



October 31, 2015

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Attn: Craig Godbout – WSRA Application
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Grant Request for the Greeley Area Cache la Poudre Greenway Corridor Project

Please accept this letter as support and encouragement to fund a grant request for a Poudre River Greenway Master Planning Project that the City of Greeley desires to implement to compliment and supplement several ongoing planning efforts including: 1) a Parks, Trails, and Open Lands Master Plan; 2) Island Grove Regional Park Master Plan; 3) a Corps of Engineers Ecosystem Restoration Plan along the Poudre Corridor, and; 4) a Poudre Heritage Area Master Plan.

I am currently the Project Manager for Greeley's Parks, Trails, and Open Lands Master Plan which is scheduled to be completed in early 2016. As a part of the planning process thus far, the Cache la Poudre river corridor has been identified as a major amenity and area worthy of natural area preservation as well as wildlife habitat, trail corridor, and water recreation which are vetted as vitally important to the citizens of Greeley. Concurrently, I am also working on a master plan for Island Grove Regional Park of which the Poudre River flows through. This site specific master plan will also celebrate the river and incorporate educational and interpretive significance to the river as well as heightened presence of the current trailhead at this location to the regionally significant Poudre River Trail.

In addition to these master planning efforts, I am also recently taking a lead in working with the U.S. Corps of Engineers on an Ecosystem Restoration Project for the Poudre Corridor in several key locations in the Greeley area. The City of Greeley has actively been acquiring parcels of land along the river corridor in order to compliment this planning effort as our matching fund component of the Corps' efforts. We are also coordinating with our own Water Department to successfully identify areas for wetland mitigation that will be required for future requirements and which will complement the Corps' plans.

However, even with these planning processes and land acquisitions in place (and albeit critically important in their own rights) they will not be comprehensive as to how to specifically address the river corridor in a holistic manner in the way that a Greeley Area Cache la Poudre Greenway Corridor Master Plan would.

A proposed Plan will overlay information from a variety of existing resources to create a single reference framework and common language to describe the river corridor and leverage objectives defined for flood hazard mitigation, recreational, environmental, educational, water quality and storage, transportation, and preservation to form the basis of a coordinated and complementary approach to its future development and use. Since many single subject studies have already been completed, there is little need to use the funds for research or modeling - rather the

funds would be used to develop a meaningful and resourceful guide, with public review and comment, for the evolving use and protection of this unique river corridor.

I hope you agree with us that the proposed Greeley Area Cache la Poudre Greenway Corridor Project will guide excellent stewardship of this beautiful river and her resources and to help us challenge and support creativity and innovative approaches to achieve imaginative, beneficial, and supported water activities.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you would like further clarification or information. Thank you in advance for your consideration and, optimistically, subsequent funding.

Most sincerely,



Andrew (Andy) McRoberts, CPRE
Director of Culture, Parks, and Recreation
City of Greeley
970-350-9425
andy.mcroberts@greeleygov.com



October 29, 2015

Mr. Craig Godbout, Program Manager
Water Supply Planning Section, Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: City of Greeley Grant Request from Colorado Water Supply Reserve Account

Dear Mr. Godbout:

I am writing this to let you know how important the Poudre River Greenway Master Planning Project is in assisting the City of Greeley to implement several long range planning projects including the 2009 Comprehensive Plan, the Parks, Trails, and Open Lands Plan, the Entryways Master Plan, and the Natural Resources and Wildlife Master Plan. These plans, adopted by the City Council between 1993 and 2013, all speak to the high value of the Poudre River Corridor as a valuable natural resource and community amenity. Each of these plans includes recommendations reflecting the value of the river corridor as it relates to the functional areas of the plan, yet none of them address the river corridor comprehensively in the way the Greenway Corridor Master Plan would.

In 1993, the Natural Resources and Wildlife Master Plan was completed. This plan recognized the ecological value of riparian areas. One of the recommendations was requiring all developments within environmentally sensitive areas to perform environmental assessments. This was accomplished in 1998 with the adoption of the Areas of Ecological Significance Ordinance. The Cache la Poudre Greenway Master Plan will enhance the City's ability to protect valuable habitat and riparian areas.

The Entryway Master Plan, adopted in 1994, sets forth policies and design guidelines for enhanced visual quality along the major approaches to Greeley. Several important approaches to Greeley are along and across the Cache la Poudre corridor.

The 2009 Comprehensive Plan reaffirms the City's commitment to the previously adopted Areas of Ecological Significance Policy and ordinances. In addition, it identifies the importance of the Poudre River Trail as an amenity to connect Windsor with Greeley. It also includes policies related to wildlife corridors and the control of non-native species. The Cache la Poudre Greenway Corridor Master Plan will help to implement this vision.

In 2013, the City Council adopted an updated Parks, Trails, and Open Lands Plan. This plan pulled together several earlier plans into a single plan. This plan contains several recommendations that would support the development of a Greenway Corridor Master Plan.

The lack of an adopted Greenway Corridor Master Plan means that the City has made decisions on proposed projects along the River in a piecemeal manner without a vision of the River Corridor as a whole and without a policy framework reflecting the intention to create and maintain this valuable amenity. As a result, it is difficult to motivate land owners and developers to focus on the River as an amenity that will become more valuable in the future. This can result in land uses that imitate past actions and values. Greenways in several Colorado cities have become economic development vehicles. The value of greenways to Denver, Boulder, Golden, Pueblo, Grand Junction, Fort Collins, and other cities in Colorado cannot be overstated. In each case, a Greenway Master Plan was a key element.

The importance of this Greenway Corridor Master Plan in helping to improve the quality of life in Greeley and surrounding communities cannot be overstated. We urge the Water Conservation Board to fund this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John L. Barnett", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John L. Barnett, PLA
Long Range Planner



Cache la Poudre River

National Heritage Area

October 29, 2015

Craig Godbout – WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Godbout,

The Poudre Heritage Alliance urges your favorable funding support for the proposed Greeley Area Cache la Poudre Greenway Corridor Project. As the managing entity for the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area, PHA has been working with the communities along the Cache la Poudre River to recognize and celebrate the unique role this river played in the settlement of Colorado, especially as it relates to water delivery and the adoption of Colorado's Doctrine of Prior Appropriation.

PHA supports Greeley's efforts to develop a comprehensive Greenway Master Plan that will guide future preservation, development, recreation and education in this vital river corridor in a thoughtful and deliberate manner. We look forward to working with them in this endeavor.

For more information about the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area, please visit our web page at www.poudreheritage.org.

Respectfully,



Karen Scopel
Chair of the Board



1100 10th Street, Suite 202
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October 29, 2015

Mr. Craig Godbout – WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Godbout:

The Poudre River Trail Corridor, Inc. is a multi-jurisdictional non-profit organization which has worked, since its formation over 20 years ago, to preserve, protect and promote the Cache la Poudre River Corridor as the asset it is to our region.

Our early focus was to establish a regional trail link to allow the communities appropriate access, appreciation and use of this sensitive and important area. Our work today is concentrated on expanding the vision to the larger corridor and working alongside our many Poudre partners on a collaborative initiative for the full corridor.

The Master Plan, as proposed, will provide a critical framework from which to achieve that coordinated vision. Your funding of this request will allow this important work to proceed.

I urge your favorable consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Mike Ketterling,
Board Chair



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Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Godbout,

The Town of Windsor had enjoyed a long partnership with the City of Greeley in membership on the Poudre River Trail Board, in association with the Poudre Heritage Alliance, and is a member of a Greeley Poudre Initiative Committee which works to communicate and collaborate for the betterment of the river corridor and related water projects.

The Master Plan proposed for funding by Greeley as part of the Greeley Area Cache la Poudre Greenway Corridor Project is fully supported by Windsor as an important regional planning tool which will have broad value and application in northern Colorado.

On behalf of the Town of Windsor I urge your support of this funding request to assist with the development of the Poudre Greenway Corridor Master Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "EL" followed by a stylized flourish.

Eric Lucas, MS, CPRP
Director of Parks, Recreation, and Culture