

HOMESTAKE WATER PROJECT

Otero Pump Station 37200 North Highway 24 P.O. Box 1821 Buena Vista, CO 81211

719-395-1595 or 719-668-9595 (Phone) 719-395-1590 or 719-668-9590 (FAX)

October 27, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chris Sturm:

We are writing this letter on behalf of the Homestake Water Project in support of the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) being coordinated by Eagle River Watershed Council.

The ER-IWMP will utilize a stakeholder process to identify the environmental and recreational flow needs in the Eagle River and assess its current impairments and how those may change with future water supply development. We support this planning process and effort to build consensus, because of the importance of the Eagle River and its watershed to the Homestake Water Project partners existing and future water supplies.

The ER-IWMP clearly fits Homestake Water Project partner's mission of finding solutions to developing our joint use water supplies while minimizing environmental impacts. We understand that the total project estimate is at \$363,000 with a positive, ambitious scope. The Homestake Water Project partners are able to commit a \$20,000 cash match toward grant funding of ER-IWMP to be used in years 2018 and 2019. We intend to actively participate to increase our understanding of stakeholder needs in this important watershed and work toward productive assessments and future planning that takes into consideration all stakeholders of this resource.

If you have any questions in regards to our support, please do not hesitate to contact either of the Homestake Water Project partners below.

Alexandra Davis Deputy Director of Water Resources Aurora Water (303) 739-7274 <u>aldavis@auroragov.org</u>

utterthall

Brett Gracely Water Resources Manager Colorado Springs Utilities (719) 668-4052 bgracely@csu.org



October 27, 2017

Sent Via Email

Colorado Water Conservation Board Attn: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chris:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Eagle River Water & Sanitation District, Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority and Eagle Park Reservoir Company in support of the grant application being submitted for the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) being coordinated by the Eagle River Watershed Council.

The ER-IWMP will utilize a stakeholder process to identify the environmental and recreation flow needs in the Eagle River, and assess any current impairments and how those may change with future water supply development. We support this planning process and effort to build community consensus. Our community values its rivers, which provide drinking, irrigation and snowmaking water, fish habitat and aesthetic values, and understands that the available water in the basin must be balanced between these uses for a successful and sustainable community and economy.

Participating in ER-IWMP development process clearly fits the mission of our entities, which is to provide efficient, effective, and reliable water and wastewater utility services in a manner that respects the natural environment. We therefore commit to a dollar match of **\$15,000**. Other services in-kind that we are willing to contribute are: 1) consulting time to assist in peer review of our StateMOD hydrology/water rights model and model runs needed for the identification of stream flow deficits, and 2) staff time to provide historical perspective of water issues in the study area and an understanding of how the current water system is operated and the resulting impacts on stream flows.

If you have any questions in regards to our support, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 970-477-5444.

L<mark>i</mark>nn Brooks General Manager



Vail Resorts PO Box 915 Avon, CO 81620

October 30, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chris Sturm:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Vail Resorts in support of the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) being coordinated by Eagle River Watershed Council.

The ER-IWMP will utilize a stakeholder process to identify the environmental and recreational flow needs in the Eagle River and assess its current impairments and how those may change with future water supply development. We support this planning process and effort to build consensus, because the Eagle River and surrounding watershed is pertinent to Vail Resorts businesses and surrounding economy. Ensuring the health and proper management of this resource will ensure that businesses, residents and visitors alike can enjoy it for years to come.

The ER-IWMP clearly fits the interests of Vail Resorts which owns and operates Vail Mountain and Beaver Creek Resort which both fall into the Eagle River Watershed. We will work with the Eagle River Watershed Council on budgeting funding for this project.

If you have any questions in regards to our support, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 970-754-4125

/be

Mike Jackson Director of Mountain Planning Vail Mountain and Beaver Creek Resort



COLORADO OPERATIONS Climax Mine 11236 Highway 91 - Fremont Pass Climax, CO 80429 Phone (719) 486-2150 Fax (719) 486-2251

October 27, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Sturm:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Climax Molybdenum Company in support of the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) being coordinated by Eagle River Watershed Council.

The ER-IWMP will utilize a stakeholder process to identify the environmental recreational flow and supply needs in the Eagle River, assess its current impairments and evaluate how those may change with future water supply development. We support this planning process and effort to build consensus because of its importance to regional water supply planning.

The ER-IWMP clearly fits the interests of Climax Molybdenum Company in developing joint-use water supply projects in concert with the needs of our Eagle River MOU partnership while managing specific community values surrounding water for all beneficial and environmental uses. Climax Molybdenum Company plans to participate in this planning effort and further commits \$11,000 towards matching funds needed to complete this project. We look forward to the collaborative effort with the numerous stakeholders in this process.

If you have any questions in regards to our support, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (720) 942-3231.

Bryce Romig Manager, Administration Climax Molybdenum Company <u>bromig@fmi.com</u>



10/25/2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chris;

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Colorado River District in support of the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) being coordinated by Eagle River Watershed Council.

The Eagle River and its tributaries serve a wide range of interests and this management plan process will bring stakeholders to a common table to identify the environmental and recreational flow needs and opportunities in the basin. The plan offers a chance to leverage broad participation to enhance the stream systems economic and social benefits. We support this process because River District experience has shown that the best approach to managing our water is through a holistic and collaborative approach. Accordingly, the River District has committed a \$10,000 cash match to the effort.

The ER-IWMP clearly fits the mission of the Colorado River District to lead in the protection, conservation, use, and development of the water resources of the Colorado River basin for the welfare of the District.

If you have any questions in regard to our support, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

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R. Eric Kuhn General Manager Colorado River District 970.945.8522 ekuhn@crwcd.org

> 201 Centennial Street / PO Box 1120 • Glenwood Springs, CO 81602 (970) 945-8522 • (970) 945-8799 Fax www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org



75 South Frontage Road West Vail, Colorado 81657 vailgov.com Community Development Department 970.479.2138 970.479.2452 fax

October 18, 2017

Chris Sturm Colorado Water Conservation Board 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Sturm,

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Vail to express our strong support for the effort by Eagle River Watershed Council (ERWC) to develop an Integrated Management Plan for the Eagle River Watershed. Vail plans to join its neighboring communities in supporting this effort financially with \$5,000 contributions in 2018 and 2019.

From my perspective as a member of the stakeholder group that has already convened several times, Holly Loff and ERWC are doing an outstanding job of gathering a wide variety of community stakeholders to contribute to this process. The stakeholder group will collaborate to assess current threats to the quantity and quality of our water in Eagle County and work to develop a plan which ensures that the needs of all stakeholders are met and the aquatic and riparian ecosystems in our valley are protected.

It is our belief that the collaborative approach envisioned by ERWC will be a thorough and effective way to proactively address the challenges our water supply is likely to face in the future. The stakeholder group consists of representatives of a wide variety of entities, some of which have had disagreements over water-related issues in the past. This collaborative approach will foster cooperation and ensure that conflicts are uncovered and remedied in productive, mutually-beneficial ways. This strategy has high potential to guarantee that the Eagle River and its tributaries are wisely managed while protecting the rights and needs of the individuals, communities and businesses that depend on this watershed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely.

Peter Wadden, M.A. Watershed Education Coordinator Town of Vail



October 30, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Sturm:

The Town of Avon is in full support of the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) coordinated by the Eagle River Watershed Council. The ER-IWMP will identify the water quality, water quantity and recreation flow requirements of the Eagle River today and in the future. We anticipate long-term demands on the watershed because of additional growth, water storage development and climate change. The long-term protection of the Eagle River is vital to Avon's recreation based economy.

Completing the ER-IWMP will assist Avon and the entire Vail Valley in managing this valuable resource today and in the future. Therefore, the Town of Avon fully supports the ER-IWMP and will contribute \$10,000 over two-years for the development of the plan.

If you have any questions regarding Avon's support, please do not hesitate to contract me directly at 970-748-4045.

Justin Hildreth, PE

Town Engineer

Telephone (970) 524-7514 · Facsimile (970) 524-7522 · www.townofgypsum.com

October 19, 2017

Town c

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chris Sturm:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Town of Gypsum in support of the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) being coordinated by Eagle River Watershed Council.

The ER-IWMP will utilize a stakeholder process to identify the environmental and recreational flow needs in the Eagle River and assess its current impairments and how those may change with future water supply development. Last year, the Town of Gypsum completed a Source Water Protection Plan for the Gypsum Creek basin which was developed through a stakeholder process and we are very satisfied with the result. Through collaboration with a disparate group of landowners, water users, citizens and local, state and federal agencies, a broad community has been formed that has a much deeper understanding Respect and concern for the current condition, threats and opportunities in our Gypsum Creek watershed.

We support this planning process and effort to build consensus, because we are a small part of a greater Eagle River watershed and we want to be a contributing part of that community and to better understand how we impact and contribute to it. From this perspective, the ER-IWMP is a great opportunity. We will be contributing \$5,000 to the effort.

If you have any questions in regards to our support, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (970) 524-1723.

ADMINISTRATION

Town Manager Jeff Shroll

Asst. Town Manager Frances Barela

Town Clerk Danette Schlegel

Finance Officer Mark Silverthorn

Sales Tax Auditor Lynn Trudeau

ipecial Projects Coordinator Krista DeHerrera



Sincerely.

Jeff Shroll, Gypsum Town Manager



Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan Exhibit A Letters of Matching/Pending Commitment, page 8 of 9 TOWN OF MINTURN P.O. Box 309 302 Pine Street Minturn, CO 81645 Phone: 970-827-5645 Fax: 970-827-5545

> Janet Hawkinson, MLAP Minturn Planning Director



Town Council Matt Scherr - Mayor Earle Bidez - ProTem Mayor Terry Armistead - Council Sidney Harrington - Council Kristina Krone - Council Sage Pierson - Council John Widerman - Council

October 23, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chris Sturm:

The Town of Minturn is in support of the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) being coordinated by Eagle River Watershed Council. We have many development projects being proposed in our town and find this plan to be of great importance to our town and Eagle County. It is important that a comprehensive plan be developed in order for intelligent decisions to be made in regards to development, recreation and the health of wildlife and the environment.

We support this planning process and effort to build consensus, benefiting the community and protecting the health of rivers, streams and watersheds. The Town of Minturn has committed to support the ER-IWMP by a public vote and cash contribution by the Minturn Town Council on October 18, 2017.

If you have any questions in regards to our support, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 970-827-5645 ext.3.

Janet Hawkinson, MLAP Minturn Planning Director planner@minturn.org 970-827-5645 e. 3



JILL H. RYAN KATHY CHANDLER-HENRY JEANNE MCQUEENEY

October 24, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Sturm,

We're writing in support of the Eagle River Watershed Council (ERWC) as they seek grant funding from your organization to develop an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) for critical segments of Eagle River that are likely to be impacted by projects identified by the parties who signed the Eagle River MOU. It is our hope that the IWMP will inform Eagle River management decisions that remain protective of the non-consumptive needs which are vital to protecting our local economy.

Protection of the natural environment is a priority in our strategic plan and maintaining healthy rivers and streams is paramount to our constituents. The ERWC recently held a stakeholder meeting with a wide variety of river users and special interests to discuss the development of an IWMP. All in attendance agreed that this effort will result in a positive outcome and not threaten senior water right holders. Eagle County supports the ERWC as they advocate for the health and conservation of the Eagle River through research, education and projects. They have a proven track record of implementing many successful projects and we're confident that the development of an IWMP will be no exception.

If you have any questions in regards to our support, please do not hesitate to contact our Environmental Health Director, Ray Merry at (970) 328-8757.

Sincerely,

Jill H. Ryan Chair

thy Chandler-Steurz

Kathy Chandler-Henry Commissioner

Jeanne McQueeney Commissioner

Eagle County Building, 500 Broadway, P.O. Box 850, Eagle, Colorado 81631-0850



200 Lion Park Circle Rifle, CO 81650 Phone: 970-625-1829

October 26, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chris Sturm:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Middle Colorado Watershed Council in support of the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) being coordinated by Eagle River Watershed Council.

The mission of the Middle Colorado Watershed Council (MCWC) is to evaluate, protect and enhance the health of the middle Colorado River watershed through the cooperative effort of watershed stakeholders. Our organization is supportive of the ER-IWMP effort for a few reasons.

The MCWC's geographic area of interest lies immediately downstream of the Eagle River Watershed Council's (ERWC) focus area. The MCWC is intending to undertake a similar IWMP process in the middle Colorado River beginning in 2018, subject to funding approval. We look forward to collaborating with the ERWC as both organizations embark on this important work. We see the benefits that can accrue from our two organizations working concurrently on IWMP planning processes by sharing technical data, experiences, and outcomes and intend to communicate these on a regular basis. As a downstream neighbor, we may realize both direct and indirect benefits from any projects, processes or actions that may be taken to address environmental and recreation flow needs through the ER-IWMP process. The ER-IWMP will advance one of the top goals of the Colorado Basin Roundtable to "Protect and Restore Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Riparian Areas". For these reasons, the MCWC expresses its full support for the ER-IWMP and urges the Colorado Water Conservation Board to do the same.

If you have any questions in regards to our support, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 303-204-4164.

Laurie Pint

Laurie Rink Executive Director



WATER CENTER

Water Center at Colorado Mesa University 1100 North Avenue • Grand Junction, CO 81501-3122 970.248.1968 (o) • 1.800.982.6372 ext. 1968

October 25, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chris Sturm:

I am writing in support of the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) being coordinated by Eagle River Watershed Council.

The ER-IWMP will utilize a stakeholder process to identify the environmental and recreational flow needs in the Eagle River and assess its current impairments and how those may change with future water supply development. This work directly responds to the Colorado Basin Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan priority goal of extending stream management planning throughout the basin.

I coordinate the Colorado Basin Roundtable Integrated Water Management Planning Framework Project for the Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center at Colorado Mesa University, and I believe that the ER-IWMP will complement the Framework Project, as well as help demonstrate to other communities how they can use the tools developed through the framework project. The Hutchins Water Center will support this project through helping to ascertain how the products developed through the Framework project can be applied to the benefit of the Eagle River planning process.

If you have any questions in regards to our support, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at hholm@coloradomesa.edu or 970-248-1968.

Warm Regards,

Hannah Holm, Coordinator



Richard Van Gytenbeek, Colorado River Basin Outreach Coordinator, Colorado Water Project

October 25, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board Mr. Chris Sturm Stream Restoration Coordinator 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Delivered Via Email

RE: Support for the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan.

Dear Chris

Trout Unlimited would like to express their support for the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ERIWMP) which is being coordinated by the Eagle River Watershed Council. The Eagle River sub-basin is one of western Colorado's most important high elevation watersheds, a current and future stronghold for cold water fisheries.

As you know TU has been a strong supporter of Stream Management Plans (aka Integrated Water Plans) since their inception. Our organization strongly supports the need to determine environmental and recreational flow gaps in many of our rivers and streams. To understand and define those gaps, we must have the support of water right holders. A collaborative water planning process that includes all water users, respects existing water rights and seeks innovative management opportunities that help both consumptive and non-consumptive users is the essence of integrated planning.

With guidance from River Network, the ERWC has already cast a wide net. Their initial efforts to reach out via focus group calls and to bring those consumptive and non-consumptive user groups to the table are a good start and have set an open and collaborative tone to their process. The ERWC will also be working with the Colorado Basin Roundtable to help inform the CBRT-IWMP framework plan. A strong CBRT-IWMP framework plan will help the roundtable in their goal to integrate subbasin SMP's into a basin-wide Colorado River IWMP. We hope that you will give serious consideration to this grant application as we believe it has a very strong chance of being successful and resulting in a community driven integrated water plan.

Sincerely,

Richard Van Gytenbeek

Richard Van Gytenbeek

Trout Unlimited: America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization 1156 N. 5th St., Suite #409, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501 (307) 690-1267 • r.vangytenbeek@tu.org • www.tu.org Fagle River Integrated Water Management P



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT COLORADO RIVER VALLEY FIELD OFFICE 2300 River Frontage Road Silt, CO 81652 www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/crvfo.html



In Reply Refer to: 7220 (CON040)

October 26, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chris Sturm:

I write to express my strong support for the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) being coordinated by Eagle River Watershed Council for their application to the Colorado Watershed Restoration grant. This project will take important steps towards improving security for all water uses in the Eagle River Watershed planning area by understanding existing and future use needs and gaps, developing strategies for meeting shortages, and planning for the protection and maintenance of healthy riverine ecosystems.

The ER-IWMP will utilize a stakeholder process to identify the environmental and recreational flow needs in the Eagle River and assess its current impairments and how those may change with future water supply development. The Bureau of Land Management Colorado River Valley Field Office (BLM CRVFO) is located in Silt, CO. The mission of the BLM is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the multiple use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Considering the mission of the BLM, the BLM CRVFO supports the ER-IWMP project because we are dedicated to preserving and protecting water resources along the Eagle River as the land we manage for multiple uses relies on the water quality and quantity supplied by the river.

The BLM CRVFO manages a variety of uses along the Eagle River including, but not limited to; recreational uses, agricultural lands, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat, upland and riparian ecosystems, and natural resource development activities. All of these uses rely on and can impact the health of the Eagle River. Therefore, we are interested in making sure we have sufficient flows in the river to help maintain suitable conditions for the aforementioned uses.

The BLM CRVFO is ready to be engaged and supportive of ER-IWMP project. We are prepared to serve the public interest in the planning and evaluation of these resources. We are able to commit to in kind resource donations in the form of data collection, data analysis and environmental assessments if necessary. Please give the ER-IWMP application the highest consideration.

Gloria Tibbetts Acting Field Office Manager (970) 876-9000



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service White River National Forest Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District 24747 US Hwy 24 P.O. Box 190 Minturn, CO 81645 (970) 827-5715 FAX (970) 827-9343

Date: October 24, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chris Sturm,

The Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District of the White River National Forest strongly supports the efforts of the Eagle River Watershed Council towards the coordination and creation of the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan.

The planning process and stakeholder engagement is consistent with White River National Forest goals of connecting communities and maintaining resilient landscapes, and the Integrated Water Management Plan looks to be a great tool for building consensus around environmental and recreational flow needs on the Eagle River.

Because the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District manages most of the land that makes up the Eagle River Watershed, we have a strong interest in the viability and success of this plan, and I look forward to continuing our involvement in – and support for – the process as it moves forward.

If you have any questions in regards to our support, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (970) 827-5150, or <u>awmayville@fs.fed.us</u>.

Sincerely,

AARON W. MAYVILLE District Ranger





Printed on Recycled Paper



COLORADO Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Glenwood Springs Service Center 0088 Wildlife Way Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 P 970.947.2920 | F 970.947.2936

October 26, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Sturm:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is supporting the development of the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) being coordinated by Eagle River Watershed Council. This plan will help identify issues both with environmental and recreational flows and if they would change with future water developments.

CPW is pleased to support this process to develop consensus and further integrate the importance of the Eagle River in maintaining essential terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat along with promoting the diversity of wildlife species within the watershed.

The mission for CPW is: To perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state park system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources. The development of the ERIWMP will certainly fit well within CPW's mission statement.

If you have any questions in regards to our support, please feel free to contact District Wildlife Managers Bill Andree at 970-390-2240 or Craig Wescoatt at 970-948-0354.

Sincerelv the

Area Wildlife Manager

Xc: JT Romatzke, B Andree, C Wescoatt

Bob D. Broscheid, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife • Parks and Wildlife Commission: Robert W. Bray • Marie Haskett • Carrie Hauser John Howard, Vice-Chair • Marvin McDaniel • Dale Pizel • Jim Spehar • James Vigil • Dean Wingfield • Michelle Zimmerman, Secretary • Alex Zipp





October 19, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chris Sturm:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Vail Valley Anglers in support of the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) being coordinated by Eagle River Watershed Council.

The ER-IWMP will utilize a stakeholder process to identify the environmental and recreational flow needs in the Eagle River and assess its current impairments and how those may change with future water supply development. We support this planning process and effort to build consensus because of the ongoing strain on water resources throughout the State, but specifically in the Eagle River watershed. Our business depends on the health and well-being of the watershed including the fish habitat and related riparian zones that help to maintain the overall health of any river system. We utilize the Eagle River for guided fly fishing trips on a year round basis. It is important to maintain minimum flows throughout the year to support the aquatic life and to make the Eagle River an attractive and viable watershed for years to come.

The Eagle River is one of the last of a dying breed in the State of Colorado. It remains one of the larger freestone rivers in the State. Meaning, from its origin to the confluence with the Colorado River in Dotsero, it has no impedance or alterations other than the straightening that occurred to the extreme upper reaches during the height of the Camp Hale days.

I have been amazed over the 28 years I have lived in the Eagle River Valley at the resilience and general health of this watershed that parallels a major interstate for much of its length and has such a large group of diverse users. The last time I counted there were 14 golf courses in the Vail area as well as snowmaking operations at the resorts of Vail and Beaver Creek and yet, the Eagle has never been better from a fishing perspective. Much of that credit can go to the Gilman Mine cleanup but I know we have a long way to go there as well.

I look forward to contributing along with my staff to make an excellent plan for the future of the Eagle River. I hope you will consider the importance of this step and recognize that planning now will preserve much of what I have described above for future generations.

The ER-IWMP clearly fits the interests of Vail Valley Anglers because of our close connection with the river and how we rely on it to make our living. We support over 50 jobs locally and contribute to the community in many different ways.

If you have any questions in regards to our support, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff directly at:

John Cochran, General Manager - *john@vailvalleyanglers.com* Patrick Perry, Store and Guide Service Manager - *pperry@vailvalleyanglers.com* Madeline Grande, Admin / Marketing - *madeline@vailvalleyanglers.com*

Sincerely,

John Cochran 970-926-0900



Fly Fishing Outfitters P.O.Box 5346 Eagle,CO 81631

October 22, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board ATTN: Chris Sturm 1313 Sherman St., Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chris Sturm:

I am writing this letter on behalf of my business Fly Fishing Outfitters in support of the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) being coordinated by Eagle River Watershed Council.

Since 1992 Fly-fishing Outfitters has been the Vail Valley's Orvis endorsed year around outfitters. We employ over 30 guides at the height of our season.

The ER-IWMP will utilize a stakeholder process to identify the environmental and recreational flow needs in the Eagle River and assess its current impairments and how those may change with future water supply development. We support this planning process and effort to build consensus, because as a group of 30 plus local fly fishing guides we depend on the health of the Eagle river for our livelihoods.

The ER-IWMP clearly fits the mission our company's commitment to help preserve our coldwater fishery.

If you have any questions in regards to our support, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at <u>970-845-8090.</u>

Sincerely, John Packer Owner