



CITY of TRINIDAD

P. O. Box 880
TRINIDAD, COLORADO 81082
TELEPHONE (719) 846-9843
FAX NO. (719) 846-4140

January 5, 2014

Re: Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District WSRA Grant Application

Dear Arkansas Basin Roundtable and Colorado Water Conservation Board:

The City of Trinidad strives to ensure the health of our community—and the region—and works with many agencies and organizations in order to do so. As a stakeholder in the Purgatoire River Watershed, the City also realizes the importance of maintaining the quality of our water and our environment. The City therefore strongly supports the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District's grant application to establish a working group that will address issues in the greater watershed through project implementation and education.

To establish open space, offer more outdoor recreation options, and in turn promote conservation, the City recently established the Boulevard Addition Nature Park. With Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) funding, the City was able to acquire land to finalize the creation of this park. Additional funding has been received from various State entities to not only restore trout habitat but to build a trailhead and the first section (of four) of the Old Sopris Trail, a project that will connect the City with Trinidad Lake State Park and provide pedestrian access to many more acres of park land. Having cleaned up this property following decades of illegal dumping activity, the City now intends to address the invasive species that have pervaded the riverbank and created dense thickets that limit native species growth and access to the Purgatoire River. As a recreation site, as a preserved nature area, and as an outdoor classroom, the Boulevard Addition Nature Park is a holistic endeavor that will help improve our watershed.

The City of Trinidad appreciates the opportunity to improve our watershed through collaborative efforts, as well as provide healthy-living options for our citizens. We therefore request your consideration of the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative project.

Sincerely,

Audra Garrett
Interim City Manager



3590 E. Main Street
Trinidad, CO 81082
303-543-8688

www.purgatoirepartnership.org

January 3, 2014

Re: Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District WSRA Grant Application

Dear Arkansas Basin Roundtable and Colorado Water Conservation Board:

The Purgatoire Watershed Partnership strongly supports the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District's application for a Water Supply Reserve Account grant and request for funding from the Arkansas Basin Roundtable and the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The Purgatoire Watershed Partnership (PWP) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to address the health of the 2.2 million acre Purgatoire River Watershed through collaborative efforts and by providing stakeholders with a venue for addressing their concerns. The PWP welcomes the opportunity to participate in projects that improve the Watershed, whether agricultural, municipal, recreational, environmental or educational in nature, and the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative is one such endeavor.

The PWP's recently completed *Purgatoire River Watershed Plan* specifically identifies projects that include mitigating invasive species and educating the public and youth about our watersheds and water conservation. The PWP works closely with the Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River Conservation District and the City of Trinidad, among other groups, in order to implement these projects, efforts that wouldn't be possible without grant funds.

The PWP reiterates its support of the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative project and appreciates the invitation to participate and simultaneously further our mission to improve the health of the Purgatoire River Watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen L Wolf", written in a cursive style.

Karen L Wolf
Watershed Coordinator



SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO

Water Conservancy District

"Your investment in water"

January 5, 2015

Mr. Craig Godbout
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Reserve Account Grants Program
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Godbout,

On behalf of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Southeastern), I am writing to urge you to support the formation of an Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) through the use of Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC) Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) grant funds.

Improving the health and sustainability of the all Arkansas basin watersheds through regional collaboration is vital to safeguarding and improving the local and Colorado's water resources. A partnership with the ARWC can help coordinate efforts, share financial and technical resources, and maximize projects and programs within Southeastern's jurisdiction.

Regional solutions are needed to deal with the consequences of recent and future fires and floods, as well as risks that threaten Colorado's water supply and water quality. A regional approach is necessary to tackle complex and cross-jurisdictional issues. The formation of this proposed collaboration will help address common issues through the development of a basin-wide strategic plan, education and outreach programs, and support of local on-the-ground projects.

Southeastern supports the CWCBC WSRA grant request to form the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative. Southeastern is looking forward to working closely with the collaborative for the betterment of the entire Arkansas River Basin.

Sincerely,

James W. Broderick
Executive Director



Pueblo County Office
125 Riverwalk Place
Pueblo, CO 81003

719-447-5012
fountainckdist@aol.com
www.fountain-crk.org

El Paso County Office
975 S. Union Blvd, Suite 219
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

January 5, 2015

Craig Godbout
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Reserve Account Grants Program
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Godbout:

The Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District offers our support to the formation of an Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) through the use of Arkansas River Basin Round Table and State Water Supply Reserve Account grant funds.

Increasing the health and resiliency of our watersheds by working together is the key to protecting and enhancing Colorado's water resources. Collaboration through the ARWC can help coordinate efforts, share financial and technical resources, and maximize projects and programs within the Arkansas Basin.

This is a critical time for Colorado as we move forward with the State Water Plan. Sustainable Watershed-scale solutions are needed to deal with the ramifications of major fires and floods, as well as the emerging issues threatening Colorado's water supply and quality. A collaborative approach is critical for addressing these complex, cross-jurisdictional issues – from mitigating poor forest health required to reduce wildfire impacts on water supplies and communities to improving the hydrologic function and water quality in "at risk" watersheds. Formation of an Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative will help address our shared issues by development of a basin-wide strategic plan to support the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan, focused education and outreach programs, and local on-the-ground projects.

By this letter, the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District recommends and supports the Arkansas River Basin's grant request to form the ARWC and we look forward to working with this entity to further our efforts in the Arkansas Basin.

Sincerely,

Larry Small,
Executive Director



City of Victor

*500 Victor Avenue
P. O. Box 86
Victor, Colorado 80860*

January 27, 2015

Re: Request for WSRA Grant

Dear Arkansas Basin Roundtable and Colorado Water Conservation Board:

The City of Victor works diligently to secure and maintain a safe source of water for our citizens and customers. As a contributory source of water to the Arkansas, we are determined to provide safe water to our neighbors downstream as well. With this in mind, the City strongly supports the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District's grant application for dollars for GIS support that will go towards mapping Victor's high valued infrastructure that can include reservoirs, valve pits, pipeline or even roads that are important to operation of your water supply.

The plan is to review environmental, water supply, agriculture and recreation data (including data compiled during the BIP planning process for Watershed Health) from a variety of sources. Develop a process to include currently identified water supply priorities into relative emergency decision support systems, such as the Wildfire Decision Support System (WFDSS), Community Wildfire Protection Plans, etc and to identify knowledge gaps to address in the strategic plan.

Last year, the City completed its Source Water Protection Plan and has adopted a Watershed Protection Ordinance. We are working diligently to protect our reservoirs. We are thrilled for this opportunity to continue the work to protect our water source and those users on the Arkansas River and ask for your support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Hakes, Jr.

Mayor



Cucharas Sanitation and Water District



RECEIVED

February 13, 2015

FEB 24 2015

Craig Godbout – WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Re: Arkansas Basin Watershed Collaborative – LAVWCD's WSRA application

Dear Mr. Godbout and CWCB Board:

Please accept this letter in support of the application from the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District for establishing a watershed collaborative for the Arkansas Basin, and collaboratively implementing projects, particularly the Cucharas Watershed Wildfire Planning Phase 2 project. Addressing the potential of a major wildfire in the Upper Cucharas River basin is Huerfano County's highest priority for protecting our water supplies.

As a municipal water supply participant, represented by Huerfano County on the Arkansas Basin Roundtable, our water district is an active participant in the development of the Basin Implementation Plan. We support the inclusion of watershed health in that process and see these efforts as an essential step in protecting our critical watersheds from fire, invasive species, and other issues that impair the availability of adequate and safe water for our municipal customers. We also participated both financially and actively in Phase 1 through the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District's Pre-Fire Assessment & Treatment Identification project.

Residents of the Upper Cucharas Watershed, primarily the area in and around Cuchara, CO, and served by our water and sewer district, join us in this letter of support by their continued activities with Firewise/USA creating defensible structure space from wildfire and improved fuel breaks along critical emergency evacuation routes. Protecting our water supply, and that of cities downstream from us, from the devastating effects of wildfire complements these efforts and is critical to the life of our small mountain community.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Arthur J. Pierce
Chairman

16925 State Highway 12
Cuchara, Colorado 81055-9775
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Internet: www.y.cuchara.org

Art Pierce	Chairman
Henry Harnly	Vice-Chairman
Gerald T. Van Nort	Secretary
Jim Berg	Treasurer
Jim Ludwick	Director