



**Southeast Cass
Water Resource
District**

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Red River Valley Water Supply Project
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 1017
Bismarck, ND 58502-1017

Re: Draft EIS Red River Valley Water Supply Project

The Southeast Cass Water Resource District (WRD) strongly supports the transport of Missouri River Water into the Red River Valley for Municipal, Rural and Industrial purposes. The need for a reliable water supply is increasing every day and not responding to this need would be disastrous to this region.

The WRD has been developing drainage and flood control projects in Cass County for many years. Whenever we are developing projects that impact a significant population center or major infrastructure, a 1% chance event is the minimum standard to consider for a reasonable return on the investment of public funds. By using the worst year of a 1930's magnitude drought to determine the water supply need may be underestimating the future water demands in the Red River Valley.

We have learned that using a recent hydrologic event, the 1930's drought in this case, can be short-sighted when developing water facilities for future needs. The existing hydrologic record of approximately 100 years is generally not long enough to assume the worst condition in the next 50 years will not be a more severe event than what was experienced.

We encourage you to continue the development of this project using Scenario Two to help mitigate the uncertainty of future hydrologic conditions.

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Fischer", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas Fischer
Chairman