

December 16, 2013

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

Re: Metro Roundtable Support for Metro Wastewater Reclamation District
Water Supply Reserve Account (Basin Funds) Grant Application
South Platte River Diurnal Flow Study

Dear Mr. Hamel:

On December 11, 2013, representatives of the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District (Metro District) in Denver presented a grant application to fund the *South Platte River Diurnal Flow Study*. The total budget for completion of the Study is \$100,000, and the Metro District is seeking funds from both the Metro and South Platte Basin Roundtables.

Because of the legal exercise of water rights on the South Platte River, treated water discharged from the Metro District's Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility often makes up as much as 85 percent of the flow in the South Platte River north of Denver. Because there is a normal, daily pattern to water use throughout the Metro District's service area, there is a similarly predictable diurnal flow variation in the River downstream of the discharge. The diurnal flow pattern in the South Platte River downstream of the Metro District's discharge can affect the extent to which both agricultural and municipal water rights holders can divert their decreed water rights, and current water rights administration practices may result in unintended impacts to some downstream water rights. The purposes of this study are to identify the water users likely affected by the diurnal flows and to what degree; identify the potential benefits of mitigating or "dampening" the diurnal flows; identify potential administrative or physical actions, including a flow equalization pond, that could provide those benefits; and identify the potential costs of providing administrative and physical changes to address these issues. The results of this study may allow more efficient use of appropriated water in the basin.

The Metro District will provide matching funds for the study. To date, the Metro District has expended \$27,185 to support the stakeholder process for developing the scope of work for this study, which represents more than 20 percent of the \$100,000 study budget.

The Metro Roundtable voted unanimously to approve the Metro District's grant application of \$50,000 from Metro Roundtable Basin funds. We respectfully request the Colorado Water Conservation Board approve the *South Platte River Diurnal Flow Study* grant application.

Yours truly,



Mark Koleber
Chair, Metro Roundtable

cc: Jacob Bornstein
Craig Godbout

January 21, 2014

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

**Re: South Platte Roundtable Support for Metro Wastewater Reclamation District
Water Supply Reserve Account (Basin Funds) Grant Application
South Platte River Diurnal Flow Study**

Dear Mr. Hamel,

The South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT) voted at our January 14, 2014 meeting to approve the WSRA application from the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District (Metro District) to identify the water users likely affected by the diurnal flows and to what degree; identify the potential benefits of mitigating or “dampening” the diurnal flows; identify potential administrative or physical actions, including a flow equalization pond, that could provide those benefits; and identify the potential costs of providing administrative and physical changes to address these issues.

The Roundtable members voted unanimously to allocate \$50,000 from the South Platte Basin Funds for this project.

The South Platte Basin Roundtable underwent an evaluation and approval process with this project and believes the application meets the Threshold and Evaluation Criteria for the WSRA Grant Program. The South Platte Roundtable has developed a revised grant review process. As part of this new process, the diurnal flow study was reviewed by members of an ad-hoc grant review team prior to submittal to the full Roundtable. Mike Shimmin, roundtable members, was the liaison with the applicant and presented his support for the project. With a quorum of members present, there was a motion and second and after discussion, the South Platte Basin Roundtable members voted unanimously to support the full funding request proposed by the Metro District. There were no votes of dissent or abstentions.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if there are any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Sean T. Cronin,
Chair, South Platte Basin Roundtable