



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

Last Update: July 20, 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application

Instructions

All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current [2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#).

To receive funding from the WSRF, a proposed water activity must be recommended for approval by a Roundtable(s) **AND** the approved by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for roundtable consideration and recommendation is outlined in the 2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. The CWCB meets bimonthly.

If you have questions, please contact the WSRF Grant Program Manager (for all Roundtables) or your Roundtable Liaison:

Ben Wade

ben.wade@state.co.us

303-866-3441 x3238 (office)

Sam Stein

Sam.stein@state.co.us

303-866-3441(office)

WSRF Submittal Checklist (Required)

YES ☐ ☐ This request was recommended for CWCB approval by the sponsoring roundtable.

YES ☐ ☐ I have read and understand the [2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#).

YES ☐ ☐ Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the [Standard Contract](#).¹

Application Documents included:

YES ☐ ☐ Exhibit A: Statement of Work² (*Word – see Template*)

YES ☐ ☐ Exhibit B: Budget (including Detailed Budget) & Schedule² (*Excel Spreadsheet – see Template*)

YES ☐ ☐ Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3rd Party Commitments²

YES ☐ ☐ Map² - *Potential Watershed Projects Overview & High Priority Projects Map*

YES ☐ ☐ Photos/Drawings/Reports - *Full Matrix Pre-Wildfire Planning Study report*

YES ☐ ☐ Letters of Support - *Metro BRT, CCWFHP stakeholders*

Contracting Documents³

YES ☐ ☐ Detailed/Itemized Budget³ (*Excel Spreadsheet – see Template*)

YES ☐ ☐ Certificate of Insurance⁴ (*General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.*)

YES ☐ ☐ Certificate of Good Standing⁽⁴⁾

YES ☐ ☐ W-9 Form⁴

YES ☐ ☐ Independent Contractor Form⁴ (*If applicant is individual, not company/organization*)

YES ☐ ☐ Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form⁴

¹Click "Grant Agreements". For reference only/do not fill out or submit/required for contracting

² Required with application if applicable.



Last Update: July 20, 2021

³ Additional documentation providing a Detailed/Itemized Budget maybe required for contracting. Applicants are encouraged to coordinate with the CWCB Project Manager to determine specifics.

⁴ Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval.

| Schedule | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---|
| CWCB Meeting | Application Submittal Dates | Type of Request |
| January | October 1 | Basin Account |
| March | December 1 | Basin/Statewide Account/Water Plan Grant Match ¹ |
| May | February 1 | Basin Account |
| July | April 1 | Basin Account |
| September | June 1 | Basin/Statewide Account |
| November | August 1 | Basin Account |

¹ If either the basin or statewide match includes matching funds from a pending Water Plant Grant, both must be submitted by December 1st deadline for March Board meeting review.

| Water Activity Summary | |
|---|--|
| Name of Applicant | Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership |
| Name of Water Activity | Clear Creek Targeted Outreach and Education for High-Priority Projects |
| Approving Roundtable(s) | Basin Account Request(s) ¹ |
| Metro Basin Roundtable | \$25,000 |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Basin Account Request Subtotal | \$25,000 |
| Basin Account Request Subtotal Approved by Roundtable | \$25,000 |
| Statewide Account Request ⁽¹⁾ | \$0 |
| Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide) | \$25,000 |
| Total Project Costs | \$59,000 |

¹ Please indicate the amount recommended for approval by the Roundtable(s)



Last Update: July 20, 2021

| Grantee and Applicant Information | |
|--|--|
| Name of Grantee(s) | Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership/ Fiscal Agent Colorado Watershed Assembly |
| Mailing Address | PO BOX 460736 Glendale, CO 80246 |
| FEIN | 84-1600089 |
| Grantee's Organization Contact¹ | Colorado Watershed Assembly |
| Position/Title | Diane Kielty, Program Manager |
| Email | info@coloradwater.org |
| Phone | 303-916-4645 |
| Grant Management Contact² | Colorado Watershed Assembly |
| Position/Title | Diane Kielty, Program Manager |
| Email | info@coloradowater.org |
| Phone | 303-916-4645 |
| Name of Applicant (if different than grantee) | Kerry Major, Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership member |
| Mailing Address | 1445 10 th Street, Golden, CO 80401 |
| Position/Title | Water Quality Lab Manager |
| Email | clearcreekpartnership@gmail.com |
| Phone | 303-384-8182 |

¹ Person with signatory authority

² Person responsible for creating reimbursement invoices (Invoice for Services) and corresponding with CWCB staff.

| Description of Grantee |
|---|
| Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less). |
| In 2019, the Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association (UCCWA) commissioned a pre-wildfire risk evaluation study that identified specific vulnerabilities, priority mitigation project options to manage fuels, stream channels, the WUI, and the need to establish a watershed stakeholder partnership to address these issues. |
| The Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership (CCWFHP) formed to meet the need for Clear Creek stakeholder coordination and collaboration to facilitate acting on wildfire risk. The immediate purpose of the Partnership is to establish an organizational and financial structure to implement wildfire risk-reduction projects in the upper watershed and support efforts in community education and outreach. |

| Type of Eligible Entity (check one) |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public (Districts): authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Incorporated: mutual ditch companies, homeowners' associations, corporations |



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Last Update: July 20, 2021

| | |
|---|--|
| | Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account. |
| X | Non-governmental organizations: broadly, any organization that is not part of the government |
| | Covered Entity: as defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes |

| Type of Water Activity (check one) | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| | Study |
| X | Implementation |

| Category of Water Activity (check all that apply) | | |
|---|--------------------------------|----------|
| | Nonconsumptive (Environmental) | |
| | Nonconsumptive (Recreational) | |
| | Agricultural | |
| | Municipal/Industrial | |
| | Needs Assessment | |
| X | Education & Outreach | |
| | Other | Explain: |

| Location of Water Activity | |
|--|---|
| Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed activity below in decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable. | |
| County/Countries | Clear Creek County, Gilpin County, Jefferson County |
| Latitude | no exact project sites exist at this time. |
| Longitude | |

| Water Activity Overview |
|---|
| Please provide a summary of the proposed water activity (200 words or less). Include a description of the activity and what the WSRF funding will be used for specifically (e.g. studies, permitting, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the activity. 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, area of habitat improvements. 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, and Schedule. |



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Last Update: July 20, 2021

The upper Clear Creek watershed drains a 400 mi² area originating in headwaters at the Continental Divide and extending eastward (downstream) to Golden. The Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership formed to coordinate wildfire risk mitigation efforts & funds in the watershed to implement risk-reduction projects across the drainage area. A number of partners are water providers with vulnerable supplies and infrastructure in the basin, and other partners include county governments, fire authorities, and other land-use entities (e.g. Gilpin County Extension office, Jefferson County Open Space, CSFS, USFS, etc.)

WSRF funding from this application would be used for the Partnership's education and outreach goals, including materials for organizing outreach, materials for conducting outreach, & building the partnership's presence in the community through collaboration with other watershed & wildfire groups, regular communication with stakeholders (newsletter), and scoping implementation of high-priority projects so we can determine appropriate match funds and partners for 2022 grant applications. A visual of the approximate project timeline and outcomes is included as an attachment with this application.

Measurable Results

To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRF funds please provide any of the following values.

| | | |
|---|-------|--|
| | | New Storage Created (acre-feet) |
| | | New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive |
| | | 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) |
| | | Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved (linear feet) |
| X | Other | An engaged partnership of committed & coordinated stakeholders, mitigation project scoping & siting from pre-wildfire risk analysis, & concrete organizational capacity to steward wildfire/watershed management in the Clear Creek watershed. |

Water Activity Justification

Provide a description of how this water activity supports the goals of [Colorado's Water Plan](#), the most recent [Statewide Water Supply Initiative](#), and the respective [roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan](#) ⁽¹⁾. 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).

For applications that include a request for funds from the Statewide Account, the proposed water activity shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan criteria for state support (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;) (Also listed pp. 4-5 in [2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#)).



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

Last Update: July 20, 2021

Drinking water utilities and communities that rely on surface water supplies from forested watersheds are increasingly confronted with the threat of wildfires. Wildfires are escalating in intensity, size, and frequency due to a combination of historical fire suppression practices, development, and climate change impacts. Water providers and watershed communities experience severe consequences from burns in source watersheds, including immediate and long-term water quality degradation and destructive post-fire storm runoff. The Clear Creek watershed is not immune to the “degradation of forested lands [which] is resulting in increased wildfire potential, contribution of organic decomposition and nonpoint source nutrients, and challenges in tree-kill diseases and control of wildfires and increased nutrients.” (SP BIP, 4.2.1.1 & 4.2.3, pgs. 4-8 & 4-12). To advance implementation of proactive, high-priority wildfire mitigation projects that will make Clear Creek more resilient, the Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership (CCWFHP) needs to develop project scope details and build support for these projects in watershed communities; MRT funding will go towards a clear, targeted plan of action to achieve this.

The Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership was founded as a locally based watershed organization with the mission to engage in collaborative, cross-jurisdictional planning and implementation of wildfire risk mitigation and forest health projects within the Clear Creek watershed (CWP, ch. 7.1, pg. 7-3). The South Platte Basin Implementation Plan identifies Clear Creek as a source watershed of importance (SP BIP, 4.2.1.1, pg. 4-8).

Through the Upper Clear Creek Pre-Wildfire Planning Study, a diverse set of stakeholders that either live in or depend on the Clear Creek watershed have completed a major round of data-collection, assessment, planning, and prioritization. Our partners understand that “successful watershed management necessitates a pragmatic approach that includes coalition-building, data collection, planning, prioritization, implementation, and monitoring,” and they have voluntarily come together to build that foundation (CWP, ch. 7.1, pg. 7-5). CCWFHP’s current need is to continue to build a sturdy coalition that will develop, fund, and implement the watershed and forest health projects identified in the study. WSRF funds are needed to back our coalition-building process that will be realized through a targeted education and outreach plan based on the watershed knowledge generated by the Pre-Wildfire Planning Study.

The CCWFHP is forming itself to the mold of many successful Colorado forest health partnerships, a proven collaborative strategy to address the logistic and jurisdictional challenges of implementing wildfire mitigation projects at the watershed scale. The CCWFHP is actively learning from & working with these partners as a member of the Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative and Fire Adapted Colorado. These “[e]xisting forest health partnerships are adept at leveraging funds and resources from federal, state, and local government agencies as well as from private companies, foundations, and nonprofits,” CCWFHP is already benefiting from the lessons and strategies these partnerships have learned (CWP, ch. 7.1, pg. 7-7). These state-wide partners have critical lessons-learned to share with respect to successfully working with landowners and communities to implement wildfire risk reduction work.

In this effort, the Partnership will highlight many of the critical water concepts presented in the Statewide Water Education Action plan (SWEAP). Increasing awareness of those concepts will lead to outcomes such as change in behaviors of stakeholders through increased engagement. Having more



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

Last Update: July 20, 2021

engaged and knowledgeable citizens can lead to systems change in the watershed, which is what needs to happen so communities can be more resilient and adapt to increasing wildfire threats and impacts to Colorado water supplies. The critical water concepts the Partnership will disseminate through our public education and outreach efforts include that the physical and chemical properties of water are unique and constant, water is essential for life, our economy and a key component of healthy ecosystems, water is a scarce resource, limited and variable, water cycles naturally through Colorado's watersheds, often intercepted and manipulated through an extensive infrastructure system built by people, and that the quality and quantity of water, and the timing of its availability, are all directly impacted by human actions and natural events.

¹ Access Basin Implementation Plans or Education Action Plans from Basin drop down menu.

Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests

Basin (only) Account grant requests require a 25% match (cash and/or in-kind) from the Applicant or 3rd party and shall be accompanied by a **letter of commitment** as described in the [2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#) (submitted on the contributing entity's letterhead). Attach additional sheet if necessary.

| Contributing Entity | Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind) |
|--|---|
| City of Golden | \$17,000 cash |
| City of Westminster | \$17,000 cash |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Total Match | \$34,000 |
| If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived. | |

Related Studies

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



Last Update: July 20, 2021

Upper Clear Creek Watershed Pre-Wildfire Planning Study by Matrix Design Group: This is the guiding document for the Clear Creek Watershed and Forest Health Partnership. The Pre-fire Planning Study conducted a stakeholder engagement program between Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association (UCCWA) membership and relevant external entities, including the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), and the emergency management community. The study also: 1) Integrated information from member sources to identify and assess sustainability and resiliency in a post-fire scenario relative to changes in hydrology and hydraulics at critical, high-priority locations or stream segments, 2) Inventoried and categorized non-technical drivers and decision factors tabulated with stakeholder input, and 3) analyzed a suite of options to manage forests and fuels, restore and improve stream channels, assess and mitigate the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), and form multi-objective partnerships around critical resources and infrastructure values.

Upper Clear Creek Watershed Plan - 2006

Upper Clear Creek Watershed Plan Update 2014

Clear and Bear Creek Wildfire Watershed Assessment 2013

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (Clear Creek County, Gilpin County, Jefferson County, Empire, Idaho Springs, Echo Hills, Fall River, Floyd Hill, Georgetown, Georgetown Loop, Upper Bear Creek)

Clear Creek/Stanley Lake Watershed Agreement Annual Reports

Source Water Protection Plans (Georgetown, Idaho Springs, Stanley Lake Cities)

USFS High Peaks to Headwaters Watershed & Fisheries Restoration Environmental Assessment

Previous CWCB Grants

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

The Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association (UCCWA) was awarded a \$40,000 CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant for the project "Upper Clear Creek Watershed Post-Fire Sediment, Debris Flow, and Fluvial Hazard Zone Assessment" in June 2020. Purchase # POGG1, PDAA,202000003149. The Colorado Watershed Assembly was the fiscal agent for this grant. The information from this study/grant was integrated into the Upper Clear Creek Pre-Wildfire Planning Study.

Tax Payer Bill of Rights

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

Not Applicable



City of
Golden

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION

1445 10TH ST. GOLDEN, CO 80401
TEL: 303-384-8181
FAX: 303-384-8169
WWW.CITYOFGOLDEN.NET

October 18, 2021

Metro Basin Roundtable/Colorado Water Conservation Board

RE: Letter of Matching Commitment for the Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership WSRF Grant Application

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is to confirm City of Golden's financial commitment to the proposed WSRF grant project, "Clear Creek Targeted Outreach and Education for High-Priority Projects". Golden will contribute \$17,000 in matching cash. This same match amount will also be contributed by the City of Westminster, bringing the total cash match for the WSRF application to \$34,000.

The City of Golden is actively pursuing pre-fire planning for risk mitigation and post fire recovery in the Clear Creek Watershed and is deeply interested in any efforts to reduce wildfire risk. Golden's drinking water source, Clear Creek, is a center stone for our community and we are highly aware of the potential impact wildfires can have for flooding, critical water infrastructure damage, and water quality impairments down stream of burn areas. Over the past year and a half, Golden has been working with many other stakeholders and communities invested in Clear Creek to develop a locally based, collaborative watershed partnership to address wildfire risk. The Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership ("Partnership") is a needed financial and education & outreach mechanism in the basin. A main objective for the Partnership is to move forward wildfire risk mitigation projects that were identified and prioritized in the Upper Clear Creek Watershed Pre-Wildfire Planning Study. For this organization to develop sustainably and expand its work into the future, the \$34,000 investment from Golden and Westminster and the WSRF funds are needed to 1) establish the Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership more formally, and 2) implement the targeted education and outreach program the Partnership's Strategic Planning sub-committee developed. The City of Golden strongly supports these objectives and the Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership's WSRF application.



Kerry Major
Water Quality Lab Manager
City of Golden - Environmental Services
1409 10th St | Golden, CO 80401
(303)384-8182 Direct | (303)384-8181 Lab



10/5/2021

Drinking water utilities and communities that rely on surface water supplies from forested watersheds are increasingly confronted with the threat of wildfires. Water providers and watershed communities experience severe consequences from burns in source watersheds, including immediate and long-term water quality degradation and destructive post-fire storm runoff. The City of Westminster is committed to proactively protecting as much of the Clear Creek watershed as possible from wildfires that could negatively affect the water quality for its community. Over the last couple of years Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association (UCWWA), the City of Golden, and the City of Westminster have been trying to form a collaborative partnership to financially address previously identified fire mitigation projects that would minimize the threat of wildfire.

In order for the partnership to develop and expand into the future, the City of Westminster along with the City of Golden is committing \$17,000 dollar a piece to further develop the Clear Creek Watershed and Forest Health Partnership (CCWFHP). When combined the funds from both cities equal \$34,000 dollars which will be used as the in-kind funding commitment for the WSRF grant. This letter serves as Westminster's written pledge and commitment of \$17,000 dollars.

X 

Kelly Cline
Water Quality Administrator

November 17, 2021

Ben Wade
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Roundtable Letter of Support for the Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership's Metro Basin WSRF Grant Application

Dear Mr. Wade,

This letter is being sent to you to signify the Metro Basin Roundtable's support for the Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership's \$25,000 WSRF grant application for the project "Clear Creek Targeted Outreach and Education for High-Priority Projects". The MRT members voted on their support of this application at the November 11, 2021, meeting.

Clear Creek and its tributaries act as the primary drinking water supply for multiple towns and municipalities, serving nearly 350,000 Colorado residents. This forested area and the creek corridor also act as a critical area for recreation, cultural and historical values, and transportation. The Clear Creek watershed is also vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire and post-wildfire flooding and water quality impairments, debris flows, and economic impacts. In early 2021, the Upper Clear Creek Watershed Pre-Wildfire Planning Study was completed, and the report identified 181 potential wildfire risk mitigation projects that could be implemented to make Clear Creek more resilient to wildfire. The Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership (Partnership) was created to pursue those projects. Phase I of implementing the highest ranked priority projects is targeted education & outreach (website/storymap), including collaboration with regional wildfire partners and developing scopes of work to promote projects' purpose and need. The Partnership has a diverse set of stakeholders on the Front Range and in the upper watershed engaged in pre-wildfire planning and mitigation efforts, including match funds already supporting project implementation. There is a clear opportunity for the WSRF funding to help the organization target implementation of priority projects.

This project also meets objectives of the Colorado Water Plan and the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan. The Partnership was founded as a locally based watershed organization with the mission to engage in collaborative, cross-jurisdictional planning and implementation of wildfire risk mitigation and forest health projects within the Clear Creek watershed (CWP, ch. 7.1, pg. 7-3). The South Platte Basin Implementation Plan identifies Clear Creek as a source watershed of importance (SP BIP, 4.2.1.1, pg. 4-8). Through this project, the Partnership will also highlight many of the critical water concepts presented in the Statewide Water Education Action plan (SWEAP).



Barbara Biggs, Metro Basin Roundtable Chair



DRINKING WATER COMPLIANCE DIVISION

PHONE: 720-898-7800

10/26/2021

Barbara Biggs
Chair, Metro Basin Roundtable

Re: Support for Clear Creek Targeted Outreach and Education for High-Priority Projects grant request

Dear Barbara,

The City of Arvada (City) receives up to 30% of its drinking water supply from the Clear Creek Watershed. The post-fire impacts to drinking water quality and treatment are becoming more evident and concerning. In an effort to promote good forest health practices and reduce risk of post-fire water quality impairment, the City is in support of the work that Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership (CCWFHP) is proposing and requests that their WSRF grant request be approved. According to Colorado Cattlemen's Association, every \$1 invested in wildfire mitigation saves \$3 in post-disaster recovery. The City supports the vision and mission of CCWFHP to address projects identified in the Upper Clear Creek Watershed Pre-Wildfire Planning Study and hopes that CWCB will consider supporting the vision as well.

We are excited for this partnership of support between MBR/CWCB, City of Golden, and the Standley Lake Cities to pursue opportunities in our watersheds to safeguard the livelihoods of all the people who live in and depend on the resources they provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Evelyn Rhodes'.

Evelyn Rhodes
Water Quality Administrator, City of Arvada

cc:

Sharon Israel, Director of Utilities, City of Arvada
Brad Wyant, Water Treatment Manager, City of Arvada



Public Works

12301 Claude Court
Northglenn, CO 80241
F: 303-450-4020
northglenn.org

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203
Chairperson: Barbara Biggs

Sent via email by Ryan Gillium, LRE to: Barbara Biggs, Barbara@roxwater.org, with Sarah Borgers, sborgers@cityofwestminster.us, and Casey Davenhill casey@coloradowater.org cc'd

RE: Letter of Support for the Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership Statewide Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Grant Application, Engagement and Innovation funding category, Cycle 2, submitted to the Metro Basin Roundtable

Madam Chair,

This letter is being sent to you rather than Sarah Borgers, WSFR contact, as the City of Westminster is providing cash match for the grant application. The City of Northglenn supports funding the Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership (Partnership) application. If funded, the grant would help create a foundation and framework for Partnership members and interested stakeholders in the Clear Creek Watershed to work collaboratively on wildfire education, mitigation, and recovery projects. Wildfire does not respect jurisdictional or other man-made boundaries. Colorado communities that have been affected by wildfire have learned that it takes a village to prevent and/or to recover from a catastrophic wildfire. Funding of the Partnership is a first step in creating an organization focused on this critical concern. The Partnership would provide a single point of contact for wildfire education as well as assist federal, state, and local agencies interested in completing on the ground mitigation or recovery projects. The Partnership has an opportunity to make connections and build trust with and between the watershed's many varied voices. Climate change has ensured that wildfire is a permanent, common threat to the environment and public health; there is a need to create a long term, sustainable mechanism to address this threat in the Clear Creek Watershed.

The project supports the Colorado Water Plan and addresses multiple Metro Round Table priorities including:

- Protection of environmental and recreational attributes
- Communications and outreach
- Reduction of impacts from climate change
- Leverage fiscal impacts through collaboration
- Address long-term environmental sustainability

Northglenn, the other Standley Lake Cities, and upper basin entities, have a long history of cooperation and collaboration in the Clear Creek Watershed, beginning in 1993 with the signing of the Clear Creek/Standley Lake Watershed Management Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement established a comprehensive and expansive water quality monitoring network that continues to this day. The Partnership is a natural extension of what was begun 28 years ago. The *Upper Clear Creek Watershed Pre-Wildfire Planning Study* was completed in 2020. Again, this was a collaborative effort between upper basin and lower basin water users. The report identifies and prioritizes projects that are protective of water quality, private property, drinking water infrastructure, and by extension, aquatic life, and recreation. Please help to continue this legacy by funding the Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership grant application.

Sincerely,

Shelley Stanley
Water Quality Coordinator