



## PROCLAMATION

### SUPPORTING SAVE BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK

**WHEREAS,** Since its inception in the early 1980s, Bear Creek Lake Park has been a treasured asset of the Lakewood community, providing protection from floods and over 2,500 acres of open space, riparian areas and lake shore for recreation; and

**WHEREAS,** Bear Creek Lake Park has been developed to now provide opportunities to hike, picnic, camp, fish, boat, windsurf, mountain or road bike, swim, play on the beach or shoot at an archery range; and

**WHEREAS,** in 2015, The Colorado Water Plan set a goal to increase statewide water storage by 400,000 AF, prompting the Colorado Water Conservation Board to consider a potential expansion of water storage at Bear Creek Lake from 2,000 AF to 22,000 AF; and

**WHEREAS,** given the topography of the park and relatively shallow basin, such an expansion of Bear Creek Lake would dramatically alter Bear Creek Lake Park by drowning a significant portion of the current recreational and riparian areas; and

**WHEREAS,** members of the community served by Bear Creek Lake Park have acted to form an advocacy group called *Save Bear Creek Lake Park* to seek smart and innovative alternatives to the proposed expansion of Bear Creek Lake.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** on behalf of the City Council and the people of the City of Lakewood, I, Adam Paul, Mayor of the City of Lakewood, Colorado, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim as follows:

1. Strong support of the many individuals and groups who have joined together to form the alliance called "*Save Bear Creek Lake Park*," as evidenced by the unanimous vote of the City Council of the City of Lakewood, Colorado, on April 25, 2022; and
2. Strong support for the proposal that as part of the evaluation of the potential expansion of water storage at Bear Creek Lake, substantial weight be given to the alternatives identified by *Save Bear Creek Lake Park* that will provide the same level of water storage to the State but would have significantly reduced impacts on both the people who reside within the area served by Bear Creek Lake Park and those who come from beyond that area to use this beautiful park, as well as all of the animals and creatures that call this park home.

GIVEN under my hand and Seal of the City of Lakewood, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022.

Adam Paul, Mayor

