



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
Executive Director

Dick Wolfe, P.E.
Director/State Engineer

March 13, 2012

Members of the Arkansas River Basin Roundtable,

The Division of Water Resources (DWR) is pleased to support Phase 2 of the El Paso County / Upper Black Squirrel Creek Groundwater Study and Vulnerability Assessment. Primary water quality issues are not within the statutory authority of DWR, but lie with the Water Quality Control Division of the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment. Nevertheless, DWR is cognizant of the role of water quality in the ability to put Colorado's water resources to the various beneficial uses recognized in Colorado law. Where water quality affects the beneficial use of water the Division is rightly concerned.

The Scope of Work created for the El Paso County Water Quality Study Committee in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey and many local and regional stakeholders addresses the basic data needs important in answering questions about water quality in the basin. Establishing baseline groundwater quality in the alluvial aquifer will provide a base of knowledge on which to make future land use decisions in the area and for the multiple uses of water envisioned in the future.

DWR is committed to support this study through in-kind services. DWR will generate a data set of all the alluvial wells within the Upper Black Squirrel Creek basin comprising the location, depth, designated use, and other appropriate data from our "Hydrobase" database. Compilation of this data was identified as one of the initial tasks in the Phase 2 Scope of Work and is necessary as you lay the foundation of the study. The approximate value of DWR's in-kind personal services is estimated as \$1,500. I urge the members of the Arkansas River Basin Roundtable to support El Paso County in their Water Supply Reserve Account grant application.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Sares
Hydrogeological Services Manager
Colorado Division of Water Resources

Office of the State Engineer

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<http://water.state.co.us>

**UPPER BLACK SQUIRREL CREEK
GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
520 COLORADO AVENUE, SUITE C
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Peter Nichols
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1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 1600
Denver, CO 80203-2141

February 27, 2012

To whom it may concern:

The Upper Black Squirrel Creek Ground Water Management District (UBSCGWMD) and its Board of Directors would like to formally endorse the Phase II Water Quality Study as proposed by USGS for the El Paso County Water Quality Study Committee (WQSC). The WQSC was formed in large part because of UBSCGWMD's increasing concern about the water quality of the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Basins (UBSCB) alluvial aquifer, and the lack of data associated with it, and the district's ability to make informed decisions on both current and future water management rules and policies.

In 2006 the Board along with its consultants were responding to the El Paso County Planning and Land Use Department in regards to concerns that have been raised by the district for over 25 years in our records (See attachments).

In 2009 along with several Metropolitan Districts which rely on all or some alluvial water for their municipal customers took 12 or so samples in the main stem area of the UBSCB and had them tested for nitrate levels of which a large number were above the maximum allowable level. This information was taken to El Paso County BoCC and they then formed the WQSC. Phase I was the data compilation of existing data for UBSCB alluvial aquifer done by Colorado Geological Survey and completed with the help of several stake holder contributions. The UBSCGWMD contributed \$5,000.00, plus an estimated amount of \$5,000.00 to our geologist, who did additional pro bono work, estimated around \$5,000.00. The UBSCGWMD Board of Directors is committed to Phase II for another \$5,000.00 plus has already started with our in kind services. Our paid geologist has done extensive mapping of existing alluvial wells that will meet USGS's plan for monitoring wells which will help offset the need to drill monitoring wells.

In closing, the UBSCGWMD asks for your assistance to help fund what we feel is one of the most important studies this basin has ever undergone. We need to be able to form a baseline water quality of this precious resource, so that everyone can make sound fact based decisions going forward in how we manage and use the water and handle the discharges to the UBSC alluvial aquifer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dave Doran", followed by a horizontal line.

Dave Doran
President of the UBSCGWMD



Colorado Springs Utilities

It's how we're all connected

March 5, 2012

Mr. Gary Barber
Chair, Arkansas Basin Roundtable
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Support for Water Supply Reserve Account Grant Application for Phase II Water Quality Study

Dear Mr. Barber:

Colorado Springs Utilities (Springs Utilities) is writing to offer its support and endorsement of the Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) Grant Application for the Phase II Groundwater Quality Study (Phase II Study) being submitted on behalf of the El Paso County Water Quality Study Committee (WQSC). In 2009, the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) of El Paso County established the WQSC to gather the data necessary to support the protection and enhancement of alluvial aquifers in east-central El Paso County, with an initial focus on the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Basin. The mission of this diverse group of public, private, and non-profit stakeholders is to evaluate existing water quality data, fill data gaps, and explore land use and water resource planning implications associated with the findings of the investigations. As a local and regional partner to many of the water providers who rely on the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Designated Groundwater Basin as a critical source of supply, Springs Utilities understands the importance of collecting baseline water quality and hydrologic data to inform land use and water resource planning decisions.

The purpose of the proposed project is to build on information gathered during Phase I of the Study and conduct Phase II of the Groundwater Quality Study to: 1) refine the distribution, geometry, and hydrology of the alluvial and shallow bedrock aquifers in the northwestern portion of the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Basin; and 2) to establish a groundwater monitoring network to detect and quantify impacts to water quality resulting from existing and proposed land uses that may degrade water supply. The study will be performed by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), with direction from the WQSC. The BoCC and other stakeholders within El Paso County will use the data and recommendations to inform land use planning and determine if changes to existing policies and regulations are warranted. The study will also help water users make informed decisions regarding water supply, infrastructure planning, source water protection, and public education and outreach through an increased understanding of local hydrogeologic conditions and water quality concerns.

We ask the Arkansas Basin Roundtable to please consider approving the WSRA Grant Application for the Phase II Study, based on the issues the study addresses, the value provided to regional stakeholders and the cooperation and collaboration that the study promotes. The funds requested will augment both the financial and in-kind contributions made by the BoCC and members of the WQSC. Springs Utilities continues to support the efforts of the WQSC, both through in-kind support of the Phase II Study, as well as through previous financial and in-kind contributions on related work, including the recently completed *Upper Black Squirrel Creek Basin Aquifer Recharge and Storage Evaluation*.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (719) 668-4052 if you have any questions or would like to discuss Springs Utilities support for the Phase II Groundwater Quality Study in greater detail.

Sincerely,

Brett W. Gracely, P.E., D.WRE
Water Resources Manager

PIKES PEAK REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 1976, Colorado Springs, CO 80901, (719) 660-0948

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Forest Lakes Metro District

Treasurer
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January 9, 2012

Via Electronic and/or Ordinary Mail

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Support of Phase 2 Groundwater Quality Vulnerability Assessment Study

The Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA) took action at its January 4, 2012 Board Meeting to formally support the Phase 2 Groundwater Quality Vulnerability Assessment Study in the Upper Black Squirrel Basin. The Phase 2 study has been scoped with the USGS and follows a Phase 1 study literature review. The recommendations for the Phase 2 scope have been made by Mr. Ralf Topper of Colorado Geological Survey, now with the D.W.R., and relate back to the 2006 Alluvial Storage Study that Basin Roundtable and CWCB supported. The current Phase 2 scope of work has been crafted over several months of meetings between the USGS and local agricultural, municipal, industrial, environmental and local government technocrats. There is significant buy-in from a variety of local stake holders, including the Groundwater Management District, El Paso County, City of Colorado Springs and several of the Municipal District's. This project has an obvious regional impact to the Basin and its surrounding area, but its results and how they can be used for land use, oil and gas impact evaluations, and ISDS code policy decisions is a template that can be applied across the Arkansas Basin and the State.

The PPRWA requests your consideration of financial support for this important on-going effort.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (719) 322-2040 if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Curtis A. Mitchell, P.E.
President

cc: PPRWA Directors