

SOUTHWEST BASINS ROUNDTABLE

Michael Preston, Chair

c/o Dolores Water Conservancy District

P.O. Box 1150

Cortez, Colorado 81321

970-565-7562

January 11, 2017

Mr. Craig Godbout

Water Supply Management Section

Colorado Water Conservation Board

1580 Logan Street, Suite 600

Denver, Colorado 80203

SUBJECT: Renovation, Little Blanco Highline, Northstar Horse Rescue - \$7,500 from
Basin Fund

Dear Mr. Godbout:

The Southwest Basin Roundtable approved funding of \$7,500 from the Basin Fund for the Renovation of the Little Blanco Highline Ditch sponsored by the Northstar Horse Rescue Inc. The application was considered in detail at the January 11, 2017 meeting of the Southwest Basin Roundtable. There was a quorum of Roundtable members present.

This Project is consistent with the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan Multi-Basin IPP #8 "Ditch Company Improvement and Efficiency Projects." The project is also consistent with Goal and Measurable Outcome B2 under Agricultural Needs: "Implement efficiency measures to maximize beneficial use and production."

The Roundtable considered several pertinent facts: The Little Blanco Highline Ditch is reportedly the oldest water ditch in Archuleta County and these pre-1922 water rights are at risk for abandonment without this Renovation. The desire to irrigate the Northstar Horse Rescue has galvanized cooperation among other water rights holders on the Ditch. The Roundtable supports this effort but believes its long-term success depends on a ditch agreement or association organized to maintain the ditch and an initial O&M cost estimate, so those entering into this agreement have an idea what annual maintenance is projected to cost. Accordingly, WSRF Basin funding is approved in the amount of \$7,500 subject to a maintenance agreement and cost estimate.

The completed Grant Application will be forwarded directly to you by the applicant. Please contact the applicant directly or me at 970-565-7562, mpreston@frontier.net, if you have questions or wish to discuss this application in more detail.

Sincerely,



Michael Preston

Southwest Basin Roundtable Chair