

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 11.1

Applicant: San Juan Resource Conservation and Development - Animas Watershed Project (AWP)

Water Activity Name: Animas River Needs Assessment

Water Activity Purpose: Study or Analysis of Nonstructural, Nonconsumptive Water Needs

County: La Plata County

Drainage Basin: Animas River

Water Source: Animas River

Amount Requested: \$57,000 (Southwest Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$11,430 (Applicant)

Staff Recommendation
The proposed project will help identify and meet nonconsumptive water supply needs in the Southwest Basin. Staff recommends approval of up to \$57,000 from the Southwest Basin Account to partially fund the Animas River Needs Assessment for the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development - Animas Watershed Project (AWP) contingent on resolution of the items in the issues/additional needs section.

Water Activity Summary:

The proposed study would provide essential information to the ongoing development of a Watershed Management Plan for the Animas River. The study seeks to: collect and analyze chemical, biological, and geomorphic data as well as identifying pollution sources and opportunities for their remediation. Data will be used to address water quality impacts to beneficial and designated uses in the basin including: municipal, agricultural, recreational, and environmental.

The study will follow the format of a recent project on the Animas River in New Mexico from the Colorado/New Mexico border to the confluence with the San Juan River. That project was completed in 2006 and involved a synoptic sampling effort to characterize pollution sources, impairment locations, and water quality restoration opportunities. The work resulted in a GIS database that stakeholders use to identify impaired reaches and target remediation efforts. This proposed needs assessment will create a comparable dataset for the Colorado portion of the Animas River.

The initial impetus for the project is eutrophication in the Animas River. Eutrophication is an emerging water quality concern, both nationally and in locally, as evidenced by the 303(d) listing of the Animas River by New Mexico in 2004 for eutrophication resulting from nutrient enrichment. Nutrient enrichment causes excessive algal growth resulting in degradation of fish habitat, odor problems, and non-attainment of designated uses by the Water Quality Control Commission. Point sources of nutrients include facilities that discharge organic material into the river such as industry and sewage treatment plants, while nonpoint sources include urban drainage and agricultural runoff. Impacts to the river system can also result where the assimilative capacity of the river is compromised by bank hardening and urban development in floodplains. This study will develop the site specific information necessary to address the mitigation and prevention of pollution in both the short and long term. The 3 major tasks include: 1) water quality surveys (chemical and biological); 2) identifying specific areas of pollution inputs, and 3) geomorphologic surveys to identify major impacts to the river channel and riparian communities and thus degraded assimilative/functioning capacity of the river. The resulting data will enable the AWP to further prioritize and design projects and strategies to protect water quality on the Animas River.

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 \$57,000 is requested from the Southwest Basin Account. Funding from the WSRA constitutes about 76% of the overall project cost (\$74,730). AWP partners will provide a cash match of \$4,070 along with an in-kind match of \$7,360. AWP is currently seeking the final match amount of \$9,688.50 from multiple sources including the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes, as well as local water and sanitation districts.

Discussion:

This study will assist the Southwest Basin Roundtable in detailing nonconsumptive needs within the basin. The resultant BMP's will help protect the long term attainment of *all* beneficial and designated uses on the Animas River including source water protection for reservoirs such as the recently completed Animas La Plata Project. In addition, the project's methods are replicable to all streams and rivers as a process to identify sources of impairments to beneficial and designated uses. The AWP has a successful track record of collaboration and leveraging of funds between municipal, state, tribal, federal, and local entities that work to maximize benefits to the basin's nonconsumptive needs as identified by SWSI 2 and the ongoing Roundtable assessment process. Currently, the group is in the process of completing a Watershed Management Plan (partially funded by the CWCB's Healthy Rivers Fund, \$15,000), and has completed a Sampling and Analysis Plan to provide an agreed-upon framework for watershed management and data collection on the Animas River and tributaries.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- To ensure project completion WSRA funding will be contingent on procurement of final match amount specified in the budget (\$9,688.50).
- It is important that all relevant information from the proposed project be included in the forthcoming Watershed Management Plan. Please provide detailed on how both efforts will be coordinated to ensure this occurs.
- Please provide a detailed scope of work, budget, and schedule as a standalone document for procurement.

Staff Recommendation:

The proposed project will help identify and meet nonconsumptive water supply needs in the Southwest Basin. Staff recommends approval of up to \$57,000 from the Southwest Basin Account to partially fund the Animas River Needs Assessment for the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development - Animas Watershed Project (AWP) 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.