Arkansas Basin Roundtable

July 25, 2017

Via Electronic Mail: ben.wade@state.co.us

Mr. Ben Wade Colorado Water Conservation Board 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Re: Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application: Trinidad River Walk Improvement Project

Dear Craig:

At its July 12, 2017 meeting, the Arkansas Basin Roundtable (ABRT) approved the Trinidad River Walk Improvement Project grant application for \$14,300 in Basin Funds. There were no dissenting opinions expressed in the consensus decision. However, the approval was based on the following recommendations:

- a. The Arkansas Basin Roundtable requests that Water Supply Reserve Funds are contingent upon the Applicant securing additional funding through the CWCB's Colorado Water Plan Implementation Funds or Watershed Restoration Program Funds or a combination of the two.
- b. The ABRT requests that the Applicant wait to contract with the State until after January 1, 2018.
- c. The ABRT fully supports this project and the Applicant's submission of grant applications to the CWP Implementation and Watershed Restoration Programs.
- d. The Applicant is aware of these conditions and requirements.
- e. The Applicant is aware that WSRF can't be used for matching funds toward CWP Implementation Funds.

Regarding the Colorado Water Plan, the Trinidad River Walk Improvement Project directly supports Objective A: Supply Demand Gaps – "Protect and Develop Compact Entitlements and Manage Risks: 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. Focus planning efforts on maintaining healthy systems and avoiding a Colorado River Compact deficit rather than on responding to compact curtailment. The Trinidad River Walk Improvement Project addresses local requirements regarding the Trinidad Project, a facility with direct impacts to Colorado's compliance under the Arkansas River Compact with the State of Kansas. The Project also supports Objective F. Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation: *Enhance Environmental and Recreational Economic Values: Protect and enhance river-based environments and recreational opportunities that support local and statewide economies and are important for the enjoyment of current and future generations of Coloradans.*

Finally, the Project is an excellent demonstration of the multi-partner, multi-benefit initiatives contained within the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan. Project partners include the City of Trinidad, the Purgatoire River Water Conservation District, Trout Unlimited, the Baca-Picketwire Ditch Company, Purgatoire Watershed Partnership, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, local property owner Kip Hampden Properties, the Puerta de Colorado project and the Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River Conservation District.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me either by telephone, 719-742-6164, or by email, <u>sandy@white-jankowski.com</u>.

With warm regards

Michael D. (Sandy) White Chair

Copy via email: Applicant ABRT Executive Committee