



Last Updated: May 2021

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

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**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:

Water Storage & Supply Projects	Matthew.Stearns@state.co.us
Conservation, Land Use Planning	Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us
Engagement & Innovation Activities	Ben.Wade@state.co.us
Agricultural Projects	Alexander.Funk@state.co.us
Water Sharing & ATM Projects	Alexander.Funk@state.co.us
Environmental & Recreation Projects	Chris.Sturm@state.co.us

**FINAL SUBMISSION: Submit all application materials in one email to [waterplan.grants@state.co.us](mailto:waterplan.grants@state.co.us) in the original file formats [Application (word); Statement of Work (word); Budget/Schedule (excel)]. Please do not combine documents. In the subject line, please include the funding category and name of the project.**

**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Huerfano County Water Conservancy District on behalf of the Cucharas Basin Storage Collaborative	
Name of Water Project	Maria Stevens Reservoir Dredging Feasibility Study	
CWP Grant Request Amount		\$ 14,795
Other Funding Sources	Maria Lakes Grazing Assn	\$ 2,466
Other Funding Sources	_____	\$
Other Funding Sources	_____	\$
Applicant Funding Contribution		\$ 2,466
Total Project Cost		\$ 19,727



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<b>Applicant &amp; Grantee Information</b>	
Name of Grantee(s)	Huerfano County Water Conservancy District on behalf of the Cucharas Basin Storage Collaborative
Mailing Address	PO Box 442 La Veta, CO 81055
FEIN	84-0935026
Organization Contact	Scott King
Position/Title	President
Email	<a href="mailto:slking@centurylink.net">slking@centurylink.net</a>
Phone	719-742-3124
Grant Management Contact	Carol Dunn
Position/Title	Administrator
Email	hcwcdistrict@gmail.com
Phone	719-742-5581
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	
<b>Description of Grantee/Applicant</b>	
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).	
<p>The Huerfano County Water Conservancy District (HCWCD or District), formed by court decree in 1971, responds to local and regional needs by protecting and stabilizing the Huerfano County water resources, including the Huerfano and Cucharas Rivers and their tributary streams and groundwater. The District participates in the Cucharas Basin Storage Collaborative, including federal, state and local agencies and water users. The purpose of the Collaborative is to identify and accomplish the most effective manner of meeting storage needs within the basin, including the construction of new storage or the rehabilitation/enlargement of existing storage structures.</p>	



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	<b>Public (Government):</b> 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.
X	<b>Public (Districts):</b> Authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
	<b>Private Incorporated:</b> Mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
	<b>Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors:</b> Private parties may be eligible for funding.
	<b>Non-governmental organizations (NGO):</b> Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
	<b>Covered Entity:</b> As defined in <a href="#">Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes</a> .

Type of Water Project (check all that apply)	
X	Study
	Construction
	Other

Category of Water Project (check the primary category that applies and include relevant tasks)			
X	<p>Water Storage &amp; Supply - Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity, multi-beneficial projects, water sharing agreements, Alternative Transfer Methods, and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.  <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p> <p><b>Note:</b> For Water Sharing Agreements or ATM Projects - please include the <a href="#">supplemental application</a> available on the CWCB's website.</p>		
	<p>Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, water efficiency, and drought planning.  <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p>		
	<p>Engagement &amp; Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts.  <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p>		
	<p>Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency.  <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p>		
X	<p>Environmental &amp; Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.  <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p>		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>Explain:</td> </tr> </table>	Other	Explain:
Other	Explain:		



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<b>Location of Water Project</b>	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in <b>decimal degrees</b> . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
• County/Countries	Huerfano
Latitude	37.6682
Longitude	-104.6787

<b>Water Project Overview</b>
<p>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.</p> <p>The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.</p>
<p>Major Cucharas River water users formed the Cucharas Basin Storage Collaborative to identify and construct cost-effective water storage. With assistance of WSRF and WPG funding plus local matches, the Collaborative has quantified storage needs, conducted a yield analysis with DSS-consistent modeling, evaluated over 50 potential storage sites, and conducted feasibility level design on five preferred sites. Water rights for storage in and exchanges between the preferred sites were adjudicated in 17CW3075 (Div 2).</p> <p>Thirty percent design has been completed for three of the preferred sites. Two were advanced to 50 percent design: new 1,406 a.f. Bruce Canyon Reservoir; and a 642 a.f. enlargement of existing Maria Stevens Reservoir (MSR), being conducted with the assistance of a WSRF grant.</p> <p>During design, focused on increasing the height of the MSR embankments, it appeared that dredging accumulated silt from the reservoir bed might be a more cost-effective way of producing the needed additional storage. The 50 percent design will continue during this feasibility analysis, as will a hydrologic hazard analysis consistent with Dam Safety's Rule 4.15 and 7.2.</p> <p>The primary eventual use of MSR will be to receive by exchange and hold fully consumable water to be used in a regional augmentation plan for the Cucharas River basin, replacing out of priority depletions for rural water users impacting the Arkansas River.</p>



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Measurable Results	
To catalog measurable results achieved with the CWP Grant funds, please provide any of the following values as applicable:	
642	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
2101	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
5300	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
	Other Explain:

Water Project Justification
<p>Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of <a href="#">Colorado's Water Plan</a>, the <a href="#">Analysis and Technical Update to the Water Plan</a>, and the applicable Roundtable <a href="#">Basin Implementation Plan</a> and <a href="#">Education Action Plan</a>. 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).</p> <p>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;)</p> <p>This application increases storage through enlargement of the existing Maria Stevens Reservoir. Storage has been a major theme in local, regional (Roundtable) and State (Colorado Water Plan) water planning.</p> <p><u>Local.</u> In 2013 the Division Engineer recommended that a shortage of storage in the Cucharas River basin could be resolved by collaborative storage projects. Leading up to the formation of the Cucharas Basin Storage Collaborative in 2015, an investigation by HCWCD concluded that the basin has lost 70% of its storage capacity since WWII. Further study demonstrated in 2017 that the storage gap in the basin was about 2,000 a.f. for municipal uses and about 15,000 a.f. for agriculture.</p> <p><u>Roundtable.</u> In April 2015, the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan concluded, "Increasing available storage is seen as fundamental to all solutions to the Arkansas Basin's needs." <i>Executive Summary, p. 9.</i> Its first priority was, "Increasing available storage." <i>Sec. 1, p. 5.</i> Its primary theme was "Increased water storage ... capacity is critical to all solutions." <i>Sec. 1, p. 6.</i> Finally, its storage goal was to "Increase surface storage available within the basin by 70,000 acre-feet by the year 2020." <i>Sec. 1, p. 10.</i></p>



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Statewide. The Colorado Water Plan (2015) contains similar conclusions:

- Key measurable objective of “attaining 400,000 ac-ft of water storage to manage and share conserved water and the yield of IPPs by 2050.” *Section 10.2 (Measurable Objectives and Adaptive Management), p. 10-6.*
- Storage is a critical goal identified in Section 10.3 (Critical Goals and Actions), p. 10-11. It stresses prioritizing grants to support implementation of BIP-identified multipurpose storage projects.

This project, identified in the Arkansas BIP (ARK-2015-007), will study the feasibility of dredging to develop 642 a.f. of new storage in Maria Stevens Reservoir. The storage generated will provide opportunities for multiple entities in the Cucharas Basin Storage Collaborative, including storage for agriculture, municipal and industrial use for a basin population of approximately 5,300 people, plus non-consumptive needs including fishing and non-motorized boating.

### 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.

1. Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage Study, June 2017, Parsons Water and Applegate Group, Inc. This study describes the modeling used to determine storage needs in the Cucharas Basin and reconnaissance level study and screening of potential storage sites. Final recommendations were to complete a reconnaissance level geotechnical investigation of five potential/enlargement storage projects.
2. Geotechnical Evaluation, Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage, Huerfano County, November 27, 2018, Cesare, Inc. This study describes the reconnaissance level geotechnical investigation results for the five sites recommended in the June 2017 Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage Study. It included field investigations, site-specific geotechnical drilling, and laboratory analyses.
3. Geotechnical Evaluation, Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage, Huerfano County, November 7, 2019, Cesare, Inc. This study added more detailed geotechnical investigation results for two sites recommended in the June 2017 Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage Study. It included additional site-specific geotechnical drilling and laboratory analyses.
4. Geologic/Geotech Analysis Report on Slope Stability by Cesare, Inc and Hydrology Analysis Report by Applegate Group in progress and due by September, 2021. The standalone geotechnical report will summarize completed analyses and related recommendations that impact the 50% dam designs.



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### 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.

1. WSRF 2015 grant. Grant recipient: Huerfano County Water Conservancy District. Water activity name: Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage Study. Approving RT: Arkansas. CWCB board meeting date: September 2015. Contract #: CTGG1 2016-1053. Funding sources: \$195,000 Statewide account (78%); \$25,000 Basin account (10%); \$30,000 local match (12%).
2. WSRF 2018 grant. Grant recipient: Huerfano County Water Conservancy District. Water activity name: Cucharas Collaborative Storage Study Geotechnical Investigation. Approving RT: Arkansas. CWCB board meeting date: March 2018. Contract #: POGG1,PDAA,201800000917. Funding sources: \$84,797 Statewide account (63.5%); \$8,480 Basin account (6.4%); \$40,262.45 local match (30.1%).
3. WSRF 2019 grant. Grant recipient: Huerfano County Water Conservancy District. Water activity name: Cucharas Collaborative Storage Phase 3. Approving RT: Arkansas. CWCB board meeting date: March 2019. Contract #: POGG1,PDAA, 201900002916. Funding sources: \$40,000 Statewide account (66.6%); \$4,000 Basin account (6.7%); \$16,045 local match (26.7%).
4. WRP 2019 grant. Grant recipient: Huerfano County Water Conservancy District. Water activity name: Collaborative Storage 30 percent Design. Approving RT: Arkansas. CWCB board meeting date: March 2019. Contract #: POGG1,PDAA,20200000010. Funding sources: \$16,786 Statewide account (50%); \$16,785 local match (50%).
5. WSRF 2020 grant. Grant recipient: Huerfano County Water Conservancy District. Water activity name: Collaborative Storage 50 percent Design, Bruce Canyon Reservoir. Approving RT: Arkansas. CWCB board meeting date: 3/12/2020. Contract #: POGG1,PDAA,202000002982. Funding sources: \$35,286 Statewide account (50%); \$17,643 Basin account (25%); \$17,643 local match (25%).
6. WRP+WSRF 2020 grant. Grant recipient: Huerfano County Water Conservancy District. Water activity name: Collaborative Storage 50 percent Design, Maria Stevens Reservoir Enlargement. Approving RT: Arkansas. CWCB board meeting date: 3/12/2020. Contract #: POGG1,PDAA,202100002187. Funding sources: \$35,286 Statewide account (50%); \$17,500 Basin account (24.8%); \$17,786 local match (25.2%).

### 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.

There are no relevant TABOR issues affecting the applicant.



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Submittal Checklist	
✓	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the <a href="#">Standard Contract</a> .
Exhibit A	
✓	Statement of Work <sup>(1)</sup>
✓	Budget & Schedule <sup>(1)</sup>
	Engineer's statement of probable cost (projects over \$100,000)
✓	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Commitments <sup>(1)</sup>
Exhibit C	
✓	Map (if applicable) <sup>(1)</sup> Location map
✓	Photos/Drawings/Reports      Rendering of Maria Stevens Reservoir
✓	Letters of Support (Optional)
	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) <sup>(2)</sup>
	Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State <sup>(2)</sup>
	W-9 <sup>(2)</sup>
	Independent Contractor Form <sup>(2)</sup> (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
Water Sharing Agreements and Alternative Transfer Methods ONLY	
	Water Sharing Agreements and Alternative Transfer Methods <a href="#">Supplemental Application</a> <sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Required with application.

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





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<b>Colorado Water Conservation Board</b>
<b>Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A</b>

Statement Of Work	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>June 14, 2021</b>
<b>Name of Grantee:</b>	<b>Huerfano County Water Conservancy District</b>
<b>Name of Water Project:</b>	<b>Maria Stevens Reservoir Dredging Feasibility Study</b>
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<b>Colorado Water Plan Grant</b>
<b>Water Project Overview:</b>	
<p>Major Cucharas River water users formed the Cucharas Basin Storage Collaborative to identify and construct cost-effective water storage. With assistance of WSRF and WPG funding plus local match, the Collaborative has quantified storage needs, conducted a yield analysis with DSS-consistent modeling, evaluated over 50 potential storage sites, and conducted feasibility level design on five preferred sites. 30 percent design has been completed for three of the preferred sites. Two were advanced to 50 percent design: new 1,406 a.f. Bruce Canyon Reservoir; and a 642 a.f. enlargement of existing Maria Stevens Reservoir (MSR), being conducted with the assistance of a WSRF grant.</p> <p>During design, focused on increasing the height of the embankments, it appeared that dredging accumulated silt from the reservoir bed might be a more cost-effective way of producing the needed additional storage. The 50 percent design will continue during this feasibility analysis, as will a hydrologic hazard analysis consistent with Dam Safety’s Rule 4.15 and 7.2.</p> <p>The primary eventual use of MSR will be to receive by exchange and hold fully consumable water to be used in a regional augmentation plan for the Cucharas River basin, replacing out of priority depletions for rural water users impacting the Arkansas River.</p>	



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**Project Objectives:**

- 1. To complete a study assessing the feasibility of dredging Maria Stevens Reservoir to achieve 642 acre-feet of increased storage.**
- 2. To complete a hydrologic hazard analysis for Maria Stevens Reservoir.**

**Tasks**

**Task 1 - Feasibility study for dredging MSR**

Description of Task:

A consulting engineer will be contracted to assess the feasibility of dredging to achieve 642 ac-ft of storage required for the Cucharas Basin Storage Collaborative.

The engineer will assess the feasibility of constructing an outlet structure with approximately 31 cfs capacity associated with decreed exchanges in Case No. 17CW3075.

Method/Procedure:

The engineer will assess whether the required storage can be achieved by dredging sediment from the reservoir while also addressing Dam Safety concerns about seepage at higher storage levels. The engineer will quantify the volume of material that could be removed based on depth to bedrock and the resulting increase in storage volume.

The outlet structure study will include consideration of alternatives such as siphon, installation of a low-level outlet, and construction of a tower outlet that will not require penetration through the existing dam.



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Deliverables:

One deliverable for this task will be a technical memorandum summarizing the results of the feasibility study, confirming whether dredging can feasibly achieve the 642 ac-ft of increased storage, and reporting whether an outlet can be constructed with the required capacity.

The second deliverable will be feasibility level cost estimates for dredging the required volume and for outlet alternatives that have been considered.

**Tasks**

**Task 2 - Hydrologic hazard analysis**

Description of Task:

A hydrologic hazard analysis will be completed for the dam and will be consistent with Dam Safety's Rule 4.15 and Rule 7.2. The analysis will be based on Dam Safety's Guidelines for Hydrologic Hazard Analysis dated January 7, 2020.



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Method/Procedure:

This analysis will include modeling an overtopping breach in HEC-HMS, and routing the overtopping breach downstream using DSS WISE to determine the potential for downstream consequences. The outcome of this analysis will be used to determine the adequacy of the emergency spillway.

Deliverable:

The deliverable for this task will be a hydrologic hazard report submitted to Dam Safety for their approval.

### Tasks

#### Task 3 - HCWCD administration

Description of Task:

Using a qualified person, ensure the timely accomplishment of contract tasks and the submission of required reports under the grant contract.



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Method/Procedure:

Due to the limited resources of the applicant, contract administration will be primarily handled by the regular part-time Administrator, who has successfully administered other CWCB grants and loans for the District. The time requirements of administration of this grant exceed the District Administrator's time for which she is now compensated. The amount budgeted for this task will be used to compensate the Administrator for additional time spent on this grant.

Deliverable:

**Reporting:** The applicant shall provide the CWCB with a progress report every 6 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 statement 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, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

### Budget and Schedule

This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined Budget and Schedule that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in excel format.

### Reporting Requirements

**Progress Reports:** The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.



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**Final Report:** At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant's letterhead that:

- Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.
- Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

The CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

### Payment

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and must include invoices for all work completed. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by task, an estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire Project in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues, and proposed or implemented corrective actions.

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of this contract are not reimbursable. The last 10% of the entire grant will be paid out when the final deliverable has been received. All products, data and information developed as a result of this contract must be provided to as part of the project documentation.

### Performance Measures

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

(a) Performance standards and evaluation: Grantee will produce detailed deliverables for each task as specified. Grantee shall maintain receipts for all project expenses and documentation of the minimum in-kind contributions (if applicable) per the budget in Exhibit B. Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines full documentation of project progress must be submitted with each invoice for reimbursement. Grantee must confirm that all grant conditions have been complied with on each invoice. In addition, per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.

(c) Monitoring Requirements: Grantee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of project progress per Exhibit A. Progress shall be detailed in each invoice and in each Progress Report, as detailed above. Additional inspections or field consultations will be arranged as may be necessary.

(d) Noncompliance Resolution: Payment will be withheld if grantee is not current on all grant conditions. Flagrant disregard for grant conditions will result in a stop work order and cancellation of the Grant Agreement.



**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

**Water Plan Grant - Exhibit B  
 Budget and Schedule**

**Prepared Date: June 25, 2021**

**Name of Applicant: Huerfano County Water Conservancy District**

**Name of Water Project: Maria Stevens Reservoir Dredging Feasibility Study**

**Project Start Date: 10/1/2021**

**Project End Date: 9/30/2022**

Task No.	Task Description	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Grant Funding Request	25% Match Funding	Total
1	Feasibility Study for Dredging	10/1/2021	9/30/2022	\$7,302.00	\$2,434.00	\$9,736
2	Hydrologic Hazard Analysis	10/1/21	9/30/22	\$6,525.00	\$2,175.00	\$8,700
3	HCWCD Administration	10/1/21	9/30/22	\$968.00	\$322.75	\$1,291
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
<b>Total</b>				\$14,795	\$4,932	\$19,727

# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

June 9, 2021

Mr. Matthew Stearns  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: **Letter of Support** for Water Plan Grant Application – Water Storage and Supply Projects; Huerfano County Water Conservancy District (CWCD) on behalf of Cucharas River Storage Collaborative, **Feasibility Analysis of Dredging of Maria Stevens Reservoir and Hydrologic Hazard Analysis Maria Stevens Reservoir Enlargement**

Dear Matt:

At its June 9, 2021, meeting, the Arkansas Basin Roundtable (ABRT) determined to support this grant application for **\$ 14,794 in Water Plan grant funding** with \$ 4,932 (25%) in local matching from HCWCD and Maria Lake Grazing Association, presuming enactment of HB 1260. The HCWCD is providing \$ 2,466 in cash, an equal amount by MLGA. The roundtable's consensus decision was unanimous.

The project directly supports Colorado Water Plan Objective A. Supply-Demand Gap: Meet Colorado's Water Gaps: Use a grassroots approach to formulate projects and methods that avoid some of the undesirable outcomes of the supply-demand gaps. The reservoir enlargement was identified by the Collaborative's storage study, project 2015-0007 in our BIP's Master Needs List. Currently, the Collaborative is engaged in 50% design of the enlargement of this reservoir with the assistance of a WSRF grant. During design, focused on increasing the height of the embankments, it appeared that dredging accumulated silt from the reservoir bed might be a more cost-effective way of producing the needed additional storage. The original design work will continue during this feasibility analysis as will a hydrologic hazard analysis consistent with Dam Safety's Rule 4.15 and 7.2.

While the reservoir itself holds among the more senior storage priorities in the Arkansas basin, the enlargement holds its own junior conditional right. More importantly, it is one of several exchange to and from points which have been adjudicated by the Collaborative. Its primary eventual use will be to receive by exchange and hold fully consumable water to be used in a regional augmentation plan for the Cucharas River basin, mitigating out of priority depletions for rural water user which impact the Arkansas River, an important step in meeting Colorado's obligations under the Arkansas River Compact. Supporting cost-effective augmentation of small, domestic depletions in rural areas is a major objective of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan. Aggregating these depletions into a comprehensive water augmentation decree implemented by local public jurisdictions is seen as a very favorable resolution of the many incremental depletions to rivers and streams in small watersheds.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me either by telephone, O (719) 668-8028, M (719) 310-2083, or by email, [mshea@csu.org](mailto:mshea@csu.org).

With warm regards



Mark Shea

Chair





PO Box 442 La Veta, CO 81055 [hcwcd.net](http://hcwcd.net)  
(719)742-5581 [hcwcdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:hcwcdistrict@gmail.com)

June 14, 2021

Mr. Matthew Stearns  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Letter of Funding Commitment

Dear Mr. Stearns:

This is to confirm that \$2,466 will be allocated from the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District budget to be used as matching funds on behalf of the Cucharas Basin Storage Collaborative for funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Water Plan Grants. The total local match will be \$4,932 (25%, presuming enactment of HB 1260), shared equally by HCWCD and Maria Lakes Grazing Association (MLGA). MLGA has already generated a check to HCWCD in the amount of \$2,466, which HCWCD will hold in anticipation of a successful grant application.

The purpose of the grant funding is to complete a feasibility study of dredging on Maria Stevens Reservoir. During design work currently underway, which focuses on increasing the height of the embankments to achieve 642 acre-feet of additional storage, it appeared that dredging accumulated silt from the reservoir bed might be a more cost-effective way of producing the needed additional storage. The primary eventual use of the storage will be to receive by exchange and hold fully consumable water to be used in a regional augmentation plan for the Cucharas River basin, mitigating out of priority depletions for rural water uses which impact the Arkansas River.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol S. Dunn".

Carol Dunn  
Administrator, Secretary-Treasurer