

Message From Marsha



August 3, 2008

SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY

In August, 2006, I was privileged to meet many hardworking families from the Rancho Colorado community in HD19. Carol & Donald Stites are just one of the 264 families there who have been faced with a lack of water for their homes. The developers of Rancho Colorado built over 264 homes without a sustainable water supply leaving many of those families with the devastating choice of having to either abandon their homes or pay to have water trucked in for their cisterns.

My commitment to those Rancho Colorado families was to prevent anything like this from ever happening again! It is important that homebuyers *know* where their water supply originates and who to contact for additional information. In my first session, I sponsored HB1156, the "Water Disclosure Bill", requiring sellers to disclose that information. HB1156 became effective January 1, 2007 and now every family purchasing a home in Colorado will know the source of their water supply.

Many citizens in El Paso County are also concerned that some local governments are rubber-stamping development plans *WITHOUT* requiring adequate water supply plans! I, along with many other members of the General Assembly, agree that there must be more oversight and accountability regarding subdivision water supply plans. To formally address this concern, I co-sponsored and battled for the passage of HB1141. This bill requires developers to provide specific evidence of an adequate water supply plan. This supply must be sufficient for the development through build-out in terms of quality, quantity and dependability.

HB1141 also allows local governments to seek the State Engineers comments on the water supply plans for proposed developments. Experts in the State Engineers department can now be asked to examine subdivision plans and associated water supply plans for adequacy. Since many local governments DO NOT have a water engineer or hydro-geologist on staff, this option provides them with the expertise to ensure that new developments will have a sustainable and adequate water supply.

On another note, I was just informed that El Paso County has been approved for emergency grazing operations! I wish to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who helped with securing this designation. Now our farmers and ranchers can begin moving their herds to their CRP land!

If you are interested in agriculture, water policy, or any other state-wide policies please join us at our next Town Hall meeting on August 13th, 7:00 – 8:30 pm at Peyton High School, 13990 Bradshaw Road, Peyton.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

Respectfully,

Marsha Looper

Marsha Looper,

Colorado State Representative HD#19

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