



COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

**WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT
GRANT APPLICATION FORM**



PLATORO RESERVOIR CREST OF THE DAM REPAIR
Rio Grande Basin

Name of Water Activity/Project		Approving Basin Roundtable
\$150,000	Amount from Statewide Account	\$135,000
Total Amount of Funds Requested	Amount from Basin Account	\$15,000

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1. Reference Information
2. Insurance Requirements (Projects Over \$25,000)
3. WSRA Standard Contract (Projects Over \$100,000)
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Instructions

To receive funding from the Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA), a proposed water activity must be approved by the local Basin Roundtable AND the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for Basin Roundtable consideration/approval is outlined in Attachment 1.

Once approved by the local Basin Roundtable, the applicant should submit this application, a detailed statement of work, detailed project budget, and project schedule to the CWCB staff by the application deadline.

The application deadlines are:

- Basin Account – 60 calendar days prior to the bi-monthly Board meeting
- Statewide Account – 60 calendar days prior to the September Board meeting

Board Meeting Dates	Basin Account Deadlines	Statewide Account Deadlines
July 20-21, 2010	May 21, 2010	n/a
September 21-22	July 23, 2010	July 23, 2010
November 16-17	September 17, 2010	n/a
January 2011	60 days prior	n/a
March 2011	60 days prior	n/a
May 2011	60 days prior	n/a
July 2011	60 days prior	n/a
September 2011	60 days prior	60 days prior

When completing this application, the applicant should refer to the WSRA Criteria and Guidelines available at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/IWMD>.

The application, statement of work, budget, and schedule must be submitted in electronic format (Microsoft Word or text-enabled PDF are preferred) and can be emailed or mailed on a disk to:

Mr. Todd Doherty
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Planning Section
WSRA Application
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203
Todd.Doherty@state.co.us

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Todd Doherty of the Water Supply Planning Section at 303-866-3441 x3210 or todd.doherty@state.co.us.

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Part A. - Description of the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner);

1. Applicant Name(s): **CONEJOS WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

Mailing address: Nathan Coombs, Manager
P. O. Box 550
Manassa, CO 81141

Taxpayer ID#: XH-84-0776076 Email address:

Phone Numbers: Business: 719-843-5261
Home:
Fax: 719-843-5452

2. Person to contact regarding this application if different from above:

Name: Nathan Coombs

Position/Title: Manager

3. Eligible entities that may apply for grants from the WSRA include the following. What type of entity is the Applicant?

- Public (Government) – municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities and the local entity should be the grant recipient. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
- Public (Districts) – special, water and sanitation, conservancy, conservation, irrigation, or water activity enterprises.
- Private Incorporated – mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
- Private individuals, partnerships, and sole proprietors are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
- governmental organizations – broadly defined as any organization that is not part of the government.

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4. Provide a brief description of your organization

The Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD or the District) is a public, quasi-governmental entity, eligible under SB 06-179 to apply for funds for this structural water project at Platoro Reservoir (Platoro) on the Conejos River (the Conejos). The District's boundaries include about 100,000 acres, of which 86,000 acres are capable of being irrigated. An additional 8,000 acres that are not within the boundaries of the District are also irrigated by the Conejos and its tributaries.

CWCD is that portion of the *San Luis Valley Project Colorado* designated by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1928 and formed in September 1940 under the *Water Conservancy Act of 1938* codified at 37-45-101. The CWCD formed an Enterprise when Platoro Reservoir, a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation project, became available for the CWCD's operation and control, after Colorado's Rio Grande Compact debt was satisfied in 1985.

The CWCD Enterprise has sole operation and maintenance responsibility of Platoro Reservoir, except during flood stage when the Army Corps of Engineers assumes control for flood control purposes. Total budget for the Conejos Water Conservancy District last year, in 2010, was \$352,927, and the Enterprise budget was \$156.487 of that amount, which includes one full time salary.

5. If the Contracting Entity is different than the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner) please describe the Contracting Entity here.

6. Successful applicants will have to execute a contract with the CWCB prior to beginning work on the portion of the project funded by the WSRA grant. In order to expedite the contracting process the CWCB has established a standard contract with provisions the applicant must adhere to. A copy of this standard contract is included in Attachment 3. Please review this contract and check the appropriate box.

The Applicant will be able to contract with the CWCB using the Standard Contract

The Applicant has reviewed the standard contract and has some questions/issues/concerns. Please be aware that any deviation from the standard contract could result in a significant delay between grant approval and the funds being available.

7. The Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect the applicant.

The Conejos Water Conservancy District is exempt from Tabor regulations per the passing of Referendum B in a Conejos County election held November 6, 2007 in which voters granted the District its exemption.

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Part B. - Description of the Water Activity

1. Name of the Water Activity/Project:

PLATORO RESERVOIR CREST OF THE DAM REPAIR

2. What is the purpose of this grant application? (Please check all that apply.)

Environmental compliance and feasibility study

Technical Assistance regarding permitting, feasibility studies, and environmental compliance

Studies or analysis of structural, nonstructural, consumptive, nonconsumptive water needs, projects

Study or Analysis of:

Structural project or activity

Nonstructural project or activity

Consumptive project or activity

Nonconsumptive project or activity

Structural and/ or nonstructural water project or activity

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- a) Please provide an overview/summary of the proposed water activity (no more than one page). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRA funding will be used for.

The Problem: The 35' wide crest of the dam at Platoro Reservoir, or the crown of the overflow section of the dam, is in need of restoration. For the past few years the sides of the crest have been gradually sloping downward from the original designed grade. The depressed area runs the full length of the crest, approximately 1,475 feet, tapering from 0 feet to as much as 2' feet below the original dam crest elevation. This top portion of the dam has deteriorated over time, requiring pre-emptive action in order to meet Colorado dam safety requirements in the event of high inflows to the reservoir. The most recent Periodic Facility Review (PFR) dam inspection by the US Bureau of Reclamation revealed an exacerbation of this problem in the top 7 feet of the dam, which is above the flood space in the semi-permeable zone.

Crest of Platoro Dam Hydrology: In the 2008 Comprehensive Facility Review, the Bureau's Technical Response Team studied static, seismic, and hydrologic potential dam failure modes. The hydrologic analysis found that the core is 4 feet below the dam crest, indicating the potential for "[e]rosion through the upper portion of the embankment during an extreme flood that causes the reservoir to rise above the top of the core." In order to prevent further deterioration and to protect the structural integrity of the semi-permeable area at the top of the dam, the District will restore the crest by placing additional rock along its full length. The project site is roughly 35 miles from the nearest stone quarry, 25.5 miles of which is along U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) road #250. Due to heavy use during this project, the Forest Service requires the District to grade the access road before, during, and on completion of the job.

Funds: Total project cost is \$185,000, of which the District requests WSRA funds of \$150,000 -- \$15,000 from the Rio Grande Basin account and \$135,000 from the Statewide account. Matching funds of \$35,000 include \$10,000 from the District and \$25,000 in engineering services from the US Bureau of Reclamation. Funding for this project will restore the crest of the dam to its designed grade and enable the District to meet the road access requirements of the U.S. Forest Service. Deliverables include meeting dam safety requirements, reducing the risk of flood, and maintaining Platoro's excellent record of never having had any operational restrictions.

Multiple Objectives: Platoro Reservoir regulates the water supply for 88,000 acres of land irrigated by the District. The Reservoir is used for flood control and for re-regulating the flows of the Conejos River for irrigation in the San Luis Valley Project of the Bureau of Reclamation. These flows are crucial to the Rio Grande Compact with Texas and New Mexico. The reservoir is used by the Colorado Division of Water Resources and is a valuable resource to a large number of hunters, fishermen and recreational enthusiasts. Releases made in anticipation of flood conditions are coordinated between the District and the Colorado Division of Water Resources to avoid interference with irrigation operations and to meet Rio Grande Compact delivery obligations. By repairing and restoring the designed grade of the crest of the dam, this project maintains Platoro Reservoir's storage and release capabilities, protecting from flood, ensuring timely releases for irrigation, protecting a valuable resource for recreation and wildlife, and ensuring Colorado's continuing ability to meet its obligations under the Rio Grande Compact.

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Part C. – Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

1. Describe how the water activity meets these **Threshold Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines.)

- The water activity is consistent with WSRA Threshold Criteria because this project simply repairs and upgrades the crest of the existing structure of the Platoro Dam. This project has no effect whatsoever upon water law or water rights in the State of Colorado.
- The District proposes an eligible water activity, as identified in Senate Bill 06-179, involving a one-time structural restoration of the crest of the dam at Platoro Reservoir. This involves adding more rock to the crest of the dam and protecting the U.S. Forest road from the effects of heavy truck traffic by grading the road before, during and after the project.
- The District is an eligible entity in that it is a public entity, a water conservancy District, as described in SB 06-179 and the District is submitting this proposal in accordance with CWCBC guidelines for this funding proposal.
- The District is requesting \$150,000, with \$15,000 from the SB-179 Rio Grande Basin Account and \$135,000 from the State account. This proposal is in compliance with all applicable submission criteria and deadlines.

a) The water activity is consistent with Section 37-75-102 Colorado Revised Statutes.¹

- This water activity is consistent with Section 37-75-102 C.R.S. because it repairs an existing structure. It does not supersede, abrogate, or otherwise impair the State’s current system of allocating water within Colorado nor does it in any manner affect Colorado’s water rights adjudication system. By repairing and restoring the designed grade of the crest of the dam, this project protects Platoro Reservoir’s storage and release capabilities, protecting from flood, ensuring timely releases for irrigation, protecting a valuable resource for recreation and wildlife, and ensuring Colorado’s continuing ability to meet its obligations under the Rio Grande Compact.

¹ 37-75-102. Water rights - protections. (1) It is the policy of the General Assembly that the current system of allocating water within Colorado shall not be superseded, abrogated, or otherwise impaired by this article. Nothing in this article shall be interpreted to repeal or in any manner amend the existing water rights adjudication system. The General Assembly affirms the state constitution’s recognition of water rights as a private usufructuary property right, and this article is not intended to restrict the ability of the holder of a water right to use or to dispose of that water right in any manner permitted under Colorado law. (2) The General Assembly affirms the protections for contractual and property rights recognized by the contract and takings protections under the state constitution and related statutes. This article shall not be implemented in any way that would diminish, impair, or cause injury to any property or contractual right created by intergovernmental agreements, contracts, stipulations among parties to water cases, terms and conditions in water decrees, or any other similar document related to the allocation or use of water. This article shall not be construed to supersede, abrogate, or cause injury to vested water rights or decreed conditional water rights. The General Assembly affirms that this article does not impair, limit, or otherwise affect the rights of persons or entities to enter into agreements, contracts, or memoranda of understanding with other persons or entities relating to the appropriation, movement, or use of water under other provisions of law.

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- b) The water activity underwent an evaluation and approval process and was approved by the Basin Roundtable (BRT) and the application includes a description of the results of the BRT's evaluation and approval of the activity. At a minimum, the description must include the level of agreement reached by the roundtable, including any minority opinion(s) if there was not general agreement for the activity. The description must also include reasons why general agreement was not reached (if it was not), including who opposed the activity and why they opposed it. Note- If this information is included in the letter from the roundtable chair simply reference that letter.
- This information is included in the letter from the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable.
- c) The water activity meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes.² Specifically describe how the water activity either furthers the Roundtable's basin-wide water needs assessment or meets a consumptive or non-consumptive water supply need identified in the Roundtable's working needs assessment.
- The WSRA funding requested is for repairing the crest of the dam at Platoro Reservoir. The project will help keep the Platoro Reservoir facility in working order so that Colorado can continue to meet its obligations under the Rio Grande Compact and provide for flood control, irrigation, river fishery, endangered species protection, dam safety, and recreation, for the 100,000 acre District service area. The project restores the crest and maintains full operating functionality of the Reservoir so it can continue to sustainably meet the agricultural demands of the District and therefore optimize existing and future water supplies.
 - This project will help preserve agricultural activity in the region and ensure both the quantity and the quality of water in the Conejos by the safe and proper regulation of flows from the Reservoir.
 - The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable has determined that the single most critical water issue confronting the Basin is the current unsustainable management of surface and ground water. The San Luis Valley's reservoirs are key components of the Basin's ability to manage its water resources. If the Reservoir problems on the crest of the dam are not corrected soon they may threaten the operational efficiency and diminish Colorado's ability to meet its Compact obligations.

² 37-75-104 (2)(c). Using data and information from the Statewide Water Supply Initiative and other appropriate sources and in cooperation with the on-going Statewide Water Supply Initiative, develop a basin-wide consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply needs assessment, conduct an analysis of available unappropriated waters within the basin, and propose projects or methods, both structural and nonstructural, for meeting those needs and utilizing those unappropriated waters where appropriate. Basin Roundtables shall actively seek the input and advice of affected local governments, water providers, and other interested stakeholders and persons in establishing its needs assessment, and shall propose projects or methods for meeting those needs. Recommendations from this assessment shall be forwarded to the Interbasin Compact Committee and other basin roundtables for analysis and consideration after the General Assembly has approved the Interbasin Compact Charter.

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- This water activity meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104 (2) (c), C.R.S. in that it furthers the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable’s water needs assessment as expressed in the IBCC Report of December 2010 to Governor Hickenlooper, As that report states, the Rio Grande Basin’s natural water supplies correlate poorly with demands; localized shortages exist; and water has for many years been over appropriated.

 - Repair and rehabilitation of the Platoro Dam crest is particularly relevant to the Basin’s purposes as expressed in the Statewide Water Supply Initiative of 2010 (SWSI 2010) recommendations – particularly Recommendation #9, which aims to “[d]evelop risk management strategies so that Colorado can fully use the compact and decree entitlements to best balance Colorado’s diverse water needs.” Anticipatory in nature, this project prevents further deterioration of the crest of the dam, exemplifying Platoro’s long record of excellent management and directly supporting the Rio Grande Basin’s risk management strategies.

 - The District has actively sought the input and advice of the USBR, Division Engineer III of the State of Colorado, of local affected county and municipal governments including Conejos County Commissioners, and has the solid support from the Town of Manassa and the unincorporated communities within the affected Conejos Water Conservancy District. Letters of support express the advice and input which the District counts on from many stakeholders in Platoro Reservoir, the Conejos River, and the Rio Grande Compact.

 - Working with the District, the Colorado Division of Water Resources (CDWR) has actively used Platoro as part of Colorado’s compact operations to maximize the diversion of water in Colorado and to minimize over- or under-delivery to the downstream states under the Rio Grande Compact, a target we have hit perfectly for the past two years, thanks in part to the excellent management of Platoro Reservoir.

 - Colorado maintains a small Compact account in Platoro that can be used as needed for Compact operations. The Division of Wildlife maintains a conservation pool of trans-mountain water in Platoro as a buffer for aquatic species in dry years. The Colorado Water Conservation Board has used Platoro reservoir several times to exchange or save Division of Wildlife water when Trujillo Meadows Reservoir has been lowered to effect needed repairs. These are some examples of the large measure of cooperation and collaboration among the many water users who are stakeholders in this Project.
- d) Matching Requirement: For requests from the Statewide Fund, the applicants is required to demonstrate a 20 percent (or greater) match of the request from the Statewide Account. Sources of matching funds include but are not limited to Basin Funds, in-kind services, funding from other sources, and/or direct cash match. Past expenditures directly related to the project may be considered as matching funds if the expenditures occurred within 9 months of the date the application was submitted to the CWCB. Please describe the source(s) of matching funds. (NOTE: These matching funds should also be reflected in your Detailed Budget in Part D of this application)

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- The District’s request from Statewide Fund of \$135,000 is matched by \$35,000, as follows: \$10,000 from the District to cover required Forest Service fees and to provide oversight and assessment of the project; and \$25,000 from the Bureau of Reclamation for engineering services.
2. For Applications that include a request for funds from the Statewide Account, describe how the water activity meets the **Evaluation Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines.)
- a. The water activity addresses multiple needs or issues, including consumptive and/or non-consumptive needs, or the needs and issues of multiple interests or multiple basins.
- The Albuquerque Area Office of the US Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, (USBR) defines the general purpose for the operations of Platoro Dam and Reservoir as “Flood control, irrigation water supply, recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement.”
 - The District’s stewardship of Platoro Reservoir is vital to all water users in the District, ensuring reliable flows for flood control, agricultural uses, recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement.
 - The deliverables from this Project include maintaining full functionality of this high-risk reservoir, protecting valuable recreational assets, helping to safeguard agricultural uses, reducing the threat of serious flood, and ensuring Colorado’s ability to meet its obligations to the Rio Grande Compact. The specific deliverables for the WSRA Funds will be restored stability and longevity to the crest of the dam at Platoro Reservoir.
- b. The number and types of entities represented in the application and the degree to which the activity will promote cooperation and collaboration among traditional consumptive water interests and/or non-consumptive interests, and if applicable, the degree to which the water activity is effective in addressing intrabasin or interbasin needs or issues.
- The District’s traditional consumptive and nonconsumptive water interests served by Platoro Reservoir operations extend over 100,000 acres, with 88,000 acres capable of being irrigated. The Conejos and its tributaries also irrigate an additional 8,000 acres that are not within the boundaries of the District. Storage and releases are jointly controlled between the District, USBR, CDWR, and the US Army Corps of Engineers to assure that Platoro Reservoir is operated in accordance with the Flood Control Storage Reservation Diagram criteria. This application for SB 179 funds represents not only these different entities but also the interests of multiple water users throughout the District.
 - Multiple needs and issues are addressed by this Project. As Mike Sullivan wrote (copy attached), “Platoro is a very important reservoir on the Conejos River system. Platoro reservoir provides flood protection in wet years [and] direct flow storage for the multitude of ditches in the Conejos basin. Direct flow storage is re-regulation of water within the irrigation year. Using Platoro, the

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- ditches in the Conejos basin are able to spread their surface water supply over the entire growing season rather than being at the mercy of the short runoff season.”
- Working with the District, the division of Water Resources has actively used Platoro as part of Colorado’s compact operations to maximize the diversion of water in Colorado and to minimize over- or under-delivery to the downstream states under the Rio Grande Compact. Colorado maintains a small Compact account in Platoro that can be used as needed for Compact operations. The Division of Wildlife maintains a conservation pool of Transmountain water in Platoro as a buffer for aquatic species in dry years. The Colorado Water Conservation Board has used Platoro reservoir several times to exchange or save Division of Wildlife water when Trujillo Meadows Reservoir has been lowered to effect needed repairs. These are some examples of the large measure of cooperation and collaboration among the many water users who are stakeholders in this Project. The District’s stewardship of Platoro Reservoir is vital to all water users in the District, ensuring reliable flows for flood control, agricultural uses, recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement. This proposal expands on the scope of each of these uses below and addresses Platoro’s role in meeting Colorado’s obligations to the Rio Grande Compact.
 - Storage and releases are jointly controlled between USBR, CWCD, CDWR, and the USACE to assure that Platoro Reservoir is operated in accordance with the Flood Control Storage Reservation Diagram criteria. This application therefore represents not only these different entities but also the interests of water users throughout the District. The scope of work in this project represents the assessment of USBR’s Engineering Review of Operations and Maintenance team in its most recent Periodic Facilities Review, which identified the tasks in this project as necessary. Entities represented in this application include USBR, CWCD, the Colorado Division of Water Resources, and, to a more limited extent the USACE.
 - Proper functioning of Platoro avoids interference with irrigation operations, helps ensure minimum and regular flows in riparian areas, protects and helps to expand fisheries, protects valuable recreational and wildlife assets from flood and from drought, and plays a major role in ensuring that Colorado continues to meet its Rio Grande Compact delivery obligations.
- c. Funding from this Account will reduce the uncertainty that the water activity will be implemented.... the applicant should discuss how receiving funding from the Account will make a significant difference in the implementation of the water activity (i.e., how will receiving funding enable the water activity to move forward).
- **Financial need:** Without this funding, this Project would not be implemented. Fiscal management has been a hallmark of the District, dating back to when the Rio Grande Compact condition was met in 1985 by Elephant Butte Reservoir spilling. This resulted in Platoro Reservoir being available for use by the District, with continued cooperation of all involved. The cost charged to CWCD by USBR to operate the reservoir between 1985 and 1992 was exorbitant. The cost in the first year alone for operating the reservoir, was \$44,000. Now CWCD’s total annual budget is \$352,927, with the total Platoro Enterprise budget in 2010 of \$156,487, including one salary. Income from all sources is barely sufficient to meet current O&M requirements and contract payments. We cannot afford the cost of this dam rehabilitation.

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- **Eliminating uncertainty:** Funding from the Water Supply Reserve Account will eliminate the uncertainty that this water activity will be implemented. The District’s request for Basin funds of \$15,000 and State funds of \$135,000 will secure the purchase and placement of rock material on the crest of the dam and will cover the cost of meeting the requirements of the Forest Service to protect the access road to the project site.

d. There is an urgency of need for the water activity and/or any compelling “window of opportunity” that may be missed without funding from the Account.

- **Importance and urgency:** The Engineering Review of Operations and Maintenance team with the USBR has determined that this work is necessary in order to maintain the continuing and future reliability of the dam at Platoro Reservoir. Although Platoro has never been overtopped, future high water in excess of spillway and outlet works capacity could cause loss of control of the river flows and jeopardize reservoir storage, causing a large economic, environmental, and social impact to the downstream communities.
- **Timing and resource management:** Given the trends toward uncertain climate conditions and the increased likelihood of drought and floods in the future, it is critical to undertake this rehabilitation project as soon as possible. Without this funding this Project could not be completed, the repairs could not be undertaken, and the ability of CWCD to continue to maintain its current and anticipated flow levels could be jeopardized. Also, as prices continue to rise for fuels and materials, these requested funds will free up resources for the District to be used in continued maintenance and operation of this critical facility.
- **Assessment of current conditions:** The challenges of unpredictable climate and the vital role of Platoro Reservoir were made clear in a report by Pat McDermott of the Colorado Division of Water Resources Division III office to the Rio Grande Roundtable at its March 2008 meeting. McDermott was most concerned about likely flooding in the lower Conejos River system due to heavy snowpack in the Los Pinos and San Antonio areas which was about 200% higher than normal. He noted that “Platoro Reservoir will provide good flood coverage for the upper Conejos area,” but he was “concerned about the area below Antonito because there’s uncontrolled flow on the Rio San Antonio and Los Pinos.” This project addresses the need to repair the crest of the dam in accordance with the Bureau of Reclamations most recent Periodic Facility Review and thus keep this valuable facility in top working order. Our window of opportunity is to time our funding request in anticipation of the earliest possible seasonal opportunity to begin to do this work, which will be in the spring of 2012.

Part D. – Required Supporting Material

This information is needed to assess the viability of the water project or activity. Please provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized, or the water body to be affected by, the water activity. This should include a description of applicable water rights and the name/location of water bodies affected by the water activity.

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- **Reservoir location, structure, capacity, and operation:** The San Luis Valley is located in south-central Colorado and northern New Mexico, and provides drainage to an area of approximately 8000 square miles. The valley extends south from Poncha Pass to beyond the Colorado-New Mexico state line, and is bordered on the east by the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and by the San Juan Mountains and the Continental Divide to the west. The high, treeless, plain that makes up the valley floor has an average elevation of about 7500 feet above sea level. Many of the mountains that surround the valley reach in excess of 14,000 feet and feed numerous streams that flow into the valley, the largest two being the Rio Grande River and the Conejos River. The Rio Grande flows across the middle of the valley from west to east before turning south near Alamosa, while the Conejos River flows along the southern border of the valley until it meets with the Rio Grande near Los Sauces

Platoro Dam is on the Conejos River about 1 mile above the town of Platoro, Colorado. At 10,000 feet above sea level, Platoro is the highest dam ever built by the Bureau of Reclamation. The dam is an earth-filled structure 1,540 feet long with a maximum height of 165 feet and a total volume of almost 910,000 cubic feet of material. There is an unlined, open cut spillway on the left abutment of the dam with a flow capacity of 3,000 cubic feet per second (cf/s) when the reservoir is at full capacity. The maximum width of the base of the dam is 1100 feet with the width of the crest 35 feet. The outlet works are on the right abutment and consist of a trashrack structure, concrete lined high-pressure tunnel, gate chamber, a horse-shoe shaped tunnel housing a 56 inch diameter steel pipe, and a valve house structure. The flow is regulated via two 40-inch jet flow valves in the valve house and a 4- foot by 5-foot high-pressure emergency gate in the gate chamber. The maximum out-flow rate through the two jet flow valves is 710 cf/s.

- **Water rights, availability, and sustainability:** CWCD was formed in order to acquire and appropriate waters of the Conejos River and its tributaries; to divert, store, and transport such waters by means of works, as defined in the Water Conservancy Act; to control floods by means of the works; to conserve, develop and stabilize water supplies for domestic, irrigation, power, manufacturing and other beneficial uses within the territory included in the boundaries of the CWCD. These purposes continue to guide all operations of Platoro Reservoir by CWCD.
- **Decreed water rights and operation:** The District must operate Platoro Reservoir in consultation with the State Engineer, the Bureau of Reclamation, and, for flood control, the Army Corps of Engineers, and has written agreements with each of these agencies. The District also has an agreement with the State Engineer to store and release Compact water without charge to the State. The District has a decreed water right for storage in Platoro Reservoir, a decreed right to exchange individual direct flow water to the reservoir as an alternate point of diversion, and a decreed right for exchange of water from the Norton Drain and Closed Basin Project to the reservoir.

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1. Please provide a brief narrative of any related or relevant previous studies.

In the history of the Reservoir, perhaps thousands of studies have been done, many of which relate to the dam crest, the reservoir, and overall operations. The following brief history provides a useful overview and orientation to the project, with the most recent WSRA-funded project providing direct relevance.

1800s Spanish colonial period: The high mountain desert known as the San Luis Valley has been home to farmers and ranchers since the mid 1800's. Recognizing the need for control of the waters that flowed from the high peaks that surround the valley, early farmers devised ways of controlling the flow for their own use. As early as the 1850's farmers were constructing canals for irrigation of crop lands. Later, the need for storage of water resulted in the construction of several storage facilities.

In 1936, the Bureau of Reclamation began to study the water needs of the San Luis Valley, and the results of that research led to the initiation of the San Luis Valley Project.

Early problems: Operations at the Reservoir began in May 1952. Almost immediately upon the start of operations, problems were experienced with the two 48-inch butterfly valves. Under certain conditions, the valves became extremely difficult to operate, and problems with the motor control relays prevented reliable operation. Until delivery of the new valves, special operating procedures had to be followed. The new valves were received in early 1954, and installation was completed on September 30.

1985 Remote Valve Control System - Numerous improvements have been made to the dam since its completion. Most of the modifications have been made to the outflow system. These changes include modifications to the drain system, changes in the motor relay systems, and installation of a remotely operated valve control system. This addition eliminated the need for an on-site gatekeeper, and 1985 marked the last year that a gatekeeper lived at the reservoir during the operating season.

Project Authorization: The San Luis Valley Project, as described in House Document 693, 76th Congress, third session, was authorized following a report of Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. His report confirmed the feasibility of the proposed project. Approval came in the provisions of section 9 of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939, and funds for the project were appropriated by the Interior Appropriation Act of 1941. The original project authorization called for the development of four divisions. In addition to the Conejos and Closed Basin Divisions, there were the Rio Grande and Weminuche Pass Divisions. The proposed Rio Grande Division involved the construction of a dam at Wagon Wheel Gap for flood control, irrigation, and hydro-power generation, while the Weminuche Pass Division involved the diversion of 20,000 acre-feet of water from the San Juan River Basin to the Rio Grande River above Wagon Wheel Gap. Additionally, the Conejos Division was to be made up of two dams, one at Platoro, and one down river at Mogote. Economic and political concerns eventually allowed only the Platoro Dam and Closed Basin Drain to be constructed.

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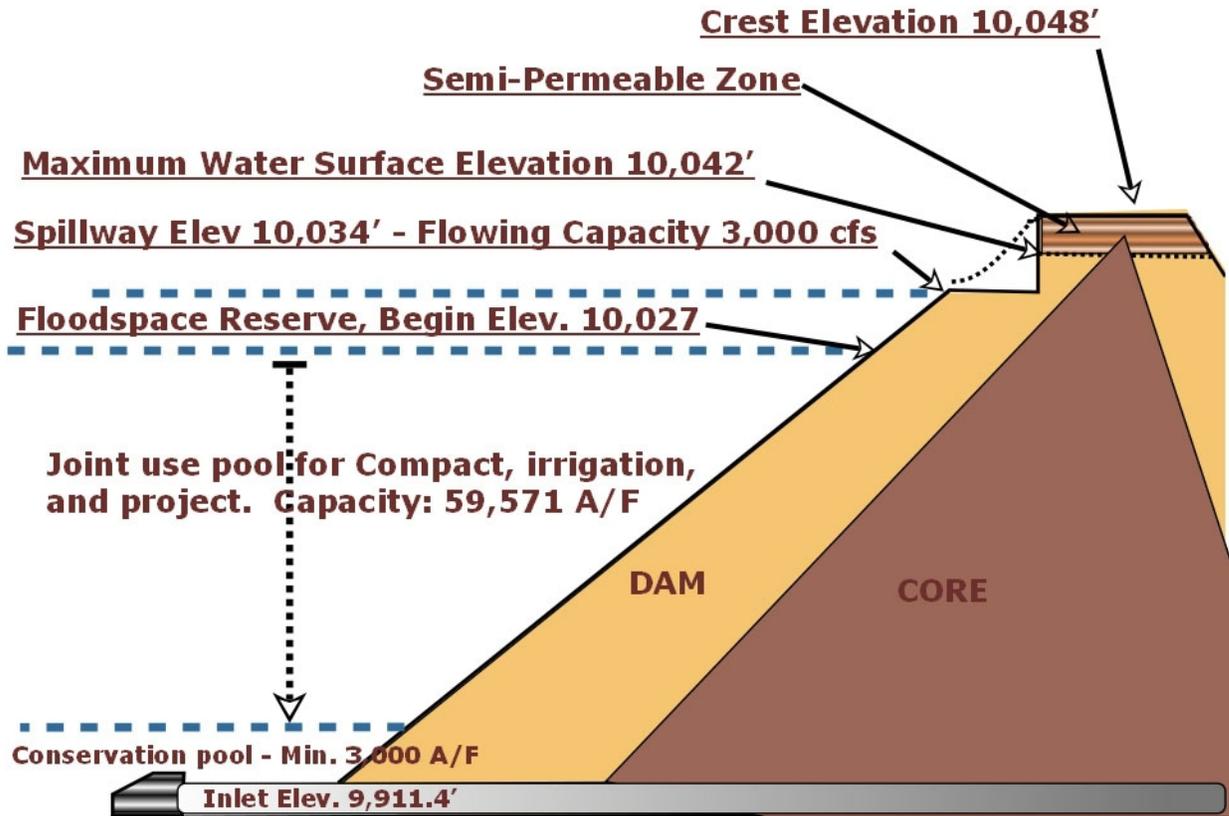
1987 – CWCD Takes Over - In 1987, the Conejos Water Conservancy District offered to purchase the dam and all associated facilities from the government. In 1988, the Bureau agreed in principle to their offer, and it was forwarded for approval. On June 2, 1989, two bills were introduced, one in the House (H.R.1462), and one in the Senate (S.1118), to authorize transfer of the reservoir to the District. Although authorized, the transfer of title for the land and facilities did not take place. However, as the water conservancy district paid off its debt for its share of the construction costs, it assumed the maintenance and operation of the dam and reservoir.

Platoro Reservoir and the Closed Basin - One unique feature of the valley is the Closed Basin. This large area in the northern part of the valley drains about 2900 square miles and is separated from the rest of the valley by a low alluvial fan. There is no drainage from the basin and much of the water that flows into it is lost through evapotranspiration. Water which is not lost flows into San Luis Lakes on the periphery of the valley. The San Luis Valley Project is separated into two divisions, the Closed Basin Division and the Conejos Division. The Closed Basin Division is located north and east of Alamosa in Alamosa and Saguache Counties, with the Conejos Division south and west of Alamosa in Conejos County. The primary feature of the project is the Platoro Dam and Reservoir. The Closed Basin Drain salvages water from the basin via wells, pumps, laterals and canals, and transports that water to the Rio Grande River to help Colorado meet its obligations to the Rio Grande Compact.

September, 2009 -- Recent WSRA-funded Project: In September 2009 CWCB granted the District's request for funding in the amount of \$250,000 for the Platoro Reservoir Restoration project. This 3-phase project involved creating the bypass system in Phase I; re-coating the 56" penstocks in Phase II, which was completed in the 4th quarter of 2009; and replacing the discharge valves in Phase III, which was completed in the 4th quarter of 2010. The completion of that project was a great accomplishment, extending the expected service life of the discharge valves for another 60-75 years and allowing the District to more accurately control the flow of water at the dam.

New Revelations -- US Bureau of Reclamation – Periodic Facility Report: The Technical Response Team of the US Bureau of Reclamation reviewed the potential failure modes or scenarios which were identified in 2008's Comprehensive Facility Review of Platoro Reservoir. There are three categories or condition of possible failure that are routinely reviewed, static, seismic, and hydrologic. In their last report (copy attached), item number 2 under Hydrologic issues stated as follows: "Erosion through the Upper Portion of the Embankment – The top of the core is 4 feet **below** the dam crest. This potential failure mode involves erosion through the upper portion of the embankment during an extreme flood that causes the reservoir to rise above the top of the core." What this means is that once water exceeds the Maximum water surface elevation of 10,042 feet, there exists only 2 feet of core at the very center of the dam. The schematic on the following page explains this clearly. We originally believed from previous drawings that the core was 7 feet thick at the crest. This is incorrect.

Conclusion: The work we are doing in this Project is to ensure that, in the event of an overtopping of the dam, we have sufficient rip rap at that elevation to prevent the core from beginning to erode.



SCHEMATIC ILLUSTRATING CONCLUSIONS OF MOST RECENT
STUDY DONE BY US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
2010 PERIODIC FACILITY REVIEW

STATEMENT OF WORK

2. Statement of Work, Detailed Budget, and Project Schedule

The statement of work will form the basis for the contract between the Applicant and the State of Colorado. In short, the Applicant is agreeing to undertake the work for the compensation outlined in the statement of work and budget, and in return, the State of Colorado is receiving the deliverables/products specified. Please note that costs incurred prior to execution of a contract or purchase order are not subject to reimbursement.

Statement of Work

WATER ACTIVITY NAME – PLATORO RESERVOIR CREST OF THE DAM REPAIR

GRANT RECIPIENT – Conejos Water Conservancy District

FUNDING SOURCE – Water Supply Reserve Account - \$150,000
(\$15,000 Basin Account \$135,000 Statewide Account, and \$35,000 Matching funds)

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Conejos Water Conservancy District requests \$150,000 in WSRA funds to rehabilitate the crest of the dam at Platoro Reservoir. The Technical Response Team of the US Bureau of Reclamation, in its 2008 Comprehensive Facility Review, identified a potential hydrologic failure mode in the upper portion of the embankment of the Platoro Dam. In the event of extreme flood, erosion would penetrate the top of the crest. The study revealed that the core is 4 feet **below** the dam crest, a vulnerability which was not known before. If water exceeds the maximum surface elevation of 10,042 feet, there exists only 2 feet of core at the very center of the dam. This project will place additional stone along the full length of the crest, as this area has been gradually losing grade, sloping downward. CWCD will also grade and repair the US Forest Service access road before, during and on completion of this project. Deliverables include preventing further deterioration; maintaining full operating functionality of the Reservoir; enabling Colorado to continue to meet its obligations under the Rio Grande Compact; providing flood control, irrigation, river fishery, endangered species protection, and dam safety; and preserving a high-valuable recreational resource in Colorado's Rocky Mountains.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this project is to ensure that, in the event of an overtopping of the dam, there is sufficient rip rap at that elevation to prevent the core from beginning to erode, thus maintaining Platoro Reservoir's storage and release capabilities, protecting from flood, ensuring timely releases for irrigation, protecting a valuable resource for recreation and wildlife, and ensure Colorado's continuing ability to meet its obligations under the Rio Grande Compact.

TASK 1 – Grading #1 -- Initial Blading/Grading Access Road

1-A Description of Task: The US Forest Road #250 will sustain heavy traffic from trucks and equipment. Before mobilization, CWCD will prepare the 25.5 miles of road by blading and grading.

Method/Procedure: Two graders and two men will work 10 hours per day for three days at a cost of \$500 per mile for 25.5 miles, blading and grading the road in accordance with US Forest Service road maintenance specifications for traffic-generated maintenance (FS-7700-41, II.C.2) (\$12,750).

1-B One half of the gravel will be placed using two trucks, two men, 10 hours per day for two days (\$4,550).

“In addition to normal maintenance and damage repair, the permittee is required to replace surface rock (SRR) lost as a result of permitted traffic. The permittee shall be required to provide and haul Colorado Class Six aggregate, properly grade and slope the roadbed, and spread and properly compact with a minimum 2” compacted lift. Replacement of surface rock shall be placed at locations and depths as directed by the Forest Service.... All materials and workmanship shall conform to specification *Surface Replacement* and *Surface Repair*.”

Deliverable: Access to the work site is facilitated, reducing transportation time, reducing or eliminating any road hazards, and complying with US Forest Service requirements.

TASK 2 – Mobilization

Description of Task: Deliver equipment to the project site at the Dam. This will take a full day, transporting two trackhoes and one loader.

Method/Procedure: Deliver equipment to the Dam.

Deliverable: Mobilization is complete. Ready to begin hauling and placing rock.

TASK 3 – Hauling rock

Description of Task: Five trucks will each deliver two loads of rock per day, working ten hours per day, for a total of 6.5 days.

Method/Procedure: Standard loading procedures for hauling rock.

Deliverable: Rock is delivered to the project site, ready to be placed on the crest of the dam.

TASK 4 – Grading #2 -- Mid-Point Grading/Blading Access Road

4-A Description of Task: At a midpoint in the project, CWCD will blade and grade the 25.5 miles of US Forest Service Access Road #250.

Method/Procedure: Two graders and two men will work 10 hours per day for three days at a cost of \$500 per mile for 25.5 miles (\$12,750), blading and grading the road in accordance with US Forest Service specifications for traffic-generated maintenance and repair (FS-7700-41, II.C.2).

4-B The second half of the gravel will be placed, using two trucks, two men, 10 hours per day, for two days (\$4,550).

“In addition to normal maintenance and damage repair, the permittee is required to replace surface rock (SRR) lost as a result of permitted traffic. The permittee shall be required to provide and haul Colorado Class Six aggregate, properly grade and slope the roadbed, and spread and properly compact with a minimum 2” compacted lift. Replacement of surface rock shall be placed at locations and depths as directed by the Forest Service.... All materials and workmanship shall conform to specification *Surface Replacement* and *Surface Repair*.”

Deliverable: Wear and tear on the access road by trucks and heavy equipment will be repaired, complying with US Forest Service requirements.

TASK 5 – Placement

Description of Task: Rock will be placed along the full length of the crest of the dam using two trackhoes and one loader, working 10 hours per day for eight days.

Method/Procedure: Method of rock placement is provided by engineering and specifications provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, with oversight by Conejos Water Conservancy District.

Deliverable: Grade of the crest of the dam is restored, effectively reducing the risk of further deterioration and preventing the potential erosion of the core in the event of water overtopping the dam.

TASK 6 – Final Grading, Cleanup at Dam Crest and Demobilization

6-A Description of Task: At the end of the project, CWCD will blade and grade the 25.5 miles of US Forest Service Access Road #250.

Method/Procedure: Two graders and two men will work 10 hours per day for three days at a cost of \$500 per mile for 25.5 miles, blading and grading the road in accordance with US Forest Service road maintenance specifications for traffic-generated maintenance (FS-7700-41, II.C.2) (\$12,750).

Deliverable: Compliance with US Forest Service regulations.

6-B Cleanup at Dam Crest and Demobilization

Method/Procedure: Two tractors and two men will work at the dam crest for 10 hours per day for two days (\$2,200). Demobilization will take one full day, under supervision of the Conejos Water Conservancy District, in compliance with all regulations of the US Bureau of Reclamation and the US Forest Service.

Description of Task: Surface at Dam Crest is finished. All work areas are left clean and clear, US Forest Service requirements are met, and all vehicles and trucks are demobilized from the work site.

Deliverable: Project is complete, complying with US Forest Service requirements, leaving the road in good condition.

TASK 7 – Reporting and Final Deliverable – As written below:

REPORTING AND FINAL DELIVERABLE

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 statement 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.

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BUDGET

Provide a detailed budget by task including number of hours and rates for labor and unit costs for other direct costs (i.e. mileage, \$/unit of material for construction, etc.). A detailed and perfectly balanced budget that shows all costs is required for the State's contracting and purchase order processes. Sample budget tables are provided below. Please note that these budget tables are examples and will need to be adapted to fit each individual application. Tasks should correspond to the tasks described above.

(next page)

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BUDGET

TASKS	Detail	Matching Funds	GRANT FUNDS	TOTAL PROJECT
Engineering - USBOR		25,000		25,000
Fees & Permits - CWCD		5,000		5,000
QC – Supervision – CWCD		5,000		5,000
Task 1A – Blading/Grading #1	\$500/mile x 25.5 miles 2 graders, 2 men, 10 hours/day x3 days		12,750	
Task 1B – Gravel Placement	2 trucks, 2 men, 10 hours/day x 2 days		4,550	17,300
Task 2 - Mobilization	2 trackhoes, 1 Loader		1,500	1,500
Task 3 – Hauling	5 trucks, 5 men, 10 hours/day x 6.5 days 2 loads/day/truck x 6.5 days		72,450	72,450
Task 4A – Blading/Grading #2	\$500/mile x 25.5 miles 2 graders, 2 men, 10 hours/day x3 days		12,750	
Task 4B – Gravel Placement	2 trucks, 2 men, 10 hours/day x 2 days		4,550	17,300
Task 5 - Placing	2 trackhoes, 1 Loader, 3 men x 10 hrs/day X 8 days		26,500	26,500
Task 6A – Blading/Grading #3	\$500/mile x 25.5 miles 2 graders, 2 men, 10 hours/day x3 days		12,750	
Task 6B – Cleanup @ dam crest	2 tractors, 2 men 10 hours/day x 2 days		2,200	14,950
Task 7 – Final Report CWCD		na		
TOTAL MATCHING FUNDS		\$35,000		
Total Costs:		\$35,000	150,000	185,000

SCHEDULE

TASK \ DAY	DAY																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1 Grade Road #1	█	█	█															
2 Mobilize Equipment				█														
3 Haul Rock					█	█	█	█	█	█	█							
4 Grade Road #2												█	█	█				
5 Place Rock						█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█					
6 Gravel, final Grade, Crest														█	█	█	█	█
7 Final CWCB Report																		█

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PAYMENT

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and invoicing by the applicant. Invoices from any other entity (i.e. subcontractors) cannot be processed by the State. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by major task, and estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire water activity in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues and proposed or implemented corrective actions. The last 5 percent of the entire water activity budget will be withheld until final project/water activity documentation is completed. 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 help promote the development of a common technical platform.

The above statements are true to the best of my knowledge:

Signature of Applicant:

Print Applicant's Name:

Project Title:

Return this application to:

Mr. Todd Doherty
Intrastate Water Management and Development Section
COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203

To submit applications by Email, send to: todd.doherty@state.co.us

Attachment 1
Reference Information

The following information is available via the internet. The reference information provides additional detail and background information.

Colorado Water Conservation Board (<http://cwcb.state.co.us/>)

Loan and Grant policies and information are available at – <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Finance/>

Interbasin Compact Committee and Basin Roundtables (<http://ibcc.state.co.us/>)

Interbasin Compact Committee By-laws and Charter (under Helpful Links section) –
<http://ibcc.state.co.us/Basins/IBCC/>

Legislation

House Bill 05-1177 - Also known as the Water for the 21st Century Act –

<http://cwcbweblink.state.co.us/DocView.aspx?id=105662&searchhandle=28318>

House Bill 06-1400 – Adopted the Interbasin Compact Committee Charter –

<http://cwcbweblink.state.co.us/DocView.aspx?id=21291&searchhandle=12911>

Senate Bill 06-179 – Created the Water Supply Reserve Account –

<http://cwcbweblink.state.co.us/DocView.aspx?id=21379&searchhandle=12911>

Statewide Water Supply Initiative

General Information – <http://cwcb.state.co.us/IWMD/>

Phase 1 Report – <http://cwcb.state.co.us/IWMD/SWSITechnicalResources/SWSIPhaseIReport/>

Attachment 2
Insurance Requirements

NOTE: The following insurance requirements taken from the standard contract apply to WSRA projects that exceed \$25,000 in accordance with the policies of the State Controller’s Office. Proof of insurance as stated below is necessary prior to the execution of a contract.

13. INSURANCE

Grantee and its Sub-grantees shall obtain and maintain insurance as specified in this section at all times during the term of this Grant: All policies evidencing the insurance coverage required hereunder shall be issued by insurance companies satisfactory to Grantee and the State.

A. Grantee

i. Public Entities

If Grantee is a "public entity" within the meaning of the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, CRS §24-10-101, et seq., as amended (the “GIA”), then Grantee shall maintain at all times during the term of this Grant such liability insurance, by commercial policy or self-insurance, as is necessary to meet its liabilities under the GIA. Grantee shall show proof of such insurance satisfactory to the State, if requested by the State. Grantee shall require each Grant with Sub-grantees that are public entities, providing Goods or Services hereunder, to include the insurance requirements necessary to meet Sub-grantee’s liabilities under the GIA.

ii. Non-Public Entities

If Grantee is not a "public entity" within the meaning of the GIA, Grantee shall obtain and maintain during the term of this Grant insurance coverage and policies meeting the same requirements set forth in §13(B) with respect to sub-Grantees that are not "public entities".

B. Sub-Grantees

Grantee shall require each Grant with Sub-grantees, other than those that are public entities, providing Goods or Services in connection with this Grant, to include insurance requirements substantially similar to the following:

i. Worker’s Compensation

Worker’s Compensation Insurance as required by State statute, and Employer’s Liability Insurance covering all of Grantee and Sub-grantee employees acting within the course and scope of their employment.

ii. General Liability

Commercial General Liability Insurance written on ISO occurrence form CG 00 01 10/93 or equivalent, covering premises operations, fire damage, independent Grantees, products and completed operations, blanket Grantual liability, personal injury, and advertising liability with minimum limits as follows: (a) \$1,000,000 each occurrence; (b) \$1,000,000 general aggregate; (c) \$1,000,000 products and completed operations aggregate; and (d) \$50,000 any one fire. If any aggregate limit is reduced below \$1,000,000 because of claims made or paid, Sub-grantee shall immediately obtain additional insurance to restore the full aggregate limit and furnish to Grantee a certificate or other document satisfactory to Grantee showing compliance with this provision.

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iii. Automobile Liability

Automobile Liability Insurance covering any auto (including owned, hired and non-owned autos) with a minimum limit of \$1,000,000 each accident combined single limit.

iv. Additional Insured

Grantee and the State shall be named as additional insured on the Commercial General Liability and Automobile Liability Insurance policies (leases and construction Grants require additional insured coverage for completed operations on endorsements CG 2010 11/85, CG 2037, or equivalent).

v. Primacy of Coverage

Coverage required of Grantee and Sub-grantees shall be primary over any insurance or self-insurance program carried by Grantee or the State.

vi. Cancellation

The above insurance policies shall include provisions preventing cancellation or non-renewal without at least 45 days prior notice to the Grantee and the State by certified mail.

vii. Subrogation Waiver

All insurance policies in any way related to this Grant and secured and maintained by Grantee or its Sub-grantees as required herein shall include clauses stating that each carrier shall waive all rights of recovery, under subrogation or otherwise, against Grantee or the State, its agencies, institutions, organizations, officers, agents, employees, and volunteers.

C. Certificates

Grantee and all Sub-grantees shall provide certificates showing insurance coverage required hereunder to the State within seven business days of the Effective Date of this Grant. No later than 15 days prior to the expiration date of any such coverage, Grantee and each Sub-grantee shall deliver to the State or Grantee certificates of insurance evidencing renewals thereof. In addition, upon request by the State at any other time during the term of this Grant or any sub-grant, Grantee and each Sub-grantee shall, within 10 days of such request, supply to the State evidence satisfactory to the State of compliance with the provisions of this §13.

Attachment 3
Water Supply Reserve Account Standard Contract

NOTE: The following contract is required for WSRA projects that exceed \$100,000. (Projects under this amount will normally be funded through a purchase order process.) Applicants are encouraged to review the standard contract to understand the terms and conditions required by the State in the event a WSRA grant is awarded. Significant changes to the standard contract require approval of the State Controller's Office and often prolong the contracting process.

It should also be noted that grant funds to be used for the purchase of real property (e.g. water rights, land, conservation easements, etc.) will require additional review and approval. In such cases applicants should expect the grant contracting process to take approximately 3 to 6 months from the date of CWCB approval.

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Attachment 4
W-9 Form

NOTE: A completed W-9 form is required for all WSRA projects prior execution of a contract or purchase order. Please submit this form with the completed application.