

## **SOUTHWEST BASINS ROUNDTABLE'S CRITERIA FOR BASIN EVALUATION**

**The following will be used to evaluate a project submitted to the Southwest Basins Roundtable.**

*The listed requirements include Southwest Basins Roundtable specific requirements as well as the Colorado Water Conservation Board requirements for completing the Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Grant application. This is not an exhaustive list and all application forms should be thoroughly reviewed and completed. For assistance in completing the application package please reference the Southwest Basins Roundtable's WSRF Grant application submittal checklist.*

### **REQUIRED:**

- A. Projects must be submitted on application forms used by the [Colorado Water Conservation Board \(CWCB\)](#) and this Southwest Basins Roundtable's Criteria for Basin Evaluation (Roundtable).
- B. All applicable sections must be completed.
- C. Applicants will identify which of the goals, objectives, and principles as described in the [Roundtable's final draft Basin Implementation Plan \(BIP\)](#) apply to the proposed Project. [The full plan \(BIP\) is available on the CWCB's website.](#)
- D. Applicants will identify which goals and actions apply as described in the [Colorado Water Plan \(CWP\)](#) and address those applicable for the Project. The CWP critical goals and actions may be found in [Chapter 10: Critical Action Plan](#).
- E. In addition to describing applicable BIP goals and CWP goals, the applicant will also identify if the project is listed as an identified project and/or process (IPP) in the BIP and note the identification number of the IPP in their application. The IPP list is available on the [CWCB's website](#). If the project is not an IPP, the applicant should make note of this in the application.
- F. Provide a financial overview of the project and/or process, including cost sharing and all other possible funding sources. The Roundtable requires a minimum 25% match of the total funding request for WSRF grant funds, not to exceed 10% as in-kind (i.e. minimum of 15% cash match). Please provide details of the in-kind contributions. The Roundtable strongly encourages cash contributions from project beneficiaries or applicants. Waivers of these requirements will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

An example of the cost share breakdown for a grant request of \$22,500 is shown below.

<b>Total cost of Project, or portion being funded by WSRF Basin Grant*</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
Total Cash Match Amount (15%)	\$4,500
Total In-Kind Match Amount (10%)**	\$3,000
Total WSRF Basin Grant Request Amount	\$22,500

*\*Amount of Grant Request plus amount of match should equal total cost of Project.*

*\*\*CWCB allows for “past expenditures directly related to the project may be considered as matching funds (i.e. in-kind contributions) if the expenditures occurred within nine months of the date of the contract or purchase order between the applicant and the State of Colorado is executed.”*

- G. Until further notice, the Roundtable’s WSRF basin grants will not exceed \$100,000 unless special circumstances exist which the Roundtable deems a larger amount is warranted. Waiver of this recommendation will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- H. Provide the proposed schedule for the project and/or process to be funded and the timeline for entire project if only funding part with this application.
- I. The Roundtable requires that, if the application is approved, the applicant provide at a minimum semi-annual progress reports of the project as well as a final report once the project is completed. The first report is due six months after the notice to proceed is given. To avoid duplicate efforts, the applicant may electronically send the same progress and final reports, as required by CWCB, to the Roundtable chair for distribution to the group. Applicants are always encouraged to share project completion stories including successes and lessons learned at Roundtable meetings.
- J. Applicants must answer, to the best of their ability, the evaluation questions posed below. These questions and answers assist the Roundtable during the application review process.

## SOUTHWEST BASIN ROUNDTABLE'S EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

**To assist the Roundtable in determining whether and to what extent a proposed project and/or process meets the values set forth in the Roundtable Bylaws and goals of the Basin Implementation Plan, the following questions should be addressed separately as can reasonably be answered by the applicant. *Note: this is not an exhaustive list and additional questions may be asked of the applicant.***

1. Identify the benefit(s) the project would provide. Are there multiple purposes (Agricultural, Environmental, Municipal, Industrial, Recreational) that the project would meet as defined in the Basin Implementation Plan? *Note: Projects that meet multiple purposes are strongly encouraged; however, this does not mean that a single purpose project would be rejected.*
2. Outline the steps needed for completion of the project. Are there permit issues that must be overcome? How will funds acquired in this process be used to accomplish the final goal?
2. For prioritization of different proposals and assessment of the merits of the plan, can this project be physically built with this funding? Are further studies needed before actual construction is commenced (if the project anticipates construction)? Will these studies or additional steps delay the completion of the project substantially?
3. What is the ability of the sponsor to pay for the project? What actions have been taken to secure local funding? Are there supporting factors that affect the sponsor's ability to pay? Please provide a summary of the sponsor's financial condition such as customer fee structure, mill levy rate, or other applicable information that demonstrates the sponsor's ability to support the project. For example, has the sponsor increased assessments or rates to meet the project requirements in the past five years. Also, address how a loan could address the needs of the applicant instead of a grant?
4. Which alternative sources of water or alternative management ideas have you considered? Are there water rights conflicts involving the source of water for the project? If yes, please explain.
5. Has there been public input solicited and is there local support for the project? Please provide a brief summary of public input if applicable.
6. Is there opposition to the project? If there is opposition, how have those concerns been addressed? Identify any conflicts that may exist and how they will be addressed.
7. Does this project affect the protection and conservation of the natural environment, including the protection of open space? If yes, please explain.
8. Are there impacts of the proposed action on other non-decreed values of the stream or river? Non-decreed values may include things such as non-decreed water rights or uses, recreational uses and soil/land conservation practices.
9. Does this project relate to a Stream Management Plan (SMP) or Needs Assessment for one of southwest Colorado river reaches? If yes, please explain and provide detailed evidence of how project

will meet SMP goals or needs.

10. Does this project relate to local land use plans? If yes, please explain.
11. Does the project depend on a conversion of an agricultural water right? If yes, please explain.
12. Does the project support agricultural development or protect the existing agricultural economy? If yes, please explain.
13. Does the project optimize existing water rights and/or existing infrastructure? If yes, please explain.
14. Does the applicant anticipate future funding requests to complete the additional components of this project? Does the applicant have a long-term operation, maintenance, and replacement plan? When was the last update of the plan?
15. Does this project have an education component? If yes, please explain how it is consistent with the Roundtable's [Education Action Plan](#).