

Rio Grande Inter-Basin Roundtable
c/o San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District
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March 9, 2011

Mr. Michael King, Executive Director
Colorado Department of Natural Resources

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: Santa Maria & Continental Reservoirs:
Priority Studies to Restore Capacity**

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 (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 primary objective of the *Santa Maria & Continental Reservoirs: Rehabilitation & Multiple Use Studies* by the Santa Maria Reservoir Company (SMR) is to determine what has to be done to restore full storage capacity to Continental and Santa Maria Reservoirs. In recent months the Basin's need for additional storage has become a priority as Groundwater Subdistricts seek storage to meet their depletion needs. Removing the SMR curtailment might provide as much as 6,000 AF of additional Basin storage capacity. The SMR is an important contributor to the goal of the R.G.R.T. addressing the unsustainable water management practices in the Basin *to achieve water sustainability for the Basin.*

Previously SMR was awarded WSRA funding of \$191,700.00 for the subject Studies. This was made up of Basin Funds of \$50,000.00 and Statewide Funds of \$141,700.00.

The R.G.R.T. is now requesting authorization to distribute an additional \$22,000.00 of Rio Grande Basin Funds, pursuant to SB 2005 -179 of as a result of a request by the SMR.

This is a supplemental request by the SMR reflecting a changed Scope of Work for the Studies as a result of the need for additional work, including but not limited to, geotechnical field work and for a more detailed surveying of the reservoirs' site.

At the regular R.G.R.T meeting on March 8, 2011, RGRT Members voted unanimously to request funding from SB 2005 - 179 – Rio Grande Basin Funds for:

PROJECT AND AMOUNT REQUESTED	SOURCE SB 179
<u>Santa Maria & Continental Reservoirs:</u> <u>Priority Studies to Restore Capacity</u>	BASIN \$22,000.00

SMR has deleted from the original Scope of Work Task 2.5 and 3.0, reallocated the associated \$36,695.00 to offset the costs associated with addressing higher priority issues, and allowing a more extensive examination of the different implementation options. The rationale for this decision is based on the relatively low return on investment of studying the capacity of Lakeman Lakes and Santa Maria Reservoir's conservation pool – as compared to determining the requirements to bringing the Continental Reservoir back to its design capacity by specifically addressing the spillway and left abutment seepage issues. The revised Scope of Work raises the overall Studies' cost from \$210,000.00 to \$254,060.00. The SMR is contributing an additional \$22,000.00, to the previously committed \$18,000.00, to fund this additional work.

These matters have been discussed with Kirk Russell, CWCB, who has concurred with the actions being taken by SMR to fund the revised Scope of Work.

The revised Scope of Work will continue to address the following: Inadequate spillway capacity and left abutment seepage issues at the Continental dam; structural deterioration and potential re-design options for the diversion gate on the conveyance system; potential failure of the siphon support system, with a focus on alternative methods to reduce movement and resist lateral loads from the adjacent slide area; and surveys and hydraulic analyses of the severely deteriorated open ditch and underground pipeline conveyance system to determine the best means of restoring its full capacity from the Diversion Gate through the Open Ditch to Santa Maria Reservoir.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Gibson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Gibson
Chair, Rio Grande Interbasin Roundtable

Enclosures (2)

cc: Santa Maria Reservoir Company