



COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT APPLICATION FORM



Today's Date: February 4, 2016

Implementing Public Education & Public Outreach in the Rio Grande River Basin: Education to Implementation

Name of Water Activity/Project

Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative

Name of Applicant

Rio Grande Roundtable

Amount from Statewide Account:

0.00

Amount from Basin Account(s):

90,000.00

Total WSRA Funds Requested:

\$ 90,000.00

Approving Basin Roundtable(s)

(If multiple basins specify amounts in parentheses.)

FEIN: 27-1157593

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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

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

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

1.	Applicant Name(s):	Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative		
	Mailing address:	PO Box 1257 0048 CR 10 North Center, Colorado 81125		
	FEIN #:	FEIN: 27-1157593		
	Primary Contact:	Judy Lopez	Position/Title:	Program Director
	Email:	judy.lopez@co.nacdnet.net		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: 719-580-5300	Office:	719-754-3400 x110
	Alternate Contact:	Brenden Rockey	Position/Title:	Board Secretary
	Email:	brendonrockey@gmail.com		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: (719)580-5300	Office:	719-754-3400 x110

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

The Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative (RGWCEI) is a Colorado tax exempt corporation organized exclusively for conservation and education purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code for nonprofit organizations. Nonprofit status was granted effective October 21, 2009.

All of the Board members of RGWCEI except for Heather Dutton are appointed or elected by the five San Luis Valley Conservation Districts, as follows: Center, Costilla, Conejos, Mosca-Hooper, and Rio Grande Conservation Districts – each of which are organizations constituting the Rio Grande Watershed Association of Conservation Districts (RGWACD or the Association).

The Rio Grande Watershed encompasses 7,828,451 acres, approximately 27% of which are farm and crop lands, 13% rangeland, 28% privately held acreages and 32% public lands. RGWCEI is the successor organization, which has taken over the conservation education activities of the Rio Grande Watershed Association of Conservation Districts (RGWACD), a grass roots community organization, which is not incorporated, but consists of various members of natural resources, conservation, and basin-wide watershed groups. RGWCEI now has full responsibility to administer, fund, and expand conservation and education activities throughout the Rio Grande Basin.

RGWCEI offers both education and conservation programs to youth, young adults, landowners and agricultural producers. The producer programs that we have sponsored were to address the San Luis Valley's declining aquifer issues that have occurred since 2002. These programs partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the development and administration of the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) and the Targeted Conservation Proposal (TCP). Each of these multi-year programs focused on implementing soil and water conservation within the farm unit, and collectively brought 4.2 million to the Rio Grande Basin.

The Introduction: Over the past 8 years RGWCEI has lead in Rio Grande Basin Roundtable outreach efforts in collaboration with the roundtable education subcommittee has established a comprehensive education and outreach program. These outreach efforts have been recognized by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and its constituents and as a result the Rio Grande Basins efforts are among the best in the state.

RGWCEI under the direction of Judy Lopez, and the basin education committee, they have worked to expand knowledge, improve educational resources, and increase public understanding in a variety of Colorado Water Conservation Board outreach initiatives to include the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan and the Colorado Water Plan.

The Purpose: The Water Plan process has established the need for, and the importance of, ongoing education and outreach as it pertains to all water concerns. *“Article VII of the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) by-laws address the formation of workgroups to assist it in its deliberations and functions. The Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) workgroup is charged with creating a process to inform, involve, and educate the public on the IBCC’s activities and progress of the interbasin compact negotiations, and create a mechanism by which public input and feedback can be relayed to the IBCC and compact negotiators. It is the only workgroup written into the legislation (C.R.S. 37-75-106).”* As a result of these processes the Rio Grande basin Roundtable is charged with providing ongoing education and outreach for the roundtable. The purpose of this project is to boost current efforts by hiring an outreach coordinator and starting a mentoring program. RGWCEI is asking for \$28,000 per year for three years to expand current efforts to meet education and outreach requirements..

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

4. 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.

5. 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. None

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:

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

The project will build upon established outreach and education efforts:

- Monthly newspaper articles written by local authorities on a variety of water subjects. (The publishing opportunity is provided to roundtable by both the Valley Courier and Valley Publishing free of charge.)
- Month Radio Programs provided by local topic authorities on a variety of water topics. (The opportunity is provided by KSLV and KRZA free of charge as a public service.)
- Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Webpage
- Public Meetings outside of the Rio Grande Roundtable meetings and tours.
- Water resource vignettes that capture the importance and purpose of the state and basin water plans as well as addressing subjects such as consumptive uses (Agricultural, Municipal and Industrial), Non-consumptive (Environmental and Recreational), Water Management (Colorado Water Law, Compacts, Well Rules and Regulations and the Subdistrict Process), and the social aspects of water. This vignettes will then be available for use by a variety of constituents. That could include: local and regional governments, community groups, universities and schools and private organizations. The goal would be consistent messaging

In addition to these established practices, the project will also develop:

- Hire an outreach coordinator to expand current outreach.
- Develop and a mentoring program the develops future water leader's.

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)

XX

Other -- Explain:

Out Reach and Education

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Latitude: 37 to 38.5° N

Longitude: 106 to 105° W

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 project will give solid data that quantifies the benefits of soil health on soil water holding capacity

Overall Water Activity: The purpose is to further the involvement and learning for all Colorado's citizens as we move towards 2050. This request for funding seeks \$90,000.0 to hire a Coordinator to manage a three year outreach and education effort within the Rio Grande Basin. This Coordinator will operate under the direction of the Rio Grande Basin's PEPO liaison Judy Lopez. The coordinator will implement, and administer outreach and education activities under the direction of the PEPO and the Rio Grande Basin education committee. This project will showcase the collaborative work of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable education committee and that of water users of all types across the Rio Grande Basin. The project will also begin a mentoring program, that will pave a pathway for younger community member to engage with the water community and to step forward and become water leaders. This initiative will work to showcase the value of Colorado's water and communicate this value by making it readily identifiable to all community members. The project will continue long established newspaper articles, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable webpage and radio interviews. Which are a critical piece in the Roundtable information network. Because the stakeholders in the Rio Grande live in a rural, headwaters communities that are facing several critical water issues they need to stay informed. Project tours will be an additional cog to this information network. These tours help ensure that there is a connection between constituents and water funding. Finally, the nine video vignettes will be a part of this outreach. That could include: local and regional governments, community groups, universities and schools and private organizations. The project would provide consistent messaging.

Use of Funds: RGWCEI is requesting \$90,000.00 over three years from WSRA basin account funds. WSRA funds are 65% of the total project cost of \$139,500.00. Matching funds are as follows: \$7,500.00 or 5% from the RGWCEI as cash; \$27,000.00 or 19% as RGWCEI in-kind participation; \$15,000 or 11% from In-kind services.

Part III. – Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

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

- a) The water activity is consistent with Section 37-75-102 Colorado Revised Statutes.

This water activity is educational in nature. It in no way affects the current system of allocating water within Colorado nor does it diminish, impair or cause injury to any property or contractual right created by intergovernmental agreements, contracts, stipulations, etc. nor does it impair or limit or otherwise affect any persons or entities relating to the appropriation, movement, or use of water.

- 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 BRTs 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.

This information is included in the letter from the Rio Grande Roundtable Chair, Nathan Coombs, accompanying this proposal.

- a) The water activity meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes.¹ 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.

This request for funding is specifically for water education and public outreach. It furthers the Rio Grande Roundtable's basin-wide water needs by building on the momentum created by projects such as "Water 2012", Narrow the Gap and the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan. This initiative continues the public education process and continues the roundtables education priorities of striving for knowledge,

¹ 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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educate future generations, and build a solid base of public understanding of the complex issues involved in meeting the States future water needs.

As indicated in the WSRA Funding Legislative Criteria, HB 05-1177 (37-75-104), each basin roundtable has powers and responsibilities that include the following:

"(c) 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." The goal of this collaboration is to provide leadership in water education and outreach that moves participants to act. The value and potential effectiveness of the program depends on how well people understand and can articulate and deal with the issues. By funding the continuation of educational work the Rio Grande Roundtable will be fulfilling the statewide water education mission as set forth in the Colorado Water Plan. This mission includes narrowing Colorado's water gap while acknowledging the challenges and the sense of urgency the state faces as we move ahead to 2050. The purpose of this proposal is to participate in efforts to further involvement and learning for all Colorado's citizens, and provide focused efforts which target constituents in the Rio Grande Basin. Activities will be branded for public appeal using the "Narrow the Gap Campaign". This meets the legislative imperative that the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable "(d) serve as a forum for education and debate regarding methods for meeting water supply needs." It also opens the Roundtable to greater and better-informed public participation so that it can, "(e) as needed, establish roundtable subcommittees or other mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and resolution of issues and conflicts within the basin."

Summary: More than 75% of RGWCEI's activities are directly related to water, with educational activities involving exploring and sharing concepts, ethics, principles, and curricula directly related to meeting the consumptive and non-consumptive water needs of the San Luis Valley and the Rio Grande Basin. The Rio Grande Basin Decision Support System lists as a goal "to promote information sharing among government agencies and water users." The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable education committee prioritizes education among its alternative nonstructural options. "

The Rio Grande Basin Education and Outreach Committee:

1.	Judy Lopez	RT PEPO representative and Education Liaison
2.	Rio de la Vista	RT Member
3.	Nathan Coombs	RT Chair
4.	Travis Smith	RT Member
5.	Cindy Medina	RT Member
6.	Steve Vandiver	RT Member
7.	Heather Dutton	RT Vice Chair
8.	Eugene Jacquez	RT Member
9.	Emma Rieger	Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
10.	Kevin Terry	RT Member
11.	Paul Tigen	BLM

- b) 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

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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)

RGWCEI is requesting \$90,000.00 over three years from WSRA basin account funds. WSRA funds are 65% of the total project cost of \$139,500.00. Matching funds are as follows: \$7,500.00 or 5% from the RGWCEI as cash; \$27,000.00 or 19% as RGWCEI in-kind participation; \$15,000 or 11% from In-kind services.

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.

- **This Project only requests Rio Grande Basin funds, so this grant requirement does not apply.**

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.

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- 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.
- o **This Project includes a matching component of 98% of Total Project Costs. This amount is currently committed and in place, as described in the Budget.**

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.
 - 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.

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.

No water supply source will be utilized and no water body will be affected by this water and natural resource conservation education activity. This project does not affect any water rights.

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.

(Exhibit A follows the signature page)

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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:



Judith Lopez, Executive Director, Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative

Print Applicant's Name: Judy Lopez, Program Director,
Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative

Project Title: Implementing Public Education & Public Outreach in the Rio Grande River Basin:
Education to Implementation

Date: February 3, 2016

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

Kate McIntire – WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203
303-866-3441, ext. 3210 (office)
303-547-8061 (cell)
kate.mcintire@state.co.us

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