

SOUTHWEST BASINS ROUNDTABLE

Michael Preston, Chair

c/o Dolores Water Conservancy District

P.O. Box 1150

Cortez, Colorado 81321

970-565-7562

EMAILED: January 14, 2011

Mr. Todd Doherty

Chief, Intrastate Water Management and Development Section

Colorado Water Conservation Board

1580 Logan Street, Suite 600

Denver, Colorado 80203

SUBJECT: La Plata River Water Resources Operations Plan

Dear Mr. Doherty:

The Southwest Basins Roundtable is pleased to recommend funding of \$148,823 from the Statewide account for the La Plata River Water Resources Operations Model.

The application was considered in detail and approved at the January 12, 2011 meeting of the Southwest Basins Roundtable. There was a quorum of Roundtable members present. The proposed project is part of a larger effort to meet a long standing need to meet required compact deliveries and administration from the La Plata River to the State of New Mexico. As such this project is a matter of State interest.

A major purpose of the operations model is to find the best options for delivering water to Long Hollow Reservoir near the New Mexico State line to store water when available and release it to meet compact requirements. Ending the futile conveyance of water for compact purposes will make more water available for irrigation in a water scarce basin, which will increase return flows. Improved flow management will also provide better support for aquatic resources on the La Plata River and tributaries that will be part of the model.

In approving this project for funding the Roundtable stipulated that the valuable information yielded from this modeling be incorporated within CDSS at the initiative of the applicant.

The completed Grant Application will be forwarded directly to you by the applicant. Please contact the applicants directly or me at 970-565-7562, mpreston@frontier.net, if you have questions or wish to discuss these applications in more detail.

Sincerely,



Michael Preston

Southwest Basins Roundtable Chair