

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
March 16-17, 2015
Agenda Item 14(c)

Applicant & Fiscal Agent: Colorado River Water Conservation District

Water Activity Name: Colorado River Development and Curtailment Risk Study

Water Activity Purpose: Multipurpose

County: throughout Colorado Basin

Drainage Basin: Colorado

Water Source: Colorado River and tributaries

Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$8,000 Colorado Basin Account
\$8,000 Gunnison Basin Account
\$8,000 Southwest Basin Account
\$8,000 Yampa/White Basin Account
\$32,000 Total Basin Account request

Matching Funds: Applicant Match: \$20,000 = 38.5% of the total project cost of \$52,000
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section below)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$8,000 from the Colorado Basin Account; \$8,000 from the Gunnison Basin Account; \$8,000 from the Southwest Basin Account; and \$8,000 from the Yampa/White Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Colorado River Development and Curtailment Risk Study.

Water Activity Summary: WSRA funds, if approved, will be expended to fund the Colorado River Development and Curtailment Risk Study. The study will address two major questions:

1. What is the likelihood that Lake Powell will drop below elevation 3525' under a range of selected water supply and water demand scenarios?
2. Evaluate how often and by how much water users of Colorado River water in Colorado would have to reduce demands/cut consumptive uses to maintain Lake Powell elevation levels above 3525'. Provide an indication and evaluation of the "risk" to existing uses at different levels of future demand levels.

The results will be shared with the sponsoring roundtables and other interested roundtables across the state via workshop/webinar in order to facilitate discussion of implications and lessons for implementation of the seven point framework identified in Colorado's Water Plan. Participants will be asked to contribute to recommendations for further studies and the consultant will develop recommendations for modeling improvements for future studies.

Discussion: At the December 18th 2014 meeting of the four West Slope Basin Roundtables, attendees cited the need for more technical data and modeling so that the four roundtables could better understand and discuss issues surrounding future Colorado River development, the risk to existing water users and implementation of the framework principles included in the Colorado Water Plan. The proposed study is intended to begin the technical investigation process so that the roundtables will have a common technical platform.

The intent of this study is to supplement other studies and work that are underway or have been completed such as the water bank workgroup effort, the System Conservation Agreement pilot projects and the development of an Upper Basin contingency plan.

The study meets several goals identified in the Basin Implementation Plans of the contributing roundtables, associated with mitigating risk to existing and future uses in these basins. Additionally, Colorado's Water Plan identifies several key actions in Chapters 8 and 9 related to maximization of the use of Colorado's compact entitlement, while actively avoiding compact curtailment. This study will inform roundtable discussion and understanding of potential concepts to advance these actions.

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: n/a

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
CRWCD	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
SWCD	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Subtotal Matching Funds	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
WSRA Colorado Basin Account	\$8,000	n/a	\$8,000
WSRA Gunnison Basin Account	\$8,000	n/a	\$8,000
WSRA Southwest Basin Account	\$8,000	n/a	\$8,000
WSRA Yampa/White Basin Account	\$8,000	n/a	\$8,000
Total Project Costs	\$52,000		\$52,000

CWCB Project Manager: Brent Newman

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.