



Last Updated: June 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board

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 Projects	Anna.Mauss@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
Environmental & Recreation	Chris.Sturm@state.co.us
Projects	

FINAL SUBMISSION: Submit all application materials in one email to 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	Colorado Open Lands	
Name of Water Project	Acequia Conservation Initiative - Protecting Colorado's Oldest Agricultural Communities	
CWP Grant Request Amount	\$	75,000.00
Other Funding Sources: <u>Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS-RCPP)</u>	\$	417,000.00
Other Funding Sources: <u>Sangre de Cristo Acequia association</u>	\$	15,000.00
Other Funding Sources:	\$	
Applicant Funding Contribution	\$	30,000.00
Total Project Cost	\$	537,000.00



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Applicant & Grantee Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Colorado Open Lands
Mailing Address	1546 Cole Boulevard, Lakewood, CO 80401
FEIN	84-0866211
Organization Contact	Judy Lopez
Position/Title	Conservation Project Manager
Email	Jlopez@coloradoopenlands.org
Phone	719-580-5300
Grant Management Contact	Judy Lopez
Position/Title	Conservation Project Manager
Email	Jlopez@coloradoopenlands.org
Phone	719-580-5300
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	Same as above
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	
Description of Grantee/Applicant	
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).	
<p>COL is a 501(c)3 nonprofit land trust that exists to protect Colorado's land and water resources. Led by a full-time staff of fifteen and governed by a Board of Directors with wide ranging expertise, Colorado Open Lands operates efficiently and effectively. Our staff has an equally wide range of expertise that spans fundraising, non-profit management, environmental education, community outreach and engagement, and event management, to geographic information systems (GIS), rangeland ecology, agricultural stewardship and systems management, conservation easement negotiations and stewardship, ecosystem science and water rights law. Founded in 1981, Colorado Open Lands holds 414 easements in 44 Colorado counties where we have conserved nearly 500,000 acres and over 358 miles of Colorado's waterways. The local contact for COL will be Conservation Project Manager, Judy Lopez.</p>	



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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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: Private parties may be eligible for funding.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-governmental organizations (NGO): Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Covered Entity: As defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes .

Type of Water Project (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study
<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Identified Projects and Processes (IPP)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Category of Water Project (check the primary category that applies and include relevant tasks)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Storage - Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Engagement & Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Explain:

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Location of Water Project	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Countries	Costilla
Latitude	37.2050° N
Longitude	105.5005° W

Water Project Overview
<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>This project will develop, implement, and steward a variety of EQIP practices that will be used throughout the Culebra Watershed to ensure farm and ranch sustainability. This will be accomplished using funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Services – Regional Conservation Partnership Program as the primary funding source and the Colorado Water Plan Grant, which will be used to complete the cost share of this underserved agricultural community. This project brings together a variety of partners and insures the implementation of a variety of water efficiency projects tailored to land owner needs. These practices promote soil health and productivity, water quality and quantity, in ways that align with and are guided by the heritage and traditions that shape the acequia community. Water quality and quantity will be addressed by implementing best use practices from the NRCS EQIP program that include planning and installation of water structures specifically designed to meet the need of these smaller acreages, such as, turn out structures, head-gates, and gated pipe systems. Installation of solar livestock tanks and fencing will address water quality issues by reduced livestock impact on riparian areas. The prime soil found in the watershed will benefit from cross-fencing for rotational grazing and limited land leveling to reduce the ponding, nutrient leaching and erosion, supported by NRCS technical assistance.</p> <p>..</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:	
	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)
X	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
X	Other Explain:

Water Project Justification
<p>Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan, the most recent Statewide Water Supply Initiative, and the applicable Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan. 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>The Rio Grande Basin Plan has identified the following resource issues: <i>prolonged and systemic drought, lack of a diverse economy, at-risk wildlife habitats, compact obligations to downstream states and aging irrigation and municipal water infrastructure</i>. Additionally, the State Water Plan (Section 9.4) identified <i>the need for collaboration and the involvement of a variety of community stakeholders, bringing technical expertise and monetary resources to address these needs</i>. Not only does this project address those outcomes, it also addresses SWSI Section 8, pp 8.1), by speaking directly the plans second recommendation to <i>"Identify and utilize existing and new funding opportunities to assist in implementing projects and methods to meet Colorado's consumptive and non-consumptive water supply needs."</i></p> <p>The project outcome is to improve water efficiency and farm viability on the regions acequia farms. Landowners on these properties are 4th and 5th the generation descendants of the original Sangre de Cristo Spanish Land Grant. So the majority of these small farms and ranches are owned, yet there is still hardship when you consider that the Costilla County median income is \$16,000 annually. Funding from this grant will be used to pay the cost share for these farmers and ranchers for EQIP projects that will be completed using NRCS technical assistance and engineering and COL oversight, engagement and reporting. Colorado has held many stakeholder outreach sessions to gauge the interest in improving irrigation water efficiencies and to understand their ability to meet NRCS basic requirements.</p>



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The response was overwhelming. This project will improve water efficiency allowing the shared water resource to go further thus increasing yields for more farming/ranching operations.

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.

This project is complementary to agriculture water projects throughout the Rio Grande Basin, the State of Colorado and across the U.S. This project complements larger water conservation projects within the CWCB portfolio.

An article in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, *Principles and policies for soil and water conservation*, 2018 73(4):96A-99A; doi:10.2489/jswc.73.4.96A found that "The eight conservation principles that protect soil, water, and ecosystem resources include the implementation of practices such as structures for water control, these include pipelines, turn out structures, head-gates, and gated pipe systems. Installation of off stream livestock watering facilities and fencing will address water quality issues by reduced livestock impact on riparian areas. Prime soils benefit from cross-fencing for rotational grazing and limited land leveling to reduce ponding, nutrient leaching and erosion on irrigated lands. These practices have been implemented in a variety of locations across the world and have repeatedly shown increased water efficiency, aquifer sustainability, crop viability and overall soil viability."



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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.

WSRF:

[Colorado Open Lands] Education & Outreach Implementation in RG Basin
 POGG1 PDAA 201700000375 Rio Grande Basin RT Completed

[Colorado Open Lands] Anderson Lazy EA Conservation Easement
 POGG1 PDAA Rio Grande Basin RT

ATM Grants:

[Colorado Open Lands] River View Farms

CWP GRANTS:

[Colorado Open Lands] – [Enhancing the Colorado Water Plan through Comprehensive Education and Outreach] [POGG1 PDAA 2018000] Rio Grande Basin RT- PEPO Project

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.

We have no TABOR Requirements.

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Submittal Checklist	
X	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract .
Exhibit A	
X	Statement of Work ⁽¹⁾
X	Budget & Schedule ⁽¹⁾
	Engineer's statement of probable cost (projects over \$100,000)
X	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit C	
X	Map (if applicable) ⁽¹⁾
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
X	Letters of Support (Optional)
X	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) ⁽²⁾
X	Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State ⁽²⁾
X	W-9 ⁽²⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽²⁾ (if applicant is individual, not company/organization)
Engagement & Innovation Grant Applicants ONLY	
	Engagement & Innovation Supplemental Application ⁽¹⁾

(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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Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

Statement Of Work

Date:	July 26, 2018
Name of Grantee:	Colorado Open Lands
Name of Water Project:	Acequia Conservation Initiative - Protecting Colorado's Oldest Agricultural Communities
Funding Source:	CWP Grant program

Water Project Overview:

The project *Acequia Conservation Initiative - Protecting Colorado's Oldest Agricultural Communities* will develop, implement, and steward a variety of EQIP practices that will be used throughout the Culebra Watershed to ensure farm and ranch sustainability. This will be accomplished using funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Services – Regional Conservation Partnership Program (EQIP set aside) as the primary funding source and the Colorado Water Plan Grant, which will be used to complete the cost share of this underserved agricultural community. This project brings together a variety of partners and insures the implementation of a variety of water efficiency projects tailored to land owner needs. These practices promote soil health and productivity, water quality and quantity, in ways that align with and are guided by the heritage and traditions that shape the acequia community. Water quality and quantity will be addressed by implementing best use practices from the NRCS EQIP program that include planning and installation of water structures specifically designed to meet the need of these smaller acreages, such as, turn out structures, head-gates, and gated pipe systems. Installation of solar livestock tanks and fencing will address water quality issues by reduced livestock impact on riparian areas. The prime soil found in the watershed will benefit from cross-fencing for rotational grazing and limited land leveling to reduce the ponding, nutrient leaching and erosion, supported by NRCS technical assistance.

This project promotes soil health and productivity, water quality and quantity, in ways that align with and are guided by the heritage and traditions that shape this unique community. The project seeks to build on work that has been outlined in readily accessible studies and data sets that outline the needs and offer remedies to these concerns. This project will focus on placing conservation easements on farms and ranches with senior water rights or prime soils and build on those landowner relationships to develop, implement, and steward a variety of EQIP practices that will be used throughout the watershed. to ensure landscape sustainability. We believe that by the end of the project term, this initiative will permanently preserve key landscape values and address the resource concerns as outlined above.

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Project Objectives:

Objectives for the project are as follows:

- To engage area farmers and ranchers and to build on those landowner relationships to develop, implement, and steward a variety of EQIP practices that will be used throughout the watershed. To ensure landscape sustainability. This work will be done by Colorado Open Lands who has spent over 8 years investing heavily in working with the local community on landscape conservation.
- To provide cost share payments to farmers and ranchers for the implementation of water efficiency and ag sustainability projects on their farms. These practices can include land leveling, gated pipe installation, check structures, head gates, and pipelines. This cost share is on a small part of the bigger RCPP project which has brought together a myriad of partners that include Colorado Open Lands, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Trout Unlimited, The Sangre De Cristo Acequia Association, the Costilla County Water Conservancy District and the Costilla Conservation District. Together these partners are bringing 1.7 million dollars in cash and in-kind to the table.
- Contract with acequia agricultural producers to develop, design, contract and install a suite of water efficiency and ag sustainability practices.

Tasks

Task 1 Colorado Open Lands will work with partners to develop a ranking tool to define a suite conservation practice that can be implemented to meet watershed goals as defined by producers.

Description of Task:

Colorado Open Lands (COL) will serve as the lead for the project and will work with the area Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff and partners to enlist producers and help them develop comprehensive conservation plans that help sustain their agriculture operations water, soil and livestock thru long-term conservation improvements on acequia properties within the Culebra Basin.

Method/Procedure:

COL opened a satellite office in the Upper Rio Grande Watershed, this has helped deepen and expand local relationships and built the momentum to manage and implement this larger-scale RCPP project that will secure water rights on the Culebra watershed's most critical acequias and implement agricultural conservation throughout the watershed to ensure long-term sustainability. Colorado Open Lands, San Luis Valley Conservation Manager, Judy Lopez, has spent the past 1 ½ years conducting stakeholder outreach sessions and engaging funding partners to develop a Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Colorado Open Lands (COL) has partnered with many organizations to develop this critical project. The Natural Resources Conservation Service(NRCS) local San Luis office, has helped to identify and map area acequias and explore the utilization and implementation of key EQIP practices that local producers would utilize benefiting their agricultural operations. Partners in this 4.6 million dollar project include COL, NRCS, Trout Unlimited, Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association (SdCAA), Costilla Conservation District,



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Tasks
<p>Costilla County Conservancy District (a local water entity), Costilla County Commissioners, The Gates Family Foundation, The LOR Foundation, The Colorado Conservation Partnership, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area and participating landowners.</p> <p>COL will manage the project and develop a method to distribute and track cost share funds to producers upon completion of the contract on a reimbursable basis.</p>
<p>Deliverable:</p>
<p>Sign up of between 16 and twenty-five producers to install \$350,000 dollars of EQIP practices for average contract prices of between \$6,000 and \$20,000.</p>

Tasks
<p>Task 2 – Contract with acequia agricultural producers to develop, design, contract and oversee installation of a suite of water efficiency and ag sustainability practices and pay landowner cost share</p>
<p>Description of Task:</p> <p>COL will liaison between eligible land owners and NRCS to develop, engineer, contract, track and install approved practices.</p>
<p>Method/Procedure:</p> <p>These resource concerns were identified through a variety of stakeholder studies. As part of the 8-Digit Watershed Planning process, area conservation districts highlighted the need to preserve water quantity and quality by integrating healthy soil practices. During landscape planning conducted by the USFWS, it was recognized that portions of the Rio Culebra provide key habitat for the federally endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and noted the need to conserve this habitat. Studies from the University of New Mexico have shown that acequias provide substantial emergent freshwater wetlands and serve key groundwater recharge functions. The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area designation study identified the unique historical and water resource features as key part of the federal designation process. The Costilla County Economic Development Council 2012 report named the local agriculture as the number one economic driver in the region; noting that the areas small farms and ranches (averaging 63 acres in size) support the areas schools, health care systems and small businesses.</p> <p>Finally, Colorado recently adopted its first statewide water plan, which is built on the local and regional planning efforts done by each of its river basins. The Rio Grande Basin plan has identified the following resource issues: prolonged and systemic drought, lack of a diverse economy, at-risk wildlife habitats, compact obligations to downstream states and aging irrigation and municipal water infrastructure. The plan further identified the need for collaboration, bringing technical expertise and monetary resources to address these needs. The implementation of key NRCS EQIP programs by producers throughout the watershed will add sustainability to this economically and ecologically endangered area.</p>

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Tasks
<p>COL will use its significant stakeholder outreach to advertise a sign-up period for vetted landowners in the Culebra Watershed. These producers will then work with NRCS personnel to develop a comprehensive conservation plan, design/engineer projects specific to their ag operation, contract and oversee installation of a suite of water efficiency and ag sustainability practices</p>
<p>Deliverable:</p> <p>Work with between 16 and twenty-five producers to install \$350,000 dollars of EQIP practices for average contract prices of between \$6,000 and \$20,000.</p>

Budget and Schedule
<p>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.</p>

Reporting Requirements
<p>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.</p>
<p>Final Report: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant's letterhead that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p>



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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 CWCB in hard copy and electronic format 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.

Acequia Conservation Initiative - Protecting Colorado's Oldest Agricultural Communities

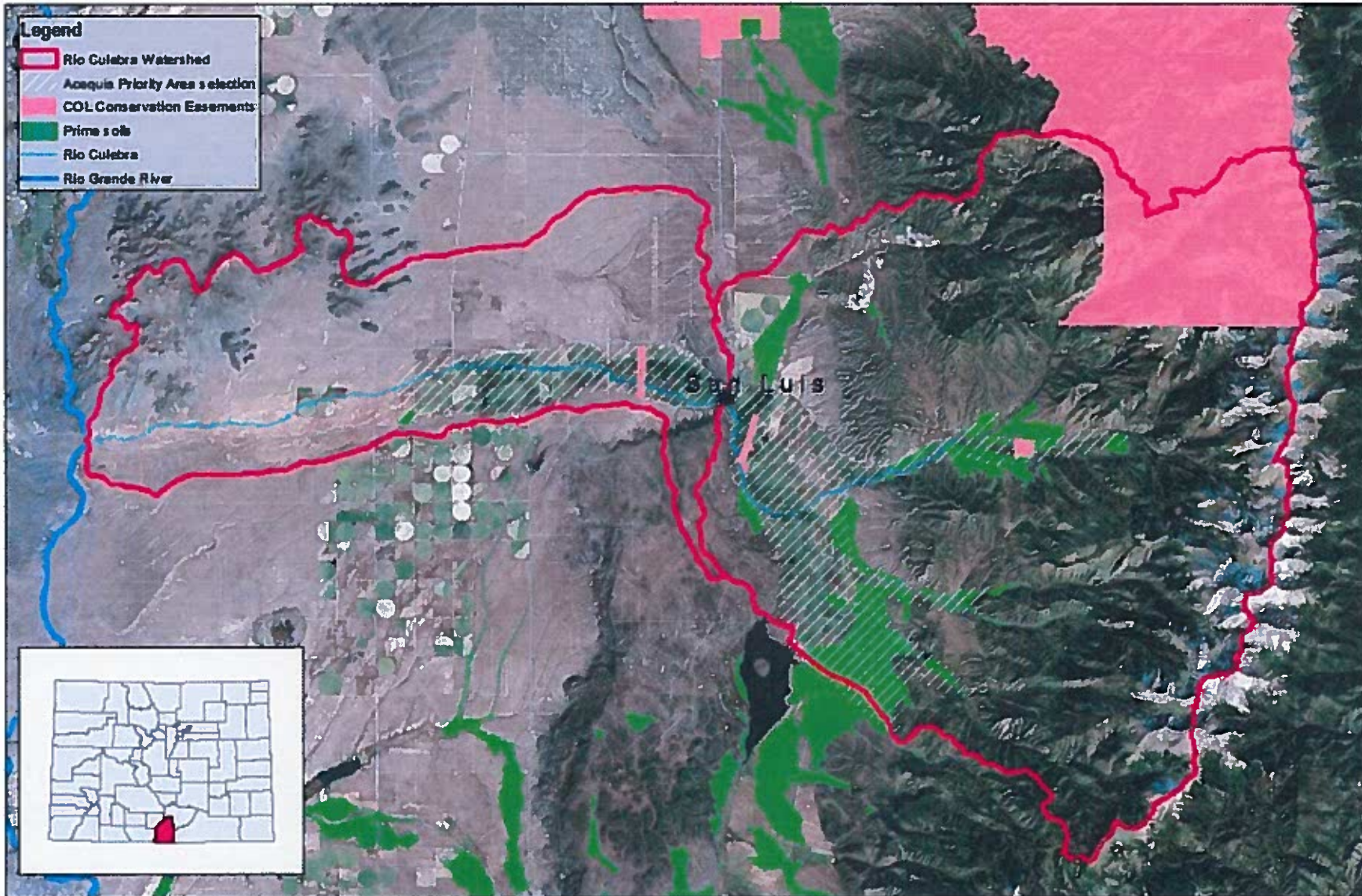
Costilla County, Colorado

Watershed Map

Data Sources: COL COMaPv10, San Luis Valley GIS Authority



COLORADO
OPEN
LANDS



Alexander Funk
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

July 31, 2018

Dear Mr. Funk,

The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable has been actively involved in the development and now the implementation of both our Basin and the State Water Plans. As a basin Roundtable we encourage our members to reach out to constituents in their communities look for projects that meet the goals of the state and Basin Water Plans.

To this end, the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable enthusiastically supports this application for the Colorado Water Plan Grant program for *The Acequia Initiative Regional Conservation Partnership Program* by Colorado Open Lands. The project is designed to provide cost share payments to farmers and ranchers for the implementation of water efficiency projects on their farms. These practices can include land leveling, gated pipe installation, check structures, head gates, and pipelines. This cost share is on a small part of the bigger RCPP project which has brought together a myriad of partners that include the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Colorado Open Lands, Trout Unlimited, The Sangre De Cristo Acequia Association, the Costilla County Water Conservancy District and the Costilla Conservation District. Together these partners are bringing 1.7 million dollars in cash and in-kind to the table.

The Colorado Water Plan (section 10.1) has outlined Colorado's water values as a productive economy that supports vibrant cities; viable and productive agriculture, efficient and effective water infrastructure and a strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers, streams, and wildlife. This project speaks directly to those values and employs straight forward objectives that will result in measurable outcomes.

Finally, we are lending our wholehearted support to their application for this important infrastructure project that will enhance water efficiencies. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Very Truly Yours,

Nathan Coombs
Chairman, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable