



Alamosa RIVERKEEPERS®

P.O. Box 223, Capulin, CO 81124

Mr. John McCLOW, Chairman
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

September 13, 2012

Dear Chairman McCLOW:

Alamosa Riverkeeper's (ARK) mission strives for a clean functional river system which benefits the economic, ecological, and recreational needs of the Alamosa River watershed. ARK has partnered with the Terrace Irrigation Company (TIC) to provide an instream flow for the Alamosa River. Terrace Irrigation Company owns and operates Terrace Reservoir located in Conejos County, Colorado, which derives its water from, and releases water to, the Alamosa River.

Alamosa Riverkeeper is pleased to offer to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) .5 cfs decreed to the Valdez Ditch by the District Court in and for Conejos County, in the State of Colorado. ARK requests that CWCB consider the first step towards acceptance of this interest in the Valdez Ditch water right during the Board's September 2012 meeting.

The CWCB, with the leadership of Brian Hyde, sponsored the *Alamosa River Watershed Restoration Master Plan and Environmental Assessment* (Master Plan), which was funded by the Summitville natural resource damage settlement. The \$250,000 Master Plan was completed in July, 2005. The Master Plan summarizes current environmental conditions and develops solutions for identified problems that will lead to a healthier watershed. An instream flow was identified as a "tier one" project for the Alamosa River.

The Instream Flow Project benefits the Alamosa River and its hydrology by improving the flow regime of the Alamosa River, enhancing the riparian zones, recharging the underlying aquifer and developing a fishery. Once a dead river, anecdotal stories reported during the summer of 2012 describe fish being caught above and below Terrace Reservoir. Monies from the Summitville natural resource damage settlement and the CWCB are funding this project.

Over the past few years, ARK has worked closely with Linda Bassi, Kaylea White and staff in the Stream and Lake Protection Section to make this offer to you. We look forward to working with CWCB to complete this transaction.

Respectfully,

Cindy Medina, Alamosa Riverkeeper