Animas Watershed Partnership 2340 CR 203 Durango, CO 81301 (970) 903-9361

Mr. Chris Sturm Stream Restoration Coordinator Watershed and Flood Protection Section Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

Dear Mr. Sturm,

Below and attached please find our final report and deliverables produced under the Animas Watershed Partnership and San Juan RC&D's "Animas River and Lightner Creek Restoration Planning Project."

We are proud to report that CWCB's Watershed Restoration funds have produced data and plans resulting in on the ground watershed improvements on the Florida River, in advancements in our understanding of the scope of the challenge of addressing sediment concerns in Lightner Creek, and in positioning the Animas Watershed Partnership to take increasingly meaningful action toward a healthy Animas Watershed. The Animas Watershed Partnership is deeply appreciative of CWCB's support of these efforts.

TASK 1 – Animas River Action Plan

Description of Task

Complete 3-Year Action Plan for Animas River Restoration. This plan will parlay the findings of the *Animas Watershed-Based Plan* into a set of priority projects that are ready for funding and action. The plan will be drafted by the Animas Watershed Partnership (AWP) Coordinator, through coordination with key partners.

<u>Deliverable:</u> The completed "Animas Watershed Partnership Strategic Action Plan 2013-2016" is attached for your review, This plan, informed by substantial partner outreach and steering committee input, is actively guiding AWP's efforts.

TASK 2 – Animas Watershed Partnership Website

Description of Task

Establish an AWP website in order to effectively and efficiently share information on the purpose, plans, actions and accomplishments of the Animas Watershed Partnership. Develop a site effective at engaging and connecting interested individuals to the on-the ground work of the partnership.

<u>Deliverable:</u> The website has been up and running since 2012 and we continue to update and refine the content. Please visit http://animaswatershedpartnership.org/.

TASK 3 – Lightner Creek & Animas River Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project Implementation Planning Description of Task

Develop an Implementation Plan that will enable the AWP to successfully implement, measure the effects of, and conduct outreach around a Best Management Practices (BMP) to decrease sedimentation to lower Lightner Creek and to the Animas River. CWCB Watershed Restoration planning funds will enable AWP to "hit the ground running" with a Project Implementation Plan draft for *"Lightner Creek and Animas River Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project"*. Completion of this Project Implementation Plan will enable the commencement

of funding (already approved) of the project by the Colorado Non-point Source program. The plan will be drafted by the AWP Coordinator, through coordination with key partners.

<u>Deliverable:</u> The completed "Lightner Creek and Animas Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project Implementation Plan" is attached. The Plan is currently guiding the use of funds to implement fencing and irrigation improvements and monitor aquatic and riparian habitat in partnership with two landowners on the Florida River, as well as outreach and education efforts by the Animas Watershed Partnership.

TASK 4 –Improving Lightner Creek Sediment and flow rating curve

Description of Task

Produce an improved rating curve for Lightner Creek in order to improve accuracy and sensitivity of loading calculations during the monsoon season, as recommended in the *Lightner Creek Sediment Monitoring Initiative Report – Phase 2.*

<u>Deliverable:</u> This data collection effort is now complete and the attached "Lightner Creek Sediment Monitoring and Rating Curve – Phase III" reports the findings and products of this challenging effort.

Thank you again for your support of these efforts. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this final report or the attached deliverables.

Most sincerely,

Ann Oliver

Coordinator Animas Watershed Partnership