

**FILED**

JAN 11 2007

Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council

Margo Brown  
457 N. Main  
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Dear Environmental Quality Council,

I'm writing in regard to the citizen's petition to address coalbed methane water discharges. My parents are ranchers and their place is being harmed by this water discharge. The cottonwood trees I have looked at all my life are dead or dying, and they have areas of land that looks snowy even in the summer from the salt deposits. The water that is being discharged on their property is labeled as "beneficial", and it clearly is not. If it were clean water, it would be less harmful, but erosion is still a problem. And many of the former draws that held native grasses are ruined from water discharge. I also am concerned about the future of our state when all this water has been pumped out and has disappeared. What will their ranch be like in twenty years? They have seventeen operating windmills to provide water for livestock on their ranch now. If they all go dry, the ground water is pumped out and gone, and if the mineral companies have left the state with their profits, how will they provide water to livestock? All these concerns and a general concern for the environment, lead me to urge the Environmental Quality Council to begin to regulate this water dumping and reexamine the term "beneficial use". I believe we can extract the coalbed methane gas in a way that is better for the environment, and for the future of our state. Please pay attention to the citizen's petition and do the right thing

Sincerely,

  
Margo Brown