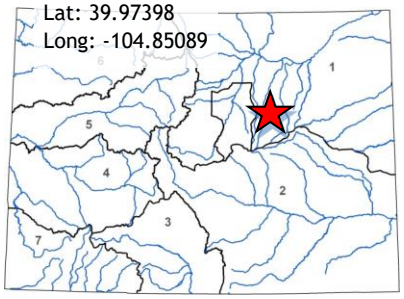
COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant Application

South Platte River Bank Stabilization
Brighton Ditch Company

March 2022 Board Meeting



LOCATION	
County/Counties:	Adams
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$744,226
Water Plan Grant Request:	$372,133
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$372,133
Project Type(s):	Construction
Project Category(Categories):	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	700 LF of stream restored or protected; 2.85 acres of habitat restored or preserved; 6,200 AF of existing storage preserved or enhanced; 18,675 AF of water right protected for Brighton Ditch

This grant request would fund the construction of bank stabilization infrastructure to reduce the risk of flanking of a diversion structure.

The Brighton Ditch Diversion Dam is located on the South Platte River about two miles south-west of downtown Brighton. Both the Brighton Ditch Company and the City of Brighton rely on the dam. The Brighton Ditch Company diverts 18,675 AF of water for industrial and agricultural uses including 2,200 acres of irrigated farmland. The City of Brighton operates a water intake structure that takes advantage of the backwater created by the dam. The intake structure provides 2,500 AF of water for augmentation purposes.

In June 2015, sustained flooding overtopped the river bank immediately upstream of the structure and cut a new channel which bypassed the diversion dam. The Brighton Ditch Company constructed an emergency coffer dam to block the new channel and returned the flows to the existing riverbed. While the emergency coffer dam has been adequately directing river flow into the diversion structure and allowing regular diversions to take place, there is still a risk of flanking should another flood event take place.

In order to reduce this risk, the South Platte River Bank Stabilization Project was developed. The Project would replace the emergency coffer dam with an overflow weir to safely pass flood flows. It would also place stream barbs along the upstream bank to prevent further erosion and enhance riparian habitat.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending approval of the grant request. The review matrix score was low relative to the other applications reviewed this round. Feedback from the Agriculture Review Committee suggested that the request was of a lower relative priority as well, in part, because the environmental benefits are ancillary to the primary objectives and the project does not represent multiple objectives as robustly as other applications reviewed this round.