

January 28, 2015

Craig Godbout
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Craig,

The South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT) voted at our January 13, 2015 meeting to approve the WSRA application from the Open Water Foundation for funds to assist in the implementation of the Agricultural Land/Water Buffer Feasibility Analysis. This project seeks to bring together the distinct interests of farmers and ranchers, local governments and municipal water providers to help leverage the financial resources necessary to protect irrigated farmland in northern Colorado while providing a portion of water for municipal uses.

The South Platte Basin Roundtable underwent an evaluation and approval process, and was first reviewed by the SPBRT Needs Committee and approved unanimously and forwarded to the full basin roundtable. I understand several entities have expressed support for this project including, the Weld County Board of Commissioners, Colorado Corn Growers Association, Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy. In addition, many members spoke in support of the project indicating that this is the type of creative and innovative concept that the Roundtable members want to move forward and help support the recommendations in the South Platte/Metro Basin Implementation Plan. This proposal helps implement three specific strategies identified in our BIP including:

- Continuance of state funding for pilot projects for water sharing partnerships between cities and agriculture entities including alternative water transfer methods
- Support of free market water sharing transaction methods without interference
- Support for agricultural conservation easements coupled with municipal water lease options

During its January 13, 2015 meeting, the Roundtable members voted unanimously to allocate \$20,000 from the South Platte Basin Funds for this project and to recommend that the CWCB Board approve \$84,954 for the project from the Statewide Account at the March 2015 meeting.

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