

# Tribune Opinion: About time Windy Gap Firming project moves forward

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The availability of water is becoming an important issue, in the western United States especially, and certainly for communities with a growing population and agriculture as a key part of the local economy.

[That's why we're happy to see the Windy Gap Firming project move forward with the completion of the construction of Chimney Hollow Reservoir near Carter Lake.](#)

Fifteen years in the making, the project will provide more reliable water across the Front Range via pumping in more than 40,000 acre-feet of water from the Colorado River. The project specifically benefits 12 communities including Greeley, which will receive 9,200 acre-feet of water, Fort Lupton, which will receive 1,100, and the Central Weld Water District, which gets 347.

The project has met some resistance from water conservation advocates concerned with further draining the Colorado River. Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., however, applauded the decision, calling the project important and a long time coming.

"Getting to this point has been years in the making, and it is hard to state just how important it is that Northern Water can finally move forward with construction," Gardner said in a news release.

We agree. Although the health of the Colorado River is indeed a very important issue, so is reliable access to water in northern Colorado. This project was developed a long time ago as a way to ensure that access, and the residents of this region deserve to see its completion.

We're glad things seem to be moving in that direction.

— Tribune Editorial Board