

Subdistrict #3; provide data to influence the accuracy of the currently accepted groundwater model; improve current tools being used for meeting delivery obligations of the Rio Grande Compact; and significantly improve groundwater administration and management in the Rio Grande Basin.

Over the years, water users in the CRSWUA have collectively observed aquifer system behaviors that are not entirely in agreement with groundwater model outputs. The current groundwater model of the San Luis Valley uses available hydro-stratigraphic, well pumping, and water level data to calibrate recent water level and flow conditions. The State has used this model (part of the Rio Grande Decision Support System or RGDSS), to forecast future conditions under current and proposed pumping and hydrologic conditions, and intends to use that data in the future as the basis for promoting sustainable Basin groundwater administration.

Objectives:

- Develop ground water data to address “Rules Governing Withdrawal of Ground Water in Water Division No. 3”
- Support optimum use of water, consistent with preservation of the priority system of water rights
- Provide scientific data to the RG Basin and DWR to create a plan for groundwater sustainability
- Develop historical analysis and real time data to identify and address injurious stream depletions
- Help identify injurious depletions on the San Antonio, Conejos, La Jara, Alamosa and Rio Grande
- Improve Colorado’s ability to more accurately meet its Rio Grande Compact obligations
- Support agriculture by helping to regulate and balance the use of limited surface and groundwater resources
- Help maintain a sustainable water supply in the Confined and Unconfined Aquifer

Discussion: The proposed needs assessment aligns with many of the Goals and Measurable Outcomes identified in the Draft Rio Grande Basin Water (Implementation) Plan (Goals and Measurable Outcomes: #2, #3, #5 & #6; Section 3.2.1, page 122). In addition, this project comports with aspects of the “Basin Roundtable Identified Projects and Methods” (Section 6.5.1, page 275), also identified in the Draft BIP.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria:

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

Tier 1-3 Evaluation Criteria:

Staff has reviewed and evaluated the applicant’s response to the Statewide Account Supplemental Scoring Matrix and has determined that it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Please refer to WSRA Application for applicant’s detailed response.

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
Conejos Water Conservancy District	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Alamosa/La Jara Water Conservancy District	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Rio Grande Water Conservation District	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000
Colorado Division of Water Resources	\$0	\$23,500	\$23,500
CRSWUA	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000
Sub-total matching funds	\$90,000	\$27,500	\$117,500
WSRA Rio Grande Basin Account	\$19,000	n/a	\$19,000
WSRA Statewide Account	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
Total	\$309,000	\$27,500	\$336,500

All products, data and information developed as a result of this grant must be provided to the CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation. This information will in turn be made widely available to Basin Roundtables and the general public and will help promote the development of a common technical platform. In accordance with the revised WSRA Criteria and Guidelines, staff would like to highlight additional reporting and final deliverable requirements. The specific requirements are provided below.

Reporting: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of the executed contract. The progress report shall describe the completion or partial completion of the tasks identified in the scope of work including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Deliverable: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report that summarizes the project and documents how the project was completed. This report may contain photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

Engineering: All engineering work (as defined in the Engineers Practice Act (§12-25-102(10) C.R.S.)) performed under this grant shall be performed by or under the responsible charge of professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice Engineering.