

July 11, 2013

Ms. Rebecca Mitchell
Water Supply Planning Section Chief
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Becky,

The South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT) voted at our June 11, 2013 meeting to approve the WSRA application from the Colorado Water Trust for funds to be used to deconstruct the Josh Ames Diversion Structure and restore the Poudre River riparian corridor and wetlands in Sterling Ponds area. The project is part of a larger restoration effort in collaboration with the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department.

The Roundtable members voted unanimously to allocate \$75,000 from the South Platte Basin Funds for this project and to recommend that the CWCB Board approve \$200,000 for the project from the Statewide Account at the September 2013 meeting. The Roundtable members also supported the request of \$25,000 from the Metro Basin Account and are pleased to learn that Metro Roundtable members also voted unanimously to allocate funds from their Basin Account to 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 is developing a revised grant review process. As part of the new procedure, The Colorado Water Trust project was reviewed by members of an ad-hoc grant review team prior to submittal to the full Roundtable. Larry Howard, the Larimer County Municipal Representative was the liaison with the applicant and presented his support for the project. Larimer County representative Commissioner Tom Donnelly presented information in support of this collaboration with the Colorado Water Trust. Additional letters of support were presented to the Roundtable and many diverse members spoke in support of 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 Colorado Water Trust in the application. There were no votes of dissent or abstentions.

We encourage the CWCB staff and board to support the recommendation to fund the full \$200,000 from the Statewide Fund, the \$25,000 from the Metro Basin Account and the \$75,000 from the South Platte Basin Account. The application from the Colorado Water Trust and the letters of support are attached to this letter. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there are any additional questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sean T. Cronin,
Chair, South Platte Basin Roundtable