

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 29g**

Applicant: El Paso County Water Authority

Water Activity Name: Flaming Gorge Project Task Force Assessment

Water Activity Purpose: Structural water project or activity

County: N/A

Drainage Basin: Green River to South Platte & Arkansas

Water Source: Green River

Amount Requested: \$40,000 (Split between Arkansas and Metro Basin Accounts)

Matching Funds: N/A

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval of up to \$20,000 from the Arkansas Basin Account and \$20,000 from the Metro Basin Account for a total of \$40,000. This is for assessing the viability of convening a Flaming Gorge Task Force.

Water Activity Summary:

This proposal is for assessing the viability of forming a task force, similar to the Fountain Creek Vision Task Force, to inform a Flaming Gorge Project. The Assessment will review constituent agendas, supply alternatives, demand management, environmental impacts and project development strategies to determine if a collaborative task force model is viable. Keystone Center will prepare a written Assessment Summary, including a recommendation whether to proceed to the convening of a task force. If the recommendation is not to convene, the Summary will identify the obstacles to a successful convening or suggest alternatives to a task force approach. If the recommendation is favorable, Keystone Center will develop a protocol for the task force and convene the preliminary Task Force session.

The project will consist of:

- 1) Preparation for Assessment – attend three basin roundtable meetings, conduct interviews with selected agencies (DNR, CWCB), prepare list of stakeholders with contact info, review list with executive committee;
- 2) Stakeholder Interviews – interview stakeholders individual and/or in small focus groups; record & collate information;
- 3) Draft Summary of Results;
- 4) Review Summary and Revise Based on Stakeholder Input;
- 5) Prepared Assessment Summary;
- 6) Joint Roundtable Presentation – stakeholders and interested parties invited;
- 7) Convene Task Force for Initial Meeting if Appropriate

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

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

Funding Overview

The applicant is requesting grant funding in the amount of \$40,000 from the Arkansas & Metro Basin Accounts. Funding from the WSRA constitutes 100% of the overall project cost.

Discussion:

The Arkansas Basin Roundtable did an evaluation process in which they evaluated the various ways in which they could meet their future needs. Flaming Gorge, though ranked third, was deemed to be a critical project to be explored in a collaborative fashion. The Arkansas Roundtable reached out to the Metro Roundtable (and subsequently the South Platte Roundtable, though not for this application), and received unanimous support to explore the task force approach.

Currently Flaming Gorge is being considered by two entities. This application does not seek to duplicate the efforts of these entities, but instead seeks to determine if a collaborative task force approach would be helpful in making Flaming Gorge successful for all stakeholders, including those on the West Slope.

The team assembled is built off the success of the Fountain Creek Vision Task Force work conducted by the Keystone Institute.

Issues/Additional Needs: N/A

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$40,000, \$20,000 from the Arkansas Basin Account and \$20,000 from the Metro Basin Account for the assessment of the viability of a Flaming Gorge Task Force.

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.