

NORTH PLATTE BASIN ROUNDTABLE

Wm. Kent Crowder, Chair
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July 1, 2015

Mr. Craig Godbout, Program Manager
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Planning Section
WSRA Application
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 718
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Water Supply Reserve Account Grant Application for the Jackson County Basin-Wide Augmentation Plan – Jackson County Water Conservancy District - \$161,000 from Basin Account WSRA Funds

Dear Mr. Godbout:

This letter is to advise you that the WSRA grant application submitted by the Jackson County Water Conservancy District for \$161,000.00 in Basin Account funds for the Jackson County Basin-wide Augmentation project was reviewed by the North Platte Basin Roundtable and was approved by a majority vote of the voting members present at the North Platte Basin Roundtable meeting held on the 23rd day of June, 2015. Eight voting members of the Roundtable voted to approve Basin Account funding for the project and one member voted against funding the project. The minority report setting forth the reason for this dissenting vote is set forth below.

The development of a basin-wide augmentation plan was identified as a planned project in the North Platte Basin Implementation Plan in order to meet certain goals set forth in the BIP. A basin-wide augmentation plan would assist in maintaining and maximizing the consumptive use of water permitted in the Supreme Court Decree and the baseline depletion allowance of the Three State Agreement and stimulates economic development and diversification through strategic water use and development.

The feasibility of a basin-wide augmentation plan has not been previously studied in the North Platte Basin. The inclusion of the augmentation plan as a planned project in the North Platte Basin Implementation Plan was prompted, in part, by recent requests for augmentation water made to both Jackson County Water Conservancy District and the Division 6 office. Additionally, the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI, 2007) reported a small water supply “gap” to meet future municipal and industrial development in the basin, yet also identified concerns over lack of growth and economic development in the basin. These recent requests, as well as reported basin water needs and concerns, indicate there is clearly a need for augmentation water in the basin.

The goal of the project is to identify and secure several small augmentation supplies throughout the

basin that would augment depletions in many of the major tributaries in the basin, including the North Fork North Platte River, Little Grizzly Creek, Grizzly Creek, Illinois River, Michigan River, Canadian River, and North Platte River mainstem basins.

As it is my opinion that the dissenting vote was a result of a disagreement between me as the President of the applicant, the Jackson County Water Conservancy District, and Barbara Vasquez, the environmental representative on the North Platte Basin Roundtable regarding the degree of direct involvement roundtable members should have in the affairs of the District, I asked that she provide the wording for the minority report. This is wording provided: "Barbara Vasquez was the lone dissenting vote on the JCWCD WSRA grant application to develop an Augmentation Plan for the Jackson County portion of the North Platte Basin. She is not fundamentally opposed to such a plan, but lacks sufficient information with which to develop a positive opinion. She had requested in both the January and March NPBRT meetings that the entire Roundtable have the opportunity to hear from an outside expert who could speak to the challenges and difficulties of developing an augmentation plan. Mr. Crowder, Chair of the NPBRT and President of JCWCD Board of Directors, made it clear such an expert would be invited to address only the JCWCD. It is troubling to have an information imbalance between the two groups when there is a substantial overlap in voting membership."

Please feel free to call me with any questions that you may have regarding the North Platte Basin Roundtable meeting or our level of support for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wm. Kent Crowder", written in a cursive style.

Wm. Kent Crowder, Chair
North Platte Basin Roundtable