

***THE COLORADO BASIN ROUNDTABLE***  
***C/O P.O. BOX 1120***  
***GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO***  
***81602***

July 26, 2012

Greg Johnson  
COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
1580 Logan Street, Suite 600  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Greg:

The Colorado Basin Roundtable voted at its July 23, 2012, meeting to approve six grant requests and forward them to the CWCB staff and board for consideration.

Five of the grants address the Roundtable initiative to implement short-term projects and methods to address nonconsumptive needs. Earlier this year, the CBRT set up a workshop to recruit interest in nonconsumptive projects. Five applications emerged for Water Supply Reserve Account potential funding. They are:

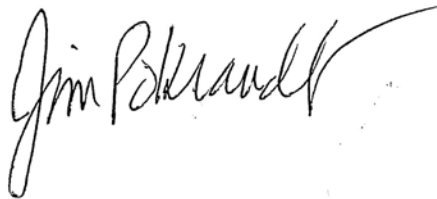
- **Grand County RICD Project.** The vote was 18-0 in favor with two abstentions. The abstentions related to conflicts of interest. The request is for \$100,000 in Basin Funds and \$400,000 in Statewide Funds. The CBRT believes this project on the Colorado River will solidify the recreational values enjoyed at the Pumphouse segment of the Colorado River, a benefit to the Basin and all of Colorado. Our funding would be directed at in-river work.
- **Grand Valley Riparian Restoration Collaborative Project/Tamarisk Coalition.** The vote was 20-0. The request is for \$42,726 in Basin Funds and \$207,274 in Statewide Funds. Funding would assist in tamarisk and Russian olive removal as well as work on invasive weeds. Money would also be directed at revegetation. Phreatophyte control is a local and statewide priority in water management and in restoring environmental integrity in important riparian zones.
- **Tenmile Creek Restoration Project/Blue River Watershed Group.** The vote was 19-1 in favor. The dissent questioned a "clear need" for the project. The request is \$17,500 in Basin Funds and \$332,500 in Statewide Funds. The targeted work on the creek will occur in the vicinity of the Copper Mountain Ski Area, a segment impacted over the decades by mining, timbering, ski area development, railroad and highway construction. The beauty of this project is that it is shovel-

ready and this money, along with cash and in-kind services, allows it to proceed to completion.

- **Colorado River Restoration and Conservation Projects/Eagle River Watershed Council.** The vote was 19-1 in favor. Dissent cited the fact that while this paves the way for projects, it is still a study. The request is for \$20,000 in Basin Funds and \$90,000 in Statewide Funds. This initiative seeks to create baseline information about a stretch of the Colorado River that has been little studied. It will prioritize strategies regarding rehabilitation projects and assess recreational impacts with an eye toward directing recreation to the most suitable sites on the river.
- **Crystal River Watershed Assessment and Design of Restoration Projects/Roaring Fork Conservancy.** The vote was 20-0 in favor. The request is for \$15,854 in Basin Funds and \$301,219 in Statewide Funds. This is a proposal to study a heavily impacted area of historical coal mining in drainage of the Crystal River. It will lead to projects, and includes a pilot project on road restoration.

As well, we approved one grant request addressed at consumptive uses. **The Robinson Ditch Company** that serves the Basalt-El Jebel area in the Roaring Fork Valley is seeking assistance for ditch piping. The request from the CBRT is for \$60,000 from Basin Funds. The vote was 19-1. Please note that the application asks for \$120,000. The dissent cited the lack of a revegetation plan, a need to engage the neighbors, impacts to wells and the fact that no ag was involved in this ditch that has seen uses migrate to urban uses. In halving the request, the applicants were also encouraged to apply for a low-interest CWCB loan to complete the work. The CBRT agreed overall that there are many benefits to piping this ditch that include safety to neighbors and the more efficient movement of water that enjoys about half its flow under pre-Colorado Compact water rights.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Pokrandt", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Pokrandt  
Chair, Colorado Basin Roundtable



Nathan T. Fey  
Director  
Colorado Stewardship Program  
1601 Longs Peak Ave.  
Longmont, Colorado 80501  
nathan@americanwhitewater.org

September 10, 2012

Mr. John McClow, Chairman of the Board  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St. Rm. 721  
Denver, CO 80203  
RE: SUPPORT FOR GRANT FOR GORE CANYON WHITEWATER PARK

Dear Chairman McClow and Members of the Board,

Founded in 1954, American Whitewater is a national non-profit organization with a mission "to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely." We are active in diverse policy forums and stakeholder discussions across the state of Colorado, including a focus on the Upper Colorado River through Grand and Eagle Counties.

I am writing to encourage you to award the full \$500,000 grant amount requested by Grand County to build Gore Canyon Whitewater Park on the Colorado River at Pumphouse. The headwater's economy is driven by tourism. Tourists from in state and out of state are drawn to this iconic reach of the Colorado River to enjoy whitewater boating. The Gore Canyon Whitewater Park at Pumphouse is clearly a water project of statewide concern that will benefit thousands of recreational users on the Colorado River and the surrounding communities.

The Water Supply Reserve Account was set aside by the Legislature to fund both consumptive and non-consumptive water projects. Non-consumptive projects specifically include both recreation and the environment. Yet, less than \$400,000 of the over \$30 million set aside by the Legislature has funded non-consumptive recreational projects to date. Awarding this grant request in full is an ideal opportunity for the Colorado Water Conservation Board to honor the legislative intent of the Colorado Water for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act by funding a significant recreational water project on the Colorado River.

Thank you in advance for awarding this grant in full to Grand County to build the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park. Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nathan T. Fey'.

Nathan T. Fey  
Colorado Stewardship Director



# Colorado River District

**75 Years**  
**Protecting Western Colorado Water**



September 12, 2012

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

RE: SUPPORT FOR GRAND COUNTY WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT GRANT TO  
BUILD GORE CANYON WHITEWATER PARK

Dear Chairman McClow and Members of the Board:

I am writing to indicate the River District's support of Grand County's request for a Water Supply Reserve Account grant request for \$500,000 to build the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park on the Colorado River at Pumphouse. Grand County has committed over \$600,000 to this non-consumptive water use project. For a small community in the Colorado headwaters, this represents considerable financial resources in the effort to provide additional infrastructure for a growing recreational economy.

Constructing a "Park and Play" whitewater park on Bureau of Land Management in a developed recreational site is a good use of the state funds set aside by the Legislature for consumptive and non consumptive water projects. Great Outdoors Colorado funds are not eligible to be used to help fund the construction of this park because the project is in partnership with the BLM and is located on federal land. (GOCO doesn't fund projects on Federal land.) There is strong support for the project among members of the Colorado Basin Roundtable, local government, retail partners and boaters from across the state and throughout the west. For the last several years Grand County and the Colorado River District have been dedicated to working collaboratively with our east and west slope water stakeholders to solve a myriad historical water disputes. The Recreational In-Channel Diversion at Pumphouse is one small part of the Collaborative Agreement with Denver Water and the proposed agreement with the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and its Municipal Subdistrict.

We respectfully urge the CWCB Board to award the full \$100,000 request from the Colorado Basin Account and the full \$400,000 request from the Statewide Account to Grand County for this project at your September 2012 meeting. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Eric Kuhn  
General Manager, CRWCD

OFFICE OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
970-328-8605  
FAX: 970-328-8629  
email: eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us  
www.eaglecounty.us



PETER F. RUNYON  
JON STAVNEY  
SARA J. FISHER

September 4, 2012

Mr. John McClow, Chairman of the Board  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St. Rm. 721  
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Support for \$500,000 Grant to build Gore Canyon Whitewater Park

Dear Chairman McClow and members of the board:

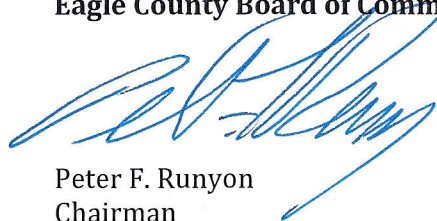
On behalf of the people of Eagle County, we want to encourage you to award Grand County the full amount of the Water Supply Reserve Account grant requests for \$500,000 to build Gore Canyon Whitewater Park on the Colorado River at Pumphouse.

Float boating recreation on the Upper Colorado River through Grand and Eagle Counties is a major contributor to our local and state economy. Hundreds of direct jobs are provided to our residents in the commercial rafting, kayaking and fishing industry. Thousands of residents and visitors from across the state and nation enjoy the Upper Colorado River between Gore Canyon and Glenwood Canyon each year. The people of Eagle County are strongly committed to both using and protecting this amazing natural resource.

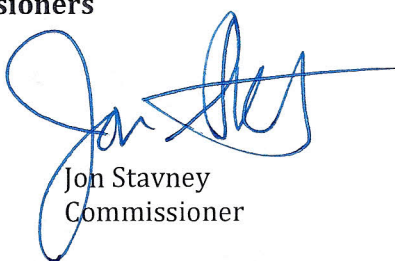
The Gore Canyon Whitewater Park will complement the approximately \$7.4 million investment Eagle County has recently made to purchase open space and build public recreational launch facilities along the Colorado River in partnership with BLM. A Whitewater Park at Pumphouse would significantly enhance this investment by providing a park-and-play facility between the Class V Gore Canyon reach and the family-friendly Class II-III reaches from Pumphouse to Dotsero.

The Water Supply Reserve Account is the most appropriate source of state funding to help us build the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park. This is a water project of statewide significance to the tourism industry. Non-consumptive recreational projects are often the point of discussion in the water community, but rarely are recreations projects proposed for funding by the WSRA. We support using \$100,000 from the Basin Account and \$400,000 from the Statewide Account to help build a water project that presents such a myriad of important benefits to the local and state economies. Please don't hesitate to contact Eagle County if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
**Eagle County Board of Commissioners**



Peter F. Runyon  
Chairman



Jon Stavney  
Commissioner



Sara J. Fisher  
Commissioner

Eagle County Building, 500 Broadway, P.O. Box 850, Eagle, Colorado 81631-0850



**EAGLE RIVER  
WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT**

846 Forest Road • Vail, Colorado 81657  
(970) 476-7480 • FAX (970) 476-4089  
[www.erwsd.org](http://www.erwsd.org)

August 30, 2012

Mr. John McClow, Chairman of the Board  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St. Rm. 721  
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Support for Grant to Build Gore Canyon Whitewater Park

Dear Chairman McClow and Members of the Board:

I am writing in support of the Grand County Government application for funds to construct the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park at Pumphouse on the Colorado River in Grand County. Eagle River Water & Sanitation District (District) provides water service to eastern Eagle County for up to 60,000 customers and visitors. The District supports beneficial in-stream uses of water, including whitewater parks on the western slope of Colorado as an important component of the state's tourism and recreation based economy and the pristine environment that supports it.

In partnership with the Town of Vail, the Vail Village Whitewater Park on Gore Creek has provided a tremendous economic impact on the local economy through the Teva Mountain Games. Tourists and residents alike are drawn to the site during high flows to watch the experts perform all sorts of tricks. During lower flows, beginners in "Learn to Kayak" programs are found testing their new skills in a safe environment. Whitewater Parks provide important active and passive recreation opportunities to our headwater's community. The recreational in-channel diversion water rights that support whitewater parks keep water in local streams and protect flushing flows that support robust aquatic environments. Attracting recreationists to the Colorado River in Grand County is expected to benefit the Grand County, as well as the Eagle County, economy. For these reasons I urge you to consider the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park at Pumphouse project for the requested funding.

Sincerely,

Rick Sackbauer, Chairman  
Eagle River Water & Sanitation District

cc: Eagle River Water & Sanitation District Board of Directors  
Glenn Porzak



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JAMES L. NEWBERRY  
District I, Winter Park 80482  
NANCY STUART  
District II, Granby 80446  
GARY BUMGARNER  
District III, Kremmling, 80459

RECEIVED

DEC 19 2012

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

E-Mail: grndcty1@co.grand.co.us  
PHONE: 970/725-3347  
Fax: 970/725-0565  
LURLINE UNDERBRINK CURRAN  
County Manager  
ANTHONY J. DICOLA  
County Attorney

December 18, 2012

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

**RE: GRAND COUNTY WSRA APPLICATION FOR A NON-CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION PROJECT  
TO BUILD GORE CANYON WHITEWATER PARK AT PUMPHOUSE ON COLORADO RIVER**

Dear Chairman McClow and Members of the Board:

Representatives from Grand County, Colorado River Water Conservation District, Colorado Basin Roundtable met with Director Russell George, CWCB staff (Jennifer Gimbel and Ted Kowalski) and the Attorney General's office on October 31. At that meeting, Grand County was asked by CWCB staff to request that the pending application for Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) funds to construct the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park be considered at the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) January 2013 board meeting rather than waiting until the next WSRA discussion at the March 2013 meeting.

The application for \$100,000 basin and \$400,000 state funds to construct the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park at Pumphouse on the Upper Colorado River was originally submitted to staff in anticipation of the September 2012 Board meeting. After learning of concerns expressed by staff, Grand County withdrew the application in order to allow time for further discussion and better mutual understanding of the project and other issues raised by staff. We all agreed on several steps to help clarify the issues that have been raised and much progress has been made since then. We have attached a summary addressing staff issues with proposed resolutions.

The CWCB Staff has stated that Grand County's project meets all the eligibility requirements as well as all of the evaluation criteria outlined in the WSRA grant process. Yet, we understand the CWCB Board and staff may still be hesitant because this would be the first whitewater park funded by WSRA funds. Grand County requests that the members of the CWCB Board address the root questions that are at the heart of the staff's concern regarding precedent:

- ***Are non-consumptive recreational water projects an appropriate use of state funds?***
- ***Will the CWCB Board approve a qualified WSRA application to fund construction of a RICD?***

The non-consumptive recreational use of water is a critical statewide economic driver in Colorado—especially in the headwater communities. The construction of the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park is an important and appropriate use of state funds that will enhance summer tourism to the region, create jobs, and enhance the recreation opportunities available in a popular, developed BLM recreational site. This reach of the Upper Colorado River is well known to boaters across the west for the reliable late summer flows provided by releases from upstream reservoirs bound for farmers in the Grand Valley.

The IBBC's December 2010 letter to Governors Ritter and Hickenlooper reaffirmed the intent of the 1177 process to be inclusive of rural, recreation economies by opening with this statement:

*"In order to ensure a water future for Colorado that continues our quality of life, our system of water allocation should be guided and supported by a comprehensive framework that will marshal ever-scarcer government resources in a manner that supports economic growth; protects our environment; provides for municipal, agricultural, and industrial needs; and supports rural, recreation, and ecotourism-based economies."*

The Gore Canyon Whitewater Park application submitted by Grand County is the ideal opportunity for the CWCB to demonstrate that the CWCB is fulfilling the intent of the Colorado Legislature as stated by the IBCC to *"marshal ever-scarcer government resources in a manner that supports economic growth...for rural, recreation and ecotourism-based economies."*

Grand County has answered many questions about the project and helped CWCB staff understand the extraordinary investment of over \$5,000,000 by this small headwater community of 14,000 people to the health of Colorado's rivers. Grand County has spent these significant resources to protect, mitigate and restore the environmental impacts created by a long history of water diversion projects in the Colorado River headwaters.

As part of the extensive negotiations with Denver Water, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and over 35 west slope water providers, Grand County has taken a leadership role to advocate for the health of the rivers and a carefully balanced approach to resolving water disputes in the headwaters in ways that provide multiple benefits. For example, Grand County has partnered with Denver Water to provide up to 3,500 acre feet of water to the CWCB In-Stream Flow program through releases of water into the Fraser River and from Williams Fork Reservoir. This water will be released during low flow periods to preserve and improve flows on the Colorado River including the recreational use of the water as it flows through the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park. Using firming project values of \$13,000/af, about \$45M worth of water was added to the CWCB ISF program through this cooperative effort.

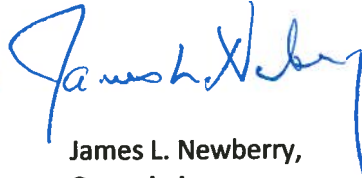
Support of the rural, recreational economy through development of the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park at Pumphouse is another small yet important part of these collaborative agreements with water providers on the east and west slope. A number of organizations including Denver Water and the Colorado River District submitted letters of support for the grant to be approved.

The Gore Canyon Whitewater Park is a project of statewide importance that addresses the non consumptive beneficial use water in Colorado. At the January meeting, Grand County respectfully requests the CWCBC Board to act on the merits of the application and approve the award of the WSRA funds to build this non consumptive recreational water project.

Sincerely,



Nancy Stuart,  
Chairman



James L. Newberry,  
Commissioner



Gary Bumpgarner,  
Commissioner

**ATTACHMENT**  
**SUMMARY & RESOLUTION OF ISSUES RAISED**  
**BY CWCB STAFF IN SEPTEMBER MEMO TO BOARD**

I. "A significant portion of the project costs have yet to be raised. Acquiring the necessary funds from boaters and other recreation industry partners as planned may take a significant amount of time and effort." Staff also raised questions about the amount of match being provided by Grand County and RICD legal expenses.

**EXPENSE SUMMARY**

|                |   |             |
|----------------|---|-------------|
| PLANNING       | Engineering, legal, outreach, etc       | \$495,414   |
| IMPLEMENTATION | Permitting, Construction, signage, etc. | \$1,190,700 |
|                | Total Project Estimate                  | \$1,686,114 |

**SOURCES OF FUNDS**

|      |                     |   |             |
|------|---------------------|---|-------------|
| 29%  | Grand County        | PLANNING  | \$500,000~  |
|      |                     | IMPLEMENTATION  |             |
| 6%   | Grand County        | Grant match   | \$100,000   |
| 6%   | WSRA-Basin Fund     | Approved by Colorado Basin Roundtable members         | \$100,000   |
| 23%  | WSRA-Statewide Fund | Application pending                                   | \$400,000   |
| 35%  | Other Partners      | In process (Eagle Co, boaters, industry, grants, etc) | \$600,000~  |
| 100% |                     | Amounts are rounded                                   | \$1,700,000 |

Grand County agrees that a significant portion of the project costs have yet to be raised and that raising these funds will take a significant amount of time and effort. This is true of many projects that are awarded funding.

***Grant funds are requested only to pay for a portion of the construction costs to build the structures.***

**REQUIRED GRANT MATCH IS EXCEEDED:** Grand County's contribution of eligible cash match commitment is \$100,000 which is in addition to significant in-kind contribution from staff. The Colorado Basin Roundtable unanimously allocated \$100,000 from the Colorado Basin Funds.

***This investment of \$200,000 cash match is four times the amount required by the WSRA guidelines.*** Grand County demonstrates a major financial commitment far beyond many other project proponents that are awarded funds through the WSRA process. The WSRA Criteria and Guidelines do not require that WSRA funds must be the final increment secured for projects and in fact, they are often used to generate momentum for funding from other partners. Grand County should not be held to fundraising standards not specified in the WSRA Criteria and Evaluation Guidelines.

**LEGAL EXPENSES:** During the October meeting with CWCB staff, questions were raised about the project planning budget and whether this included Grand County's legal expenses. For transparency, the overall project budget of about \$1.7 million includes all expenses, including RICD legal costs which are about 8% of the total project budget. Grand County's investment in the RICD legal process during planning is separate from the detailed implementation budget presented in the final grant application.

***To clarify, Grand County is NOT asking CWCB to pay for any legal expenses associated with the project. The WSRA funds will only be spent to build the structures in the river at Pumphouse.***

**FUNDRAISING FROM OTHER SOURCES:** A multi-year investment of \$340,000 has been requested from Eagle County. Eagle County is supportive of the project and is watching the status of CWCB's decision as they consider the funding request. Securing the WSRA grant will improve the likelihood of being able to keep the fundraising moving forward with Eagle County, boaters and the myriad of other smaller funding amounts currently being solicited. Grand County is making progress with other fundraising sources and will continue to keep staff apprised as other commitments are secured. For your information, Great Outdoors (GOCO) funding was pursued by Grand County but the project is ineligible because of the location on a BLM recreation site. GOCO doesn't fund projects on federal land.

**RESOLUTION:** If awarded the WSRA grant, Grand County agrees not to request the grant funds until it has completed securing necessary construction funding.

**II. "The timing of the grant prior to the agreement with Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District regarding Windy Gap being finalized."**

**RESOLUTION:** Grand County formally approved Windy Gap Firing Project Intergovernmental Agreement (WGFP IGA) on December 4, 2012 along with issuing a 1041 Permit for the Windy Gap Firing Project. The Municipal Subdistrict of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District accepted the 1041 Permit on December 6, 2012 and signed the WGFP IGA.

**III. "The timing of the grant prior to the issuance of a RICD decree by the water court and regarding concerns that the potential that the RICD could potentially foreclose the Green Mountain Pumpback as a potential future transbasin project." "The agreement that West Slope entities, including Grand County have with Denver Water, and potentially Northern, do not necessarily extend to other East Slope entities that could need the water."**

**RESOLUTION:** The staff's concern was resolved through a stipulation and decree to negotiate with the CWCB concerning a future Upper Colorado River Cooperative Project. The stipulation was approved by CWCB at the November 13, 2012 Board meeting, filed with the water court November 15<sup>th</sup> and approved by the court on November 18, 2012. If awarded the WSRA grant, Grand County agrees not to request the grant funds until after the RICD decree has been finalized by the water court.

**IV. "Staff agrees that the protections the RICD affords for recreational uses are valuable to the local economy and for meeting recreational needs in the state, and that the whitewater park would further enhance this value. Since this project would set a precedent for WSRA funding of RICD's it is important that all potential issues be resolved."**

**RESOLUTION:** Concerns raised by staff have all been addressed and now this "precedent" setting request rests in the hands of the Board members for deliberation and approval. The Gore Canyon Whitewater Park is a popular project of statewide importance that will help meet and enhance the recreational needs of water users in the state. Non consumptive projects, such as the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park, are an appropriate use of state funds as envisioned by the Legislature through the creation of the IBCC and Roundtable process and the WSRA funding mechanism.



**MEMBER  
JURISDICTIONS**

City of Glenwood  
Springs

City of Steamboat  
Springs

Town of Carbondale

**EAGLE COUNTY**

Basalt  
Eagle  
Gypsum  
Minturn  
Red Cliff  
Vail

**GRAND COUNTY**

Fraser  
Granby  
Grand Lake  
Hot Sulphur Springs  
Kremmling  
Winter Park

**JACKSON COUNTY**

Walden

**PITKIN COUNTY**

Aspen

**SUMMIT COUNTY**

Dillon  
Frisco  
Montezuma

September 10, 2012

Mr. John McClow, Chairman of the Board  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St. Rm. 721  
Denver, CO 80203

**RE: SUPPORT FOR GRANT TO BUILD GORE CANYON WHITEWATER PARK**

Dear Mr. McClow and Members of the Board,

This letter demonstrates the Northwest Colorado Council of Government's ("NWCCOG") full support for Grand County's \$500,000 Water Supply Reserve Account Grant application to build a whitewater park at Pumphouse on the Colorado River.

NWCCOG members recognize the positive economic and recreational benefits associated with enhanced nonconsumptive uses of water such as the proposed whitewater park. Funding for this project will help benefit tourism and recreation in our region and the State as a whole. River based recreation is a major contributor to the economic vitality of our region and the proposed location of this whitewater park provides an excellent opportunity to expand the season for recreational water users. This means greater stability for existing river based jobs and the potential for economic growth as well.

NWCCOG encourages the CWCB to approve this grant application.

Sincerely,

Liz Mullen  
Executive Director



September 7, 2012

Dear CWCB Directors:

We write on behalf of Trout Unlimited to express our support for the funding of Grand County's proposed Gore Canyon Whitewater Park at Pumphouse-Colorado River (July 2012).

Trout Unlimited is a non-profit organization with over 145,000 members nation-wide and nearly 10,000 members in Colorado. Most of our membership is comprised of avid anglers and hunters. Our mission is to conserve, protect, and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. We are a founding member of the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group and a member of the Learning by Doing Committee established under the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement.

We support the proposed water park for a number of reasons. First, the reach of the Colorado River where the park is to be located is an outstanding recreational resource which helps fuel Grand County's recreation-based economy. Second, the proposed whitewater park would enable Grand County to protect recreational flows through the reach in a manner consistent with Colorado water law, while also indirectly benefiting other values identified in the area including outstanding riparian and recreational fishing values. Third, the presence of RICDs for this reach of the river could facilitate delivery of environmental flows to be released pursuant to the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement and similar agreements currently being negotiated for the benefit of upstream reaches of the river. Finally, Trout Unlimited believes the proposed park can be built and operated in a manner that is not harmful to the trout fisheries.

The bulk of Water Supply Reserve Account funds have gone to consumptive projects and studies, and in the spirit of the Colorado Water for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act, we believe it is important for this program to also address Colorado's nonconsumptive needs. Grand County's whitewater park is an appropriate opportunity to provide some of that balance.

In short, Trout Unlimited believes the proposed whitewater park and associated RICDs will assist in meeting Colorado River goals established through cooperative, consensus based efforts and that the project is an appropriate use of Water Supply Reserve Account funds. We urge CWCB to approve funding for this project to benefit our state's namesake river and Colorado's recreational economy.

Sincerely,

David Nickum  
Executive Director  
Colorado Trout Unlimited

Mely Whiting  
Counsel  
Trout Unlimited - Colorado Water Project

***Trout Unlimited: America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization***

Denver Office: 1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100, Denver, CO 80202

PHONE: (303) 440-2937 FAX: (303) 440-7933 WEB: [www.coloradotu.org](http://www.coloradotu.org)



## Denver Board of Water Commissioners

H. Gregory Austin, President  
John R. Lucero, 1st Vice President  
Penfield W. Tate  
Thomas A. Gougeon  
Paula Herzmark

James S. Lochhead, CEO/ Manager

1600 W 12th Avenue  
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Phone: 303-628-6500  
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jim.lochhead@denverwater.org  
www.denverwater.org

August 30, 2012

Mr. John McClow, Chairman of the Board  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St., Rm. 721  
Denver, CO 80203

**Re: Support for Grant to Build Gore Canyon Whitewater Park**

Dear Mr. McClow and Members of the Board:

On behalf of Denver Water, I am writing in support of Grand County's Water Supply Reserve Account grant request for \$500,000 to build Gore Canyon Whitewater Park on the Colorado River at Pumphouse. We recognize that this is a non-consumptive recreational water project and that recreational boating is a significant component of Grand County's and Colorado's economy.

Throughout the lengthy negotiations culminating in the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement (CRCA), Denver Water and Grand County have worked in good faith with others to address a wide range of historic disputes. Recently, Grand County joined Denver Water in signing the CRCA. We trust that this letter will serve as a demonstration of our continued determination to cooperate on efforts important for Colorado's future.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

James S. Lochhead  
CEO/Manager



## Board of County Commissioners

970-453-2561  
fax 970-453-3535

Post Office Box 68  
208 East Lincoln Avenue  
Breckenridge, Colorado 80424

September 4, 2012

Mr. John McClow, Chairman of the Board  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St. Rm. 721  
Denver, CO 80203

RE: SUPPORT FOR \$500,000 GRANT TO BUILD GORE CANYON WHITEWATER PARK

Dear Chairman McClow and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the people of Summit County, we want to encourage you to award Grand County the full amount of the Water Supply Reserve Account grant requests for \$500,000 to build Gore Canyon Whitewater Park on the Colorado River at Pumphouse at your September meeting. This letter serves as a demonstration of our efforts to work with all concerned stakeholders to implement projects of statewide concern on both the east and west slope.

Non-consumptive projects, such as the Gore Canyon and Swan River Restoration project, exemplify the positive benefits to Colorado of projects that provide recreational and environmental benefits. We want to thank the Colorado Water Conservation Board for past support for the Swan River Project, and look forward to continuing to work with the CWCB to implement this large-scale restoration project.

River based recreation on the Blue River, Arkansas River and Colorado River is a major contributor to our tourism based economy. Residents and guests visiting Summit County spend thousands of dollars every year playing on and near the water. Hundreds of local jobs depend on the commercial boating and fishing industry. Building a whitewater park for kayakers at Pumphouse will provide positive economic benefits for all the headwater Counties.

This is a water project of statewide significance to the tourism industry. The Water Supply Reserve Account is the most appropriate source of state funding to help Grand County build the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park. We support using \$100,000 from the Basin Account and \$400,000 from the Statewide Account to help build a water project that will be a boost our local and state recreational economy.

Sincerely,

Dan Gibbs, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners