

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
March 16-17, 2016
Agenda Item 14(e)

Co-Applicants: Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District /
North La Junta Water Conservancy District

Fiscal Agent: Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District

Water Activity Name: La Junta Flood Mitigation Project

Water Activity Purpose: Multipurpose

County: Otero

Drainage Basin: Arkansas

Water Source: Arkansas River

Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$25,000 Arkansas Basin Account
\$25,000 Total Grant Request

Matching Funds: Basin Account Match (\$25,000) = 29.4% of total project costs (\$85,000)
Applicant/3rd Party Match (\$60,000) = 70.5% of total project costs
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section)

| |
|---|
| Staff Recommendation: |
| Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Arkansas Basin Account to help fund the project titled: La Junta Flood Mitigation Project. |

Water Activity Summary: WSRA funds, if approved, will be expended to fund the project titled: La Junta Flood Mitigation Project. The lower Arkansas River passes through a “pinch point” as it traverses the passage between the Towns of La Junta, on the south bank, and North La Junta on the opposite bank. Flooding in this area has been endemic, with efforts underway since the 1999 flood to address the issue by formation of the North La Junta Water Conservancy District. Recent improvements to dikes along the north bank, using material salvaged from tamarisk and island removal, has aggravated the flooding challenges. The District now desires to alter the configuration of existing dikes, and extend the dike system further downstream, to mitigate the flood potential.

The purpose of this project is to relieve a “pinch point” on the Arkansas River at La Junta, Colorado. The construction activity will reduce flooding threats to public safety, improve species habitat and enhance water management capabilities for the Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the administrative protocols of the Arkansas River Compact of 1948. The flooding limits releases from Pueblo Reservoir to John Martin Reservoir in times of high precipitation, resulting in lost water storage in wet years.

The objectives of the project are as follows:

1. Objective 1 – Coordinate the permitting/construction/reclamation activity with interested agencies.
2. Objective 2 – Phase 1: Removal of islands in stream channel to restore channel capacity; Phase 2: Reconstruction and extension of existing dike.
3. Objective 3 – Manage the project through construction to completion, with appropriate retention of contractor payments following final billing, and project signoff for release of retained funds.

Discussion: This project is consistent with the goals and actions identified in the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan. This water activity addresses multiple needs by a) mitigating a significant flooding problem in the local community, and; b) eliminating a limitation on flow management in the lower Arkansas River valley. When the Bureau of Reclamation needed to release water from Pueblo Reservoir this spring in response to high levels of precipitation, this existing dike and flooding conditions limited the amount of the release. Water that could have been stored in John Martin Reservoir, allowing increased storage in Pueblo Reservoir for the benefit of multiple parties, was lost because of this constraint.

This water activity directly benefits an interbasin need by improving the management of storage as it impacts compliance with the Arkansas River Compact. Improved flow management directly assists meeting the Arkansas Roundtable goal of 70,000 AF of new storage by making greater efficient use of existing storage and “excess” storage at Pueblo Reservoir.

The project is also consistent with the key action items, goals, and measurable objectives identified in Colorado’s Water Plan, specifically critical action items identified in Chapter 10 which direct the CWCB to work with BRTs and project proponents to fund projects which have been prioritized by basin roundtables. The project also meets critical goals related to storage and compact compliance.

Issues/Additional Needs: Members of the Watershed and Flood Protection Section have identified potential impacts to the floodplain from implementation of this project. CWCB staff members have met with the project proponent and BIP coordinator from the Arkansas Basin Roundtable, and addressed the issues which must be resolved prior to implementation of the project. CWCB staff has also offered additional funding to enable to proponent to continue with the project.

Project proponents will work with CWCB staff to update the scope of work and application to be consistent with the additional requirements:

- 1) Applicant will obtain a letter of support from Otero County for the flood mitigation activities to be performed in the scope of this project.
- 2) Applicant will obtain a floodplain development permit from the local permitting authority (Otero County).
- 3) Applicant will perform (with assistance of consultant) a hydraulic analysis of the impacts of project implementation, and project design which meets the criteria of the Watershed and Flood Protection Section staff.

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> |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| LAVWCD | \$40,000 | \$0 | \$40,000 |
| Otero County | \$10,000 | \$0 | \$10,000 |
| La Junta | \$10,000 | \$0 | \$10,000 |
| Subtotal Matching Funds | \$60,000 | \$0 | \$60,000 |
| WSRA Arkansas Basin Account | \$25,000 | n/a | \$25,000 |
| Total Project Costs | \$85,000 | \$0 | \$85,000 |

***Additional funding will be provided by the CWCB to assist applicant with floodplain-related issues**

CWCB Project Co-Managers: Brent Newman/Jamie Prochno

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.