

Water Supply Reserve Fund– Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
September 21-22, 2016
Agenda Item 19(a)

Applicant & Fiscal Agent: Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District
Water Activity Name: HB16-1256 South Platte Storage Study
Water Activity Purpose: Study
County: All Counties w/in the South Platte Basin
Drainage Basin: South Platte
Water Source: South Platte River and all tributaries
Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$211,168 Statewide Account
\$211,168 Total Grant Request

Matching Funds: As this study is legislatively mandated, and it is of statewide importance, the Metro and South Platte Basin Roundtables have requested that 100% of the funding come from the Statewide Account. CWCB Staff concur and recommend that the Basin Account matching requirement be waived in this case.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$211,168 from the Statewide Account to fund the project titled: HB16-1256 South Platte Storage Study.

Water Activity Summary: HB16-1256, signed into law by the Governor on June 9th, 2016, authorizes the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), in collaboration with the State Engineer (SEO), and the South Platte Basin and Metro Roundtables, to conduct a study to identify multi-purpose water storage possibilities along the South Platte River Basin. These water storage possibilities will include new reservoir sites, the enlargement/rehabilitation of existing sites, or alternative storage mechanisms (e.g., underground storage).

The primary objective of this study is to investigate multiple possible sites in the Lower South Platte Basin for constructing a new reservoir, enlarging an existing reservoir, or for implementing an alternative storage mechanism. Each of these identified sites will include the following analysis as per HB16-1256:

- 1) An estimate of the volume of water that could have been stored annually (only including measured flow in the South Platte River existing at the time of the study, this does not include any future or newly created transmountain diversions).
- 2) A preliminary estimate of the cost for obtaining the permits and acquiring the property or easements for either construction of a new reservoir, enlargement or rehabilitation of an existing reservoir, or implementing an alternative storage mechanism.
- 3) A cost-benefit analysis for constructing a reservoir or implementing an alternative storage mechanism including environmental, financial, and legal constraints.

In conducting these investigations, the Contractor will take into account existing absolute and conditional water rights and interstate agreements, e.g., the interstate compact with Nebraska, and the Platte River Cooperative Agreement with Nebraska and Wyoming for the endangered species recovery program on the Platte River.

Discussion: This grant is consistent with the next steps for implementation identified by the roundtables, the IBCC, and the CWCB, as well as in Colorado's Water Plan. The study fits the statutory language of HB16-1256 and will be a good starting point in identifying potential storage sites for further study and investigation.

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 activity has undergone review and evaluation and staff has determined that it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Please refer to WSRA Application for applicant's detailed response.

Funding Summary/Matching Funds: n/a

CWCB Project Manager: Andy Moore

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.