

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 6a**

Applicant: Park Ditch Company

Water Activity Name: Park Ditch Improvements

Water Activity Purpose: Structural Water Project

County: Archuleta County

Drainage Basin: San Juan River

Water Source: San Juan River

Amount Requested: \$85,000 (Southwest Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$47,375 (Applicant), \$94,965 (NRCS)

Staff Recommendation
The proposed project will help meet a consumptive water supply need in the Southwest Basin. Staff recommends approval of up to \$85,000 from the Southwest Basin Account to partially fund the Park Ditch Improvement Project for the Park Ditch Company contingent on resolution of the items in the issues/additional needs section.

Water Activity Summary:

This proposed project entails three critical improvements to the Park Ditch necessary to ensure a reliable water supply and delivery of full water rights. The improvements include: head gate replacement, repair and piping of the ditch through an area prone to landslides, and piping of the ditch through a section prone to blowouts.

The Park Ditch head gate on the San Juan River is nearly 50 years old. During sudden high flows the structure cannot adequately control the intake volume, which contributes to ditch failure in some areas and consequently results in lost water and irrigable land. In addition, the inadequate structure collects excessive debris which blocks flows and makes maintenance difficult and hazardous. The proposed project will replace the old structure with new gates incorporated in precast concrete sections, new 36" pipes, protective steel sheet piling, installation of a sluice gate with trash rack, and installation of a trash deflector. The new structure will avert a potential larger scale ditch failure, allow safer diversion control, especially for flood events, and increase reliability in dry years.

A 500 foot section of the Park Ditch, located on a steep slope above U.S. Highway 160, is vulnerable to landslides. The landslide problem was exacerbated in the 1960s when CDOT cut into the toe of the slope to widen the highway. The most recent slope failure occurred in the spring of 2008, blocking the ditch and affecting highway operations. After the 2008 slide, the US Forest Service and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) engaged the Park Ditch Company in a series of discussions, a field trip to the site and correspondence regarding responsibility for repairs. The result was an agreement to work with CDOT to temporarily stabilize the slide area above the ditch until permanent repairs could be afforded by the Ditch Company. In an effort to stabilize the slide area, the Ditch Company only ran 2/3 of their allowed flow in 2008, creating a hardship for shareholders. The proposed project entails encasing the 500 foot length of ditch in 60" pipe, installed on a stable shale base. A drain pipe and solid wall outfall pipe will also be installed to improve drainage under the pipeline.

A 690 ft. section of the Park Ditch has a history of blowouts. In recent years, structures have been built on private land below this section. Piping this section of the ditch eliminates the chances for a blowout event and thus protects the private structures below. This improvement entails encasing the 500 foot length of ditch in 60" pipe, installed on a stable shale base. A drain pipe and solid wall outfall pipe will also be installed to improve

drainage under the pipeline. In summary, a WSRA grant will enable timely improvements to the Park Ditch necessary for safety and preservation of existing agricultural non-consumptive water rights.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria. No Statewide funds are being requested, therefore the evaluation criteria does not apply.

Funding Overview

Grant funding in the amount of \$85,000 is requested from the Southwest Basin Account. Funding from the WSRA constitutes less than 40% of the overall project cost (\$227,340). The Park Ditch Company will provide a cash match of \$39,605 along with an in-kind match of \$7,700. In addition the Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide a cash match of \$94,965 via an Environmental Quality Incentive Program cost share.

Discussion:

As identified in the SWSI findings, small agricultural water users often lack the financial ability to adequately address infrastructure needs without financial aid. The Park Ditch Company does not possess the financial resources to make the required improvements to protect its existing water rights. In addition, the SWSI Management Objectives, of the SWSI Phase II Report: Addressing the Water Supply Gap Technical Roundtable, include to “sustainably meet agricultural demands.” That management objective is directly met through this activity. The proposed project effectively meets the objectives of HB 1177 and the consumptive needs of the Southwest Basin by rehabilitating existing infrastructure to preserve agricultural water use.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- Please include a detailed budget and scope of work as a standalone document for procurement.
- Please include an updated project schedule with the scope of work that includes completion dates for key project milestones not occur prior to finalizing the State’s procurement process.

Staff Recommendation:

The proposed project will help meet a consumptive water supply need in the Southwest Basin. Staff recommends approval of up to \$85,000 from the Southwest Basin Account to partially fund the Park Ditch Improvement Project for the Park Ditch Company contingent on resolution of the items in the issues/additional needs section.

All products, data and information developed as a result of this grant must be provided to the CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation. This information will in turn be made widely available to Basin Roundtables and the general public and will help promote the development of a common technical platform.

In accordance with the revised WSRA Criteria and Guidelines, staff would like to highlight additional reporting and final deliverable requirements. The specific requirements are provided below.

Reporting: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of the executed contract. The progress report shall describe the completion or partial completion of the tasks identified in the scope of work including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Deliverable: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report that summarizes the project and documents how the project was completed. This report may contain photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

Engineering: All engineering work (as defined in the Engineers Practice Act (§12-25-102(10) C.R.S.)) performed under this grant shall be performed by or under the responsible charge of professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice Engineering.