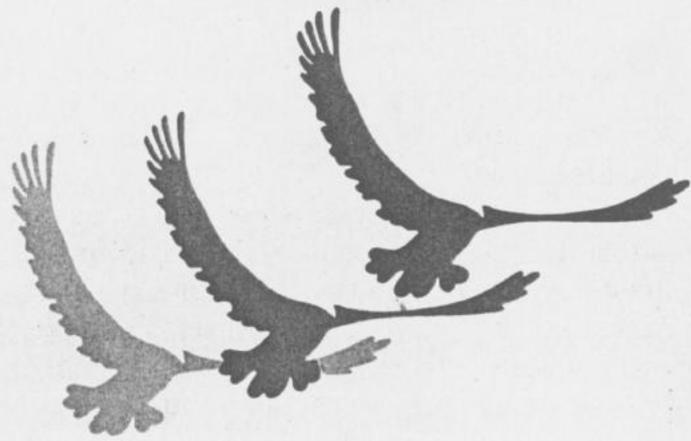


# HIGH COUNTRY CITIZENS' ALLIANCE



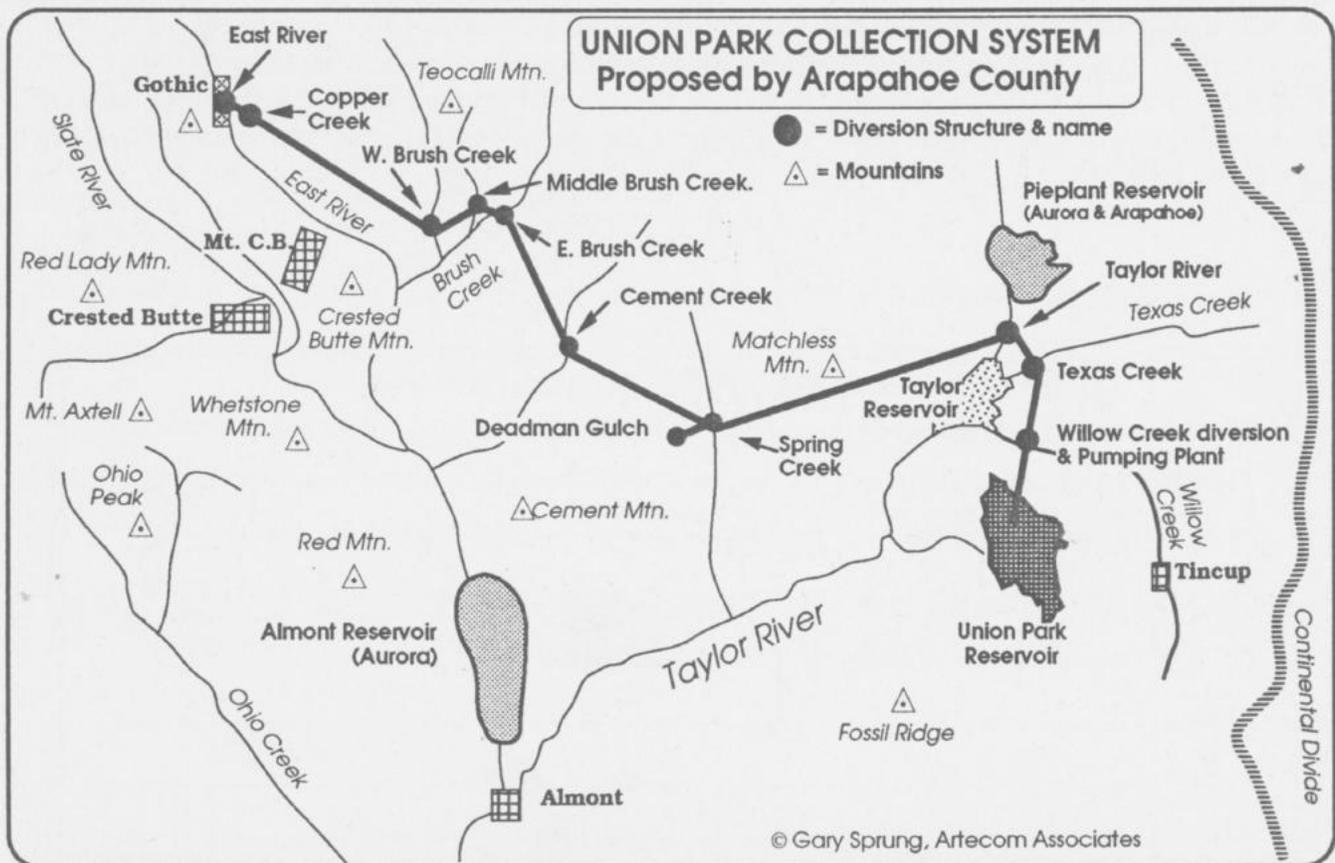
April 5, 1991

Dear neighbors and visitors of the East River Valley,

For some years you may have heard about proposals to divert large quantities of water from the Upper Gunnison Basin. On March 7, the opponents of those diversion plans won a major victory. The City of Aurora ended its legal pursuit of Gunnison Basin water rights. Aurora said that it based its decision on the rising expense of the court battle, which had already cost them \$2 million. They also hope that if they act "nice," then Gunnison Basin residents will some day voluntarily agree to a transmountain diversion. Aurora also must have realized that they were losing the court battle.

But the water war is not over. Two months ago, the diversion proposals focused sharply on the Upper East River Valley when Arapahoe County proposed to construct diversion dams and a large water collection system to take water from the East River and its tributaries. The structures would extend from Gothic, then follow along the sides of the mountains along the East River across from Mt. Crested Butte, then turn up into Brush

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Creek to capture the water of its three branches, and then enter a tunnel taking the water through the mountains to Taylor Park. From there the water would be sent to the Denver Metropolitan area.

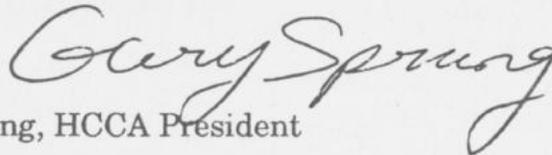
There are many perspectives and reasons for opposing this project, including damage to fishing, rafting, ranching, the environment, property values, and our local economy and lifestyles. Since 1986 the High County Citizens Alliance has actively opposed trans-mountain diversion from the Gunnison Basin, in the political arena and in water court. Our legal actions are helping to form the cutting edge of evolving Western water law. We have joined with ranchers, recreationists and public officials in organizing county-wide unity on the water issue. The public of this county voiced strong opposition at the special election held on December 4th. With an unusually high turnout, 86% of the voters supported increasing property taxes to provide funds for the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District's continued litigation in defense of our basin's water.

We need unity, especially within the upper East River valley. Cooperation and shared support for public education and opposition are essential. These specific diversion plans directly and indirectly affect all of us. Please help by encouraging all organizations, private and public, to evidence their opposition to these plans.

High Country Citizens' Alliance also needs your financial help. HCCA has been arguing that leaving the water in the East River, and the Gunnison Basin, provides public benefits to the natural systems, recreation, aesthetics, and local economic values — in short, what makes the Gunnison country the wonderful place it is. HCCA also argues that the water diversion plans are speculative and that better alternatives exist for providing future metropolitan needs, particularly more water conservation measures.

Defending our water resources and their associated values — both in the streams and out of the streams — is time consuming, difficult, and expensive. For example, we face a month-long trial this coming June. Protecting what we share and value highly requires your help. HCCA seeks to raise \$5000 for legal action and education in the next year and a half. Please help HCCA continue its role in the opposition and help it to pay for expert witnesses, lawyers, and public education efforts for coping with threats to the very core of our community.

Thank you.



Sincerely, Gary Sprung, HCCA President

### HCCA MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTION FORM

HCCA is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Your membership or contribution is tax-deductible.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 – regular membership  | <input type="checkbox"/> special contribution to HCCA's work on Water issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$23 – family membership   | <input type="checkbox"/> additional or non-membership contribution of _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 – joint membership in HCCA & Western Colorado Congress        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I would like to volunteer to help HCCA         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$71 – joint family membership in HCCA & Western Colorado Congress |  |

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