

Please Support SB23-267

Concerning Protecting Water Quality in Chatfield Reservoir & Watershed

Senators Lisa Cutter & Kevin Van Winkle

BACKGROUND

*Chatfield Reservoir is a 1,400-acre reservoir in Chatfield State Park and the third most intensely utilized State Park in Colorado, with over **two-million visitors** annually. The reservoir offers public swimming, boating, camping, paddleboarding, fishing, wildlife viewing, biking, camping, horseback riding, and other recreational opportunities. Most importantly, Chatfield Reservoir is an essential water-storage facility for water providers throughout the metro region.*

To protect and improve water quality in Chatfield Reservoir & Watershed, in accordance with Section 208 of the "Federal Water Pollution Control Act," Governor Roy Romer designated The Chatfield Watershed Authority (Authority) as a 208-management agency in 1984. To date, the Authority relies on voluntary dues from local governments and water and wastewater providers (Authority members) to:

- *Monitor water quality.*
- *Perform watershed modeling.*
- *Execute 208 management activities.*
- *Fund non-point source projects and protections.*
- *Prepare water quality reports for the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission.*

The Authority has identified \$1.2 million in essential funding needs over the next five years for regionally coordinated water-quality planning and implementation, including:

- *Phosphorous and nonpoint source pollution control in the Chatfield watershed.*
- *Construct, operate, and maintain nonpoint source projects.*
- *Enhanced water quality monitoring, stormwater runoff mitigation, and erosion control.*

To help pay for essential water quality projects, SB23-267 establishes a user fee for Chatfield Park visitors. The proposed user-fee structure is intended to distribute water-quality-protection costs more fairly between Authority members and Chatfield Reservoir users.

- ✓ ***The proposed user fee is a flat \$1.00 per one-day admission and \$3.00 per annual pass.***
- ✓ ***The user fee would sunset on January 1, 2029.***
- ✓ ***The funding is identical to the water-quality fee visitors pay at Cherry Creek State Park.***

For more info, please contact Steve Balcerovich at 720-351-2007 and/or Amy Attwood at 720-840-4912.