

RIVERBEND ENGINEERING

August 14, 2009

Mr. Greg Johnson
Water Resource Specialist, Intrastate Water Management & Development
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St, Denver, CO 80203

**RE: Lower Blanco River Restoration Project
Grant Application for Project Funding**

Dear Greg,

The Lower Blanco Property Owners Association (LBPOA) greatly appreciates the project support received from the CWCB. With your help, assistance from the NRCS and several water agencies in Southwest Colorado, we expect to complete another 1.4 miles of river restoration this year. The Southwest Roundtable approved funding for this project in the amount of \$100,000 from the WSRA Basin Account, and recommended an additional \$300,000 in project funding from the Statewide Account. Consideration of funding from the Statewide account was postponed at the CWCB's March Board meeting, because of State budget considerations. We understand that the September Board meeting will consider funding requests from the Statewide account, requests which total nearly twice the funding that is presently available. Given this competition for funding, we understand that it may not be possible to help our project at the \$300,000 level at this time.

The LBPOA has obtained preliminary assurances from the NRCS that they are prepared to provide an additional \$100,000 funding for the 2010 construction effort, this after their financial support in 2008 and 2009. We are also pursuing funding for 2010 from Archuleta County, from the San Juan Water Conservancy District, and from several private funding sources. In total we expect to reach \$150,000 in non-CWCB sources. Funding support from the CWCB Statewide account at the \$150,000 level would give us a \$300,000 size project for 2010, which will get us quite close to the end of the restoration work. Most of this funding requires a 50/50 match, so the CWCB funding is very important in allowing us to leverage all of the funding sources and maximize the project outcomes.

The LBPOA is requesting \$150,000 in CWCB funding from the Statewide account for 2010. This will help us complete another 1.25 to 1.5 miles of the river restoration project. This project continues the repair of direct impacts from the Intrastate San Juan-Chama water diversion project. Our grant application shows this project's relevance to the CWCB's Grant funding objectives: protecting Colorado's water resources and aquatic species.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Philips, PE
Owner, Riverbend Engineering, LLC
Project Consultants to the LBPOA

CC: Bob Hemenger, LBPOA Vice President

