

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT APPLICATION FORM



Today's Date:

July 5, 2016

Joseph Freed and Red Mesa Supply Ditch Lining Project and Red Mesa Supply Ditch Headqate Automation

Name of Water Activity/Project

La Plata Water Conservancy District

Name of Applicant		0
	Amount from Statewide Account:	0
Southwest Basin Roundtable		
	Amount from Basin Account(s):	\$55 , 000
Approving Basin Roundtable(s) (If multiple basins specify amounts in parentheses.)	Total WSRA Funds Requested:	\$55 , 000
FEIN:84-1191941		
pplication Content		
Application Instructions Part I – Description of the Applic Part II – Description of the Water Part III – Threshold and Evaluatio Part IV – Required Supporting M	Activity on Criteria	page 2 page 3 page 5 page 7

Water Rights, Availability, and Sustainabilitypage 10Related Studiespage 10Signature Pagepage 12

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: http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-supply-reserve-account-grants/Documents/WSRACriteriaGuidelines.pdf. In addition, the applicant should also refer to the Supplemental Scoring Matrix applied to Evaluation Criteria Tiers 1-3 for Statewide Account requests .

The application, statement of work, budget, and schedule **must be submitted in electronic format** (Microsoft Word or text-enabled PDF are preferred) and can be emailed or mailed on a disk to:

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

1.	Applicant Name(s):	La Plata Water Conservancy District				
	Mailing address:	555 RiverGate Lane, Suite B4-82 Durango, Co 81301				
	FEIN #:	84-1191941				
	Primary Contact:	Eric Bikis		Position/Title:	Project Manager	
	Email:	EricB@sgm-inc.com				
	Phone Numbers:	Cell:	970-769-0997	Office:	970-385-2340	
	Alternate Contact:	Brice Lee		Position/Title:	President	
	Email:	brice@obii.net				
	Phone Numbers:	Cell:	970-946-2646	Office:	970-588-3369	

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

2. Eligible entities for WSRA funds include the following. What type of entity is the Applicant?

Public (Government) – municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities and the local entity should be the grant recipient. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.

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

Х

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

La Plata Water Conservancy District (LPWCD), located in southwest La Plata County, was formed in 1944 by area irrigators and continues to be run by a volunteer board. The purpose of the District is to improve water supply in the La Plata River basin, including the construction and operation of facilities necessary to meet this goal.

LPWCD contracts with a consultant and water rights attorney. The contact for LPWCD's President, Brice Lee, is 970-588-3369 or brice@obii.net. LPWCD's Project Manager is Eric Bikis at Bikis Water Consultants, a division of SGM: 970-385-2340 or EricB@sgm-inc.com.

LPWCD has been active in promoting the beneficial use of surface water rights in the La Plata River basin for decades by working with irrigators, ditch companies and the Office of the State Engineer (SEO) to monitor and to help to solve water shortage and allocation issues.

The La Plata River originates in the La Plata Mountains, 15 miles northwest of the City of Durango, in La Plata County, Colorado. The river flows from its headwaters in the mountains, approximately 40 river miles south to New Mexico where it eventually becomes tributary to the San Juan River. LPWCD covers approximately 21,600 acres of irrigated land served by 16 main ditches and other smaller diversions.

LPWCD works with a range of water users to achieve large goals such as water conservation, development of the Bobby K. Taylor (BKT) Reservoir, and protection of irrigation water rights. LPWCD also manages Marvel Spring, an important, non-potable, water supply source and hauling station for local residents that do not have domestic water supply.

The LPWCD area is primarily rural and agricultural use. The most common agricultural crop in the region is hay and cattle ranching according to the 2013 USDA Agricultural Census. LPWCD's annual budget, obtained through a mill levy, is approximately \$13,333. The funds are spent on existing District operations and management commitments. This budget does not include the BKT Reservoir grant allocations.

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

Not Applicable

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.

LPWCD held a vote amongst its members on November 6, 2001 addressing budget issues related to TABOR. The result was an approval of the following referred issue:

WITHOUT AUTHORIZING ANY PROPERTY TAXES, SHALL THE LA PLATA WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT OF LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO, BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, AND EXPEND OR RETAIN THE FULL AMOUNT OF ANY REVENUE RECEIVED

AFTER NOVEMBER 6, 2001 FROM ANY SOURCE, INCLUDING NON-FEDERAL GRANTS,

NOT WITHSTANDING ANY RESTRICTION ON REVENUE OR SPENDING, INCLUDING THE REVENUE GROWTH LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN C.R.S. SECTION 29-1-301, et seq.,

AND IN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20, OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, SUCH AUTHORIZATION TO CONSTITUTE A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGE? Part II. - Description of the Water Activity/Project 1. What is the primary purpose of this grant application? (Please check only one)

	Nonconsumptive (Environmental or Recreational)		
X	Agricultural		
	Municipal/Industrial		
	Needs Assessment		
	Education	Water management to help meet the requirements of the La Plata River Compact and improve	
X	Other Explain:	irrigation supplies.	

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

The proposed work is on the list of identified projects and processes (IPP) for the La Plata River (LPR) Basin, outlined in the Southwest Basin Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan (BIP), dated 04/17/2015: Proposed IPP ID 15-LaP and ID 4-LaP. 15-LaP includes La Plata River ditch lining projects that would increase efficiency of Compact deliveries and 4-LaP includes work that will complement the existing infrastructure to conserve water used for irrigation and domestic augmentation needs.

The proposed work will benefit individual irrigators and the state by increasing water conservation and water-use efficiency. Seepage loss reductions will improve Compact operations and deliveries to Colorado ditches. Capturing the diurnal fluctuations will help to more uniformly meet the 1922 Compact obligations to New Mexico. Storage and exchange water for Colorado ditches in BKT Reservoir will increase with non-irrigation season deliveries. BKT Reservoir provides water during low flows to support the native fisheries in the LPR, per the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding with the LPWCD, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and CDWR. This work will also help with the reduction (a small amount) of sodium being conveyed through the LPR prior to reaching the Colorado River. 3. Is this project primarily a study or implementation of a water activity/project? (Please check only one)

	Study	Х	Implementation
4. To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRA funds can you provide any of the following numbers?			
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)		
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed, Consumptive or Nonconsumptive (acre-feet)		
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)		
	Length of Stream Re	estored or	Protected (linear feet)
7160 LF	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)		
Estimated 721 AF	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year OR dollars/year – circle one)		
	Area of Restored or	Preserved	l Habitat (acres)
	Other Explain:		

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

Latitude:	37° 10' 4.656"

Longitude:	-108° 7' 31.8216"
Bonghade.	

5. Please provide an overview/summary of the proposed water activity (no more than one page). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRA funding will be used for. A full **Statement of Work** with a detailed budget and schedule is required as **Exhibit A** of this application.

The proposed work includes lining sections of the Joseph Freed and Red Mesa Supply Ditch to provide water savings and increase operational efficiency. These delivery systems experience significant losses (up to 40% per mile) due to seepage. Work also includes installation of an automated headgate at the Red Mesa Headgate to store and release diurnal fluctuations in the La Plata River to better measure and account for water.

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

The proposed project does not conflict with State water law and appropriation system.

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

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.

letter from the roundtable chair simply reference that letter.

The proposed project was presented as a concept project at the BRT meeting held on April 13, 2016. It was received with support by the majority of the Board members because the work meets four of the seven goals outlined in the BIP: balance all needs and reduce conflict; meet agricultural needs; meet environmental needs (BKT Reservoir bypass inflows during low flows to support native fisheries per agreement with Colorado Parks and Wildlife); and comply with the La Plata River Compact and manage risk.

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.

To be determined at the July 13, 2016 BRT meeting.

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 by not limited to Basin Funds. A minimum match of 5% of the total grant amount shall be from Basin funds. A minimum match of 5% of the total grant amount must come from the applicant or 3rd party sources. Sources of matching funds include but are not limited to Basin Funds, in-kind services, funding from other sources, and/or direct cash match. Past expenditures directly related to the project may be considered as matching funds if the expenditures occurred within 9 months of the date the contract or purchase order between the applicant and the State of Colorado is executed. Please describe the source(s) of matching funds. (NOTE: These matching funds should also be reflected in your Detailed Budget in Exhibit A of this application)

LPWCD and Bureau of Reclamation will be providing a total of \$14,000 of in-kind services. The Southwestern Water Conservation District has agreed to fund \$60,000. If the \$55,000 BRT Grant is awarded, the LPWCD will match the remaining funds, up to \$82,000.

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.

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).

The proposed work will help conserve water which, in turn, maintains the quality of life in the LPR Basin: agricultural, Compact compliance, and environmental needs. The proposed work will complement the existing infrastructure to conserve water used for irrigation. It will benefit individual irrigators and the state by increasing water conservation and water-use efficiency through a reduction of seepage losses. The work will also support and promote native fish species (roundtail chub, bluemouth sucker, and flannelmouth sucker) in the LPR below Long Hollow. The Joseph Freed Ditch will be used to help to fill the BKT Reservoir and, with increased water savings, will supplement water available for identified sensitive species and Compact deliveries.

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.

The LPWCD will be working collaboratively with the BOR to install the Red Mesa Supply Ditch headgate automation system to increase operational efficiency. The LPWCD will be collaborating with the reservoir ditch companies to ensure all stakeholders are involved in the process to have a successful outcome. Finally, the SWCD has also approved funding of \$60,000 for the proposed work.

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[

The proposed work is on the list of IPPs for the LPR Basin, outlined in the BIP: Proposed IPP ID 15-LaP and ID 4-LaP. 15-LaP includes LPR ditch lining projects that would increase efficiency of Compact deliveries and 4-LaP includes work that will complement the existing infrastructure to conserve water used for irrigation and domestic augmentation needs.

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).

LPWCD's annual budget, obtained by mill levy, is approximately \$13,333. The funds are spent on existing District operations and management commitments. Funding will assist the LPWCD to perform this work.

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.

LPWCD and Bureau of Reclamation will be providing a total of \$14,000 of in-kind services. The Southwestern Water Conservation District has agreed to fund \$60,000. The LPWCD will match the remaining funds, up to \$82,000.

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.

The proposed work will complement the existing infrastructure to conserve water used for irrigation. It will benefit individual irrigators and the state by increasing water conservation and water-use efficiency through a reduction of seepage losses. The work will also support and promote native fish species (roundtail chub, bluemouth sucker, and flannelmouth sucker) in the LPR below Long Hollow. The Joseph Freed Ditch will be used as an alternate conveyance to the BKT Reservoir; with increased water savings, will ensure that the LPWCD and CPW to maintain the required bypass flows downstream of the reservoir for these identified sensitive species.

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.

The LPWCD constructed the BKT Reservoir and Long Hollow Dam in order to help administer the La Plata River Compact. BKT Reservoir releases water to the Compact through all with irrigation ditches. In order to increase water efficiency and water conservation in the LPR Basin, improvements to the delivery systems and infrastructure updates are essential. The work will also improve overall water management of the LPR by capturing the diurnal fluctuations to more uniformly meet the 1922 Compact obligations to New Mexico and improve predictability of Compact deliveries.

h. The water activity assists in the recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife species or Colorado State species of concern.

The LPWCD is required to release bypass flows below the BKT Reservoir for the purpose of supporting the LPR native fish species roundtail chub, bluehead sucker, and flannelmouth sucker. Lining the Joseph Freed Ditch will increase reservoir recharge to be used for this purpose.

i. The water activity provides a high level of benefit to Colorado in relationship to the amount of funds requested.

The proposed work:

- Improves LPR Compact deliveries
- Improves water management
- Increases irrigation supplies to Colorado ditches
- Helps to sustain native species
- j. The water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

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

Part IV. – Required Supporting Material

1. **Water Rights, Availability, and Sustainability** – This information is needed to assess the viability of the water project or activity. Please provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized, or the water body to be affected by, the water activity. This should include a description of applicable water rights, and water rights issues, and the name/location of water bodies affected by the water activity.

The water rights associated with this work:

- BKT Reservoir (aka Long Hollow Reservoir), Case No. 00CW49, 12,600 acre-feet (AF) for multiple fills, and 21,598 by exchange.
- Joseph Freed Ditch, Case Nos. CA0807-B, CA6708, and CA0807, 30.88 cubic feet per second (cfs)
- Red Mesa Reservoir (aka Red Mesa Ward Reservoir), Case No. CA0807, 1,176 AF
- Red Mesa Supply Ditch, Case No. CA0807, 120 cfs
- 2. Please provide a brief narrative of any related studies or permitting issues.

The LPWCD measured transit losses of 26 percent per mile along the section of the Joseph Freed Ditch to be lined. LPWCD also conducted interviews with local stakeholders who reported losses of 40 percent along the Red Mesa Supply Ditch.

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.

REPORTING AND FINAL DELIVERABLE

Final Deliverable: Completion of ditch lining work and headgate automation.

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.

Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form Revised October 2013

The above statements are true to the best of my knowledge: Signature of Applicant: Print Applicant's Name: Brice Lee Project Title: Joseph Freed and Red Mesa Supply Ditch Lining Project and Red Mesa Supply Ditch Headgate

Date: July 5, 2016

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