

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program  
Water Activity Summary Sheet  
Consent Agenda Item 5.a**

**Applicant:** Mesa Conservation District

**Water Activity Name:** Small Acreage Irrigation Audit Program – Grand Valley

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

**County:** Mesa

**Drainage Basin:** Colorado

**Water Source:** Colorado River

**Amount Requested:** \$18,273

**Source of Funds:** Colorado Basin Account

**Matching Funds:** \$8,000 (Grand River Mosquito Control District, Grand Valley Irrigation Company, Grand Valley Water Users Association)

<b>Staff Recommendation</b>
Staff recommends approval of up to \$18,273 from the Colorado Basin Account to help reduce water waste among small acreage farmers in the Grand Valley through an audit program.

**Water Activity Summary:**

The natural resource concern that the *Small Acreage Irrigation Audit Program* is proposing to address is that of (irrigation) water and its management among small acreage owners. During the 1990s and 2000s The Grand Valley experienced unprecedented population growth. One of the more obvious impacts of this growth has been the sale and subdivision of larger commercial farms, particularly in the Grand Valley area. These smaller parcels of agricultural land – usually 40 acres or less in size – have often been purchased by individuals not familiar with western states irrigation. Many of these new irrigators have struggled with the subtleties inherent in the art of setting gates or moving a side-roll. Their irrigation efforts can create problems for themselves and their community, often without their knowledge. This program is designed to close that knowledge gap for small acreage irrigators and improve irrigation water management among this growing demographic.

Excess irrigation is also the primary cause of mosquito outbreaks with the Mesa district and each year the local Mosquito Control District is dedicated to preventative and reactive measures to control mosquitoes that spawn in irrigation water. Eliminating water ponding in fields goes a long way towards reducing mosquito breeding grounds and the ensuing outbreaks.

The proposed project has the following objectives:

1. Reduction or elimination of water waste;
2. Improved quality of life within the Grand Valley due to the reduction in mosquito breeding sites; and
3. To eliminate this group's contribution to local water quality concerns such as weeds, nutrient loading to waterways, and salt and selenium percolation

**Threshold and Evaluation Criteria**

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

**Discussion:**

SWSI did not specifically identify a changing landscape, shifting from large farms to small farms, as need. However, the applicant indicated that this change may be affecting water use within the basin, since many of these irrigators are new to irrigating.

**Issues/Additional Needs:**

No issues or additional needs remain.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of up to \$18,273 from the Colorado Basin Account to help reduce water waste among small acreage farmers in the Grand Valley through an audit program.

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.