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

Co-Applicants:	Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District (CWSD) & Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority (ACWWA)
Fiscal Agent:	Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District
Water Activity Name:	Biological Treatment to Remove Selenium from Water Treatment Plant Concentrate
Water Activity Purpose:	M&I
County:	Arapahoe & Douglas
Drainage Basin:	South Platte
Water Source:	Non-tributary Ground Water (Denver Basin Aquifers) and Cherry Creek (tributary alluvial)
Amount Requested/Source of Funds:	 \$25,000 Metro Account <u>\$375,000 Statewide Basin Account</u> \$400,000 Total Grant Request
Matching Funds:	Basin Account Match ($$25,000$) = 6.3% of total grant request (meets 5% min); Basin Account & Applicant Match ($$4,675,000$) = 1,170% of total grant request (meets 25% min); Applicant/3 rd Party Match ($$4,650,000$) = 92% of total project costs ($$5,050,000$) (refer to <i>Funding Summary/Matching Funds</i> section)

Note: The apparent discrepancy between the \$475,000 Statewide Account request indicated in the application and the \$375,000 Statewide Account request represented herein (and on the spreadsheet accompanying the Memo) can be attributed to the applicant agreeing to reduce their Statewide Account request by \$100,000 to accommodate the Statewide Account funding shortfall.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Metro Account; and \$375,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project titled: Biological Treatment to Remove Selenium from Water Treatment Plant Concentrate.

Water Activity Summary: WSRA funds, if approved, will be expended to fund the construction of a biological treatment system in the existing Joint Water Purification Plant (JWPP) to reduce selenium concentrations in the concentrate discharge from RO. The biological system also causes chemical reactions to occur, and treatment can be enhanced through the addition of chemicals. The primary benefit of the project is to make the renewable water supply from Cherry Creek available to

CWSD and ACWWA for first use and reuse, and to reduce the reliance on non-tributary ground water. The goals of the project are as follows:

- 1. Reduce dependence on non-renewable supply;
- 2. Reuse available renewable supply;
- 3. Utilize a \$30 million investment;
- 4. Meet aquatic protection standards for selenium;
- 5. Not impacting the Cherry Creek Reservoir by maintaining phosphorous discharge standards;
- 6. Maintain home values through a secure water supply;
- 7. Reduce the cost burden on a small water provider and its customers;
- 8. Provide high quality and safe water supply (TDS, hardness, ECE).

To accomplish these goals the applicants will undertake the following tasks:

- 1. Pilot Study and Preliminary Design (in process, costs not a part of the proposed project)
- 2. Land Purchase
- 3. Revise Discharge Permit
- 4. Biochemical Reactor Final Design
- 5. Treatment Plant Design of Modifications
- 6. CDPHE Plan Approvals

In 2010, CWSD and ACWWA completed the JWPP, a \$30 million water treatment plant utilizing reverse osmosis (RO) and advanced oxidation process (AOP) to effectively treat water from Cherry Creek. This enabled the entities to fully use and reuse their water rights on Cherry Creek which now include in-priority water rights and the reuse of these rights as well as imported water from the WISE and ACWWA Flow Projects. However, the JWPP was subsequently converted to a microfiltration plant because of a violation due to selenium concentration in the concentrate discharge from the plant. As a microfiltration plant, quality is poor due to high total dissolved solids (TDS -700 ppm), and a lack of treatment of chemicals of emerging concern (CECs). As a consequence, the plant is very underutilized by ACWWA and CWSD does not utilize the plant at all.

Means of restoring the RO process through efficient and cost effective treatment of selenium in the discharge concentrate of the Joint Water Purification Plant have been studied for several years without identification of an economically viable alternative. Recently, a new study was completed to evaluate the potential for treatment using a biological treatment system called a biochemical reactor ("BCR"). This reactor could be constructed on about 6 acres of vacant land behind the JWPP. It is constructed by developing treatment cells buried in the ground.

Selenium loading will be reduced to the Cherry Creek Watershed and to Cherry Creek Reservoir through gasification and immobilization. This will help to protect the lower portions of the watershed that are currently selenium compliant, and will reduce loading to the Cherry Creek Reservoir where selenium levels are a concern to fish and especially the Walleye Fishery. The system also has the ability to remove/reduce nitrates and phosphorous and will also break down CECs that are in the concentrate. The removal of nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen is beneficial for Cherry Creek Reservoir as evidenced by studies completed by the Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority.

Further, high selenium concentrations are an obstacle to water use in many locations in Colorado. This is the result of naturally occurring selenium levels that frequently exceed the aquatic protection

standard, and because of efforts to use and reuse water supplies high in TDS. By furthering the advancement of treatment capability to remove selenium from water, there is benefit statewide to increase water supply and protect the environment. Therefore, the project has multiple benefits including water supply development, watershed protection, and protection of Cherry Creek State Park Reservoir through water quality and recreational enhancement.

In addition, if permitted through the CDPHE, water discharged after biological treatment could be released above the existing water quality pond on Windmill Creek owned by the Southeast Metropolitan Stormwater Authority. This could greatly enhance the existing wetland in this pond that is marginal today because of a lack of baseflow. In doing this, there is a large potential for additional removal of selenium, nitrogen and phosphorous in water tributary to the watershed and Cherry Creek Reservoir.

Discussion: This project aligns with well with several of the Goals and Measurable Outcomes as addressed in the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan. For example, Goal 1.9.2: Municipal Water Conservation, Reuse and Efficiency and its associated Measurable Outcome #3 promotes "Enhance current levels of municipal water reuse and consider studies to quantify the effects of: 1) additional municipal water conservation on water available for reuse; 2) additional municipal water reuse in relation to water available for exchanges; 3) reuse and successive uses of water downstream including effects on agricultural water shortages" (SPBIP; Section 1.9.2, page 1-27). Furthermore, the SPBIP lists this effort as an IPP in Section 4.3.2.1: Reuse Identified Projects and Processes; Table 4-10: South Platte and Metro Provider's Reuse IPPs; page 4-25.

In addition this effort advances Colorado's Water Plan Reuse options as a means to close the supplydemand gap as highlighted in Chapter 6.3.2: Reuse (CWP; Chapter 6.3.2: Reuse; pages 6-75 thru 6-81), and promotes Water Quality goals as emphasized in Chapter 7.3: Water Quality (CWP; Chapter 7.3: Water Quality; pages 7-17 thru 7-33).

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:

This project has undergone review and evaluation and staff has determined that this request satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Further analysis of the project, and how the project will meet Tiered Evaluation Criteria, is provided by the applicant in the WSRA Application.

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

Funding Source	Cash	In-kind	<u>Total</u>
Cottonwood Water & Sanitation District	\$3,100,000	\$0	\$3,100,000
ACWWA	\$1,550,000	\$0	\$1,550,000
Subtotal matching funds	\$4,650,000	\$0	\$4,650,000
WSRA Metro Account	\$25,000	n/a	\$25,000
WSRA Statewide Account	\$375,000	n/a	\$375,000
Total Project Costs	\$5,050,000	\$0	\$5,050,000

CWCB Project Manager: Craig Godbout

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.

January 25, 2016

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

Re: Biological Treatment to Remove Selenium from Water Treatment Plant Concentrate (reinstatement of water treatment plant)

Dear Mr. Godbout,

The Metro Roundtable voted at its January 14, 2016 meeting, to approve a grant application for "Biological Treatment to Remove Selenium from Water Treatment Plant Concentrate as proposed by the Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District ("Cottonwood") and the Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority ("ACWWA"). The Roundtable unanimously approved \$25,000 from the Metro WSRA, and endorsed the applicants' request for \$475,000 from the Statewide WSRA for consideration at the CWCB's March, 2016 board meeting.

The Roundtable underwent an evaluation and approval process, and believes this application fully meets the Threshold and Evaluation Criteria for the WSRA Grant Program. It is supportive of the Project as one of the Metro Roundtable's IPPs and a water supply project that helps meet the Metro Roundtable's water supply gap. In addition, this project will help to further the technology for biological treatment to remove selenium to very low levels that meet the state's water quality standards for the protection of aquatic life. This technology has the potential to further water providers' ability to use and reuse water sources, and to provide a means of addressing selenium issues statewide. During the evaluation and approval process, there were no dissenting votes or opinions expressed and there was a quorum present.

This letter is intended to fulfill Threshold Criteria B (Part III 1.b. in the WSRA Application). The full WSRA Application will be provided separately by the applicant. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Barbara Biggs, Chair Metro Roundtable



Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority 8390 East Crescent Parkway, Suite 500 Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111 (P) 303.779.4525 (F) 303.773.2050

January 21, 2016

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

Re: Grant Application for Biological Treatment of Selenium in Concentrate

Dear Mr. Godbout,

The Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority ("CCBWQA") is providing this letter to express support for the grant application for "Biological Treatment of Selenium in Concentrate" as proposed by the Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority ("ACWWA") and the Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District ("CWSD"). This project would construct a Biochemical Reactor ("BCR") to remove selenium from the reject water from the reverse osmosis treatment process.

Selenium concentrations in discharges to Cherry Creek, its tributaries and the Reservoir are a concern of the CCBWQA to protect fish and invertebrates in these ecosystems. Therefore, the development of natural treatment systems like this BCR, which physically removes selenium and allows discharges to meet the aquatic protection limits provides value for both the discharger to optimize its water source and for the CCBWQA by helping protect the environment.

The BCR natural treatment system also has the potential to provide additional benefits by removing other constituents of concern such as nutrients. Hopefully the development of this system will further the technology that can protect ecosystems throughout the state. Therefore, the CCBWQA is pleased to support this application.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Piko Chairman



7437 South Fairplay Street Centennial CO 80112 303.858.8844 www.semswa.org

January 28, 2016

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

RE: Support for CWSD/ACWWA WSRA Funding Request for Biological Treatment to Remove Selenium

Dear Mr. Godbout,

This letter is in support of the Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District (CWSD) and Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority (ACWWA) Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) funding request for an important project that re-establishes a much-needed facility to meet our south metro water supply needs. This biological treatment approach also expands our knowledge of treatment options for selenium in the Cherry Creek basin as well as other basins in Colorado, with the added benefit of nutrient removal that will ultimately be beneficial to the Cherry Creek Reservoir.

The Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) is an active member of the Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority's Technical Advisory Committee and their Board of Director's, and applauds the groundbreaking approach proposed with this project. By pursuing grant funding from the WSRA with the approval of the Metro Roundtable, the results of this pioneering treatment can be shared amongst all the entities that have a vested interest in fully using and reusing water from Cherry Creek and thereby replacing the use of non-tributary groundwater that is not sustainable. We are also pleased that they will be enhancing water quality in addition to meeting water supply demands with their approach. Specifically, by removing selenium from Cherry Creek, with the added benefit of bioreactor media that can also remove phosphorous, nitrates and other constituents of concern in the basin, we believe the health of the Cherry Creek Reservoir will be improved.

SEMSWA works closely with all jurisdictional entities within the Cherry Creek basin and supports the use of WSRA funds for projects that will benefit the water quality in Reservoir as well as expand the science of innovative treatment strategies for a safe, high quality water supply. We hope you will look favorably upon this proposal submitted by co-applicants CWSD and ACWWA that has the potential to appreciably enhance the health of the Cherry Creek Reservoir.

Sincerely,

In U.

John A. McCarty, PE, PWLF Executive Director, SEMSWA

cc: Pat Mulhern, CWSD



8400 East Prentice Avenue Suite 315 Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Phone 720 216 5158 Fax 720 216 5154

January 25, 2016

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

RE: Support Letter for Cottonwood Water & Sanitation District / ACWWA -- Biological Treatment of Selenium Concentrate (reinstatement of the Joint Water Purification Plant) Grant Application

Dear Craig,

The South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA) supports the grant request for the Joint Water Purification Plant ("JWPP") project recently proposed by Cottonwood Water & Sanitation District ("Cottonwood") and Arapahoe County Water & Wastewater Authority ("ACWWA") as described in their grant application.

Our members are diligent in working together to reduce the region's dependency on nonrenewable groundwater by developing and reusing renewable water supplies. This particular project is an important project for these communities because it will not only help the providers meet their growing water supply demands without further drawing upon depleting groundwater, but it will also advance an effective new biological treatment technology designed to treat high concentrations of selenium in reverse osmosis ("RO") discharge. By reinstating the RO process at the Joint Water Purification Plant, this project would allow both Cottonwood and ACWWA to fully use and reuse their current Cherry Creek alluvial supplies and it will improve the water quality in the Cherry Creek Watershed.

Although both of these communities are relatively small, their ability to treat, use, and reuse an existing renewable water supply like the Cherry Creek alluvial supplies is of statewide importance for a couple of reasons. First, because of the nonrenewable water supply challenges facing the south metro area, Colorado's Water Plan (CWP) and the South Platte/Metro Basin Roundtables have recognized this region as one of the major "M&I gap" areas in the state. In addition, this project is an important IPP (Identified Project and Process) in the South Platte/Metro Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) and its success helps implement the BIP and CWP. Continued reliance on Denver Basin Aquifers, even by smaller communities, causes a more rapid depletion within the aquifer system. Solving a portion of this nonrenewable water supply issue with more effective treatment solutions benefits the entire region and moves us all one step closer to sustainable use of our water resources. This partnership and construction of the proposed biological treatment system provides a terrific example of creating regional solutions to reduce dependency on non-renewable groundwater, to expand and utilize existing renewable resources, and help meet the challenges in the state's largest "gap" area.

Second, this area is only one of many areas in Colorado with a water supply problem that is requiring the use of Reverse Osmosis (RO). One of the biggest challenges with RO is brine disposal because of the potential water quality impacts. Proper treatment to remove selenium, nitrates, phosphorus, and other chemicals of emerging concern or trace pharmaceuticals ("CECs") is often critical to water supply use and reuse in many areas. This grant application pilots new and emerging technologies that may be applicable to other regions of the state facing either brine disposal challenges associated with RO or selenium problems in general.

Finally, this project and grant application has broader benefits beyond those of ACWWA and Cottonwood. By effectively reducing selenium and other levels in the RO discharge, this treatment plant will also help protect lower portions of the Cherry Creek Watershed. It will improve water quality providing environmental and recreational benefits in the Cherry Creek Watershed, Cherry Creek Reservoir, and downstream.

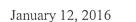
South Metro Water Supply Authority and its members support this project and encourage approval of the grant application.

Sincerely,

Lic B. recof

Eric Hecox, Executive Director South Metro Water Supply Authority

Office of the County Commissioners



www.douglas.co.us

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

OUGLAS COUNT

Re: Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District Biological Treatment of Selenium in Concentrate (Reinstatement of the JWPP)

Dear Mr. Godbout:

Douglas County is submitting this letter in support of the grant application for "Biological Treatment of Selenium in Concentrate as proposed by the Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District ("Cottonwood") and the Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority ("ACWWA"). These applicants intend to use these funds to construct a biological treatment system to reduce the selenium concentrations in the concentrate discharge from the reverse osmosis ("RO") process at their Joint Water Purification Plant ("JWPP").

Development in Douglas County and its urban areas has been substantial over the past 30 years, and has been largely reliant on use of Denver Basin non-tributary ground water ("NTGW") over that time period. Douglas County has been working with water providers to find other water resources to reduce the burden on the NTGW through conservation, reuse and development of local renewable water supplies. These entities have invested heavily in the JWPP to develop and reuse their local resources but have been frustrated by difficulties in dealing with selenium in the discharge from RO. This project is an ideal solution that uses natural treatment processes to remove the selenium and meet the standard for aquatic protection, and provides environmental benefits to Cherry Creek Reservoir as well.

Water supply is a very important issue in Douglas County where renewable water supplies are scarce. This project would enable these entities to provide a high quality, safe water supply for their customers and would allow them to recapture the value of an important investment.

We believe that a grant from the WSRA can be an important contribution to making this a viable solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

David A. Weaver, Chair

DAW/tm

David A. Weaver Commissioner District I Roger A. Partridge Commissioner District II

Jill E. Repella Commissioner District III

100 Third Street • Castle Rock, Colorado 80104 • 303.660.7401 • Fax 303.484.4344



January 20, 2015

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

Re: Letter of Support for Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District and Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority Project

The Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority ("ACWWA") is one of several service districts that provides water service to Centennial residents and businesses. The ACWWA service area covers over 5 square miles of the City of Centennial, roughly 50 percent of its service area. ACCWA also serves areas of unincorporated Arapahoe County in the vicinity of the Centennial Airport that constitute part of a large master planned development known as the Dove Valley Business Park. Together, these areas form an interconnected business and residential community that also include potential growth areas for Centennial and the broader region. There are over 1.2 square miles of developable land within the ACWWA service area in the City of Centennial alone and more in unincorporated Arapahoe County.

The City of Centennial recognizes the substantial investment ACWWA and the Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District ("Cottonwood") have made in the Joint Water Purification Plant ("JWPP"). When construction of the plant commenced in 2008, the plant was lauded for its potential to serve 12,000 residents and over 30,000 employees and its intended goal to increase reliance on a renewable water source and to improve water quality. The inability of the JWPP to deliver on these goals has been to the detriment of Centennial residents and businesses and others in the broader region. The JWPP is also critically important to sustained growth and development, particularly with respect to water supply and water quality.

ACCWA and Cottonwood have asked the City of Centennial for its support in pursuit of a grant that would assist in the construction of a biological treatment system to remove selenium from the concentrate discharge following reverse osmosis treatment and the reinstatement of the reverse

osmosis treatment process. This project would promote a greater return on the \$30 million investment made in the JWPP and both increase utilization of the JWPP and water quality, outcomes that would benefit both Centennial residents and businesses. An increased reliance on a renewable water source and a focus on improved water quality should positively influence growth and development in the ACWWA service area in Centennial and unincorporated Arapahoe County.

In recognition of the positive impacts the proposed project may have on Centennial residents and businesses and future growth opportunities, the City of Centennial strongly supports the Metro Roundtable grant application to the Colorado Water Conservation Board for this critical project.

Sincerely,

Catly Noon

Mayor Cathy Noon Pc: Centennial City Council



January 19, 2016

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

Mr. Godbout,

The Town of Parker has been made aware of a proposal by the Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District and the Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority (Districts) to construct a biological treatment system (biochemical reactor) to remove selenium from the concentrate discharge at the current water treatment plant. The proposed biochemical reactor will allow the plant to reinstate the RO treatment that it was originally designed for, thereby, providing better water quality to customers and complying with their discharge permit.

In conjunction with the proposed biochemical reactor construction, it is our understanding that the Districts are pursuing a grant through the Colorado Water Conservation Board to offset the high cost of the proposed project.

Town of Parker representatives have reviewed the biochemical reactor proposal from the Districts and have also been presented the design by the Districts' engineer. Based on the information provided, the Town fully supports the proposed project and would ask the CWCB to consider awarding the grant to the Districts for this project.

The Town of Parker is a part of the Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority and also has residents that live within the service boundary of this water treatment plant. In the interest of the environment and Town residents, this proposal appears to be an excellent use of a State funded grant.

Please feel free to contact Jacob James, Senior Stormwater Engineer at (303) 840-9546 or <u>jjames@parkeronline.org</u> with any questions or if the Town can provide any additional information.

Respectfully,

Mike Waid

Mayor

cc: Pat Mulhern, Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District Jacob James, Town of Parker



COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT APPLICATION FORM

Today's Date: January 29, 2016

Biological Treatment To Remove Selenium from Water Treatment Plant Concentrate (reinstatement of water treatment plant)

Name of Water Activity/Project

Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District and Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority

Name of Applicant

Metro Roundtable

Amount from Statewide Account:

475,000

25,000

Amount from Basin Account(s):

Total WSRA Funds Requested:

500,000

Approving Basin Roundtable(s) (If multiple basins specify amounts in parentheses.)

FEIN: 84-0859481 CWSD

Application Content

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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)



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 (CWCB). 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 CWCB 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 CWCB website at: <u>http://cwcb.state.co.us</u> 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: <u>http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-supply-reserve-account-grants/Documents/WSRACriteriaGuidelines.pdf</u>. In addition, the applicant should also refer to the <u>Supplemental Scoring Matrix</u> 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 <u>Craig.godbout@state.co.us</u>

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

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

1.	Applicant Name(s):		nwood Water and Sanitati hoe County Water and W		<i>,</i>
	Mailing address:	2 Inve	ulhern MRE Inc. erness Drive East, #200 wood, CO 80112		
	FEIN #:	84-08	59481		
	Primary Contact:	Patric	k Mulhern	Position/Title:	Gen. Manager (CWSD)
	Email:	pat@r	nulhernmre.com		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell:	720-291-0968	Office:	303-649-9857
	Alternate Contact:	Kevin	McBrien	Position/Title:	Eng. Mgr. (ACWWA)
	Email:	kmcbr	rien@arapahoewater.org		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell:		Office:	303-790-4830

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.

XX Public (Districts) – authorities, Title 32/special districts, (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.

Private Incorporated – mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.

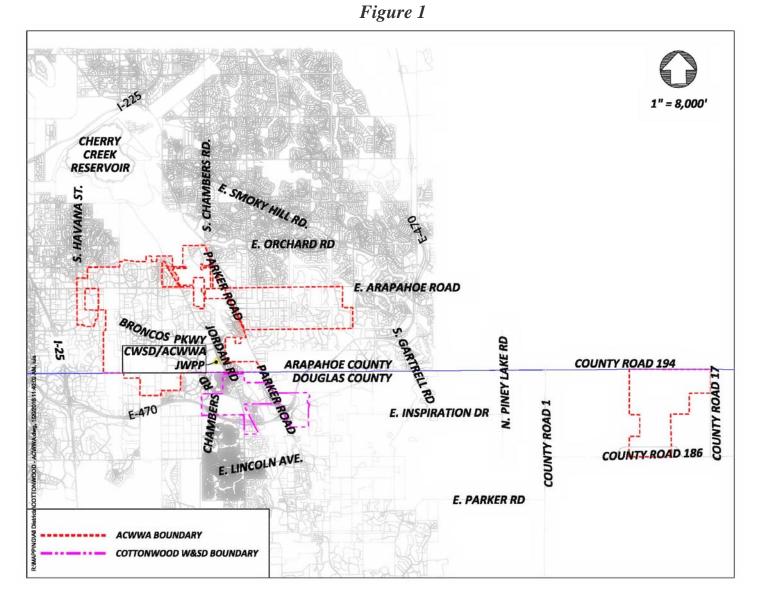
Private individuals, partnerships, and sole proprietors are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.

Non-governmental organizations – broadly defined as any organization that is not part of the government.

3. Provide a brief description of your organization

The Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District ("Cottonwood") was established under Title 32 of the Colorado State Statutes as a quasi-municipal corporation and political subdivision of the State of Colorado. The District was established in 1980 to provide the Cottonwood community in Parker, Colorado with water and wastewater services. The District contains approximately 1,300 acres and is comprised of residential, commercial, and open space located along the northern border of Douglas County on either side of Parker Road. Two-thirds of the district is within the Town of Parker and the remainder in unincorporated Douglas County. Cottonwood Water serves approximately 1535 single family homes, 1400 multi-family residences and about 70 commercial customers, including the Parker Adventist Hospital and several medical office buildings and medical care facilities. The Cottonwood boundaries are shown on Figure 1 below.

The Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority ("ACWWA") provides the drinking water and wastewater services to the people living and working within its service area, a total of eightsquare miles located mostly in the City of Centennial generally between Havana Street on the west, Himalaya on the east, Cherry Creek State Park on the north and the Arapahoe/Douglas County line on the south also shown on Figure 1. The area is comprised of about 3,500 residences and businesses primarily in Arapahoe County, with some additional customers located in northern Douglas County and Elbert County. While most of the customers are businesses, over the past few years ACWWA has realized more residential development of both multi-family and single-family homes.



The greatest challenge to these water and wastewater providers is to provide adequate and safe

water supply for their customers. Water supply in this area is very limited. The water available includes non-tributary ground water ("NTGW") from the Denver Formation and alluvial water from Cherry Creek.

In 2004, the South Metro Water Supply Authority completed a study to evaluate NTGW as a water supply source (the Denver Basin Aquifers) and the ability to meet the long-term demands of the current and future South Metro Area population. The conclusion of the study was that the NTGW would not be an economically viable water source for the future. The study then recommended that water providers implement conservation, reuse available supplies, develop all local renewable supplies, and pursue opportunities to import additional water.

Cottonwood and ACWWA have implemented successful water conservation programs, have worked to maximize reuse of both NTGW and Cherry Creek alluvial supplies and have constructed a water treatment plant, the "Joint Water Purification Plant" ("JWPP"), to fully use and reuse renewable water supplies on Cherry Creek. In addition, Cottonwood has invested in the WISE Project which imports return flows from Denver Water and Aurora Water, and ACWWA has invested in the ACWWA Flow project, both of which import water from the South Platte River north of Denver.

In order to fully use and reuse water from Cherry Creek, Cottonwood and ACWWA jointly developed the JWPP which originally included reverse osmosis ("RO") treatment followed by an advanced oxidation process ("AOP") for disinfection. This level of treatment was provided because of the quality of water in Cherry Creek which includes large amounts of treated effluent. The RO treatment removes high levels of total dissolved solids ("TDS"), and both the RO and AOP treat for chemicals of emerging concern ("CECs") which are largely trace pharmaceuticals found in treated effluent.

Early on in operation of the JWPP, selenium concentrations in the concentrate from the plant exceeded the discharge permit limit for aquatic protection. This led to a modification of the JWPP that shut down the RO process and replaced it with microfiltration. The microfiltration process, while meeting drinking water standards, does not remove TDS and does not treat for CECs. As a result, water quality is marginal. Because of this, Cottonwood is not currently using water from the JWPP and ACWWA is using limited volumes from the plant blended with its other water sources.

Re-establishment of RO at the JWPP is critical to Cottonwood and ACWWA to fully utilize its renewable water supply on Cherry Creek. This includes reuse of Cherry Creek water rights, and NTGW, WISE and ACWWA Flow returns. This plant is critical for Cottonwood and ACWWA to meet their water supply demands and to replace their use of non-renewing NTGW. Full reuse of all supplies by these entities also minimizes the volume of imported water required from other remote sources.

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

Cottonwood and ACWWA both operate Enterprises which are not subject to Tabor restrictions.

Part II. - Description of the Water Activity/Project

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

	Nonconsumptive (En	viro	nmental or Recreational)
	Agricultural		
XX	Municipal/Industrial		
	Needs Assessment		
	Education		
	Other Expl	ain:	This project will allow for re-establishing the JWPP which will allow full use and reuse of water supplies.

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

This project proposes using a biological treatment system to reduce selenium concentrations in the concentrate discharge from RO. The biological system also causes chemical reactions to occur, and treatment can be enhanced through the addition of chemicals. The primary benefit of the project is to make the renewable water supply from Cherry Creek available to Cottonwood and ACWWA for first use and reuse, and to reduce the reliance on NTGW. This facility is also ACWWA's Identified Project and Process ("IPP") (Reuse of ACWWA Flow Project Deliveries, see South Platte/Metro BIP. p. 4-25.) Cottonwood and ACWWA estimate that restoration of the plant will result in some 3,000 acre-feet of water use and reuse that is largely unused today.

Selenium loading will be reduced to the Cherry Creek Watershed and to Cherry Creek Reservoir through gasification and immobilization. This will help to protect the lower portions of the watershed that are currently selenium compliant, and will reduce loading to the Cherry Creek Reservoir where selenium levels are a concern to fish and especially the Walleye Fishery. The system also has the ability to remove/reduce nitrates and phosphorous and will also break down CECs that are in the concentrate. The removal of nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen is beneficial for Cherry Creek Reservoir as evidenced by studies completed by the Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority.

Further, high selenium concentrations are an obstacle to water use in many locations in Colorado. This is the result of naturally occurring selenium levels that frequently exceed the aquatic protection standard, and because of efforts to use and reuse water supplies high in TDS. By furthering the advancement of treatment capability to remove selenium from water, there is benefit statewide to increase water supply and protect the environment.

Therefore, the project has multiple benefits including water supply development, watershed protection, and protection of Cherry Creek State Park Reservoir through water quality and recreational enhancement.

In addition, if permitted through the CDPHE, water discharged after biological treatment could be released above the existing water quality pond on Windmill Creek owned by the Southeast Metropolitan Stormwater Authority. This could greatly enhance the existing wetland in this pond that is marginal today because of a lack of baseflow. In doing this, there is a large potential for additional removal of selenium, nitrogen and phosphorous in water tributary to the watershed and Cherry Creek Reservoir.

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

Study XX Implementation

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

	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
3000 AF	New Annual Water Supplies Developed, Consumptive or Nonconsumptive (acre-feet)
13,690 AF	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
21,850 LF	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:

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

Latitude:

39* 34′ 9.53″ N

Longitude: 104* 48' 22.02"W

6. 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.

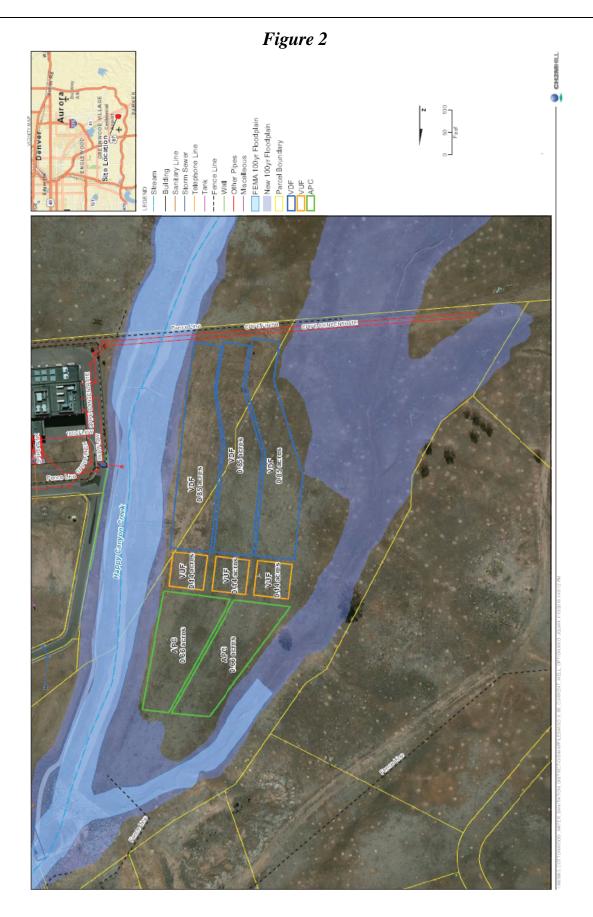
In 2010, Cottonwood and ACWWA completed the JWPP, a \$30 million water treatment plant utilizing RO and AOP to effectively treat water from Cherry Creek. This enabled the entities to fully use and reuse their water rights on Cherry Creek which now include in-priority water rights and the reuse of these rights as well as imported water from the WISE and ACWWA Flow Projects. However, the JWPP was subsequently

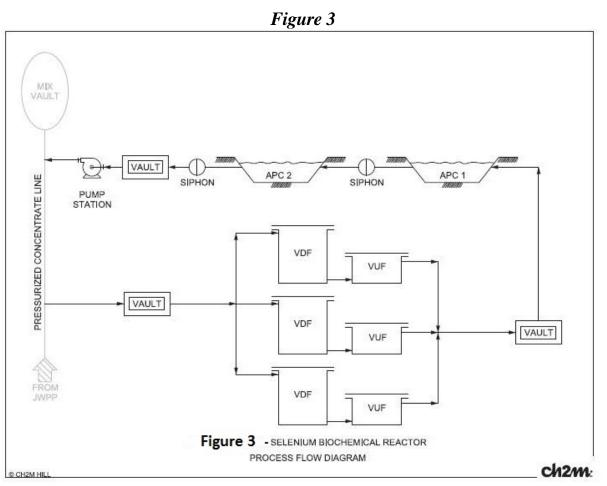
converted to a microfiltration plant because of a violation due to selenium concentration in the concentrate discharge from the plant. As a microfiltration plant, quality is poor due to high TDS (700 ppm), and a lack of treatment of CECs. As a consequence, the plant is very underutilized by ACWWA and Cottonwood does not utilize the plant at all.

Means of restoring the RO process through efficient and cost effective treatment of selenium in the discharge concentrate of the Joint Water Purification Plant have been studied for several years without identification of an economically viable alternative. Recently, a new study was completed to evaluate the potential for treatment using a biological treatment system called a biochemical reactor ("BCR"). This reactor could be constructed on about 6 acres of vacant land behind the JWPP. It is constructed by developing treatment cells buried in the ground. "Treatment systems designed for selenium reduction consist of a vertical or horizontal subsurface flow of water through a reducing organic substrate. This achieves microbial and chemical reduction of selenium naturally. The organic substrate utilized has been composed of wood chips, saw dust, mushroom compost, horse manure, field hay, yard wastes, and limestone granules in varying proportions." (CH2M, Exhibit D)

"Because the BCR is comprised of organic media, secondary parameters (e.g. biochemical oxygen demand [BOD], color, sulfide and reduced nitrogen) are generated that require treatment before discharge. Frequently described as aerobic polishing cells, these treatment units function by trapping particulate organic particles, increasing the DO content of the BCR effluent, as well as oxidizing chemical oxygen demand [COD] or BOD present."(CH2M, Exhibit D)

The proposed layout of the BCR is shown on Figure 2, and the process drawing is shown in Figure 3. Data from previous pilot studies and installations indicate that selenium can be reduced to concentrations between 1 and 3 ppb which is below the aquatic protection level of 4.6 ppb.





Cottonwood and ACWWA propose to purchase additional land adjacent to the JWPP and construct this BCR to reduce the selenium in the concentrate discharge from the JWPP. This will allow restoration of the RO treatment process which is now proposed to treat one-half of the flow with the other half treated using microfiltration. The flow will then be blended and disinfected using the AOP. This reconfiguration will produce a high quality treated water with reduced total dissolved solids, hardness, and contaminants of emerging concern. The plant capacity will be 6 MGD resulting in the treatment of approximately 3,000 acre-feet of alluvial water and return flows that are not currently being utilized.

The cost of the land to accommodate the BCR is approximately \$200,000. The cost for construction of the BCR is estimated at a total of \$3.8 million per the attached study by CH2M. The JWPP itself will need to be modified for the split flow treatment at a cost estimated at \$1.05 million for a total project cost of \$5.05 million. Cottonwood and ACWWA have retained CH2M to complete a pilot study of the proposed BCR. The pilot study will confirm selenium and phosphorous removal and will also address odor control and whole effluent toxicity ("WET") testing to assure compliance with permit requirements.

For ACWWA, this project will complete an IPP identified as part of the South Platte/Metro BIP. This will provide for reuse of an estimated 1,900 acre-feet of water from the ACWWA Flow importation project. For Cottonwood, this will allow for use and reuse of Cherry Creek and WISE return flows amounting to an estimated 1,100 acre-feet that was lost when the RO treatment process was shut down.

This \$30 million asset, constructed using funds from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund, is extremely underutilized due to the water quality that is produced. This project is estimated to restore some \$20 million in this asset value.

Part III. – Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

- 1. <u>Describe how</u> 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.¹

Cottonwood and ACWWA have alluvial water rights along the Cherry Creek and non-tributary ground water rights in the Denver Basin decreed for municipal use and all available water is usable to extinction allowing for full reuse under the entities' respective augmentation plans. In addition, water acquired through ACWWA Flow or delivered under contract through WISE is fully reusable, and each entity currently has water court cases filed to add these flows to the decreed augmentation plans.

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 proposal was presented to the Metro Roundtable at their meeting on December 14, 2015, and will be presented for formal approval at their meeting on January 14, 2016. The proposed application was well received by the Roundtable and all comments were supportive and positive. The Metro Roundtable approval letter will be attached.

c) The water activity meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes.² 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. (*Please see following page*)

¹ 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.

² 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.

For ACWWA, this project will complete an IPP identified as part of the South Platte/Metro BIP. This will provide for reuse of an estimated 1,900 acre-feet of water from the ACWWA Flow importation project. For Cottonwood, this will allow for use and reuse of Cherry Creek and WISE return flows amounting to an estimated 1,100 acre-feet that was lost when the RO treatment process was shut down. In both cases, this is water needed to replace NTGW which was originally thought to be a permanent water supply source. However, the South Metro Water Supply Study completed in 2004 determined that this water supply was not economically viable for urban demands in the long term and recommended that this source of supply be replaced. The study specifically recommended that the South Metro water providers reduce demands through conservation, maximize reuse of all reusable sources, fully develop local renewable supplies, and then import additional water supply gap identified in the 2010 Statewide Water Supply Initiative.

In the Metro Basin Roundtable's Needs Assessment ("MBRT Needs Assessment") 2011, one of the Major Findings in 7.2.1 states that "the long-term use of the Denver Basin aquifers is not sustainable as a main water supply." The recommendations go on to support the development of additional water supply to replace use of the Non-Tributary Ground Water ("NTGW"), such as the Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency ("WISE") Project and other planned projects to reduce the reliance on NTGW and to preserve it as a drought reserve. Recognizing the need to meet this water supply gap, Cottonwood and ACWWA joined together to design and construct the JWPP which allowed them to fully utilize their local renewable water supply on Cherry Creek, and allowed them to make full reuse of that supply under their augmentation plans. In addition, Cottonwood invested in the WISE Project and ACWWA invested in the ACWWA Flow Project to import additional renewable water supply. In both cases, the amount of imported water required was reduced by the ability of these entities to fully reuse these water sources with proper treatment through the JWPP. When the JWPP was modified to a microfiltration plant because of exceedance of the selenium standard for aquatic protection, water quality was compromised so that these entities could not fully use or reuse these supplies. Hence, when the plant was modified, the water supply gap was immediately increased substantially for these entities.

One of the key findings of the SWSI 2010 is related to the significant M&I water supply gap in the demand forecast for 2050 even with implementation of the IPPs. In the Metro Roundtable area, this gap is at 58%. This serves to highlight the importance of completing the IPP for reuse of ACWWA Flow, and to fully re-establish the ability of these two entities to reuse all available water supplies through use of the JWPP. The MBRT Needs Assessment encourages development of these types of collaborative and forward-thinking approaches to water projects through WSRA grants.

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 but 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 cost of revising the JWPP is substantial at approximately \$5.05 million. This includes bioreactor construction at \$3.8 million, land acquisition at \$0.2 million, and modification of the plant interior

piping, pump systems and controls at \$1.05 million.

The project would be funded as follows:

•	Cottonwood	\$3,050,000 (60.4%)*
•	ACWWA	\$1,500,000 (29.7%)*
•	Metro Roundtable	\$ 25,000 (0.5%)
•	CWCB Grant	\$ 475,000 (9.4%)
	TOTAL:	\$5.05 million (100.0%)

*Cottonwood and ACWWA are pursuing an additional grant opportunity for up to \$0.3 million of this combined amount through the US Bureau of Reclamation. The success of this application will not be known until June of this year.

Below is the cost estimate for the project:

	Capital Cost	Non- Construction Costs	Contingency	Total Capital Costs
Biochemical Reactor	\$2,590,000	\$681,000	\$529,000	\$3,800,000
Land Acquisition	\$200,000			\$200,000
Plant Modifications	\$753,750	\$113,063	\$173,363	\$1,050,000 (rounded)
TOTALS:	\$3,543,750	\$794,063	\$702,363	\$5,050,000

Cost Estimate for Proposed System

- 2. For Applications that include a request for funds from the **Statewide Account**, <u>describe how</u> 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.

<u>Tier 1: Promoting Collaboration/Cooperation and Meeting Water Management Goals and Identified Water</u> <u>Needs</u>

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.
- 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.

We believe this project is unique in providing a multitude of benefits. These include:

- 1. The project is an IPP by ACWWA for reuse of its ACWWA Flow Water (See South Platte/Metro BIP p. 4-25.)
- 2. This project will enable these entities to utilize some 3,000 acre-feet of renewable water from Cherry Creek thereby replacing this volume of NTGW use and reuse. By effectively using and reusing this water, the water supply gap in the South Platte/Metro Basin is greatly reduced and there is less pressure on the import of water from remote locations.
- 3. The project provides for appropriate treatment for a safe, high quality water supply given that these entities are the fourth user of these supplies in a 12 mile stretch of Cherry Creek.
- 4. The project will remove selenium currently in water tributary to Cherry Creek thereby reducing the loading to Cherry Creek tributaries and Cherry Creek Reservoir. Selenium levels in the reservoir are a concern for fish in general and specifically the Walleye Fishery. Hence this project would be a benefit to the Cherry Creek State Park Recreational Area and would benefit the Walleye Fishery.
- 5. The project proposes to discharge, meeting all permit requirements, above a constructed water quality pond on Windmill Creek. This water quality pond has an existing wetland that is stressed because of a lack of base flow. This discharge would provide a base flow which would increase the vibrancy of the wetland thereby allowing for additional phosphorous, nitrogen and selenium removal above the Cherry Creek Watershed and Cherry Creek Reservoir. (This is subject to necessary approvals by the State, the Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority, and the Southeast Metropolitan Storm Water Authority.)
- 6. This project would serve to further technology to remove selenium in a cost effective manner which could benefit selenium compliance issues statewide.
- 7. The project would restore the value of a \$30 million facility for which these entities customers are paying without receiving the benefit of the facility. The current facility, if constructed for the existing microfiltration process, could have been constructed for an estimated \$10 million. Therefore, there is a substantial cost benefit ratio whereby \$20 million in lost investment is largely restored for a cost of \$5 million. This project was funded with the DWRF, and we believe it is a matter of statewide interest, as well as these entities' customers interest, to restore the value of this investment.
- 8. This project has very low operational costs associated using natural biological and chemical reactions to remove naturally occurring pollutants. The water providers do not add any pollutants to the system but remove a number of constituents to the benefit of the downstream environment.

This project is completely consistent with the Metro Basin Roundtable Needs Assessment, 2011, which recommends support of water providers with funding and assistance in pursuing available technologies in treatment and support of IPPs for reuse projects.

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.

Cottonwood and ACWWA worked for 8 years and invested more than \$30 million to develop and implement the JWPP. The cost is a substantial burden to these 2 relatively small water providers. The cost is extraordinary because these entities are the 4^{th} users of water supply in a 12 mile stretch of Cherry Creek above Cherry Creek Reservoir. That is, treatment requirements are substantial to provide a good quality, safe water supply given the increased TDS in the water and the CECs that are associated with large volumes of treated effluent in the source water. Therefore, the expensive but effective treatment processes of RO and AOP were utilized.

In addition, the concentrate discharge from the RO process had to be further treated to remove phosphorous to meet the requirements for phosphorous concentrations in discharges above Cherry Creek Reservoir. This required additional treatment processes of coagulation and microfiltration prior to discharge of the concentrate. Now another separate treatment process to remove selenium, i.e., the BCR, will be constructed. The cost of this additional treatment system and plant modifications will add another \$5 million in project costs.

These entities are acting to provide water supply to the area by very efficiently using and reusing the water supply available. They also have initiated water conservation that has resulted in very low demands. They do not add any pollutants to the system, however, selenium and phosphorous are concentrated through the treatment process and must be removed. In doing so, there is a net reduction in loading to the reservoir by virtue of this treatment.

All of this has resulted in extraordinary costs to the customers of these entities. This grant request and potentially another grant through Bureau of Reclamation would serve to help reduce the burden on these customers.

The amount of this grant request represents only 10% of the total project costs to restore use of the JWPP. As proposed, Cottonwood and ACWWA will pay 90% of project costs. These entities hope that they may be able to obtain a Bureau of Reclamation grant as well. If they were to be successful, then a maximum of 20% of overall costs would be funded by grants, and the entities would pay the remaining 80%. Hence, in any case, these entities will be funding a majority of project costs.

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.

This Water Activity will develop water supply and will treat to remove selenium, phosphorous and nitrogen to the benefit of the Cherry Creek Watershed and Cherry Creek Reservoir. There is currently a concern for levels of selenium, phosphorous and nitrogen in Cherry Creek Reservoir. Selenium is a concern for fish in general and specifically for the Walleye Fishery in the reservoir that provides recreational amenities for those using this State Park. Nutrient loading to the reservoir leads to algae growth and then low oxygen levels when the algae decay. This leads to concerns for reservoir eutrophication and oxygen levels detrimental to fish. The water treatment process does not add any selenium, phosphorous or nitrogen, and therefore the removal of such reduces the loading to the reservoir providing environmental and recreational benefits.

This Water Activity also provides the ability for Cottonwood and ACWWA to efficiently utilize a large volume of renewable water supply while providing meaningful environmental and recreational benefits. In doing so, these entities limit their need to import water from the Lower South Platte or from the west slope thereby providing additional environmental benefits. The cost of the grant at \$500,000 is a very low cost compared to the cost of producing this amount of water supply plus the reduction in loads of selenium, phosphorous and nitrogen to Cherry Creek Reservoir.

The Water Activity also serves to further the technology to remove selenium through natural treatment processes. This should help the researchers to better understand the capability of such systems as they strive to make this treatment more economically viable. This should provide benefits statewide with regard to discharge issues related to water supply and mine waste discharges, and non-compliance of natural stream systems.

Continued: Explanation of how the water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**. **Please attach additional pages as necessary.**

This water project meets the Evalutaion Criteria per the following:

Tier 1- Promotes cooperation and meets water management goals/needs:

- 1. Environment The reduction of selenium into the Cherry Creek tributary system is a benefit to the Walleye Fishery. Subject to state agency approvals, the proposed discharge point for the BCR treated water is above a water quality pond lacking a base flow to the area and would enhance this natural wetland while providing for additional treatment of phosphorous, nitrogen and selenium into the Cherry Creek Watershed.
- 2. Municipal & Industrial The ACWWA Flow Project is an IPP that was included in the South Platte/Metro BIP to reduce the M&I gap. Without implementation of this project, the gap is increased.
- 3. Agriculture By reinstating the JWPP, the water supply requirements of the ACWWA Flow Project are reduced as supplies will be used more efficiently requiring less importation of water from the north reserving the supply for agricultural use.
- 4. Recreation The Cherry Creek State Park Recreational Area would benefit when considering the fish population within the Reservoir and the effects of selenium. This project will meet aquatic protection standards for selenium prior to discharge preventing any additional loading to the Cherry Creek tributaries. Colorado Parks and Wildlife has agreed to a letter of support which we have not yet received. We will forward this to you as soon as we have it.
- 5. Interstate Compacts N/A
- 6. Multiple Basins N/A

- 7. Multi-Purpose & Cooperative Projects- This project is a cooperation of 2 local area service providers to benefit from economies of scale and demonstrate fiscal responsibility, address water quality concerns and to supply concerns, and
- 8. Intrabasin N/A

Tier 2- Facilitates Water Activity Implementation

- 1. Matching Commitment Both Cottonwood and ACWWA anticipate funding approximately 90% of the project costs through collection of customer service fees.
- 2. Matching Commitment, Other Sources The applicants will also submit an application for a WaterSMART Grant through the Bureau of Reclamation which would provide an additional funding source equal to about 6% of the overall cost of \$5.05 million.
- 3. Grant Funding Critical to Success The grant funding requested is 10% of the total project cost of \$5.05 million.

Tier 3- Water Activity Addresses Other Issues of Statewide Value and Mazimizes Benefits

- Addresses Issues of Statewide Value The Denver Basin is non-renewable water source that has slowly diminished over time and has become of great concern to business and homeowners alike. Without a reliable and sustainable water supply, property values decline, development decreases, and area economies suffer. The proposed project makes use of each applicants available water rights from a renewable resource decreasing the dependence on the Denver Basin. By having a renewable water supply a large component of each applicants water portfolio, the requirement for importation of water from other areas including the western slope, are diminished. This project will also further technology in the use of this type of treatment. By furthering the advancement of treatment capabilities to remove selenium from source water, there is statewide benefit to increase water supplies and protecting the environment.
- 2. Threatened and Endangered Species The aquatic protection standards for the Cherry Creek Watershed will be met following treatment of concentrate at the BCR.
- 3. Cost-Benefit is High for Colorado The JWPP was constructed for \$30 million using reverse osmosis and advanced oxidation processes to provide a high quality and safe water supply to our customers. The current process of microfiltration at the plant does not provide the same protections that were funded with the assistance of DWRF. Restoration of the RO treatment process at the plant will restore the value of the applicants' and state's investment.

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.

Cottonwood and ACWWA propose to use this project to develop their capability to fully use and reuse water supply on Cherry Creek per their existing water rights decrees and augmentation plans. Their water rights include senior and junior water rights on Cherry Creek, the reuse of these rights, the reuse of return flows from the decreed NTGW rights, the reuse of water from the ACWWA Flow project that is currently being decreed for use and reuse in water court, and the reuse of WISE flows which are fully reusable through contract with Aurora Water and Denver Water. ACWWA Flow and WISE water are

sources imported from the Lower South Platte River north of Denver.

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

There are three primary studies that define the work and are attached as Exhibit C-Reports. These are:

- 1. **Biological Treatment of Selenium in Concentrate**, prepared by CH2M, dated January 6, 2016. This study evaluated biological treatment options to remove selenium from RO concentrate. The study recommends the installation of a biochemical reactor ("BCR") and provides the layout, processes or treatment cells, the land requirement, and a cost estimate. This study also recommends a pilot study for further refinement of the facility design. This pilot study is currently underway. The CH2M study is Exhibit D to this application. Option 1, the recommended alternative, is the BCR proposed as part of this project.
- 2. **JWPP Selenium Compliance Evaluations,** prepared by Hatch Mott MacDonald, dated November 11, 2015. Exhibit E to this application

This study summarizes and updates previous studies prepared to evaluate options to reduce selenium loadings in the concentrate from the JWPP. The substantial recommendation of this study relates to converting the plant to a split flow treatment process where one-half of the flow is treated with RO and the other half is treated with microfiltration. The permeate from the two processes is then blended and treated using advanced oxidation (AOP). This will provide a very high quality water supply while reducing the volume of concentrate and the concentration of selenium in the concentrate. This presents a revision to a previous study (3 below) which has resulted in considerable cost savings. This revision resulted from the fact that the proposed BCR can remove phosphorous and hence the existing in-plant treatment system that included coagulation and microfiltration of the concentrate is no longer needed, and could instead be used for treatment of the source water. This report describes the modifications and the costs associated with piping, pumping and flow control changes to implement this program.

3. **JWPP Membrane Conversion**, prepared by Hatch Mott MacDonald, dated January 9, 2013. Exhibit F to this application.

This study evaluates options for modifications to processes at the JWPP to reduce selenium loadings in the concentrate from the JWPP. The substantial recommendation of this study relates to converting the plant to a split flow treatment process where one-half of the flow is treated with RO and the other half is treated with ultrafiltration. The permeate from the two processes is then blended and treated using advanced oxidation (AOP). This will provide a very high quality water supply while reducing the volume of concentrate and the concentration of selenium in the concentrate. This report describes the modifications and the costs associated with piping, pumping and flow control changes to implement this 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.

The attached Exhibit A provides further budgeting detail. The proposed project will include the following primary components:

- 1. **Pilot Testing and Preliminary Design** The pilot testing is to confirm and refine the results of the CH2M Study for development of a BCR to treat the concentrate from the JWPP. This is underway and is not part of the proposed project cost.
- 2. Land Acquisition Cottonwood and ACWWA are currently negotiating purchase of the land required for the BCR. The land will need to be purchased and the land use will need to be approved through Arapahoe County. If for any reason, the purchase is not completed, the entities have the ability to condemn the property for this purpose. The land use process will be a Location and Extent Process through the County.
- 3. **Revise Discharge Permit** The initial discharge permit remains in place but is inactive and needs to be revised. The permit will be updated which will better define discharge requirements.
- 4. **BCR Final Design** This will be the final design of BCR using the results of the Pilot Study and Preliminary Design.
- 5. **Treatment Plant Design of Modifications** This is the design of modifications within the existing treatment plant to allow for a split flow blended treatment using RO and microfiltration. It includes revised piping, pumps, and control system programming.
- 6. **CDPHE Plan Approvals** Submit and process plans through to approval by the CDPHE engineering staff.
- 7. **Construct BCR** This is construction of the BCR and startup operations. Initially, the processed flow will be discharged to the wastewater treatment plant until discharge permit conditions are reliably met.
- 8. *Construct Plant Modifications Construction or installation of the piping, pump and control system modifications to achieve blended flow treatment.*
- 9. System Startup Initial Operation of the JWPP.

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.

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

June Sunther

Signature of Applicant:

Print Applicant's Name: <u>Patrick F. Mulhern</u> Project Title: Biological Treatment for Removal of Selenium from Water Treatment Plant Concentrate

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

Exhibit A <u>Statement of Work</u> Date: January 29, 2016

WATER ACTIVITY NAME – Biological Treatment for Removal of Selenium from Water Treatment Plant Concentrate

GRANT RECIPIENT – The Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District ("Cottonwood") and Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority ("ACWWA")

FUNDING SOURCE – Funding will be provided through a combination of cash contributions from Cottonwood and ACWWA and direct payment through service fees from the customers served by the project.

•	Cottonwood	\$3,050,000 (60.4%)	*
•	ACWWA	\$1,500,000 (29.7%)*	*
•	Metro Roundtable	\$ 25,000 (0.5%)	
•	CWCB Grant	\$ 475,000 (9.4%)	
	TOTAL:	\$5.05 million (100%)	

**Cottonwood and ACWWA are pursuing an additional grant opportunity for up to \$0.3 million of this combined amount.*

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Provide a brief description of the project. (Please limit to **no more t<u>han 200 words</u>**; this will be used to inform reviewers and the public about your proposal)

Cottonwood and ACWWA designed, permitted, funded and constructed a high technology water plant that included Reverse Osmosis ("RO") for treatment and an Advanced Oxidation Reactor ("AOR") for disinfection. This provided a high quality supply with low TDS and removed or eliminated Chemicals of Emerging Concern ("CEC"s) from treated wastewater. This plant allowed safe use of first use alluvial water rights and reuse of the supply to depletion. This facility is a critical component in implementing one of ACWWA's IPPs (Reuse of ACWWA Flow Project Deliveries, see South Platte/Metro BIP. p. 4-25). The plant operated very successfully but the RO process concentrated selenium to levels exceeding the aquatic protection standards. To eliminate the violation, the RO treatment was discontinued and the plant was converted to microfiltration.

The result has been water high in TDS without treatment of CECs causing ACWWA and Cottonwood to limit use of the supply. As a result, after substantial investment in a treatment facility to fully use and reuse its renewable supply, these entities have returned to higher reliance on NTGW. This has also resulted in Cottonwood and ACWWA greatly reducing their planned reuse and is hindering ACWWA's implementation of their Reuse of ACWWA Flow Project Deliveries IPP.

OBJECTIVES

List the objectives of the project

- 1. Reduce dependence on non-renewable supply
- 2. Reuse available renewable supply
- *3. Utilize a \$30 million investment*
- 4. Meet aquatic protection standards for selenium
- 5. Not impacting the Cherry Creek Reservoir by maintaining phosphorous discharge standards
- 6. Maintain home values through a secure water supply
- 7. Reduce the cost burden on a small water provider and its customers
- 8. Provide high quality and safe water supply (TDS, hardness, ECE)

TASKS

Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format

TASK 1 – Pilot Study and Preliminary Design (in process, costs not a part of the proposed project)

<u>Description of Task – CH2M Hill will complete a pilot study of the reject water measuring Selenium</u> and Phosphorous levels using the proposed Biochemical Reactor system configuration. This pilot study is currently underway at the applicants' expense.

<u>Method/Procedure – A small scale pilot of the proposed BCR will be set up in the JWPP.</u> Concentrate following RO treatment will supply the system and provide ongoing measurements of selenium removal, odor control, WET testing, and removal of other parameters.

<u>Deliverable –</u> The Pilot Study will confirm the capability of a passive anaerobic biological treatment system to achieve that Se is reduced to 4.6mcg/L or less to meet aquatic protection standards, develop removal rates and design criteria to calibrate to chemical constituents of source water quality, demonstrate control of odors and aesthetic concerns, and performance of a passive permeable media-based phosphorous treatment system.

TASK 2 – Land Purchase

<u>Description of Task –</u> Cottonwood and ACWWA are in negotiations with the land owner of an adjacent parcel to the JWPP for purchase and development of the BCR.

<u>Method/Procedure</u> - Either through purchase or condemnation, the District will acquire the land necessary for BCR construction and land use will need to be approved through Arapahoe County with the submittal of a Location and Extent.

<u>Deliverable – Purchase and use of the adjacent land will enable construction of BCR</u>

TASK 3 – Revise Discharge Permit

<u>Description of Task -</u> The current discharge permit for the JWPP is inactive and requires revision.

<u>Method/Procedure –</u> Meetings will be scheduled with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment to review procedures and provide a new proposed permit. This permit request and specifications will then be circulated among the referral agencies for their review and comments. Staff will then review, provide comments and answers to address referral agency concerns. This task will be completed by a combination of District staff and legal and engineering consultants to the project.

<u>Deliverable -</u> *The permit will be updated which will define and allow discharge of the concentrate following treatment from the BCR.*

TASK 4 - BCR Final Design

Description of Task - Final design of the treatment system will be completed by CH2M Hill.

<u>Method/Procedure - Results from the Pilot Study will provide specifications for construction</u> materials, media type and composition and construction plans to assist Cottonwood and ACWWA. The design will also be subject to the review process with the CDPHE.

<u>Deliverable – A facility designed to meet CDPHE regulations and aquatic protection standards for</u> Selenium.

TASK 5 – Treatment Plant Design of Modifications

<u>Description of Task</u> – The proposed improvements would utilize the current Microfiltration configuration along with the RO membranes to produce a 1:1 blend of treated water for both Cottonwood and ACWWA.

<u>Method/Procedure</u> – *Requires modifications to the existing plant's piping, pumping and control system programming.*

<u>Deliverable –</u> The plant modifications would provide a 1:1 blended ratio of treated water using the *MF* and *RO* Membranes followed by the Advanced Oxidation Process. Both partners in the plant will receive the same quality of water reducing TDS, hardness, selenium and phosphorous levels.

TASK 6 – CDPHE Plan Approvals

<u>Description of Task</u> - *Plans for plant modifications and the design of the BCR will need to be reviewed and approved through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment engineering staff.*

<u>Method/Procedure -</u> *Plans will be submitted for review per standard CDPHE requirements.*

<u>Deliverable -</u> Acceptance of the facility plan and treatment system to begin construction.

TASK 7- Construct the BCR

<u>Description of Task –</u> *Following CDPHE approval, Cottonwood and ACWWA will publicly bid plans for construction of the BCR.*

<u>Method/Procedure –</u> *Following a public bid process, a construction contract award will be made with a qualified contractor for physical construction of the facility, including start up and testing.*

<u>Deliverable -</u> A functioning biological treatment facility that meets aquatic protection standards, discharge requirements, has exceptional odor control, and is aesthetically pleasing.

TASK 8 – Construct Plant Modifications and System Start Up

<u>Description of Task -</u> Construction and installation of system modifications needed to provide a blended flow treatment and initial operation of the JWPP and BCR.

<u>Method/Procedure -</u> *Following the public bid process, a construction contract award will be made with a qualified contractor for construction and modifications to the plant, including start up and testing.*

<u>Deliverable</u> - *The resulting blended flow concentrate will be processed through the BCR for further treatment to meet aquatic protection standards and discharge permit requirements prior to discharge to Windmill Creek.*

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.

BUDGET

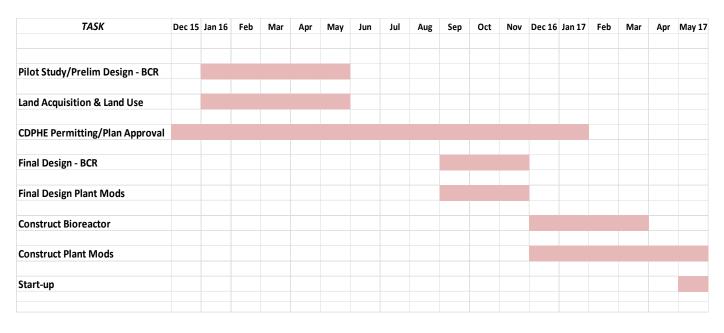
Provide a detailed budget by task including number of hours and rates for labor and unit costs for other direct costs (i.e. mileage, \$/unit of material for construction, etc.). A detailed and perfectly balanced budget that shows all costs is required for the State's contracting and purchase order processes. Sample budget tables are provided below. Please note that these budget tables are examples and will need to be adapted to fit each individual application. Tasks should correspond to the tasks described above.

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\$175/hour
\$265/hour
\$175/hour
\$160/hour
\$154/hour
\$185/hour
\$170/hour
\$120/hour
\$175/hour
¢175/hour
\$154/hour
\$120/hour
\$185/hour
\$170/hour
\$120/hour

BUDGET DETAIL

SCHEDULE

Provide a project schedule including key milestones for each task and the completion dates or time period from the Notice to Proceed (NTP). This dating method allows flexibility in the event of potential delays from the procurement process. Sample schedules are provided below. Please note that these schedules are examples and will need to be adapted to fit each individual application.



The Project Schedule is presented in the following table:

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 5 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.

