

Water Supply Reserve Fund – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
March 22-23, 2017
Agenda Item 24(I)

Applicant & Grantee: Colorado River Water Conservation District

Water Activity Name: Basin Roundtable Technical Study on Colorado River Risk Response Options

Water Activity Purpose: Nonconsumptive/Agricultural/M&I/Needs Assessment/Education

County: All

Drainage Basin: Colorado

Water Source: Colorado River

Amount Requested/Source of Funds:

\$10,000	Colorado Basin Account
\$10,000	Gunnison Basin Account
\$10,000	Southwest Basin Account
<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>Yampa/White/Green Basin Account</u>
\$40,000	Total Grant Request

Matching Funds: Applicant Match (cash) = \$58,040

- 145% of the Basin Account request (meets 25% min)
- 59% of the total project cost of \$98,040

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$10,000 from each of the Basin's Accounts to help fund the project titled: Basin Roundtable Technical Study on Colorado River Risk Response Options.
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Water Activity Summary:

The intent of Phase II of the Colorado River Risk Response Options Study is to explore potential voluntary preemptive actions— and associated risks— that Colorado water users could take as short term measures (1-5 years in duration) to protect critical reservoir elevations. The study will evaluate a number of scenarios with a variety of assumptions regarding voluntary demand management and reservoir operation scenarios that were developed based on feedback from the BRTs and other stakeholders.

Two different technical approaches will be used in Phase II. The first set of analyses will build upon the Colorado River Simulation System (CRSS) modeling from Phase I, and will include additional modeling runs with CRSS to evaluate alternative model assumptions (hydrology, demand, etc.). The second piece of Phase II will investigate opportunities to use CRSS in conjunction with StateMod in order to model demand management allocation schemes. This work will allow for an exploratory analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of both tools in answering demand management questions both together and separately.

Discussion:

The questions raised in the Risk Study -- both Phase I and the initial draft scope of work for Phase II - were of statewide interest. Director Eklund and CWCB staff worked with the Basin Roundtables in creating a revised Phase II SOW is a project that will be a useful follow-up from Phase I of the Risk Study, while avoiding concepts that implicate interstate issues such as Colorado River compact compliance.

CWCB plans to be actively engaged in the implementation of this study. The Technical Advisory Committee for the study will include CWCB staff. The Committee will work closely with the contractor on refinement of model details and other technical work. Moreover, interpretations of the scope of work which could affect sensitive water policy matters must be approved by the CWCB Director.

CWCB staff has reviewed the Application and Statement of Work of Phase 2 and have determined that this effort assists the Roundtables satisfy their respective Basin Implementation Plans (BIP) Goals and Measurable Outcomes as follows:

- Colorado BIP: Theme 1: Protect and Restore Healthy Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Riparian Areas; Theme 2: Sustain Agriculture; Theme 3: Secure Safe Drinking; Theme 6: Assure Dependable Basin Administration;
- Gunnison BIP: Goals and Measurable Outcomes 1: Protect existing water uses in the Gunnison Basin;
- Southwest BIP: Goals and Measurable Outcomes, Themes A-G
(<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/SW%20BIP%2004017015.pdf>);
- Yampa/White/Green BIP: Goals and Measurable Outcomes - Protect the YWG Basin from compact curtailment of existing decreed water uses and some increment of future uses.

This effort also assists in meeting the Goals and Measurable Outcomes of Colorado's Water Plan, such as "Protect Colorado's ability to fully develop compact entitlements, and continue to support agreements that strengthen Colorado's position in interstate negotiations, while ensuring the long-term viability of Colorado's interstate compacts and relationships Colorado will focus planning efforts on maintaining healthy systems and avoiding a Colorado River Compact deficit, rather than focusing on its response to compact curtailment", as presented in Chapter 8: Interstate Projects and Agreements.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of the three subsections of the Eligibility Requirements: General Eligibility, Entity Eligibility, and Water Activity Eligibility.

Eligibility Based on Funding Match Requirements: This application meets the Basin Account Matching requirements.

Evaluation Criteria: This activity has undergone review and evaluation and staff has determined that it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Please refer to Basin Roundtable Chair's Recommendation Letter and the WSRF Grant Application for applicant's detailed response.

Funding Summary / Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Colorado River Water Conservation District	\$29,020	\$0	\$29,020	Secured
Southwestern Water Conservation District	\$29,020	\$0	\$29,020	Secured
Sub-total	\$58,040	\$0	\$58,040	
WSRF Colorado Basin Account	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	
WSRF Gunnison Basin Account	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	
WSRF Southwest Basin Account	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	
WSRF Yampa/White/Green Basin Account	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	
Total Project Costs	\$98,040	\$0	\$98,040	

CWCB Project Manager: Carlee Brown & Megan Holcomb

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 2 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, meeting summaries, 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 a professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice engineering.