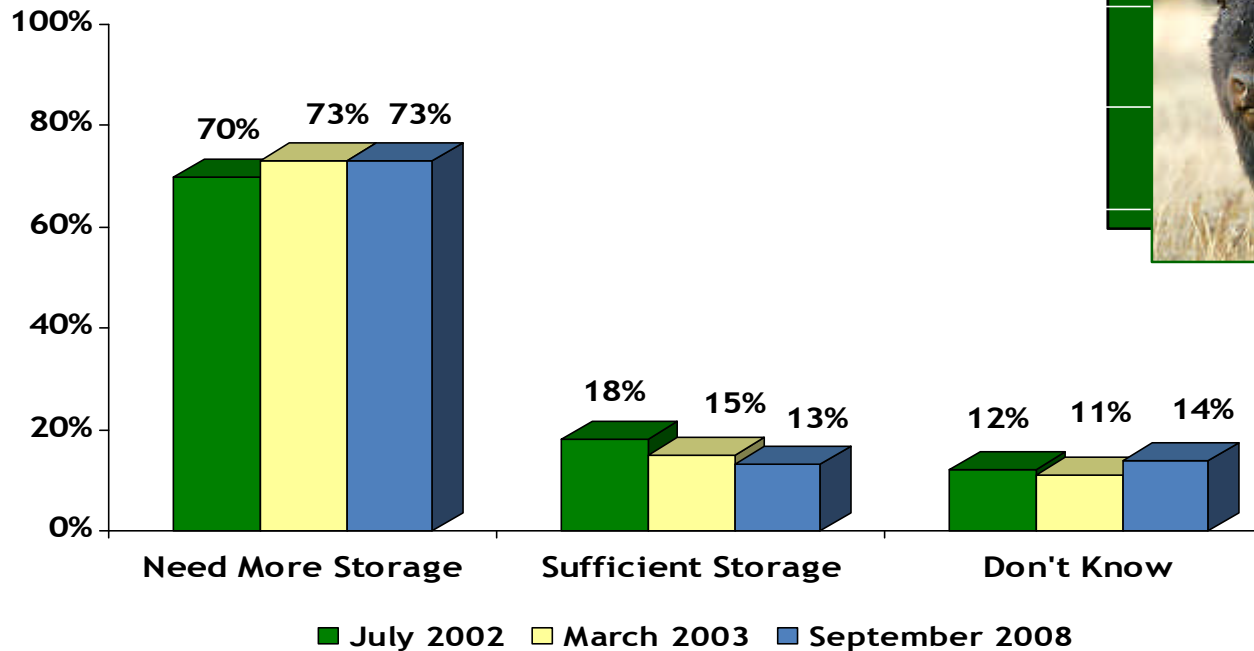


Ciruli Associates, N501, 2008

Question: One other issue that has been in the news lately concerns the state's water supply. In most of Colorado's river basins, all the water has been put to legal use. But it is estimated that approximately 450,000 to 1 million acre-feet a year of the state's Colorado River water is not legally allocated for use. The surplus Colorado River water flows west out of the state and is used by residents, businesses and farms in California. Do you believe Colorado should keep its share of Colorado River water and use it here or not keep its share of Colorado River water?

Statewide Support for Additional Water Storage 2002 - 2003 and 2008

Statewide Support for Storage



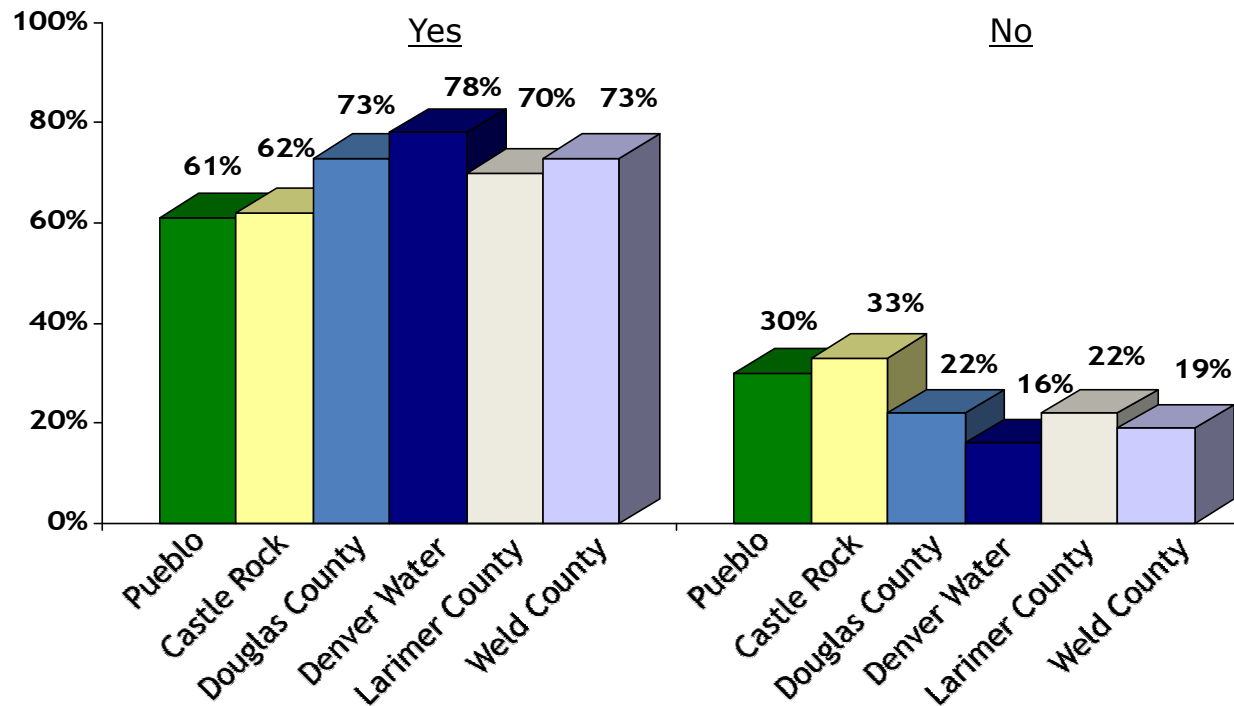
Ciruli Associates, N601, Jul. 2002
Ciruli Associates, N603, Mar. 2003
Ciruli Associates, N501, Sep. 2008

Question: Do you believe the State of Colorado should build additional water storage projects to store runoff water for later use or does it have sufficient storage?

We Are Still in a Drought

Comparison of Pueblo; Castle Rock; Douglas, Larimer and Weld Counties; and Denver Water

Are we in a drought...?



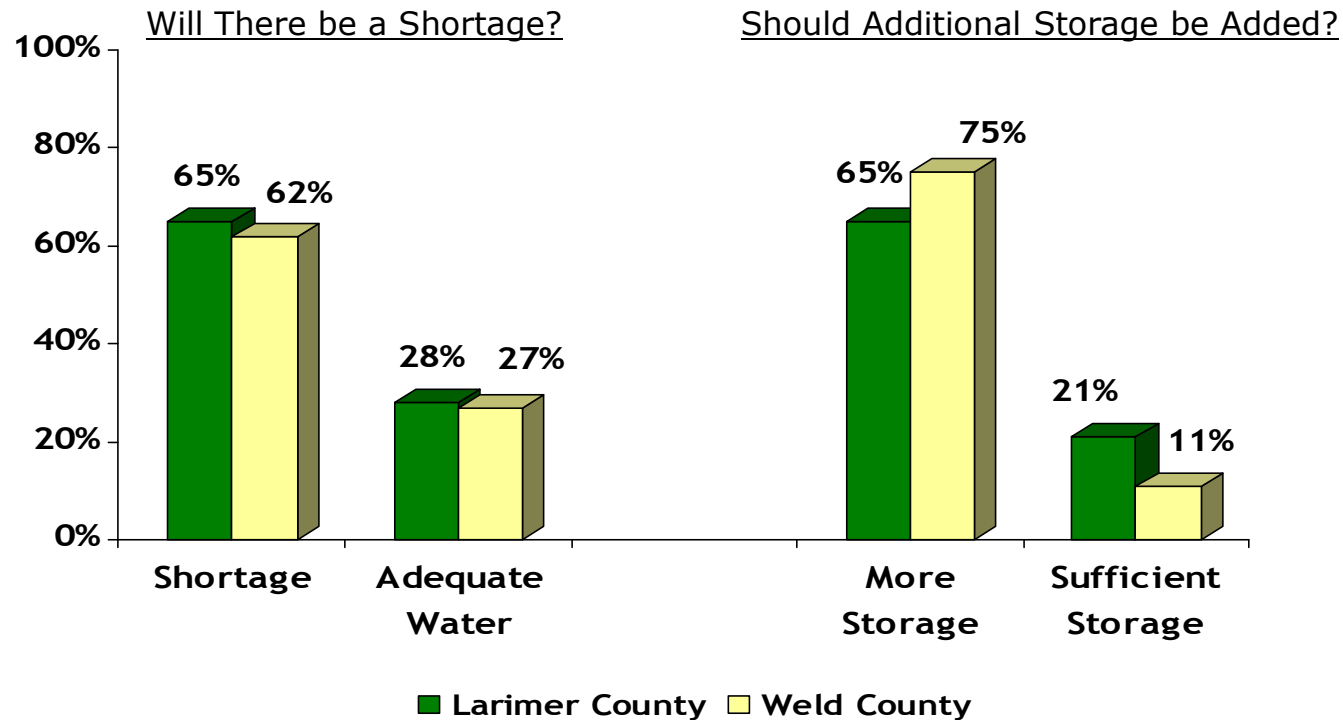
Question: *Thinking about the drought, do you believe we are still in a drought or do you believe the drought has ended? Pueblo/Castle Rock/Douglas County/Larimer County/Weld County.*

My next set of questions are about drought. Are we still in a drought? Denver Water

Ciruli Associates, Castle Rock, N500, 2005
 Ciruli Associates, Douglas County, N700, 2005
 Denver Water, N801, 2005
 Ciruli Associates, Pueblo, N504, 2006
 Ciruli Associates, Larimer, N500, 2008
 Ciruli Associates, Weld, N300, 2008

Voters Predict Shortages and Support More Storage

Northern Colorado



Ciruli Associates, Larimer, N500, 2008
Ciruli Associates, Weld, N300, 2008

Questions: *In the next 10 years, do you believe the supply of water to residents in northern Colorado will be adequate, or do you believe there will be a shortage of water?*

In general, do you believe northern Colorado needs more water storage capacity, or does it have sufficient storage?

Agriculture is Important Save It



Northern Colorado

Agree or Disagree

Agriculture, farm economy and open space:

Maintaining agricultural open space and the farm economy is important to our area

<u>Total Agree</u>	
<u>Larimer</u>	<u>Weld</u>

93%	98%
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Agriculture is important for northern Colorado, and the buying up of local water and drying up of farm land by the cities should be avoided

88	92
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Ciruli Associates, N500, N300, 2008

Question: As I read the following statements, please tell me which statement comes closest to your personal beliefs on the topic. Also, please tell me whether it is much closer to your personal beliefs than the other statement or somewhat closer to your personal beliefs. [ROTATE BETWEEN THE FIRST STATEMENT AND SECOND STATEMENT] [READ FOLLOW-UP AS NEEDED: And would you say that the statement is much closer to your personal beliefs than the other statement or only somewhat closer?]

Agriculture is Over, Forget About It

Northern Colorado

<u>Select the Statement Closest to Your Beliefs</u>	<u>Total Agree</u>	
	<u>Larimer</u>	<u>Weld</u>
Some people believe that agriculture is <u>no longer economically sustainable</u> and that farms should just sell their water to cities along the Front Range and <u>get out of the business</u> , or	10%	9%
Other people believe agricultural is sustainable and that <u>water storage projects</u> should be developed to provide water to cities and leave agricultural water in agriculture	84	89

Ciruli Associates, N500, N300, 2008

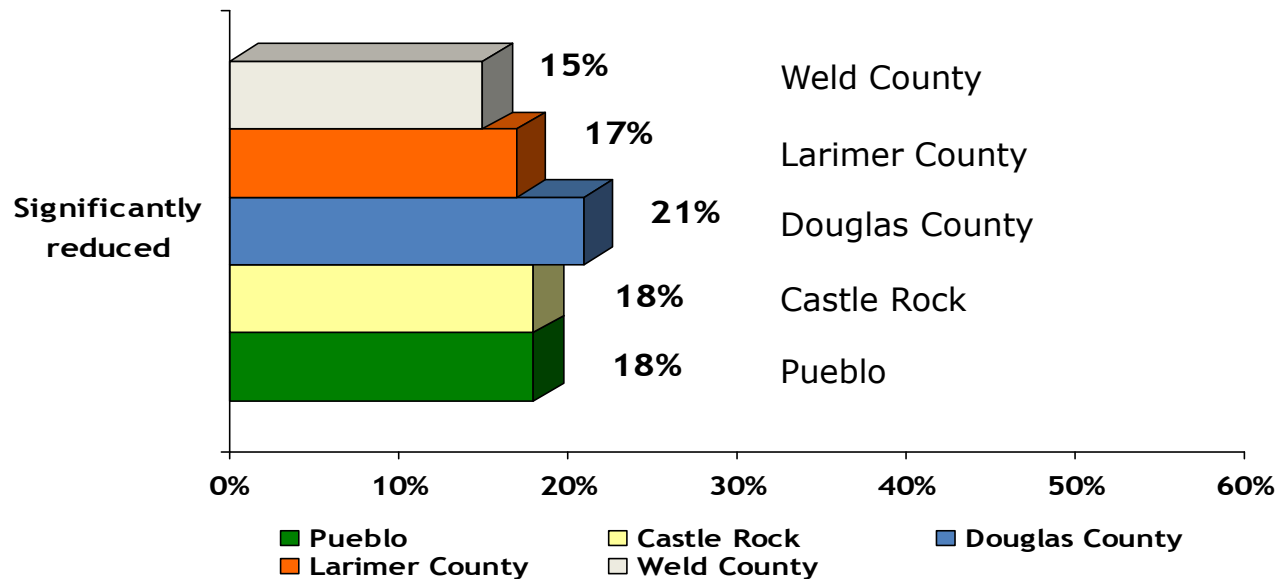
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Front Range Residents Save Water

- Two-thirds in each county attempted some conservation (significantly or somewhat reduce)
- Why? Perception of drought, cost, water ethic

Pueblo, Castle Rock and Douglas, Larimer and Weld Counties

Have you reduced water use...?



Question: In the last two years would you say you have significantly reduced your water usage, somewhat reduced your water usage, slightly reduced water usage, are you using about the same amount of water or using more water? Pueblo/Castle Rock/Douglas County, Larimer County, Weld County

Ciruli Associates, Castle Rock, N500, 2005
 Ciruli Associates, Douglas County, N700, 2005
 Ciruli Associates, Pueblo, N504, 2006
 Ciruli Associates, Larimer, N500, 2008
 Ciruli Associates, Weld, N300, 2008

Conservation Can Do It All – No More Storage

Northern Colorado

<u>Select the Statement Closest to Your Beliefs</u>	<u>Total Agree</u>	
	<u>Larimer</u>	<u>Weld</u>
Conservation of water will be <u>sufficient</u> to provide for future population growth and reoccurring droughts, or	20%	10%
Conservation is important, <u>but it alone can't provide sufficient water</u> for future growth and reoccurring droughts. More water storage will be needed	73	87

Ciruli Associates, N500, N300, 2008

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Keep Local Water at Home

Northern Colorado

	<u>Total Agree</u>	
<u>Agree or Disagree</u>	<u>Larimer</u>	<u>Weld</u>
<i>Water for local purposes:</i> It is important to protect northern Colorado water from being <u>sold</u> and <u>moved</u> to cities in the Denver metropolitan area	89%	91%

Ciruli Associates, N500, N300, 2008

Pueblo

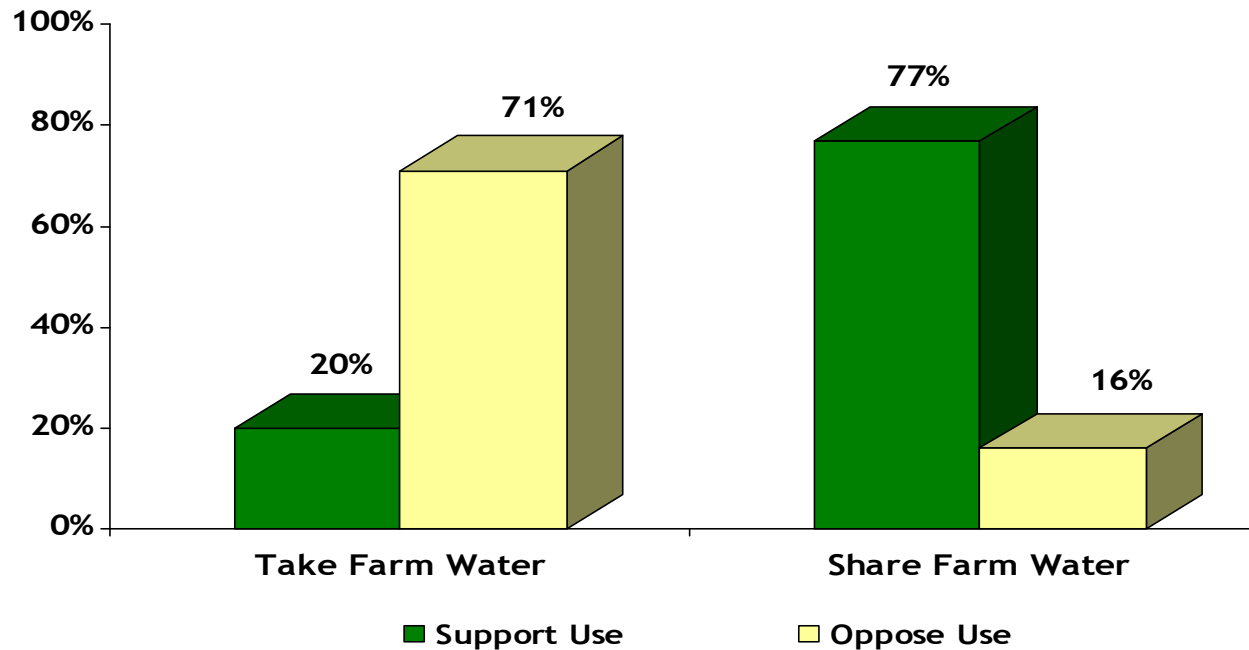
	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
<u>Support or Oppose</u> Pueblo Water Works should purchase additional water to ensure that Arkansas River water remains available for Pueblo residents and isn't <u>sold</u> to other cities in the Denver area	88%	10%

Ciruli Associates, N504, 2006

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Douglas County Use of Agricultural Water by Cities and Towns

Take or Share Water



Ciruli Associates, N700, Jul. 2005

Questions: Among the following two statements, which comes closest to your views on the issue: Some water should be taken from agriculture for use by cities and towns, or, No water should be taken from agriculture for use by cities and towns?

One plan would have a city or town purchase or lease a small amount of a farmer's agricultural water, for example 10 percent, and pay the farmer for use of the water. That plan would be voluntary and allow farmers to have enough water to stay in the farming business, plus give them extra income. If that plan were followed, would you support the use of agricultural water for cities and towns or oppose it?

Support Water Management and Multiple-Use

Northern Colorado

<i>Water management and multiple-use:</i>	Total Agree	
	<u>Larimer</u>	<u>Weld</u>
<u>Agree or Disagree</u> The Poudre River does a good job providing water for multiple purposes, such as cities, agriculture, industry and recreation	83%	74%
The Colorado-Big Thompson water project has been a good project and improved the quality of Northern Colorado	75	78

Ciruli Associates, N500, N300, 2008

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Water Cooperation Is Important

Northern Colorado

<u>Agree or Disagree</u>	<u>Total Agree</u>	
	<u>Larimer</u>	<u>Weld</u>
<i>Cooperation on water issues:</i>		
The Northern Water Conservancy District should work with other water providers, ditch companies and farmers in the Poudre and Platte river valleys to protect the supply and quality of water in our area	93%	93%
One good aspect of the NISP project is the regional cooperation among smaller and larger cities and the urban areas and agricultural communities	78	82

Ciruli Associates, N500, N300, 2008

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Water Buffaloes in the Mist

Summary of What Coloradans Think About Water

- ✓ Dependable supply of water is important to quality of life and jobs
- ✓ Support for keeping Colorado River water in Colorado
- ✓ Support for storage of runoff for later use
- ✓ High level of concern about drought and shortages
- ✓ Support protecting agricultural water through use of storage
- ✓ Committed to conservation, but not sole solution – need storage
- ✓ Want to keep water in own area, but support solutions, such as sharing agricultural water
- ✓ Support water management and multiple use
- ✓ Support cooperation among water agencies, cities and farmers