Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR WATER FUTURE

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Attn: Mr. Craig Godbout
Program Manager, Water Supply Planning Section
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver CO 80203

August 11, 2014

Re: WSRA Grant Recommendation - El Paso County Groundwater Quality Study Project Phase 2-C (Task no. 5)
Dear Mr. Godbout;

At its July 9, 2014 Arkansas Basin Roundtable meeting, the Roundtable unanimously supported the $51,932.50 WSRA grant for the El Paso County Groundwater Quality Study Project Phase 2-C (Task no. 5) and recommends $10,000 from the Ark Basin Funds, which supported a phase 1 study and prior aquifer storage capacity quantification study, and the remaining balance of $41,932.50 from the Statewide funds. The Roundtable believes that aquifer storage in the Arkansas, South Platte and Colorado River Basins is key to future water supply management, administration, and meeting the needs of a growing Colorado economy. The Study area in the El Paso County Phase 2 study is the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Groundwater Basin, which is one of Colorado's eight (8) designated groundwater basins and an alluvial storage resource of significance identified in SB 06-193.

The total phase 2 groundwater quality baseline data, age dating of supply, and infiltration rate based vulnerability to pollution modeling scope is approximately 70% complete and the proposed $51,932.50 WSRA grant will be paired with contributions from local stakeholders and USGS matching funds to complete the approximately $344,000 study in mid-2015.

The preservation of water quality in the Upper Black Squirrel Alluvium is critical for agricultural interests, municipal interests, and a growing population of rural residential citizen, Until now little baseline data or modeling had been done to ensure local land use planners and water supply technocrats have the tools to protect and preserve this water resource and future alluvial storage resource for future generations. The Roundtable sees this as a project of Statewide significance given that the methodology used in the study for age dating the aquifer supply and correlating a groundwater pollution vulnerability and probability model is a tool that has been very valuable to this aquifer, to the Eagle River alluvial aquifer, and would likely be a valuable tool for many other alluvial aquifers throughout the state where competing uses and urbanization threaten to increase the gap through diminished water quality. Further, the significance with this study site having been identified in the SB-06-193 work, its relatively large storage capacity estimated at approximately 500,000 AF, and its geographic proximity to major front range metropolitan areas makes it an asset of importance in solving the water supply and climate variability challenges of the 21st Century.

If you have any further questions regarding the Roundtables support, please don't hesitate to call me.

Regards,

E.L. Konarski, Chr.
Arkansas Basin Roundtable

Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR WATER FUTURE