

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program  
Water Activity Summary Sheet  
Agenda Item 10.d**

**Applicant:** Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District

**Water Activity Name:** Super Ditch Delivery Engineering

**Water Activity Purpose:** Non-Structural Activity

**County:** Multiple

**Drainage Basin:** Arkansas River

**Water Source:** Arkansas River

**Amount Requested:** \$225,837

**Source of Funds:** Statewide Account

**Matching Funds:** \$56,460 (Matching funds and/or In-kind services)

<b>Staff Recommendation</b>
Staff recommends approval of up to \$225,837 from the Statewide account to help complete the Super Ditch Delivery Engineering work.

**Water Activity Summary:**

This project is an extension of the previous work performed by and for the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District to advance the Super Ditch fallowing project. The LAVWCD and the Super Ditch Company seek to preserve irrigated agriculture in the Lower Arkansas Basin with temporary water transfers and other methods than can benefit both the municipal interests and those of the local agricultural based economy. This additional engineering work will enable a better understanding of the water resources in the Lower Arkansas Basin and better modeling of the operations. The key objectives of the project follow:

1. Analysis of reservoir operations in the lower Arkansas basin
2. Analysis of Pueblo Reservoir operations
3. Analysis of the Winter Water Storage Program
4. Recovery of non-exchangeable supplies
5. System calibration and optimization
6. Engineering and economic integration

**Discussion:**

This request will help finalize the major ‘system-wide’ engineering anticipated for the Super Ditch project. It is recognized that if and when the Super Ditch were to begin an active leasing arrangement with municipal user then additional farm-specific water rights engineering work will be necessary to determine each farms’ historic consumptive use anticipated to be transferred.

This request was initially received by the CWCB for consideration of funding from the Alternative Agricultural Transfer (ATM) grant program. While staff believes that this project is a very worthwhile project and that this will enable the Super Ditch to move closer to realizing its goal of becoming an active fallowing-leasing program in the Lower Arkansas basin, the consensus was that the WSRA Statewide Fund is the more appropriate funding source. This is primary due to the ATM program’s objective of

furthering the findings of the past studies and overcoming the barriers identified (i.e. administrative issue, high transaction costs, cities need for permanency, etc.).

Staff attended the Arkansas basin roundtable in January to explain the above to the members. During the conversation with the members, there was some concern expressed about Task 3, Analysis of the Winter Water Storage Program. It appeared that one of the main concerns was that a sub-task included the formulation of recommendations on how to change the WWSP operations. This concern is expressed in the attached letter from the Rock Ford Highline Canal. This issue was also subsequently discussed at a SECWCD meeting. The SECWCD Board requested that the CWCB staff and the LAVWCD work with them to amend this task in a form acceptable to all parties.

**Issues/Additional Needs:**

- Staff recommends that the LAVWCD work with the SECWCD and the CWCB staff to amend Task 3 (Analysis of the Winter Water Storage Project) in a form acceptable to all three entities.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of up to \$225,837 from the Statewide account to help complete the Super Ditch Delivery Engineering work contingent upon the issues/additional needs identified above.

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.