

**Rio Grande Basin Roundtable**

c/o San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District  
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March 21, 2007

Mr. Harrison Sherman, Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Eric Hecox, Manager, Office of Interbasin Compact Negotiations  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Rick Brown, Section Chief, Intrastate Water Management & Development  
Colorado Water Conservation Board

Gentlemen:

The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable (R.G.R.T) has determined that the single, most critical water issue confronting the Rio Grande Basin is the current unsustainable management of surface and ground water. The R.G.R.T. has made the decision that water activities that address this issue be favorably considered for funding from the Water Supply Reserve Account, SB 2005 -179, providing the proposed water activities meet the SWSI findings for the Basin and the CWCB & IBCC Criteria and Guidelines for funding.

The R.G.R.T. is requesting authorization and consideration for distribution of Funds pursuant to SB 2005 -179, for discretionary Basin Funds in the amount of \$36,750.00.

At the regular R.G.R.T meeting on March 13, 2007, the membership voted unanimously to request funding from SB 2005 - 179 - Basin Funds, for the *Rio Grande Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Preparation of Proposal and Agreement*.

<b>PROJECT AND AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>SOURCE SB 179</b>
<b>RIO GRANDE BASIN CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP) – PREPARATION OF PROPOSAL AND AGREEMENT</b> <b>\$ 36,750.00</b>	<b>BASIN</b>

The funds will be used to cover the costs of a third party Consultant, and their associated travel expenses. The deliverables from the third party consultant will include a CREP Proposal for submission to USDA and the drafting of the subsequent Agreement between the Rio Grande Water Conservation District's Subdistrict #1 and the State of Colorado and the USDA. The Third party consultant will also arrange an event to cover the signing of the Agreement.

At the R.G.R.T. meeting on March 13, 2007, project proponents were provided time to make a presentation and time was allowed for questions from the R.G.R.T. Members and members of the public. After discussion, a voice vote was taken of all R.G.R.T. Members that were present.

The By-Laws of the R.G.R.T. require a simple majority vote of those Members present for any action to be taken by the Roundtable. The vote was unanimous in favor of this project moving forward for funding.

The Applicant for the funding is the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, a 501C corporation, registered in the State of Colorado.

As stated above, the R.G.R.T. has determined that the single, most critical water issue confronting the Rio Grande Basin is the current unsustainable management of surface and ground water. This project supports the efforts of the Rio Grande Water Conservancy District's Subdistrict # 1 in addressing this critical issue by the preparation of a proposal and agreement for CREP, which will address taking some 40,000 acres out of agricultural production, with corresponding reductions in water consumption.

By this letter, I am forwarding the application and supporting materials for the subject project. If you require additional information, please notify me accordingly.

The R.G.R.T. appreciates the support of the Department of Natural Resources, the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Interbasin Compact Commission in assisting in meeting the needs of all users of Colorado's water and in fostering intrabasin and interbasin communications and discussions. We believe that the above projects will assist in this effort.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Gibson', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Mike Gibson  
Chair, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable

Enclosures (1)

C: Ray Wright, Chairman, Rio Grande Water Conservation District, w/enclosure  
Steve Vandiver, Manager, Rio Grande Water Conservation District, w/enclosure  
Lynn McCullough, Chairman, Subdistrict # 1, w/enclosure  
Mike Sullivan, Division Engineer, CDWR, w/enclosure  
Karla Shriver, President, Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, w/enclosure  
Ingrid Barrier, Esq., w/enclosure