

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

FROM: Todd Doherty,
Water Supply Planning Section

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

DATE: June 28, 2011

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 30, July 12-13, 2011 Board Meeting**
Water Supply Reserve Account Project Change – 75 Ditch Improvement Project

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends granting the requested change of Water Supply Reserve Account contracting entity from the Gunnison River Festival to Gunnison County for the project titled: 75 Ditch Improvement and Feature Enhancements.

Background

The Gunnison River Festival received approval for a WSRA Gunnison basin account grant totaling \$46,100 at the May 2010 CWCB Board Meeting. This project is for the construction of a multi-purpose structure on the Gunnison River in Gunnison, Colorado at the location of the 75 Ditch diversion, which is the oldest water right in the Gunnison Basin. Currently at lower flows, the existing diversion structure expose rocks which can create a danger to both private and commercial boaters as this is located within the reach of the Gunnison Whitewater Park. The reconstruction will include a new drop and pool which will create the final feature to the popular Gunnison Whitewater Park. This is expected to enhance the park's usage by creating a feature designed to function at lower flow regimes than the existing features in the park therefore expanding the seasonal usage of the park.

The Gunnison River Festival is a small non-profit and is unable to secure the necessary insurance to contract with the state for this project due to its limited budget and staff. Gunnison County has agreed to be the fiscal agent for this project which will allow for additional project oversight and administrative support. Letters from the Gunnison River Festival and Gunnison County are attached to the memorandum.