



# COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD



## WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT APPLICATION FORM

Today's Date: August 28, 2015

Eagle County Conservation District Irrigation Asset Inventory Program

### Name of Water Activity/Project

Eagle County Conservation District

### Name of Applicant

Colorado Basin Round Table

Amount from Statewide Account:

Amount from Basin Account(s):

Total WSRA Funds Requested:

54,300

54,300

### Approving Basin Roundtable(s)

(If multiple basins specify amounts in parentheses.)

FEIN:

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### Required Exhibits

- A. Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule
- B. Project Map
- C. As Needed (i.e. letters of support, photos, maps, etc.)

### Appendices – Reference Material

- 1. Program Information
- 2. Insurance Requirements
- 3. WSRA Standard Contract Information (Required for Projects Over \$100,000)
- 4. W-9 Form (Required for All Projects Prior to Contracting)

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### **Instructions**

To receive funding from the Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA), a proposed water activity must be approved by the local Basin Roundtable **AND** the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC). The process for Basin Roundtable consideration and approval is outlined in materials in Appendix 1.

Once approved by the local Basin Roundtable, the applicant should submit this application **with a detailed statement of work including budget and schedule as Exhibit A** to CWCBC staff by the application deadline.

WSRA applications are due with the roundtable letter of support 60 calendar days prior to the bi-monthly Board meeting at which it will be considered. Board meetings are held in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Meeting details, including scheduled dates, agendas, etc. are posted on the CWCBC website at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us> Applications to the WSRA Basin Account are considered at every board meeting, while applications to the WSRA Statewide Account are only considered at the March and September board meetings.

When completing this application, the applicant should refer to the WSRA Criteria and Guidelines available at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-supply-reserve-account-grants/Documents/WSRACriteriaGuidelines.pdf>. In addition, the applicant should also refer to the [Supplemental Scoring Matrix](#) applied to Evaluation Criteria Tiers 1-3 for Statewide Account requests.

The application, statement of work, budget, and schedule **must be submitted in electronic format** (Microsoft Word or text-enabled PDF are preferred) and can be emailed or mailed on a disk to:

Craig Godbout - WSRA Application  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St., Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203  
[Craig.godbout@state.co.us](mailto:Craig.godbout@state.co.us)

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Craig Godbout at: 303-866-3441 x3210 or [craig.godbout@state.co.us](mailto:craig.godbout@state.co.us).

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### Part I. - Description of the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner);

1.	Applicant Name(s):	Eagle County Conservation District		
	Mailing address:	PO Box 360 Eagle, CO 8163		
	FEIN #:	84-1054028		
	Primary Contact:	Audra Meyers	Position/Title:	District Manager
	Email:	eaglecountycd@gmail.com		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: (970) 230-0844	Office:	(970) 945-5494 ext3
	Alternate Contact:	Scott Schlosser	Position/Title:	District Vice President
	Email:	scottes@vail.net		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: (970) 390-9223	Office:	

### 2. Eligible entities for WSRA funds include the following. What type of entity is the Applicant?

- ☐ Public (Government) – municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities and the local entity should be the grant recipient. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
- ☒ Public (Districts) – authorities, Title 32/special districts, (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
- ☐ Private Incorporated – mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
- ☐ Private individuals, partnerships, and sole proprietors are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
- ☐ Non-governmental organizations – broadly defined as any organization that is not part of the government.

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3. Provide a brief description of your organization

ECCD is a branch of the State government created under the “Colorado Soil Conservation Act” and is managed by a Board of Supervisors elected by the landowners of the District. The current board composition represents landowners in many of the major tributaries within the program area lending a strategic advantage in obtaining involvement throughout the District service area. The mission of the District is stated as: *“Providing the preservation and restoration of the natural resources of the District through education, cooperation and initiation of practices that fulfill these goals.”* It is with the preservation, education and cooperation of their mission that the District believes this program will contribute to the District purpose.

4. If the Contracting Entity is different then the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner) please describe the Contracting Entity here.

N/A

5. Successful applicants will have to execute a contract with the CWCB prior to beginning work on the portion of the project funded by the WSRA grant. In order to expedite the contracting process the CWCB has established a standard contract with provisions the applicant must adhere to. A link to this standard contract is included in Appendix 3. Please review this contract and check the appropriate box.

☒

The Applicant will be able to contract with the CWCB using the Standard Contract

☐

The Applicant has reviewed the standard contract and has some questions/issues/concerns. Please be aware that any deviation from the standard contract could result in a significant delay between grant approval and the funds being available.

6. The Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect the applicant.

N/A

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### Part II. - Description of the Water Activity/Project

1. What is the primary purpose of this grant application? (Please check only one)

☐ Nonconsumptive (Environmental or Recreational)

☒ Agricultural

☐ Municipal/Industrial

☐ Needs Assessment

☐ Education

☐ Other

Explain:

2. If you feel this project addresses multiple purposes please explain.

This program will address many of the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan six themes. Outside of the Sustaining Agriculture theme the top themes met include:

- **Protect and Restore Healthy Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Riparian Areas** – A top priority of this program is to find and promote mutually beneficial opportunities to connect the agricultural community to regional partners such as environmental non-profits and environmentally aware governments. The ditch assessments will include the review and identification of potential impairments of riparian areas, fish habitat, stream channel degradation, frequent sedimentation and water quality impacts.
- **Secure Safe Drinking Water** – Several tributaries within the ECCD boundary are highly erosive and are significant contributors to the high sediment flows in the Colorado River that impact downstream municipal drinking water intakes. A goal of this project is to identify projects that will reduce sedimentation in the streams, improving the water quality for municipal intakes along the mainstem of the Colorado River.
- **Assure Dependable Basin Administration** – Many of the agricultural ditches to be assessed contain pre-1922 water rights. These water rights are important to maintain and improve in order to keep these rights viable and active in the basin. These very important rights are significant in the administration of the Colorado River system and are an important asset to Colorado's pre-compact water rights portfolio.
- **High Basinwide Conservation** – This project will promote the preservation and restoration of the natural

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resources within the ECCD boundary through education and cooperation with regional non-profit and government partners.

3. Is this project primarily a study or implementation of a water activity/project? (Please check only one)

☒

Study

☐

Implementation

4. To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRA funds can you provide any of the following numbers?

New Storage Created (acre-feet)

New Annual Water Supplies Developed, Consumptive or Nonconsumptive (acre-feet)

Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)

Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)

Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)

Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year OR dollars/year – **circle one**)

Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)

☒

Other -- Explain:

This program will assess 25 ditches within the ECCD Boundaries. These ditches will be ranked in order of priority, some of which will address improved agricultural structural improvements, stream restoration, efficiency savings, and restored/preserved aquatic habitat.

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4. To help us map WSRA projects please include a map (Exhibit B) and provide the general coordinates below:

Latitude: 39.645881

Longitude: -107.057884

*\*Coordinates are at the confluence of the Colorado and Eagle Rivers.*

5. Please provide an overview/summary of the proposed water activity (no more than one page). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRA funding will be used for. A full **Statement of Work** with a detailed budget and schedule is required as **Exhibit A** of this application.

The Eagle County Conservation District (ECCD) is proposing a project that will assess the structural integrity of 25 ditch systems. The program, will aim to connect the agricultural community to project assistance for implementing top infrastructure maintenance assistance that isn't currently supported through the District or the NRCS services. The program is focused around interviewing ditch owners followed by a tour and evaluation of the ditch system structures from the diversion structure to the last lateral. The evaluation will help to prioritize top system needs; top districtwide projects and identify partnership opportunities through multi-beneficial projects. Funding for the program will be primarily to support hiring a seasonal staff person (to be employed by ECCD selected contractor) to perform the interviews, assessments and develop ditch reports. The seasonal worker will be supported by the ECCD board in building relationships and the regional NRCS office in irrigation system evaluation training and as a reference for agricultural system questions.

The major goals of the program are as follows:

- Education - The program will provide system owners with a ditch summary report that will document ditch operations, top concerns and needs as well as provide a resources of contact and maintenance tips. This report may also be used by the ditch owners as supplemental support of top needs when seeking additional funding or project support.
- Collaboration - Connecting ditch owners to regional partners that can assist in the funding and implementation of identified top concerns. The potential for future agricultural structural projects that can offer environmental improvements will also be assessed as part of the ditch evaluation. Environmental conditions evaluated include potential for improved fish habitat and barriers, riparian area, channelized streams, sediment reductions, and reducing the potential for water quality degradation.
- Collaboration - Prioritized list of (non-ditch specific) agricultural projects with multiple benefits that potential partnering organizations could review when looking for teaming opportunities.
- Build Trust - Build confidence among peers in agriculture community through maintaining a high level of privacy related to specific ditch conditions and only proceeding on ditch evaluations and partnership opportunities with owner's permissions.

Please see Exhibit A for additional program details, a detailed budget and work schedule.

### Part III. – Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

1. Describe how the water activity meets these **Threshold Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines.)

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- a) The water activity is consistent with Section 37-75-102 Colorado Revised Statutes.<sup>1</sup>

*The proposed asset inventory program is an analysis of existing agricultural based structural and nonstructural water needs. The water activity does not involve any changes to adjudicated water rights nor does it restrict the ability of any water right holder to use or dispose of said water rights in any manner permitted under Colorado Law. The proposed program is consistent with the Section 37-75-102 Colorado Revised Statutes.*

- b) The water activity underwent an evaluation and approval process and was approved by the Basin Roundtable (BRT) and the application includes a description of the results of the BRT's evaluation and approval of the activity. At a minimum, the description must include the level of agreement reached by the roundtable, including any minority opinion(s) if there was not general agreement for the activity. The description must also include reasons why general agreement was not reached (if it was not), including who opposed the activity and why they opposed it. Note- If this information is included in the letter from the roundtable chair simply reference that letter.

*CBRT letter of support will be attached to the application upon approval of program funding.*

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<sup>1</sup> 37-75-102. Water rights - protections. (1) It is the policy of the General Assembly that the current system of allocating water within Colorado shall not be superseded, abrogated, or otherwise impaired by this article. Nothing in this article shall be interpreted to repeal or in any manner amend the existing water rights adjudication system. The General Assembly affirms the state constitution's recognition of water rights as a private usufructuary property right, and this article is not intended to restrict the ability of the holder of a water right to use or to dispose of that water right in any manner permitted under Colorado law. (2) The General Assembly affirms the protections for contractual and property rights recognized by the contract and takings protections under the state constitution and related statutes. This article shall not be implemented in any way that would diminish, impair, or cause injury to any property or contractual right created by intergovernmental agreements, contracts, stipulations among parties to water cases, terms and conditions in water decrees, or any other similar document related to the allocation or use of water. This article shall not be construed to supersede, abrogate, or cause injury to vested water rights or decreed conditional water rights. The General Assembly affirms that this article does not impair, limit, or otherwise affect the rights of persons or entities to enter into agreements, contracts, or memoranda of understanding with other persons or entities relating to the appropriation, movement, or use of water under other provisions of law.



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- c) The water activity meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes.<sup>2</sup> The Basin Roundtable Chairs shall include in their approval letters for particular WSRA grant applications a description of how the water activity will assist in meeting the water supply needs identified in the basin roundtable's consumptive and/or non-consumptive needs assessments.

*The proposed program meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes. This program will assess and prioritize top projects that will support the future of agricultural in the ECCD area. Additionally, the program will assist in identifying the potential partnering opportunities to address non-consumptive needs within the ECCD boundaries including water quality concerns, riparian areas and fish habitat in drainages that were identified in the Colorado Basin Needs Assessment.*

- d) Matching Requirement: For requests from the Statewide Fund, the applicants will be required to demonstrate a **25 percent** (or greater) match of the total grant request from the other sources, including by not limited to Basin Funds. A minimum match of 5% of the total grant amount shall be from Basin funds. A minimum match of 5% of the total grant amount must come from the applicant or 3rd party sources. Sources of matching funds include but are not limited to Basin Funds, in-kind services, funding from other sources, and/or direct cash match. Past expenditures directly related to the project may be considered as matching funds if the expenditures occurred within 9 months of the date the contract or purchase order between the applicant and the State of Colorado is executed. Please describe the source(s) of matching funds. (NOTE: These matching funds should also be reflected in your Detailed Budget in **Exhibit A** of this application)

*The total project budget is \$65,500 of which the applicant will fund \$5,000 and will provide in-kind service of at least 150 hours that can be valued at approximately \$3,000. Additionally, the NRCS will provide 40 hours to the development and implementation of the project for an estimated in-kind donation of \$3,200. Total matching funds are \$11,200 or approximately 17.1% of the total budget.*

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<sup>2</sup> 37-75-104 (2)(c). Using data and information from the Statewide Water Supply Initiative and other appropriate sources and in cooperation with the on-going Statewide Water Supply Initiative, develop a basin-wide consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply needs assessment, conduct an analysis of available unappropriated waters within the basin, and propose projects or methods, both structural and nonstructural, for meeting those needs and utilizing those unappropriated waters where appropriate. Basin Roundtables shall actively seek the input and advice of affected local governments, water providers, and other interested stakeholders and persons in establishing its needs assessment, and shall propose projects or methods for meeting those needs. Recommendations from this assessment shall be forwarded to the Interbasin Compact Committee and other basin roundtables for analysis and consideration after the General Assembly has approved the Interbasin Compact Charter.

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2. For Applications that include a request for funds from the **Statewide Account**, describe how the water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines and repeated below.) Projects will be assessed on how well they meet the Evaluation Criteria. **Please attach additional pages as necessary.**

**Evaluation Criteria** – the following criteria will be utilized to further evaluate the merits of the water activity proposed for funding from the Statewide Account. In evaluation of proposed water activities, preference will be given to projects that meet one or more criteria from each of the three “tiers” or categories. Each “tier” is grouped in level of importance. For instance, projects that meet Tier 1 criteria will outweigh projects that only meet Tier 3 criteria. The applicant should also refer to the Supplemental Scoring Matrix applied to Evaluation Criteria Tiers 1-3 for Statewide Account requests. WSRA grant requests for projects that may qualify for loans through the CWCB loan program will receive preference in the Statewide Evaluation Criteria if the grant request is part of a CWCB loan/WSRA grant package. For these CWCB loan/WSRA grant packages, the applicant must have a CWCB loan/WSRA grant ratio of 1:1 or higher. Preference will be given to those with a higher loan/grant ratio.

### Tier 1: Promoting Collaboration/Cooperation and Meeting Water Management Goals and Identified Water Needs

- a. The water activity addresses multiple needs or issues, including consumptive and/or non-consumptive needs, or the needs and issues of multiple interests or multiple basins. This can be demonstrated by obtaining letters of support from other basin roundtables (in addition to an approval letter from the sponsoring basin).
- b. The number and types of entities represented in the application and the degree to which the activity will promote cooperation and collaboration among traditional consumptive water interests and/or non-consumptive interests, and if applicable, the degree to which the water activity is effective in addressing intrabasin or interbasin needs or issues. *See Exhibit C for additional information on how project promotes cooperation and collaboration among consumptive (agriculture) and non-consumptive interests.*
- c. The water activity helps implement projects and processes identified as helping meet Colorado’s future water needs, and/or addresses the gap areas between available water supply and future need as identified in SWSI or a roundtable’s basin-wide water needs assessment.

### Tier 2: Facilitating Water Activity Implementation

- d. Funding from this Account will reduce the uncertainty that the water activity will be implemented. For this criterion the applicant should discuss how receiving funding from the Account will make a significant difference in the implementation of the water activity (i.e., how will receiving funding enable the water activity to move forward or the inability obtaining funding elsewhere).
- e. The amount of matching funds provided by the applicant via direct contributions, demonstrable in-kind contributions, and/or other sources demonstrates a significant & appropriate commitment to the project.

### Tier 3: The Water Activity Addresses Other Issues of Statewide Value and Maximizes Benefits

- f. The water activity helps sustain agriculture & open space, or meets environmental or recreational needs.
- g. The water activity assists in the administration of compact-entitled waters or addresses problems related to compact entitled waters and compact compliance and the degree to which the activity promotes maximum utilization of state waters.

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- h. The water activity assists in the recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife species or Colorado State species of concern.
  - i. The water activity provides a high level of benefit to Colorado in relationship to the amount of funds requested.
  - j. The water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.
- Continued: Explanation of how the water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**.  
**Please attach additional pages as necessary.**

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### Part IV. – Required Supporting Material

1. **Water Rights, Availability, and Sustainability** – This information is needed to assess the viability of the water project or activity. Please provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized, or the water body to be affected by, the water activity. This should include a description of applicable water rights, and water rights issues, and the name/location of water bodies affected by the water activity.

*The proposed inventory program is to take place throughout the ECCD boundary including the Eagle River watershed and the Colorado River watershed between Dotsero and Radium. A list of the 25 ditches to be evaluated has not been identified yet and therefore the specific water rights are unknown at this time. An effort will be made to select ditches spread throughout the ECCD boundaries, see Exhibit B.*

2. Please provide a brief narrative of any related studies or permitting issues.

*The proposed program is an inventory of ditch system structures and an assessment prioritizing needs of the ditch and across the 25 ditch systems evaluated. To the knowledge of the NRCS and the ECCD Board there has never been an asset inventory/assessment like this within the District boundaries. Since this program is an inventory, no permitting issues have been identified. Permitting requirements will be addressed in following phases during implementation of the prioritized projects developed from this proposed program.*

3. Statement of Work, Detailed Budget, and Project Schedule

The statement of work will form the basis for the contract between the Applicant and the State of Colorado. In short, the Applicant is agreeing to undertake the work for the compensation outlined in the statement of work and budget, and in return, the State of Colorado is receiving the deliverables/products specified. **Please note that costs incurred prior to execution of a contract or purchase order are not subject to reimbursement.** All WSRA funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis after review invoices and appropriate backup material.

**Please provide a detailed statement of work using the template in Exhibit A.** Additional sections or modifications may be included as necessary. Please define all acronyms and include page numbers.

## **REPORTING AND FINAL DELIVERABLE**

**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 statement 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.

## **PAYMENT**

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and invoicing by the applicant. Invoices from any other entity (i.e. subcontractors) cannot be processed by the State. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by major task, and estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire water activity in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues and proposed or implemented corrective actions. The last 10 percent of the entire water activity budget will be withheld until final project/water activity documentation is completed. 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 help promote the development of a common technical platform.

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The above statements are true to the best of my knowledge:

**Signature of Applicant:**

**Print Applicant's Name:**

**Project Title:**

**Date:**

**Return an electronic version (hardcopy may also be submitted) of this application to:**

Craig Godbout – WSRA Application  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St., Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203  
303-866-3441, ext. 3210 (office)  
303-547-8061 (cell)  
[craig.godbout@state.co.us](mailto:craig.godbout@state.co.us)

EXHIBIT A  
Statement of Work – Irrigation Asset Inventory Program

**WATER ACTIVITY NAME** – Eagle County Conservation District Irrigation Asset Inventory Program

**GRANT RECIPIENT** – Eagle County Conservation District (ECCD)

**FUNDING SOURCE** – Eagle County Conservation District, Colorado Basin Roundtable

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND -**

Currently, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance to the member soil conservation districts for agricultural infrastructure improvements, including the ECCD. These services are typically provided on an as-needed basis and most often are the result of an emergency (flooding, blow out, structural failures, etc.). The ECCD identified a need to understand the condition of the existing agricultural infrastructure in an effort to offer necessary improvements before emergency situations (failure) occur. This project proposes to develop a program to assess the condition of the agricultural infrastructure within the ECCD's boundaries, ultimately assigning a "conditional ranking" to irrigation system infrastructure to assist with the prioritization of improvements and funding needs. The Irrigation Asset Inventory Program was included in the Colorado River Basin Implementation Plan as a top regional project to support agriculture in the Eagle River and State Bridge regions both of which are covered by the ECCD.

The inventory and assessment process will evaluate all ditch related structures from the diversion structure to the last lateral. The inventory will photo document the existing condition of the structures along with a brief editorial summary and condition assessment. Ditch system structures to be evaluated include: diversion structure, headgate and wingwalls, return headgate and ditch, measuring structure, ditch condition throughout length of ditch, culverts, and lateral headgates as available. Environmental (non-consumptive) attributes will also be documented near the diversion structure and as identified by the ditch owner. Environmental attributes to be identified include riparian areas and condition, fish habitat and barriers, erosive prone areas, de-channelized flows.

The agricultural community is concerned about the privacy of their ditch infrastructure and operational information. The ECCD feels they have the support they need to successfully accomplish this mission within the geographical diversity of the ECCD and current good relations with community agricultural owners regardless of this concern. However, it is pivotal that assurances be given to ensure that specific ditch information is kept only with the ECCD and consultant within the realms possible with State funding. Without privacy assurances the program is likely to fail to get the support needed to be successful. It is the goal of the ECCD to provide ditch specific information only to each respective ditch owner while pursuing regional partners for ditch projects only with the permission of the ditch owners. The ECCD board members unanimously support this project and have committed to advocating and exemplifying the project process.

EXHIBIT A  
Statement of Work – Irrigation Asset Inventory Program

The following provides a summary of the tasks identified to implement this project, including the respective deliverables.

### **TASK 1 – Project Planning & Coordination**

#### Description of Task

Develop and publish program marketing material to the agricultural community within the ECCD boundaries to obtain input, buy-in and participation in the program. Three public meetings will be held to promote the project and answer questions from participants and community members.

The ECCD and consultant will work to identify the areas where there are irrigation systems of concern. SGM will coordinate with irrigation system owner(s) to obtain access and as available a tour with the system operators. Field staff will work with irrigation system owners to develop as much mapping as possible using available online information from aerial photography, county, and Colorado Decision Support System data to identify existing system issues, ditch alignments, headgate locations and other system features.

ECCD and consultant will develop a set of project ranking criteria to be used in determining data collection fields. Data collection fields, terms and definitions will be coordinated with the ECCD to allow for thorough and efficient data collection and prioritization of needed projects. Data management techniques and process will be developed and agreed upon by the ECCD and partnering organizations. Training of field staff for consistency and proper evaluation of irrigation system components will also be necessary.

#### Deliverables

- Project Coordination
- Three (3) public information meetings with ECCD regional ditch owners
- ECCD and consultant to identify specific regions for program initial inventories
- ECCD and consultant to develop list of attributes and ranking criteria for inventories (develop data dictionary)
- Hire seasonal staff and train to conduct program inventories

### **TASK 2 – Interviews and Inventories**

#### Description of Task

Coordinate and collect field data including staff visit to project area to interview owners and/or operators, GPS and document irrigation system and nearby river system conditions. There will be approximately twenty five (25) irrigation systems and surrounding river/stream systems inventoried.

Ditch owners and operators will be initially interviewed to discuss ditch concerns, needs and particular operations important to the ditch. Interviews will be documented and summarized for the Ditch Summary Report to record the institutional knowledge of the ditch operations for future ditch operators.



EXHIBIT A  
Statement of Work – Irrigation Asset Inventory Program

Field data will include, at a minimum, the following information: Location and condition (“1” – no concerns; “2” – minor structure issues; “3” – major structure concerns); ditch structures (dimensions, material, type, shape); stream conditions (erosion conditions, vegetation, channelized flow, fish habitat, fish barriers) above and below diversion structures and headgates.

Deliverables

- Interview and inventory 25 ditch owners and correlating ditch systems

**TASK 3 – Data Processing & Mapping**

Description of Task

Develop a basemap that includes the alignments and locations of ECCD irrigation and stream systems along with the identified projects to be prioritized. The database will allow for easy and consistent ranking of projects through the developed ranking criteria. The resulting ECCD basemap and associated database will be used by the ECCD as an operations map for prioritizing district funding and projects.

Deliverables

- Map of surveyed ditches for ECCD use and presentation to Colorado Basin Roundtable
- Ditch specific maps for use only in Ditch Summary Reports
- Digitized ditch structure inventories, potential projects and non-consumptive partnering opportunities
- Prioritization of top ditch projects from ditch owners interview and inventory

**TASK 4 – Project Prioritization & Ditch Reports**

Description of Task

Identify top concerns for ECCD staff to address. Project ranking criteria will be applied to the data to identify a list of needs. Additional reports will be developed to highlight each of the irrigation systems and stream systems where data was collected. These reports will be developed for ECCD and irrigation system owner(s) reference to address future problems or planning and designing needs.

Deliverables

- Ditch Summary Reports provided to each of the participating ditch owners
- Top ECCD prioritized projects
- Identification of multi-beneficial project components within top ECCD prioritized project list
- Identification of potential regional partners

EXHIBIT A  
Statement of Work – Irrigation Asset Inventory Program

**BUDGET -**

The prepared budget for the program is outlined below. The total program budget is \$65,500 of which ECCD has provided matching funds of \$5,000 and a minimum of 150 hours of in-kind services valued at \$3,000. Additionally, the NRCS has committed to providing 40 hours of program oversight and engineering valued at \$3,200. The total committed matching funds are \$11,200 or approximately 17.1% of the total budget. The total amount requested to be cover by the Colorado Basin Round Table Account is \$54,300. See Attachment A for detailed budget.

Total Costs				
Budget Item Description	Labor	Other Direct Costs	Matching Funds (If Applicable)	Total Project Costs
Task 1 – Project Planning & Coordination	290		\$5,000	\$21,565
Task 2 – Interviews & Inventories	250	\$6,790		\$25,025
Task 3 – Data Processing & Mapping	155			\$11,725
Task 4 – Project Prioritization & Ditch Reports	90			\$7,185
In-Kind Contributions			\$6,200	
Total Costs:	785	\$6,790	\$11,200	\$65,500

**SCHEDULE**

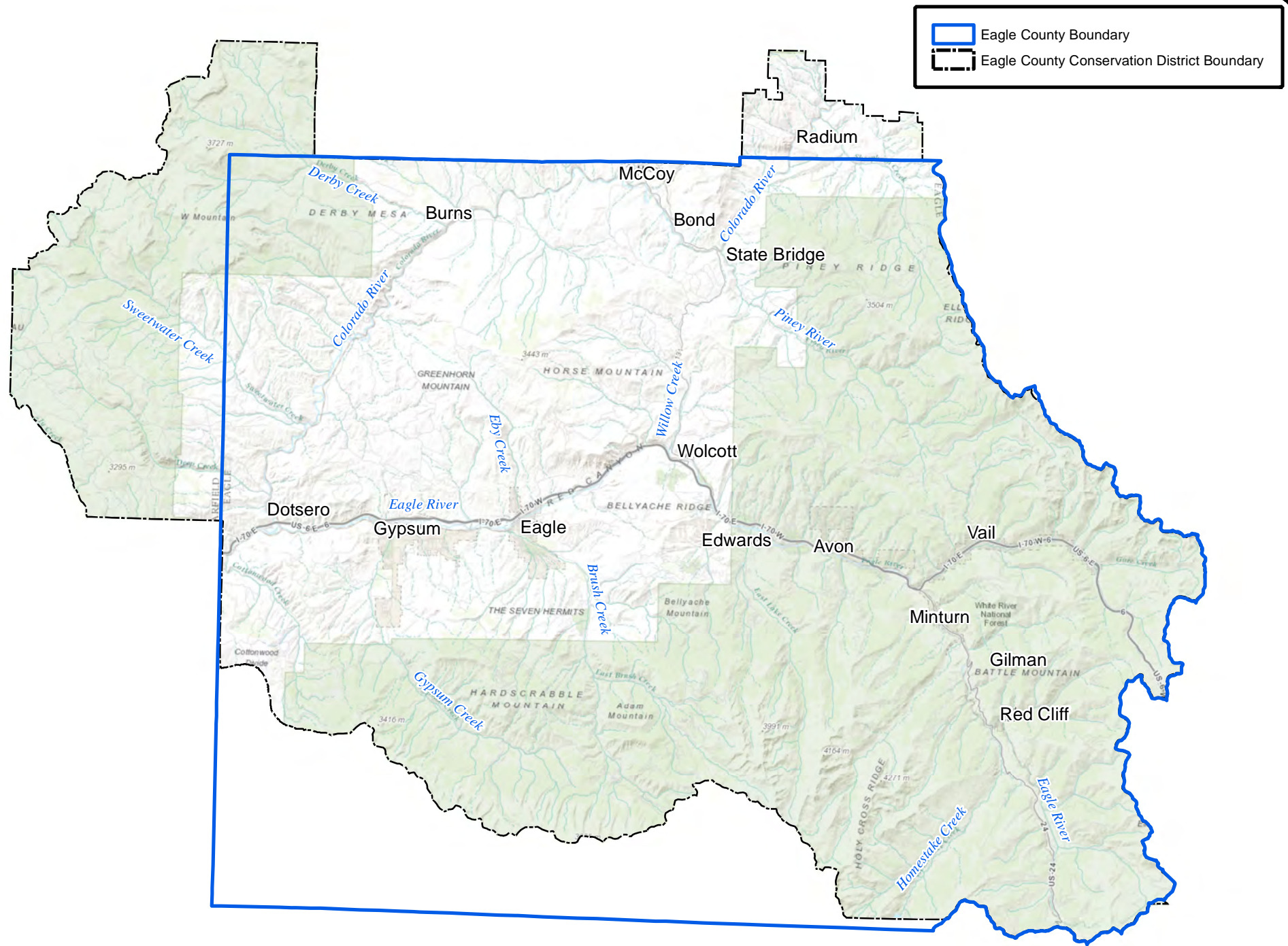
The proposed project schedule for each task and the completion dates or time period from the Notice to Proceed (NTP) is provided below. The program is expected to take 10-12 months from NTP.

Estimated Project Schedule December 2015 - November 2016	Nov-Dec 2015	Jan-Feb 2016	Mar-Apr 2016	May-Jun 2016	Jul-Aug 2016	Sep-Oct 2016	Nov-Dec 2016
Tasks							
Task 1 - Project Planning & Coordination	X	X	X	X			
Task 2 – Interviews & Inventories				X	X	X	
Task 3 - Data Processing & Mapping				X	X	X	
Task 4 - Project Prioritization & Ditch Reports						X	X

EXHIBIT A  
Statement of Work - Irrigation Asset Inventory Program

Attachment A

Labor Classification	QA/QC - Senior Engineer II	Senior Engineer I	Project Manager/Engineer II	GIS Analyst	Design Technician	NRCS Engineers	ECCD Board	Labor Hours	Direct Costs (Equip/Travel)	Total Cost
Rates	\$ 165.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 110.00	\$110.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 80.00	\$20.00			
Task 1 - Project Planning & Coordination		20	59	25	91	15	80	290		\$ 21,565
Task 2 - Field Data Collection		6	15	20	149	20	40	250	\$ 6,790	\$ 25,025
Task 3 - Data Processing & Mapping		5	16	9	100	5	20	130		\$ 11,725
Task 4 - Project Prioritization and Ditch Reports	2	7	11		60		10	80		\$ 7,185
<b>Project Totals</b>	2	38	101	54	400	40	150	750		\$ 65,500

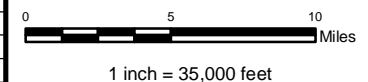


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## Exhibit B

Eagle County Conservation District Boundaries

Date:	08/27/2015	Job No.	2015-451.001	Map by:	RKK
Coordinate System:	NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N			Projection:	Transverse Mercator
Data Sources:	ESRI, USGS, CDSS, SGM, ECCD, Eagle County			Page:	1
File:	I:\2015\2015-451-ECCD\001-WaterRights\H-Dwgs\GIS\MXD\ECCD_Boundary.mxd				
The information displayed above is intended for general planning purposes. Refer to legal documentation/data sources for descriptions/locations.					



## Exhibit C: Colorado River Basin Roundtable WSRA Basin Funds Request Introduction

The Eagle County Conservation District (ECCD) is making application to initiate an innovative approach to protecting and supporting the agricultural community by connecting them to regional partners through identification of multi-beneficial projects. This concept program was initiated through the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan and was selected as a top regional project in the State Bridge and Eagle River Regions which are both serviced by the ECCD. The program has been developed through the collaborative efforts of the NRCS, neighboring conservation district staff, SGM as consultants and the ECCD board.

ECCD is a branch of the State government created under the “Colorado Soil Conservation Act” and is managed by a Board of Supervisors elected by the landowners within the ECCD boundaries. The current board composition represents landowners in many of the major tributaries within the program area lending a strategic advantage in obtaining involvement throughout the ECCD service area. The mission of the ECCD is stated as: *“Providing the preservation and restoration of the natural resources of the District through education,*



*cooperation and initiation of practices that fulfill these goals.”*

It is with the preservation, education and cooperation of their mission that the ECCD believes this program will exemplify the mission of the district.

Currently, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance to the member soil conservation districts, including ECCD, for agricultural infrastructure improvements. These services are typically provided on an as-

needed basis and most often are the result of an emergency (flooding, blow out, structural failures, etc.). There is an identified need to understand the condition of the existing agricultural infrastructure in an effort to offer improvements before emergency situations (failure) occur. This project proposes to develop a program to assess the condition of the agricultural infrastructure within the ECCD’s boundaries, ultimately assigning a “conditional ranking” to irrigation system infrastructure to assist with the prioritization of improvements and funding needs.



## Program Approach

ECCD recognizes that agricultural communities need to identify that can severely impact ditch owners and downstream water users before they occur. By the ECCD taking the initiative to perform an inventory and assessment, ditch owners will be well positioned to take steps in rectifying looming disasters or address habitual environmental impacts. Understanding that community members may be unable to provide the funding to address the identified issues in the program assessments, this project aims to foster regional partnerships with common interests. Regional partners such as non-profits, local government entities, and state agencies have approached the ECCD in seeking cooperation on mutual beneficial projects. The ECCD feels they can be a trusted and are a useful intermediary to put these organizations in touch with project owners to achieve successful implementation and development of the agricultural focused projects.

ECCD will hire a seasonal staff member, through a consulting firm, to perform the ditch evaluations. This seasonal staff will have a background in agriculture and ranching and will be trained for the inventory and assessments. The staff will connect with ditch owners through the assistance of the ECCD board and the regional NRCS staff. They will coordinate all interviews and assessments and will be responsible for taking the required field notes and documentation. Selected ditches will be prioritized by geographical diversity, seniority of water rights, irrigated acres, potential environmental benefits and need as ranked by the ECCD and NRCS staff.

All ditch assessments will start with interviews of the ditch owners and operators. Understanding the history, concerns, needs and advantages of the ditch is pivotal to successfully identifying the top priorities for each ditch and across the region. After the interview the ditch owner or operator will guide the ECCD staff through the ditch system from the diversion structure to the last lateral. Only mainstem ditch features will be evaluated as the inventory will not continue beyond any lateral or on-field application systems. Common structures to be evaluated include: diversion structure, headgate, wasteway headgate and ditch, measuring structure, lateral headgates, ditch condition, and when available any culverts, bridges or other ditch crossing structures. While visiting the diversion structure the ECCD staff will evaluate the stream for environmental impacts that could be addressed in a multi-beneficial project. Environmental attributes to be evaluated at a minimum will include: fish habitat, fish barriers, riparian areas, erosion prone areas and de-channelized streams.

The largest potential constraint is support from the agricultural community as privacy of the ditch system components, operations and conditions runs as a strong mindset and is an extremely sensitive subject. To address these concerns the ECCD will hold the collected information and will not release any ditch specific information to the public. However, in order to look for regional partners to fund the identified top priority projects the ECCD will ask permission from each ditch owner to share non-ditch specific project descriptions. The ECCD also aims to provide ditch evaluations, documented historical operations, and a ditch map for project participation. The ECCD board members have all agreed to participate in the program themselves and to actively promote the program to their neighbors and community members.

The ditch summary reports are intended to be a useful tool for the ditch owners. The owners will have a high quality map of their ditch with GPS locations of each structure along with a brief summary of the history and operations of the ditch. This summary will be an asset to future operators in learning the issues for each ditch. Regardless of whether or not the ditch owners allow ECCD to promote their projects to regional partners, each ditch owner will receive a list of potential partners. The ditch owners will have a summary and prioritized needs list documented that can hopefully be used by the ditch owners to promote their project to the regional partners as desired by the owners.

The final report from this program will be developed in the form of a short summary of the number of ditches evaluated and a prioritized list of projects and potential environmental benefits across the ECCD. A presentation will be made to the Colorado Basin Roundtable and a non-ditch specific list of potential projects seeking partners will be advertised on the ECCD website.

### Addressed Colorado Basin Roundtable Priorities

**Assure Dependable Basin Administration** - Agriculture holds the majority of the senior water rights within the Colorado River Basin and the same is true within the ECCD. Many of the ditches in the ECCD have pre-compact (pre-1922) water rights. Maintaining these rights and other large diversions will ensure the viability and continuance of these water rights within the basin.

**Benefits Multiple Water Users** - All water users within the Eagle River and Colorado River downstream of the assessed ditches will potentially be impacted by the outcome of this program. By properly assessing and identifying top priority projects in the area the ECCD hopes to limit the impact of ditch blow-outs and maintain high levels of efficiency within the existing ditch systems. Additionally, any environmental improvements that can be made through the implementation of the identified projects will certainly contribute to healthy streams. The agricultural community certainly looks to be supported but the environmental, recreational and municipal water providers that use mainstem Colorado or Eagle River waters as well will benefit by the improved water quality at a minimum.

**Education** – Education will take place on three levels. The agricultural community will be educated on the environmental opportunities to improve their ditch systems and for obtaining potential funding partnerships. Regional partners will be informed of potential concerns and needs within the agricultural community and both entities will learn how to work with each other and the benefits that teach has to offer. Cooperation will be fostered throughout this project in all the public presentations as well as the benefits of teaming with regional and non-profit entities.

**High Basinwide Conservation** – By taking a proactive approach in identifying top ditch needs it is intended to draw attention to inefficient or ineffective ditch structures. Although not all of the identified projects may be tied to achieving higher ditch efficiencies, it is likely that the

majority of the top priorities will be connected to offering potential efficiencies and/or water savings. The ECCD Staff will be looking to assess efficiencies by identifying leaky headgates, high seeping ditches, and erroneous flumes.

**Protect and Restore Healthy Streams** – A top goal of this project is to identify environmental conditions that can be improved with a coordinated effort by the ditch owner. This program will identify environmental conditions such as fish habitat, fish barriers, riparian areas, erosion prone areas and dechannelized streams. This program also aims to build relationships between environmentally concerned entities and the agricultural community in hopes that many projects can be implemented above those identified through this program.

**Sustain and Support Agriculture** – The ECCD through this program continues to support the agricultural community. The program will provide ditch summary reports that can be used by the ditch owner simple to preserve history and operational issues of the ditch or as a tool in applying for grants, loans or in partnering with regional entities.

**Secure Safe Drinking Water** – The program aims to address high sedimentation events caused by ditch blowouts at the headgates or along the ditch. By drawing attention to these potential issues water quality will be improved downstream where several municipalities draw their water supplies directly from the Colorado River.

## Funding Assistance

Most county governments in Colorado supplement the funding of the conservation districts in their county or there is a tax levied on real property in the county. No tax levy or assessment has been approved by the voters in the ECCD and the funds are not available to take the matter to a vote. Currently the ECCD is operated on volunteer time by the board members and a small Direct Assistance grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board followed with low yielding profits from on tree sales and newsletter advertising in addition to a few small donations. The ECCD is simply not set up to fund an effort of this magnitude. The budget for this project is \$65,500. The ECCD has committed to providing \$5,000 and in-kind services of at least 150 hours to the implementation of this project valued at \$3,000. The NRCS has committed 40 hours towards project development and engineering at an estimated value of \$3,200. The cumulative matching funds are \$11,200 or 17.1% percent of the total budget. The remaining budget to be funded is \$54,300.