



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: CWCB Board Members

FROM: Zachary Salin, P.E., Project Manager

CC: Jeannine Shaw, CWCB Grants Section Chief

DATE: July 16, 2025

CONSENT AGENDA: 3a. Change of Grant, Guadalupe Sanchez Acequia Improvement Project

Staff Recommendation

CWCB staff is recommending the approval of a change to the grant award for the Guadalupe Sanchez Acequia Improvement Project (Project) managed by the Costilla County Conservancy District, including a change to the grant amount, grant to match ratio, and a change in one of the deliverables

Background

This WSRF Grant aimed at improving the function and diversion efficiency and reducing maintenance requirements for the Guadalupe Sanchez Acequia was awarded to the Costilla County Conservancy District (District) at the September 2023 CWCB Board meeting.

Originally, this roughly \$345K Project was jointly funded by a \$172.5K WSRF grant and a \$173K Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grant. However, based on additional stakeholder feedback after the grant was awarded, NRCS decided not to pursue the concrete inlet and pipeline deliverable as planned, which changes the project budget, grant amount and grant to match ratio. The Project scope will still include 380 feet of stream protected or restored, the construction of a new diversion and headgate structure, and replacement of the measurement flume. The Project will no longer include the installation of 1,000+ feet of PVC ditch piping or associated items like trash racks or inlet/outlet structures.

The original and revised project total, grant amount and grant to match ratio are below:

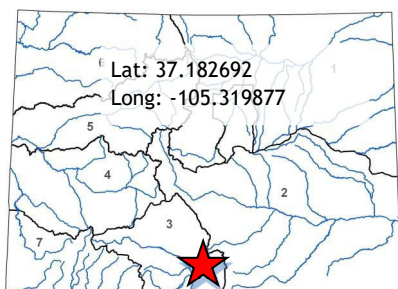
	Original	Revised
Project Total (\$)	\$345,408.95	\$301,241.12
Grant award (\$)	\$172,448.95	\$100,149.93
Match (\$)	\$172,960.00	\$201,091.19
Grant (%)	50%	33%
Match (%)	50%	67%



The difference in the grant award will be returned to the Statewide WSRF Account. The updated data sheet is attached for reference.



Water Supply Reserve Grant Application



LOCATION	
County:	Costilla
Drainage Basin:	Rio Grande

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$301,241.12
Total WSRF Grant Request:	\$100,149.93
Rio Grande Basin Account Request:	\$18,474
Statewide Account Request:	\$81,675.93
Recommended Amount:	\$100,149.93
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$194,188.93
Applicant Match:	\$6,902.26
Project Type: Construction/Implementation	
Water Use Type: Agriculture	
Statewide Category: Aging Infrastructure	
Measurable Result: 380 feet of stream protected or restored; construction of new diversion & headgate; replacement of measurement flume	

The applicant states the Guadalupe Sanchez Acequia is over 170 years old and needs repairs and improvement. During small flood events, the ditch breaches and water runs back into the Rio Culebra. There is significant erosion along the ditch that discharges sediment into the stream. Delivery of water is difficult to impossible in the event of a flood on one of the arroyos that cross the ditch.

Grant funds will help to improve the function, provide diversion efficiency and reduce maintenance of the Guadalupe Sanchez Acequia for the water users of the acequia, as well as improve stream function. Currently, the Guadalupe Sanchez Acequia headgate and diversion are nonexistent and require significant maintenance by water users.

The project will include constructing a new diversion structure and a new headgate at the river, as well as rebuilding and revegetating the riverbank of the new headgate. The project will directly benefit water users on the Guadalupe Sanchez Acequia by improving diversion efficiency and it will also improve water administration by installing and improving headgate function. Requested Grant funding will support project construction, construction management, and project administration.



This Grant was originally approved by this Board in September 2023. The Grantee is requesting a Budget Amendment due to a change in funding led by their matching grant with NRCS. The original match grant funding was \$172,960 as cash, and was revised to \$116,495.12 of in-kind contributions and \$77,693.81 of cash funding. NRCS also eliminated Task 1.3 (Concrete Inlet and Pipeline), which has been replaced with a new Task 1.3 for Project Engineering. The Project will not construct 1,082 feet of PVC piping for the



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Guadalupe Sanchez Acequia Improvement Project Costilla County Conservancy District

July 2025 Board Meeting

ditch flows with inlet and outlet structures, however the majority of the Project scope (and impacts) remain intact.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board amend the award to provide up to \$18,474 of funding from the Rio Grande Basin Account and up to \$81,675.93 of funding from the Statewide Account.