

Rio Grande Inter-Basin Roundtable

c/o San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District
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Mr. Eric Hecox, Manager, Office of Interbasin Compact Negotiations
Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Todd Doherty, Intrastate Water Management & Development
Colorado Water Conservation Board

Reference: "San Luis Peoples Ditch – Upgrade and Rehabilitation Project – Phase I"

Gentlemen:

The Rio Grande Inter-Basin Roundtable (R.G.R.T) has determined that the single, most critical water issue confronting the Rio Grande Basin is the current unsustainable management of surface and ground water. The R.G.R.T. has made the decision that water activities that address this issue be favorably considered for funding from the Water Supply Reserve Account, SB 2005 -179 (WSRA Funds), providing the proposed water activities meet the SWSI findings for the Basin and the CWCB & IBCC Criteria and Guidelines for funding.

The R.G.R.T. is requesting authorization to distribute WSRA Funds pursuant to SB 2005 -179 as follows: Basin Funds of \$40,000.00 (100%). The applicant is the San Luis Peoples Ditch which was incorporated in 1967, although it had been an entity before, holding the first adjudicated water rights granted by Court Decree in Colorado, dated April 10, 1852. The Peoples Ditch is a 501 (c) 12 Non-profit Colorado Corporation.

PROJECT AND AMOUNT REQUESTED	SOURCE SB 179
<u>SAN LUIS PEOPLES DITCH</u> \$40,000.00	BASIN

This request by the Peoples Ditch is to support the funding of Phase I of a broader upgrade and rehabilitation project of various elements of the overall irrigation system:

- Phase I – the most immediate area of concern is the replacement of the Rito Seco crossing diversion structure behind a residential area. This diversion

structure was built in 1945. The concrete walls have deteriorated, are cracked and crumbling. The culvert has rust holes and is leaking water, the water gates jam and is difficult to open and close. During a cloud burst in the summer of 2009, this crossover structure which diverts excess water into the Culebra River proved to be of no use. The failure to divert the excess water causes flooding of the residential areas.

- Phase II – is the replacement of the cement lining along the Peoples Ditch at the Serna and Chavez farms, with a trash rack and 1,600ft. pipeline. The last cement lining of the ditch was done in 1967. It is now deteriorated including broken cement, deterioration of banks due to seepage, and deterioration of cement around head gates. The condition has caused the cement to bulge, break and contribute to bank erosion. In the targeted section of the ditch its carrying capacity has diminished by 30% because the south bank of the ditch has sunk and lost stability. Lateral ditches are then being used but these do not always send the water where the irrigation is needed.
- Phase III- is the replacement of a portion of the diversion structure at the Culebra River. The structure is in need of replacement due to rusted gates and a culvert is malfunctioning that was to move sediment that accumulates at the head gate back into the Culebra River.

The upgrade and rehabilitation will meet various needs, including the consumptive needs of:

- Irrigators obtaining their decreed irrigation water when they are in priority;
- Improved water quality;
- Facilitating the redirection of surface and flood flows back into the Culebra River for downstream irrigators;

and, the reduction or elimination of flooding in the community of San Luis. The latter is of major significance to the community.

At the regular R.G.R.T meeting on January 12, 2010, there was a quorum of the appointed members of the R.G.R.T. The project proponents were provided time to make a presentation and time was allowed for questions from the R.G.R.T. Members and members of the public. Craig Cotton, Division Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources, spoke in support of the Phase 1 project as it would alleviate problems of downstream irrigators on the Culebra River not being able to receive their allocation of irrigation water. After discussion, a voice vote was taken of all R.G.R.T. Members that were present.

The By-Laws of the R.G.R.T. require a simple majority vote of those Members present for any action to be taken by the Roundtable. The vote was unanimous to approve the request for funding from SB 2005 – 179 for \$40,000.00 of Rio Grande Basin Funds for the Phase I of the upgrade and rehabilitation of the Peoples Ditch in San Luis.

On behalf of the R.G.R.T. members, we appreciate the Board's consideration of this request and urge your support to the fullest extent possible. Enclosed are the application and supporting materials for the Project. If you require additional information, please notify me accordingly.

The R.G.R.T. appreciates the support of the Department of Natural Resources, the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Interbasin Compact Commission in assisting in meeting the needs of all users of Colorado's water and in fostering intrabasin and interbasin communications and discussions. We believe that the above project will assist in this effort.

Sincerely,

Mike Gibson
Chair, Rio Grande Inter-Basin Roundtable

Enclosures (1)

C: San Luis Peoples Ditch