



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant Application

Instructions

To receive funding for a Water Plan Grant, applicant must demonstrate how the project, activity, or process (collectively referred to as "project") funded by the CWCB will help meet the measurable objectives and critical actions in the Water Plan. Grant guidelines are available on the CWCB website.

If you have questions, please contact CWCB at (303) 866-3441 or email the following staff to assist you with applications in the following areas:

Supply and Demand Gap Projects
Water Storage Projects
Conservation, Land Use Planning
Engagement & Innovation Activities
Agricultural Projects
Environmental & Recreation Projects

Gregory.Johnson@state.co.us
Anna.Mauss@state.co.us
Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us
Mara.MacKillop@state.co.us
Brent.Newman@state.co.us
Linda.Bassi@state.co.us

Applicants interested in submitting an 'Intent to Apply' in the future are encouraged to check here ☐ and fill in all sections with the best information available at the time. Exhibits may be excluded.

This "Intent to Apply" will help CWCB prioritize Projects that are not ready for fully completed Water Plan Grant Application due to the initial timeframe and required deadlines.

FINAL SUBMISSION: Submit all application materials to waterplan.grants@state.co.us in the original file formats [Application (word); Statement of Work (word); Budget/Schedule (excel)]. Please do not combine documents.

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	City of Grand Junction
Name of Water Project	Las Colonias Park River Recreation Feature
CWP Grant Request Amount	\$175,000
Other Funding Sources – Great Outdoors Co	\$350,000 (will be requested Nov 2018)
Other Funding Sources - Private Donations	\$15,000 (secured from One Riverfront)
Other Funding Sources - CWCB	\$99,703 (existing grant redirect under review)
Other Funding Sources – Co Garden Foundation	\$15,000 (will be requested Aug 2018)
Other Funding Sources – Water Supply Reserve	\$10,000 (will be requested Aug 2018)
Applicant Funding Contribution – Conservation Trust Fund	\$193,002
Applicant Funding Contribution – Developer Fees	\$350,000
Total Project Cost	\$1,207,705

Applicant & Grantee Information



Name of Grantee(s)	City of Grand Junction
Mailing Address	1340 Gunnison Avenue, Grand Junction CO 81501
FEIN	84-6000592
Organization Contact	Traci Wieland
Position/Title	Recreation Superintendent
Email	traciw@gjcity.org
Phone	970-254-3846
Grant Management Contact	Traci Wieland
Position/Title	Recreation Superintendent
Email	traciw@gjcity.org
Phone	970-254-3846
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	

Description of Grantee/Applicant
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).
As the largest municipality between Salt Lake City, Utah and Denver, Colorado, the City of Grand Junction routinely serves the residents of Grand Junction and Mesa County residents from Palisade to the east and Fruita to the west. The City's population is 63,775 of the total Mesa County population of 149,249. The City of Grand Junction provides full service municipal services including parks, trails, recreation, and golf. The City's highest priority for park development is Las Colonias Park, a 130 acres downtown riverfront park.



Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
X	Public (Government): Municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
	Public (Districts): Authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
	Private Incorporated: Mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
	Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: Private parties may be eligible for funding.
	Non-governmental organizations (NGO): Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
	Covered Entity: As defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes .

Type of Water Project (check all that apply)	
	Study
X	Construction
	Identified Projects and Processes (IPP)
	Other

Category of Water Project (check all that apply and include relevant tasks)		
	Supply and Demand Gap - Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Water Storage - Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Engagement & Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
X	Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Other	Explain:
Location of Water Project		



Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in **decimal degrees**. The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.

County/Countries	Mesa
Latitude	Upstream: 39.053929 Downstream: 39.054696
Longitude	Upstream: -108.545510 Downstream: -108.565346

Water Project Overview

Please provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). Include a description of the project and what the CWP Grant funding will be used for specifically (e.g., studies, permitting process, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the project, where applicable. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, and area of habitat improvements, where applicable. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain.

The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.

The Las Colonias Park River Recreation feature will balance improvements to the riparian habitat with the community's need to access and connect to the Colorado River, a long-ignored waterway in the Grand Valley.

The proposed construction project at Las Colonias Park includes four project elements. An additional inlet channel will allow flowing water for a greater period of the year, will control flow distribution to function appropriately in the existing river system and avoid adverse impacts to existing aquatic habitat in the main channel of the Colorado River or any secondary channels. An extension of the existing slough will feature two boulder step structures to create step-pool morphology and provide channel grade control. Multiple habitat boulders and ribbed riffle enhancements will be installed throughout the modified secondary channel creating flow heterogeneity and aquatic habitat complexity. The streambanks of the new channels will be planted with native riparian vegetation plantings, providing erosion control, a riparian buffer, and increased habitat. Bank areas along the outside of meander bends (areas of high scour potential) will be protected by biotechnical bank stabilization consisting of vegetated natural boulder terracing. This project will restore the original intent of the existing slough by adding more flow and will add 1.77 acres of open water.

An approved Pre-Construction Notification has already been obtained for these improvements from the Army Corp of Engineers that had a Section 7 consultation with US Fish and Wildlife. WPG funds will be utilized for construction of the feature.

Measurable Results

To catalog measurable results achieved with the CWP Grant funds, please provide any of the following values as applicable:



Measurable Results		
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)	
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive	
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)	
1,200	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)	
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)	
0.70	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)	
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms	
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning	
36,000 annually	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity	
	Other	Explain:

Water Project Justification
Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan, the most recent Statewide Water Supply Initiative, and the applicable Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan. The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers). The proposed water project shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan Framework for State of Colorado Support for a Water Project (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;) Colorado Water Plan – Chapter 6: Water Supply Management – Section 6.6: Environmental and Recreational Projects and Methods <i>Promote restoration, recovery, sustainability, and resiliency of endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic and riparian-dependent species and plant communities.</i> Due directly or indirectly to human activities, the Colorado River has experienced an overall narrowing of the main channel and associated loss of side channels. The decrease in side channel habitat is thought to be a key factor in the decline of native and endangered fish in the Colorado River. An objective of this project is to increase the area of aquatic side channel habitat in the reach of the Colorado River near Grand Junction. The new channel extension will enhance the aquatic habitat in Las Colonias Park by increasing the area of open water and creating flow complexity. The step-pool channel morphology incorporated into the channel will allow for natural scouring below the installed boulder steps, form flow pools with low velocities that create cover, create flow complexity and habitat diversity, aerate the water, and provide grade control and flow control for the new channel. The streambanks of the new channels will be planted with native riparian vegetation plantings, providing erosion control, a riparian buffer, and increased habitat. Bank areas along the outside of meander bends (areas of high scour potential) will be protected by biotechnical bank stabilization consisting of vegetated natural boulder terracing. This will provide enhanced scour protection in these areas, as well as erosion protection from foot traffic associated with the public path along the north bank. There is no consumptive use proposed for the Colorado River, rather just diversion of a portion of the existing instream flows over 810 CFS. While two pools are created, water is intended to keep moving through those and creates additional habitat for the endangered fish program.



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Water Project Justification

The final buildout of Las Colonias Park includes development of hardscape areas and parking lots; however, thoughtful consideration of filtration of this urban runoff situation has been addressed by the extensive restoration of the riparian area.

Protect and enhance economic values to local and statewide economies that rely on environmental and recreational water uses, such as fishing, boating, waterfowl hunting, wildlife watching, camping, and hiking. Support the development of multipurpose projects and methods that benefit environmental and recreational water needs as well as water needs for communities or agriculture.

With more than two thirds of the surrounding county owned by the federal government, outdoor recreation and enjoyment is a favorite pastime of locals and tourists. Grand Junction is located in the banana belt of the state with warmer temps, mild winters, and year-round recreation opportunities including hundreds of miles of trails and the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers offering fishing, rafting, kayaking, and paddle boarding opportunities; however, there is a significant void in terms of whitewater type of activities. The Grand Junction community has expressed a major desire for these types of recreational opportunities along the Colorado River for small water crafts (canoes, kayaks, etc.). Currently, the closest opportunity is in Montrose or Glenwood Springs, both of which are over an hour drive away. The lack of opportunities has forced participants to accommodate by making the time consuming and costly drive, or many recreational users are simply going without. To maintain our strong economic position with tourists and to better meet the needs of our residents, this type of amenity is sorely needed.

Understand, protect, maintain, and improve conditions of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian and wetland habitat to promote long-term sustainability and resiliency.

The main goal of the project is to restore what was once a riparian area in the downtown Grand Junction riverfront while improving the ecosystem and habitat for fish. There is no flow from the Colorado River into the newly constructed slough for the majority of the year. During a site visit on November 21, 2017, REP confirmed that no water was entering the slough inlet at a flow of 1,580cfs in the Colorado River (USGS 09106150, closest gauge to the site). Photos from the site visit are shown in Figures 2-4. Average monthly flows are below this level for 3 months of the year in late summer (see Figure 6). The median daily flow for the period of record at USGS gauge 09106150 is 1,700cfs. Additional flow in the channel will result in improved water quality, reduced pool stagnation, greater dilution of the contaminants present at the site, improved aquatic habitat, and will aid in the re-establishment and maintenance of secondary flow channels.

Engineered social use is incorporated into the design with well-designed and strategically placed access points. The creation of native zones will encourage appropriate use of areas as well as long-term sustainability and resiliency to recreation use. The designated areas will provide balance between humans and long-term riparian success.

High-quality, balanced and grassroots water education and outreach efforts that inform Coloradans about the issues so that they may engage in determining Colorado's water future.

The Las Colonias Park River Recreation feature is an excellent opportunity for educational opportunities, especially tied directly to the Grand Valley's strong agricultural roots. Increasing cooperation between the agricultural and recreation community will be enhanced through these educational opportunities. Volunteer groups, in addition to the Western Colorado Conservation Corps, will assist with planting efforts providing a source of engagement. In addition, educational/interpretive signage will be installed to provide free educational opportunities for park users, trail users, local schools, the underserved populations directly connected to the park, and the 50,000 annual Riverfront Trail users. Involvement in the project as well as the signage will encourage and teach responsible recreation (i.e. Leave No Trace, etc.). The City of Grand Junction has a broad representation of stakeholders in the development process for Las Colonias, including: Department of Energy (DOE), Navarro (contractor to DOE), Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, US Fish and Wildlife, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, RiversEdge West, Grand Junction Lions Club, Western Colorado



Water Project Justification

Botanical Society, Grand Valley Audubon, and a whole host of volunteers and community members interested in the sustainability of the park as well as its responsible use.

SWSI – Section 8, Recommendations, 8-1, Support meeting Colorado's non-consumptive water needs by working with Colorado's water stakeholders to help:

Promote recovery and sustainability of endangered, threatened, and imperiled species in a manner that allows the state to fully use its compact and decreed entitlements. Protect or enhance environmental and recreational values that benefit local and statewide economies. Encourage multi-purpose projects that benefit both water users and native species.

This project will improve aquatic and riparian side channel habitat in the Colorado River. Loss of backwater and side channel habitat in the Colorado River has been identified as a key factor in the decline of four federally listed fish species: Bonytail (*Gila elegans*), Humpback Chub (*Gila cypha*), Colorado Pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), and Razorback Sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*). In addition, improvements in the riparian habitat benefit the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). It is expected that improved side channel habitat will enhance the function of Colorado River system for these endangered species. The modified inlet will control flow distribution to function appropriately in the existing river system and avoid adverse impacts to existing aquatic habitat in the main channel of the Colorado River or any secondary channels. Additional flow in the channel will result in improved water quality, reduced pool stagnation, greater dilution of the contaminants present at the site, improved aquatic habitat, and will aid in the re-establishment and maintenance of secondary flow channels.

The new channel extension will enhance the aquatic habitat in Las Colonias Park by increasing the area of open water and creating flow complexity. The step-pool channel morphology incorporated into the channel will allow for natural scouring below the installed boulder steps, form flow pools with low velocities that create cover, create flow complexity and habitat diversity, aerate the water, and provide grade control and flow control for the new channel. Habitat boulders and ribbed riffle enhancements placed at optimal locations throughout the channel will create flow complexity and aquatic habitat heterogeneity by allowing natural scouring, secondary eddy currents, velocity refuges, and cover. The streambanks of the new channels will be planted with native riparian vegetation plantings using bioengineering bank treatments to provide erosion control, a riparian buffer, and increased habitat.

The Colorado Division of Water Resources recommended the River Recreation project be combined with the overall development of Las Colonias Park into one application at the completion of the park. This application is a standardized application with no well permits required and is a non-consumptive, recreational diversion.

Colorado Basin Implementation Plan

Preserve high quality recreational river and stream reaches with appropriate flows: short term needs: develop acceptance from watershed groups on 28 recreation reaches identified by American Whitewater in cooperation with the WFET work; long term needs: support efforts to expand water based recreational uses of the Colorado River Basin. The plan's themes include: protect and restore healthy streams, develop local water conscious land use strategies, and encourage high level of Basinwide conservation.

The City of Grand Junction's proposed project for the Las Colonias Park River Recreation Feature will help directly meet goals outlined in the State's Colorado Water Plan and in the Colorado River Basin's BIP. The project helps meet the statewide long-term goal #1 by improving public engagement in the endangered fish recovery program and statewide long-term goal #2 by enhancing the economic value of the river for both the local and statewide economies (CWP, 6-157). This project also helps meet the basin wide goal to protect identified recreational reaches and opportunities from degradation by enhancing user days and the user experience; the project segment was identified as a key recreational reach by American Whitewater in coordination with the WFET effort (Colorado BIP, 29).



Related Studies

Please provide a list of any related studies, including if the water project is complementary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

Recreational use of the downtown Grand Junction riverfront was identified in the original 1998 Las Colonias Master Plan. Although not called out specifically as a recreation feature, the plan included a boardwalk, promenade, pond, and wetlands. The plan was revised over the course of several decades and most recently in 2017, the updated plan included a river recreation feature. Matching funds for completion of the project are included in the 2019 City of Grand Junction Capital Improvement Plan.

The Las Colonias Park River Recreation feature will support the goals identified in the six themes from the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan through educational and interpretive signage. The feature actively supports the first theme to protect and restore healthy streams, rivers, lakes, and riparian areas. In addition, the feature will actively aid in protecting and rehabilitating a riparian area. Las Colonias Park was formerly used as a uranium mill which produced 2.2 million tons of radioactive tailings. Other portions of the park were used as a dumping ground and a junkyard. Until the 1980's, the riverfront was literally inaccessible. Thanks to strong civic leadership in the 80's and 90's, the uranium mill was remediated, the junkyard was cleaned up, and the invasive weed species was removed. The river recreation feature mimics the braided channels found throughout the Colorado River basin on the Western Slope increasing the area of aquatic side channel habitat in the reach of the Colorado River and improving habitat for endangered fish.

Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding

List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order; 6) Percentage of other CWCB funding for your overall project.

City of Grand Junction, Las Colonias Park Riparian Restoration, Colorado Watershed Restoration Program, \$99,703, POGG1 PDAA 201700000838:

This project was to revegetation the original excavated slough. This new project, the new inlet and additional water channel, was created after the Watershed Restoration grant was received, so the original scope of work has been on hold until a final determination and regulatory permit was secured. A request has been submitted to CWCB to request a project extension as well as divert these funds to the new project.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect your application.

Currently, the TABOR excess the City voters have authorized to be used on street infrastructure maintenance comes from the TABOR limit calculation that we are required to do for Property Tax Revenues only. In addition to this we also perform a "Black Box" calculation which includes property tax revenues and other revenues subject to the limit. Grants or direct distribution of severance tax dollars are subject to the City's "Black Box" TABOR calculation; however, at this time, we have a margin in our "Black Box" calculation (actual revenues are less than allowed revenues), so adding additional revenue would not put us into an excess situation in the "Black Box".



Submittal Checklist	
	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract .
Exhibit A	
X	Statement of Work ⁽¹⁾
X	Budget & Schedule ⁽¹⁾
X	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit C	
X	Map (if applicable) ⁽¹⁾
X	Photos/Drawings/Reports
X	Letters of Support (Support letter from Basin Roundtable encouraged)
	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) ⁽²⁾
	Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State ⁽²⁾
X	W-9 ⁽²⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽²⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
Engagement & Innovation Grant Applicants ONLY	
	Engagement & Innovation Supplemental Application ⁽¹⁾

(1) Required with application.

(2) Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval.



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant - Exhibit B

Budget and Schedule

Date: July 11, 2018

Name of Applicant: City of Grand Junction

Name of Water Project: Las Colonias Park River Recreation Feature

Project Start Date: April 2019

Project End Date: December 2019

Task No.	Task Description	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1	Site Preparation	July 2019	July 2019	\$0	\$30,800	\$30,800
2	Excavation and Haul	August 19	Aug 2019	\$35,000	\$254,100	\$289,100
3	Boulder Step-Pool Structures	September 2019	September 2019	\$25,000	\$185,500	\$210,500
4	Pool Armoring	September 2019	September 2019	\$0	\$19,000	\$19,000
5	Large Habitat Boulder Placement	October 2019	October 2019	\$0	\$19,200	\$19,200
6	Terracing Subgrade/Blocky Stone Plmt	October 2019	October 2019	\$45,500	\$177,650	\$223,150
7	Topsoil Import and Grading	October 2019	October 2019	\$25,000	\$85,000	\$110,000
8	Furnish and Install Riparian Native Seed	October 2019	October 2019	\$0	\$4,755	\$4,755
9	Furnish and Plant Trees and Shrubs	October 2019	October 2019	\$40,000	\$70,000	\$110,000
10	Install Irrigation System	August 2019	August 2019	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
11	Other	November 2019	November 2019	\$4,500	\$156,700	\$161,200
					\$0	\$0
						\$0
Total				\$175,000	\$1,032,705	\$1,207,705

Letters of Support



Colorado Riverfront Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 2477
Grand Junction, CO 81502
Phone: 970.683.4333
info@OneRiverfront.org
OneRiverfront.org

July 22, 2018

City of Grand Junction
Attn: Traci Wieland
1340 Gunnison Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Ms. Wieland,

One Riverfront and the Colorado Riverfront Foundation strongly support the ongoing development of Las Colonias Park as a major component of the Riverfront Project. The Colorado River provides a valuable water resource that sustains the agricultural and urban economics of the Grand Valley (greater Grand Junction area) in western Colorado, which is one of the largest metropolitan areas located on the river. Since 1987, One Riverfront has been dedicated to helping Grand Valley communities be stewards of this precious resource through the development of the Riverfront Project. Often described as a string of pearls, the Riverfront Project is comprised of county properties, city parks, state parks and wildlife areas, and open space which are connected by multi-use trails stretching along the Colorado River.

Las Colonias Park is one of the last remaining pearls within the Riverfront Project. One Riverfront strongly supports its development, so much so, the Colorado Riverfront Foundation, One Riverfront's fiscal agent, is donating \$15,000 in matching funds for the completion of the River Recreation feature. The Colorado Riverfront Foundation was established as a non-profit in 1987 to accept donations and grants on behalf of the Riverfront Trail Project and has been working with the City of Grand Junction for decades to revitalize and redevelop the riverfront in downtown Grand Junction. The Colorado Riverfront Foundation has donated \$120,000 to the development of Las Colonias Park since 2014.

Several of the goals of the Riverfront Project include celebrating and preserving the cottonwood groves, wetlands, cattail marshes, gravel bars, and islands of the Colorado (originally the Grand) and the Gunnison Rivers. The junction of these two mighty rivers provides a beautiful and rich habitat for wildlife and riparian vegetation in an otherwise arid region. This rich and diverse environment is home to over 200 different species of birds, three endangered species of fish and an abundance of small animals. The rehabilitation of Las Colonias Park from its historical use as a junkyard and uranium mill are integral to the long-term success of the Riverfront Project, and the River Recreation feature will allow for that essential

City of Grand Junction
July 22, 2018
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rehabilitation in the form of revegetation. The project will also provide vast opportunity for community members to immerse themselves in nature learning about riparian habitat and how to take care of it for generations to come.

One Riverfront and the Riverfront Foundation are thrilled with the opportunity to see the completion of Las Colonias Park, and we look forward to the support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board to make that possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being more prominent than the last name "Nelson".

Paul Nelson
Colorado Riverfront Foundation, Inc., Chair



Centennial Canoe Outfitters
1623 Juniper Court
Grand Junction, CO 81505
(720) 283-0553

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the Las Colonias Park River Recreation Feature in Grand Junction, Colorado.

The project exemplifies a well-rounded approach to river recreation by balancing human use and environmental stewardship and protection. Riparian enhancement through revegetation and increased signage to delineate appropriate access and use will inevitably result in improved water quality in that area. In addition, the plan associated with the river recreation features was designed with full consideration of wildlife needs. The project also provides a unique opportunity to connect people of the Grand Valley to the river. In the predominately agricultural community of Grand Junction, the recreation river feature will make available interminable opportunities for water education, responsible recreation and river stewardship.

I respectfully encourage your support of this effort by the City of Grand Junction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. B. Rung".

Owner Operator
Western River Outfitters, LLC
Centennial Canoe Outfitters
Former Projects Coordinator Eagle River Watershed Council
Participant Colorado Basin Roundtable



President's Office

1100 North Avenue • Grand Junction, CO 81501-3122
970.248.1498 (o) • 970.248.1903 (f) • 1.800.982.6372

July 24, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board
c/o Water Plan Grant
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Sir or Madam:

I write today to express strong support for the Water Plan Grant application submitted by the City of Grand Junction to complete the **Las Colonias Park River Recreation Feature**.

As you may know, CMU is Colorado's fastest growing institution of higher education. With approximately 11,000 students enrolled each year, we are constantly developing unique partnerships to develop new opportunities for our students to recreate, research and be involved in the community. The proposed Las Colonias Park River Recreation Feature is the latest example of organizations in our community pooling resources to develop a win-win outcome for the entire Grand Valley.

As you can appreciate, it is high time for our city – named after the confluence of two great rivers – to embrace its riverfront. The work done to date by the City of Grand Junction at the Las Colonias site is truly transformational for our community. From my vantage point, the development of the Las Colonias Park River Recreation Feature is the next logical step in this evolution and our institution supports its speedy development wholeheartedly. This feature will enhance the environment, boost economic development and encourage a more healthy interaction between citizens and the riverfront going forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this project. I hope you view the application favorably.

Sincerely,

Tim Foster, President
Colorado Mesa University



RiversEdge West

RESTORE + CONNECT + INNOVATE

July 26, 2018

Ms. Linda Bassi
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Ms. Bassi,

RiversEdge West (REW) strongly supports the City of Grand Junction's Water Plan Grant proposal to increase the availability and function of riparian and aquatic habitat along the Colorado River near downtown Grand Junction. We have a highly vested interest in seeing restoration succeed at this site given our decade long commitment to improving riparian habitat at Las Colonias and at other nearby sites, all of which are highly visible to and utilized by the community.

The proposed project bolsters our previous restoration efforts, and those of our partners, to provide high-quality streamside vegetation to support habitat for fish and wildlife species, while also creating an accessible means to enjoy the river environment. With the active planting of native vegetation along a currently depauperate stretch of river, this project will benefit numerous species, including federally listed fish species and the threatened Western Yellow Billed Cuckoo. In-stream improvements, including the addition of habitat boulders and ribbed riffle enhancements, will further help to improve aquatic habitat and heterogeneity.

Not only do the objectives of this project fulfill the mission of REW, but they also bolster the goals of the Desert Rivers Collaborative (DRC), a group which CWCB has long funded and championed. In addition to restoring and maintaining native riparian habitat along the Colorado and Gunnison rivers, the DRC is focused on fostering community pride and livelihood through passive and active recreational experiences and opportunities for engagement along rivers, a goal which this project fully supports.

We are hopeful that a well-executed project at this site will be the springboard for future work focused on riparian habitat improvements along our community's rivers.

Sincerely,

Shannon Hatch
Restoration Coordinator

FEIN 27-0007315

www.RiversEdgeWest.org

P.O. Box 1907 | Grand Junction, CO 81502

Advancing the restoration of riparian lands through collaboration, education, and technical assistance.