

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. M19-0144.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

**SJM19-002**

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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 19-002**

101      **CONCERNING MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO**  
102              **ENACT LEGISLATION DIRECTING THE UNITED STATES ARMY**  
103              **CORPS OF ENGINEERS, IN CONJUNCTION AND COOPERATION**  
104              **WITH THE LOWER ARKANSAS VALLEY WATER CONSERVANCY**  
105              **DISTRICT, TO DREDGE A PORTION OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER.**

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1              WHEREAS, Flooding of the Arkansas River Valley has been a  
2 longstanding problem in the North La Junta Conservancy District, which  
3 lies in and around the town of La Junta, Colorado; and

4              WHEREAS, The Lower Arkansas River passes through a "pinch  
5 point" as it traverses the passage between the towns of La Junta, on the  
6 south bank, and North La Junta, on the north bank; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1           WHEREAS, Since the 1999 flood, flooding has become a regular  
2 occurrence in this area; and

3           WHEREAS, The flooding in 2016 resulted in a mutual desire  
4 among many parties for sedimentation removal and dike construction to  
5 ensure the proper channel flows in the river near La Junta; and

6           WHEREAS, In 2016, work began to build up the dike on the east  
7 end of the conservancy district, along with sedimentation removal  
8 throughout the entire channel; and

9           WHEREAS, By June 1, 2018, the dike had been restored and six  
10 large islands full of sedimentation had been removed from the river; and

11           WHEREAS, After further evaluation, it was noted that one more  
12 island on the west end of the conservancy district must also be removed  
13 to alleviate pressure on the Lower Arkansas River; and

14           WHEREAS, This final island is estimated to be 120 feet long, 43  
15 feet wide, and four feet deep for a total of approximately 764 cubic yards  
16 of sedimentation; and

17           WHEREAS, By comparison, the six islands that were removed  
18 during the earlier phase of the project totaled 530 cubic yards of  
19 sedimentation; and

20           WHEREAS, This work will help the Lower Arkansas River stay  
21 in its channel and travel its path without any further pinch points, thereby  
22 alleviating the flooding that has become endemic to this region; and

23           WHEREAS, The United States Army Corps of Engineers operates  
24 and maintains 12,000 miles of commercial inland navigation channels,  
25 dredges more than 200 million cubic yards of construction and  
26 maintenance dredge material annually, and researches and develops  
27 technologies to protect the nation's environment; and

28           WHEREAS, The United States Army Corps of Engineers  
29 possesses the expertise, resources, and authority to take on the formidable  
30 task of dredging excess sedimentation from the Lower Arkansas River;  
31 now, therefore,

32           *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-second General*

1 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives*  
2 *concurring herein:*

3           That Congress should immediately enact legislation that directs the  
4 United States Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction and cooperation  
5 with the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, to dredge  
6 a portion of the Lower Arkansas River from below the Fort Lyons  
7 diversion to the John Martin Reservoir.

8           *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent  
9 to Governor Jared Polis, to each member of Colorado's Congressional  
10 delegation, to Senator Michael Bennet, to Senator Cory Gardner, to the  
11 Colorado Water Conservation Board, to the North La Junta Conservancy  
12 District, to the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, to the  
13 Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, and to the current  
14 Secretary of the federal Department of the Interior.