

**Water Supply Reserve Fund – Grant and Loan Program**  
**Water Activity Summary Sheet**  
**September 18-20, 2018**  
**Agenda Item 12(n)**

**Applicant & Grantee:** Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District

**Water Activity Name:** South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Feasibility Study

**Water Activity Purpose:** Multipurpose/Study

**County:** All or portions of counties comprising the South Platte River Basin

**Drainage Basin:** South Platte

**Water Source:** South Platte River

**Amount Requested:** \$77,500 South Platte Basin Account  
 \$77,500 Metro Account  
\$195,000 Statewide Account  
 \$350,000 Total request

**Matching Funds:** Applicant & 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Match (cash & in-kind) = \$120,000  
 • 62% of the Statewide Account request (meets 10% min)  
 Basin Account Match = \$155,000  
 • 79% of the Statewide Account request (meets 10% min)  
 Total Match (Applicant/3<sup>rd</sup> Party & Basin Account) = \$275,000  
 • 141% of Statewide Account request (meets 50% min)

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of up to \$77,500 from the South Platte Basin Account; \$77,500 from the Metro Account; and \$195,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project titled: South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Feasibility Study.

**Water Activity Summary:** WSRF grant funds, if approved, will assist the Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District (LSPWCD) support the efforts of the Regional Concept Task Force to continue detailed investigation and evaluation of a regional, multi-purpose, multi-benefit water development concept for the South Platte Basin via the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Feasibility Study (Regional Concept). The Regional Concept envisions multiple storage facilities and additional conveyance capacity strategically positioned throughout the Basin and operationally linked. This infrastructure network would store unappropriated native flow, reusable supplies, water derived from ATMs, and excess augmentation plan water in portions of the Basin where water is most available. This “Concept water” then would be delivered, either directly or by exchange, to specified “demand gateways” to meet diverse municipal, agricultural, environmental and recreational demands.

The proposed Water Activity will advance applicant’s and collaborators’ prior conceptual-level analyses by answering important outstanding questions regarding:

- an organizational structure for the concept;

- development of more precise demand estimates for municipal, agricultural, and environmental purposes by engaging water managers;
- refinements to the Regional Concept based on end-user needs;
- identification of water quality challenges and potential solutions;
- potential project cost estimates

Since 2015, the applicant and collaborators have worked to conceptualize possible “future in-basin multi-use projects” generally outlined in the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan. Collaborators include North Sterling Irrigation District, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, St. Vrain-Lefthand Water Conservancy District, Denver Water, Aurora Water, and South Metro Water Supply Authority, each of whom has committed cash and/or in-kind matching resources described in attached letters of support/financial commitments. In addition, LSPWCD and collaborators recently have expanded participation in Regional Concept discussions by establishing a “Regional Concept Task Force”, comprised of over 30 organizations and individuals and supported by both the Metro and South Platte Roundtables.

To date, preliminary modeling and evaluation indicate that the Regional Concept’s potential to address a meaningful portion of the South Platte Basin’s water supply gap is sufficiently high to warrant continue detailed investigation designed to move the Regional Concept down the path toward development. These early positive indications are encouraging. Yet many important issues remain to be investigated and evaluated to move the Regional Concept forward to development. With benefits potentially extending broadly across multiple parties in the South Platte Basin and, for that matter, all of Colorado, the applicant and collaborators believe that WSRF support for this continued investigation and evaluation is warranted. The measurable result of this water activity, therefore, will be a completed evaluation that includes:

- Refined understanding of specific municipal, agricultural, and environmental/recreational water demands that could be met by the Regional Concept, and at what cost.
- Refined understanding of the configuration of infrastructure components and their optimal linked operations that will permit the Regional Concept to meet the broadest possible range of demands.
- A range of options for an organizational/institutional structure best suited to support development and operation of the Regional Concept.
- A plan to expand and enhance public outreach and education efforts to inform and help sustain the Regional Concept’s continued evolution and development

**Discussion:** This effort will assist the South Platte Basin and Metro Roundtables achieve the following goals to the extent possible; develop multipurpose storage, conveyance, system interconnections and other infrastructure projects to take advantage of limited remaining South Platte supplies and enhance water use efficiencies and supply reliability as identified in Section 1.9.4: South Platte Storage and Other Infrastructure of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (SPBIP). In addition, this effort assists the roundtables pursue a “conceptual future in-basin multi-use projects” outlined in the Section 4.6.2 of the SPBIP. Additionally, this effort assists Colorado achieve several goals highlighted in Chapter 10 of Colorado’s Water Plan, such as reducing the projected 2050 municipal and industrial gap from as much as 560,000 acre-feet to zero acre-feet by 2030; to share at least 50,000 acre-feet of agricultural water using voluntary alternative transfer methods by 2030; and

of attaining 400,000 acre-feet of water storage in order to manage and share conserved water and the yield of IPPs by 2050.

**Issues/Additional Needs:** No issues or additional needs have been identified.

**Eligibility Requirements:** The application meets requirements of all eligibility components: General Eligibility, Entity Eligibility, Water Activity Eligibility, and Eligibility Based on Match Requirements.

**Evaluation Criteria:** This activity has undergone review and evaluation and staff has determined that it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Please refer to Basin Roundtable Chair's Recommendation Letter and the WSRF Grant Application for applicant's detailed response.

**Funding Summary/Matching Funds:**

<b><u>Funding Source</u></b>	<b><u>Cash</u></b>	<b><u>In-kind</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>
Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District	\$3,333	\$10,000	\$13,333	Secured
Prewitt Operating Company/ North Sterling Irrigation District	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	Secured
Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$22,000	Secured
St. Vrain-Lefthand Water Conservancy District	\$3,333	\$4,000	\$7,333	Secured
Denver Water	\$10,000	\$22,000	\$32,000	Secured
Aurora Water	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$22,000	Secured
South Metro Water Supply Authority	\$3,334	\$10,000	\$13,334	Secured
Sub-total	\$40,000	\$80,000	\$120,000	
WSRF South Platte Basin Account	\$77,500	n/a	\$77,500	Secured
WSRF Metro Account	\$77,500	n/a	\$77,500	Secured
Sub-total	\$195,000	\$80,000	\$275,000	
WSRF Statewide Account	\$195,000	n/a	\$195,000	
<b>Total Study Costs</b>	<b>\$390,000</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$470,000</b>	

**CWCB Project Manager:** Russ Sands

August 9, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721  
Denver, CO 80203

**RE: Metro Roundtable Funding Recommendation Letter for South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Feasibility Study**

Dear Honorable Board Members,

On behalf of the Metro Roundtable, acting as its Chairwoman, I am writing to express the Roundtable's recommendation to fund the Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) grant application for the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Feasibility Study. In addition to our Roundtable's affirmative recommendation, this letter includes information requested in your Water Supply Reserve Fund Criteria and Guidelines in the "Application Process" section starting on page 6 of the guidelines.

**Summary of the Project:**

In partnership with municipal and agricultural collaborators, Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District (LSPWCD) seeks WSRF support to continue detailed investigation and evaluation of a regional, multi-purpose, multi-benefit water development concept for the South Platte Basin. This "Regional Concept" embodies Colorado's water values (Colorado's Water Plan, Chap. 10) and builds upon approaches outlined in the South Platte/Metro BIP (Chap. 4.6.2).

The Regional Concept envisions multiple storage facilities and additional conveyance capacity strategically positioned throughout the Basin and operationally linked. This infrastructure network would store unappropriated native flow, reusable supplies, water derived from ATMs, and excess augmentation plan water in portions of the Basin where water is most available. This "Concept water" then would be delivered, either directly or by exchange, to specified "demand gateways" to meet diverse municipal, agricultural, environmental and recreational demands.

The LSPWCD and collaborators are seeking WSRF funding to conduct investigations to advance their prior conceptual-level analyses by answering important outstanding questions regarding:

- An organizational structure for the concept;
- Development of more precise demand estimates for municipal, agricultural, and environmental purposes by engaging water managers;
- Refinements to the Regional Concept based on end-user needs;
- Identification of water quality challenges and potential solutions;
- Potential project cost estimates.

**Amount of Grant Funding Sought:**

The applicant is seeking funding from the South Platte and Metro Roundtables' Basin Accounts as well as from the Statewide Account. The amounts of requested funding are as follows:

- South Platte Basin Account: \$77,500
- Metro Basin Account: \$77,500
- Statewide Account: \$195,000



**Eligibility Requirements:**

The project meets all of the eligibility requirements described in the Water Supply Reserve Fund Criteria and Guidelines.

- General Eligibility: The grant application was approved by our Roundtable at their August 9, 2018 meeting. The Regional Concept described in the grant application will assist in meeting basinwide consumptive uses and may assist in meeting nonconsumptive water supply needs identified in the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan.
- Entity Eligibility: The applicant (i.e. LSPWCD) is a water conservancy district, which is an eligible entity to receive WSRF funding.
- Water Activity Eligibility: The project will include technical studies/analyses and education and outreach; all of which are activities eligible for WSRF funding.
- Matching Requirements: The project meets the Basin and Statewide requirements for cash and in-kind match (see Exhibit B in the application and letters of commitment).

**Level of Agreement Among Roundtable Members:**

The Roundtable members were unanimous in their recommendation to fund this project from both the Basin and Statewide Accounts.

If you need additional information from our Roundtable regarding this recommendation or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barbara Biggs".

Barbara Biggs, Chairwoman  
Metro Roundtable

August 9, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721  
Denver, CO 80203

**RE: South Platte Basin Roundtable Funding Recommendation Letter for South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Feasibility Study**

Dear Honorable Board Members,

On behalf of the South Platte Basin Roundtable, acting as its Chair, I am writing to express the Roundtable's recommendation to fund the Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) grant application for the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Feasibility Study. In addition to our Roundtable's affirmative recommendation, this letter includes information requested in your Water Supply Reserve Fund Criteria and Guidelines in the "Application Process" section starting on page 6 of the guidelines.

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In partnership with municipal and agricultural collaborators, Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District (LSPWCD) seeks WSRF support to continue detailed investigation and evaluation of a regional, multi-purpose, multi-benefit water development concept for the South Platte Basin. This "Regional Concept" embodies Colorado's water values (Colorado's Water Plan, Chap. 10) and builds upon approaches outlined in the South Platte/Metro BIP (Chap. 4.6.2).

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**Level of Agreement Among Roundtable Members:**

The Roundtable members were unanimous in their recommendation to fund this project from both the Basin and Statewide Accounts.

If you need additional information from our Roundtable regarding this recommendation or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Garrett Varra, Chair  
South Platte Basin Roundtable



Last Update: August 3, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board		
Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application		
Instructions		
<p>All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current <a href="#">2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines</a>. To receive funding from the WSRF, a proposed water activity must be approved by a Roundtable(s) <b>AND</b> the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for Roundtable consideration and recommendation is outlined in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. The CWCB meets bimonthly according to the schedule on page 2 of this application. If you have questions, please contact the current CWCB staff Roundtable liaison:</p>		
<b>Arkansas</b>  Ben Wade <a href="mailto:ben.wade@state.co.us">ben.wade@state.co.us</a> 303-866-3441 x3238	<b>Gunnison   North Platte   South Platte   Yampa/White</b>  Craig Godbout <a href="mailto:craig.godbout@state.co.us">craig.godbout@state.co.us</a> 303-866-3441 x3210	<b>Colorado   Metro   Rio Grande   Southwest</b>  Megan Holcomb <a href="mailto:megan.holcomb@state.co.us">megan.holcomb@state.co.us</a> 303-866-3441 x3222

WSRF Submittal Checklist (Required)	
X	I acknowledge this request was recommended for CWCB approval by the sponsoring roundtable.
X	I acknowledge I have read and understand the <a href="#">2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines</a> .
X	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the <a href="#">Standard Contract</a> . <sup>(1)</sup>
Application Documents	
X	Exhibit A: Statement of Work <sup>(2)</sup> ( <i>Word – see Template</i> )
X	Exhibit B: Budget & Schedule <sup>(2)</sup> ( <i>Excel Spreadsheet – see Template</i> )
X	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Commitments <sup>(2)</sup>
X	Map <sup>(2)</sup>
n/a	Photos/Drawings/Reports
X	Letters of Support
Contracting Documents <sup>(3)</sup>	
X	Detailed/Itemized Budget <sup>(3)</sup> ( <i>Excel Spreadsheet – see Template</i> )
To be provided	Certificate of Insurance <sup>(4)</sup> ( <i>General, Auto, &amp; Workers' Comp.</i> )
n/a	Certificate of Good Standing <sup>(4)</sup>
X	W-9 Form <sup>(4)</sup>
n/a	Independent Contractor Form <sup>(4)</sup> ( <i>If applicant is individual, not company/organization</i> )
To be provided	Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form <sup>(4)</sup>

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

(2) Required with application if applicable.

(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.



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Schedule		
CWCB Meeting	Application Submittal Dates	Type of Request
January	December 1	Basin Account; BIP
March	February 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP
May	April 1	Basin Account; BIP
July	June 1	Basin Account; BIP
September	August 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP
November	October 1	Basin Account/BIP

Desired Timeline	
Desired CWCB Hearing Month:	September 2018
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	December 31, 2018

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District	
Name of Water Activity	South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Feasibility Study	
Approving Roundtable(s)		Basin Account Request(s) <sup>(1)</sup>
Metro Roundtable		\$77,500
South Platte Roundtable		\$77,500
Basin Account Request Subtotal		\$155,000
Statewide Account Request <sup>(1)</sup>		\$195,000
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)		\$350,000
Total Project Costs		\$470,000

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



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Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District (LSPWCD)
Mailing Address	100 Broadway Plaza Suite 12 Sterling, CO 80751
FEIN	84-0562269
Grantee's Organization Contact <sup>(1)</sup>	Joe Frank
Position/Title	General Manager
Email	<a href="mailto:jmfrank@lspwcd.org">jmfrank@lspwcd.org</a>
Phone	970-522-1378
Grant Management Contact <sup>(2)</sup>	Joe Frank
Position/Title	General Manager
Email	<a href="mailto:jmfrank@lspwcd.org">jmfrank@lspwcd.org</a>
Phone	970-522-1378
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	N/A
Mailing Address	N/A
Position/Title	N/A
Email	N/A
Phone	N/A

**(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).
<p>Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District ("LSPWCD") is a public agency created in 1964 under the 1937 Water Conservancy Act for conserving, developing and stabilizing supplies of water for domestic, irrigation, power, manufacturing and other beneficial uses. LSPWCD encompasses 406,000 acres in portions of Morgan, Washington, Logan and Sedgwick counties.</p> <p>LSPWCD's mission is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to conserve, protect and enhance waters flowing in the South Platte River and its tributaries within the District boundaries; and</li><li>• to participate in water-related projects that will embody protection of water rights, thoughtful conservation, responsible growth, and beneficial water usage within the Lower South Platte Valley.</li></ul>



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	<b>Public (Government):</b> 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.
<b>X</b>	<b>Public (Districts):</b> authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises
	<b>Private Incorporated:</b> mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations
	<b>Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors:</b> are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
	<b>Non-governmental organizations:</b> broadly, any organization that is not part of the government
	<b>Covered Entity:</b> as defined in <a href="#">Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes</a>

Type of Water Activity (check one)	
<b>X</b>	Study
	Implementation

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

Location of Water Activity	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed activity below in <b>decimal degrees</b> . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Countries	All or portions of counties comprising the South Platte River Basin
Latitude	n/a
Longitude	n/a

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### 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.

In partnership with municipal and agricultural collaborators\*\*, LSPWCD seeks WSRF support to continue detailed investigation and evaluation of a regional, multi-purpose, multi-benefit water development concept for the South Platte Basin. This “Regional Concept” embodies Colorado’s water values (Colorado’s Water Plan, Chap. 10) and builds upon approaches outlined in the South Platte/Metro BIP (Chap. 4.6.2).

The Regional Concept envisions multiple storage facilities and additional conveyance capacity strategically positioned throughout the Basin and operationally linked. This infrastructure network would store unappropriated native flow, reusable supplies, water derived from ATMs, and excess augmentation plan water in portions of the Basin where water is most available. This “Concept water” then would be delivered, either directly or by exchange, to specified “demand gateways” to meet diverse municipal, agricultural, environmental and recreational demands.

The proposed Water Activity will advance applicant’s and collaborators’ prior conceptual-level analyses by answering important outstanding questions regarding:

- an organizational structure for the concept;
- development of more precise demand estimates for municipal, agricultural, and environmental purposes by engaging water managers;
- refinements to the Regional Concept based on end-user needs;
- identification of water quality challenges and potential solutions;
- potential project cost estimates.

\*\* Since 2015, the applicant and collaborators have worked to conceptualize possible “future in-basin multi-use projects” generally outlined in the BIP. Collaborators include North Sterling Irrigation District, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, St. Vrain-Lefthand Water Conservancy District, Denver Water, Aurora Water, and South Metro Water Supply Authority, each of whom has committed cash and/or in-kind matching resources described in attached letters of support/financial commitments. In addition, LSPWCD and collaborators recently have expanded participation in Regional Concept discussions by establishing a “Regional Concept Task Force”, comprised of over 30 organizations and individuals and supported by both the Metro and South Platte Roundtables. This Task Force is described further in this application and in Exhibit A.

### Measurable Results

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

TBD (175,000 AF initial estimate)	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
TBD (54,000 AF/yr initial estimate)	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
TBD	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
TBD	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
TBD	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)
TBD	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
TBD	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved



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Measurable Results		
Completion of South Platte Basin Regional Concept Pre-Feasibility Study	Other	<p>Explain: WSRF funds are proposed to support continued detailed investigation and evaluation of a regional, multi-purpose, multi-benefit water development concept for the South Platte Basin (the "Regional Concept"). The applicant and collaborators initiated this analysis in 2015 and have sustained it with over \$250,000 of cash and in-kind support, a portion of which is proposed to match WSRF funds this application seeks to obtain. To date, preliminary modeling and evaluation indicate that the Regional Concept's potential to address a meaningful portion of the South Platte Basin's water supply gap is sufficiently high to warrant continued detailed investigation designed to move the Regional Concept down the path toward development.</p> <p>The Regional Concept envisions multiple storage facilities, conveyance capacity, and related infrastructure strategically positioned throughout the Basin and operationally linked. This infrastructure network's initial configuration would entail development of approximately 175,000 acre-feet of new off-channel storage capacity (both above and below ground) to store unappropriated native flow, reusable supplies, water derived from ATMs, and excess recharge credits at several locations in the Basin where these types of water are most available. This water would be delivered directly or by exchange to produce approximately 54,000 acre-feet of water each year to meet diverse municipal, agricultural, environmental and recreational demands within the Basin.</p> <p>These early positive indications are encouraging. Yet many important issues remain to be investigated and evaluated to move the Regional Concept forward to development. With benefits potentially extending broadly across multiple parties in the South Platte Basin and, for that matter, all of Colorado, the applicant and collaborators believe that WSRF support for this continued investigation and evaluation is warranted. The measurable result of this water activity, therefore, will be a completed evaluation that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refined understanding of specific municipal, agricultural, and environmental/recreational water demands that could be met by the Regional Concept, and at what cost.</li> <li>• Refined understanding of the configuration of infrastructure components and their optimal linked operations that will permit the Regional Concept to meet the broadest possible range of demands.</li> <li>• A range of options for an organizational/institutional structure best suited to support development and operation of the Regional Concept.</li> <li>• A plan to expand and enhance public outreach and education efforts to inform and help sustain the Regional Concept's continued evolution and development.</li> </ul> <p>These measurable results represent integral and necessary steps toward the Regional Concept's eventual development.</p>



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## 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](#)<sup>(1)</sup>. 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 [2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#)).

### 1) The Regional Concept embodies Colorado's water values and conforms to applicable criteria for WSRF statewide account funding.

Throughout its considerable length, Colorado's Water Plan (2015) articulates a broad set of values related to the development, use, and stewardship of Colorado's most important natural resource. Chapter 10 summarizes these values and lists a set of actions needed to maintain them into the future. The Regional Concept embodies Colorado's water values and represents a series of actions that can be taken to maintain these values in the face of rapid growth and change in Colorado's most populous river basin.

The proposed Water Activity – the South Platte River Basin Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study – is an integral and necessary step toward the Regional Concept's eventual development. Given their interdependence, discreet references in this application to the "Regional Concept" and to the "proposed Water Activity" (the pre-feasibility study) are effectively interchangeable. In the following ways, the proposed Water Activity conforms to applicable criteria for WSRF Statewide Account funding described in CWP Chap. 9, section 9.4, pages 43-44, reiterated in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines, and further reflected in various ways throughout Colorado's Water Plan.

**a. The Regional Concept is deeply rooted in collaboration.** Shortly after the April 2015 publication of the South Platte/Metro Basin Implementation Plan (BIP), and prior to adoption in October that year of Colorado's Water Plan, a small group of water resource professionals who had been active in the BIP's preparation and Roundtable leadership, began meeting informally to discuss "conceptual future in-basin multi-use projects" outlined in the BIP (BIP, Chap. 4, section 4.6.2, pages 4-74 – 4-85). The group referred to itself as the South Platte Regional Opportunities Working Group (SPROWG).

SPROWG members were animated from the outset by an interest in determining the viability of conceptual projects outlined in the BIP and whether these projects could contribute meaningfully toward reduction of the Basin's projected water supply gap once identified projects and processes (IPPs) had been developed. Early in their discussions, SPROWG members agreed to set aside their employing organizations' interest and concerns in favor of using their individual and collective expertise to elaborate a set of regionally oriented water management solutions that might benefit water users throughout the Basin and, further, generate benefits for the entire State. More recently, in the Spring of 2018, after two and half years of joint inquiry and discovery supported by technical consulting capacity, SPROWG members determined their early investigations and analyses were sufficiently promising to share more broadly and ask other South Platte Basin water users, water professionals, and stakeholders to join in a continuing process of joint inquiry and collaboration.

With support from both Roundtables, SPROWG has expanded to become the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Task Force ("Task Force"). The Task Force consists of more than 30 organizations and individuals who have become knowledgeable about the

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## Water Activity Justification

Regional Concept and have contributed to the formulation of this application for WSRF support. The Task Force has met three times since forming in June 2018 following educational workshops SPROWG convened in May to highlight work completed to date on the Regional Concept. Should WSRF funds be awarded, the Task Force will play a pivotal role in helping to guide and inform the work of consultants retained to complete tasks described in Exhibit A. The Task Force also will play an important role in helping other South Platte Basin water users and stakeholders become knowledgeable about and active in the refinement and further development of the Regional Concept, thereby sustaining the rich collaborative efforts from which the Regional Concept originally emerged (CWP, Chap. 9, section 9.4, pages 9-43 – 9-44; 2016 WRSF Criteria and Guidelines).

- b. *The Regional Concept can help reduce Colorado's water supply gap by a meaningful amount.*** Colorado's Water Plan projects that the gap between municipal and industrial water demands and developed supplies could be 560,000 acre-feet by 2050. Accordingly, the Plan sets forth an ambitious goal of reducing this gap to zero by 2030 (CWP, Chap. 10, section 10-2, page 10-5). Based on reconnaissance-level modeling completed in 2017, the Regional Concept appears capable of addressing a meaningful portion of the projected water supply gap in the South Platte Basin. Specifically, modeling suggests the Regional Concept could meet a significant portion of raw water needs associated with modeled municipal demands within two sub-regions of the South Platte Basin (I-25 corridor and parts of Denver metro area, see map attached as Exhibit C) likely to experience comparatively large increases in future water demands beyond those demands that will be met by projects currently in the permitting process. In its current configuration, the Concept, as modeled, also could meet some agricultural demands in Districts 1 and 2 in the South Platte Basin. In total, analysis indicates that about 54,000 acre-feet of modeled municipal and agricultural water demands could be met 100 percent of the time, equivalent to roughly 10 percent of the statewide municipal and industrial water supply gap projected for 2050.
- c. *The Regional Concept can generate meaningful benefits for irrigated agriculture in the South Platte Basin.*** With highly productive soils, proximity to transportation networks, access to markets, and sophisticated approaches to water management, it's little wonder the South Platte Basin is where Colorado's most economically productive agricultural region is located. As noted, the Regional Concept could help sustain the Basin's important agricultural values by helping to meet at least some unmet or under-met agricultural water supply demands in addition to meeting projected unmet municipal demands.

Beyond this, the Regional Concept's benefit to irrigated agriculture stems from its capacity to offer growing municipal water providers an alternative to "buy and dry" methods of securing additional municipal water supplies (CWP, Chap. 10, page 10-6; Chap. 9, section 9-4, pages 9-43 – 9-44; 2016 WRSF Criteria and Guidelines). More specifically, the Regional Concept would achieve its water yield by relying on several different types of water, including unappropriated native flow, reusable return flows, water derived from ATMs, and excess augmentation plan water. Put simply, the Regional Concept stands as an alternative to "buy-and-dry" approaches municipal water suppliers might otherwise pursue absent other viable choices.

Moreover, the Regional Concept offers a means by which Basin water users can begin to realize, at scale, the still largely theoretical potential of Alternative Transfer Methods (ATMs). In fact, the Regional Concept as currently envisioned would be sustained in part by an annual average of about 30,000 acre-feet of water derived from ATMs, representing well over half of the 2050 goal articulated in Colorado's Water Plan of achieving 50,000 acre-foot annually of ATM-based water sharing (CWP Chap. 10, section 10.2, page 10-6; Chap. 9, section 9-4, pages 9-43 – 9-44; 2016 WRSF Criteria and Guidelines).



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### Water Activity Justification

**d. *The Regional Concept envisions development of substantial new off-channel storage.***

Colorado's Water Plan sets a measurable objective of securing an additional 400,000 acre-feet of water storage by 2050 (CWP, Chap. 10, section 10.2, page 10-6). The Regional Concept, as modeled, entails development of at least 175,000 acre-feet of off-channel storage capacity (potentially above and below ground) in up to four general locations in the Basin (from the Denver metropolitan area to the state line). This storage will be distributed across multiple facilities strategically located and operationally linked (see Concept map at Exhibit C).

**e. *The Regional Concept offers ways to maximize the use of water resources in the South Platte Basin.***

By combining different "types" of water available at different locations in the Basin into a single source of supply, referred to herein as "Concept water," the Regional Concept will leverage the respective timing, frequency, and volume characteristics of these distinct water supply types to achieve greater yield more reliably than could be achieved by focusing on any single type of water. These water supply "types" include unappropriated native flow, reusable supplies, water derived from ATMs, and excess recharge credits. Diverted, stored, and co-mingled where most available in the Basin, this Concept water would be delivered directly or by exchange to produce approximately 54,000 acre-feet of water each year to meet diverse municipal, agricultural, environmental and recreational demands within the Basin. In this manner, the Regional Concept will maximize use of available water in the Basin (Colorado's Water Plan, Chap. 9, section 9.4, pages 9-43 – 9-44). Notably, the concept relies on and seeks to maximize in-basin supplies and does not contemplate the use of any additional transmountain diversions.

**f. *The Regional Concept offers opportunities to address water supply needs associated with important environmental and recreational attributes in the South Platte Basin, including water quality and watershed health.***

Investigation and evaluation completed to date has not yet illuminated opportunities to address water needs associated with important South Platte Basin environmental and recreational attributes (see, for example, Chap. 4 of the South Platte/Metro BIP). The proposed Water Activity offers the applicant, collaborators, Task Force members, and other South Platte Basin stakeholders a chance to specify and incorporate these needs into a refined configuration of the Regional Concept, thereby ensuring the Concept will help address both consumptive and non-consumptive water needs in the Basin, and, further, that the water supply needs of identified environmental and recreational attributes are incorporated into the Concept prior to their consideration in project permitting.

In addition, successful implementation of the Regional Concept will require substantial effort to address water quality issues and watershed health (CWP Chap 10, section 10.2, page 10-6; Chap 9, section 9.4, pages 9-43 – 9-44). Preliminary modeling shows that Basin water supplies available for development are most plentiful in the Basin's lower reaches, downstream of Greeley. Water quality with respect to many water quality constituents in these reaches often does not meet regulatory standards for many uses, necessitating incorporation into the Regional Concept measures to address water quality. The proposed Water Activity envisions identification and high-level evaluation of a range of options, and their costs, to address water quality at significant scale, including how non-point source programs could be developed and implemented over potentially large geographic areas to generally reduce concentrations of water quality constituents of concern and improve watershed health.

**g. *The Regional Concept offers an opportunity to devise governance and decision-making processes that are inclusive, transparent, and coordinated with those of existing institutions and organizations.***

The proposed Water Activity envisions identification and evaluation of a range of organizational/institutional structures capable of supporting the permitting, financing, development and operation of the Regional Concept. This information will be used by the applicant, collaborators, Task Force members, and South Platte Basin stakeholders to support future discussion and agreement on an organizational/institutional

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## Water Activity Justification

arrangement best suited to sustain the Regional Concept. Among many factors to be considered in the proposed organizational/institutional options analysis, criteria for support from the State of Colorado (see CWP Chap. 9 section 9.4, pages 43-44) can be addressed, including, for example, water conservation best practices, land use, opportunities to partner with local governments, and financial matters.

- h. The Regional Concept offers excellent education and outreach opportunities aimed at broadening understanding or and involvement with water management in the South Platte Basin.*** Since the Regional Concept's benefits are envisioned to be shared broadly by many different types of South Platte Basin water users and water uses, the proposed Water Activity includes development of an Education and Outreach Plan to guide efforts to engage stakeholders from throughout the Basin and solicit their ideas and perspectives. Development of this Plan will entail close coordination with the applicant, collaborators, the Task Force, the Roundtables (including, especially, PEPO representatives), and other South Platte Basin stakeholders. As such, it aligns with the emphasis placed in Colorado's Water Plan on education and outreach as a means to engage the public to promote well-informed community discourse and decision making regarding balanced water solutions. (CWP Chap 10, section 10.2, page 10-7; Chap. 9, section 9.4, page 9-44; 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines).
- i. The proposed Water Activity envisions refining project cost estimates and normalizing these costs to allow for comparison with other possible water supply options.*** This cost estimation task aligns with criteria for State support detailed in Colorado's Water Plan (Chap 9, section 9.4, page 9-44) and could help inform broader discussion about a sustainable funding source to implement Colorado's Water Plan (CWP Chap. 10, section 10-2, page 10-7). Importantly, cost estimates will account for the relative advantages of phased development of the Regional Concept over time as demand materializes. These estimates will also offer a means to compare Regional Concept costs with those associated with other possible water sources.

### **2) The Regional Concept aligns with the South Platte/Metro Basin Implementation Plan (BIP).**

The South Platte/Metro Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) indicates in its Executive Summary that, to address the Basin's projected water supply gaps, water users in the basin should:

- continue to maximize implementation of IPPs (Section S.5.1)
- maintain leadership in conservation and reuse (Section S.5.2)
- maximize use and effectiveness of native South Platte supplies (Section S.5.3)
- minimize traditional agricultural "buy and dry" and maximize use of Alternative Transfer Methods (ATMs) (Section S.5.4)
- protect and enhance environmental and recreational attributes (Section S.5.5)
- promote multi-purpose storage projects that enhance South Platte Basin solutions, manage the risk of increased demands and reduced supplies due to climate change (Section S.5.8),
- support research of new technologies and strategies (Section S.5.10).

The Regional Concept will help to achieve all of these broad BIP objectives by expanding upon the conceptual in-basin multi-purpose project descriptions offered in Section 4.6.2.

### **3) The Regional Concept aligns with the Statewide Water Supply Initiative.**

SWSI 2010 provided foundational data and information for Colorado's Water Plan and the South Platte/Metro BIP. Municipal and agricultural gaps/shortages were quantified in SWSI 2010 and strategies for mitigating future potential gaps were described. The vision that underpinned the





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### Water Activity Justification

development of water supply strategies was conceived by the IBCC and stated:

*"We envision a Colorado that balances municipal, industrial, agricultural, environmental, and recreational water needs and promotes cooperation among all water uses."*

To analyze potential water supply strategies, SWSI 2010 described a "portfolio tool" framework. The portfolio tool considered various strategies for meeting future gaps and provided a means for basin roundtables to evaluate the pros and cons (or "tradeoffs") associated with various strategies. Portfolios of water supply strategies described in SWSI 2010 included elements such as IPPs, conservation, new supply, and agricultural water transfers (traditional and alternative).

The proposed Water Activity aligns with SWSI 2010 in several ways:

- The Regional Concept aims to fulfill the vision of the IBCC in that it seeks to provide benefits to municipal, industrial, agricultural, environmental, and recreational water users. In addition, the Concept has been and will continue to be developed in a cooperative manner.
- The Regional Concept fills a significant portion of the future municipal and industrial water supply gap identified in SWSI 2010.
- Figure 7-5 in the SWSI 2010 report describes several agricultural transfer and new supply project concepts that could meet future water supply needs in the Front Range. The Regional Concept bears resemblance and is consistent with some of the concepts so described. However, the Regional Concept improves upon the SWSI 2010 project concepts in that it envisions utilizing a wide variety of water supply sources and it focuses on alternative rather than traditional (aka "buy and dry") agricultural water transfers.

SWSI is currently being updated, and revised data sets along with analysis tools will be available for use for the proposed Water Activity. Prospective consultants will be able to use these data sets and tools to conduct some of the analyses described in Exhibit A.

### Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests

**Basin (only) Account** grant requests require a 25% match (cash and/or in-kind) from the Applicant or 3<sup>rd</sup> party and shall be accompanied by a **letter of commitment** as described in the 2016 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)
N/A	\$ N/A
Total Match	\$ N/A
If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.	

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### Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests

**Statewide Account** grant requests require a 50% match as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. A minimum of 10% match shall be from Basin Account funds (cash only). A minimum of 10% match shall be provided by the applicant or 3rd party (cash, in-kind, or combination). The remaining 30% of the required match may be provided from any other source (Basin, applicant, or 3<sup>rd</sup> party) and shall be accompanied by a **letter of commitment**. Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):
Metro Roundtable	\$ 77,500 -- cash
South Platte Roundtable	\$ 77,500 -- cash
Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District (applicant and fiscal agent)	\$ 10,000 – in-kind \$ 3,333 -- cash
Prewitt Operating Company/North Sterling Irrigation District	\$ 10,000 – in-kind
Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District	\$ 12,000 – in-kind \$ 10,000 – cash
St. Vrain – Lefthand Water Conservancy District	\$ 4,000 – in-kind \$ 3,333 – cash
Denver Water	\$ 22,000 – in-kind \$ 10,000 -- cash
Aurora Water	\$ 12,000 – in-kind \$10,000 – cash
South Metro Water Supply Authority	\$ 10,000 – in-kind \$ 3,334 – cash
Total Match	\$ 275,000 – cash & in-kind
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).	N/A

### 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.

The proposed Water Activity builds upon and will consider findings and conclusions of the studies listed in the “Previous CWCB Grants” section below, as well as the following reports and associated documentation:

- Colorado's Water Plan
- South Platte/Metro Basin Implementation Plan
- South Platte Storage Study
- Statewide Water Supply Initiative
- Analyses completed to date of “conceptual in-basin multi-party, multi benefit projects” conducted by applicant and collaborators



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### 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

**1) ATM Grant: Development of Practical Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer Measures for Preservation of Colorado Irrigated Agriculture**

- a. Applicant: Colorado Corn Growers Association, in partnership with Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District, City of Aurora, Ducks Unlimited, and Lower South Platte River Basin stakeholders
- b. Approving RT: NA (at the time, roundtable approval was not required)
- c. CWCB Board approval date: November 2008
- d. Contract number: 150445
- e. Summary: In 2009, with support from a CWCB grant, Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District (LSPWCD) partnered with Colorado Corn Growers, the City of Aurora, Ducks Unlimited, and Lower South Platte River Basin stakeholders to study the feasibility of creating a water marketing framework for efficiently moving augmentation credits from plans with excess credits into plans that need credits. Initial feasibility and analysis of excess augmentation credits, exchange potential and potential delivery efficiency improvements were completed. The initial review of augmentation plan accounting indicated 10,000 – 30,000 AF per year of excess credits from existing augmentation plans could be available (with more recent research indicating even higher amounts). This work showed sufficient technical feasibility that stakeholders pursued additional efforts to evaluate organization structures and additional technical feasibility, including formation of a small group of water users and water professionals which began discussing the possibility of creating a water organization in the Lower South Platte River to manage such a marketing framework. The project report can be viewed using this link: [http://www.lspwcd.org/index\\_files/Page313.htm](http://www.lspwcd.org/index_files/Page313.htm)

**2) WSRA Grant: Lower South Platte Water Cooperative Organizational Analysis**

- a. Applicant: Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District
- b. Approving RT: South Platte Basin Roundtable
- c. CWCB Board approval date: September 2010
- d. Contract number: C150476 (routing number 28922)
- e. Summary: Based on results derived from the grant described above, additional work on the member organization was then pursued under a new CWCB Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) grant focused primarily on an organizational structure to support the excess augmentation credit marketing framework. This concluded that a cooperative would be the organizational structure that best fit the needs of the stakeholders. Through the WSRA grant work, organizational documents (articles of incorporation, bylaws, business plan, etc.) were developed and water law issues were researched. The report from this project can be viewed using this link: [http://www.lspwcd.org/index\\_files/Page313.htm](http://www.lspwcd.org/index_files/Page313.htm)

**3) ATM Grant: Lower South Platte Water Cooperative, Operational Development of Alternative Agriculture Water Transfer Methods**

- a. Applicant: Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District
- b. Approving RT: NA (roundtable approval was not required, but the work was done in combination with the WSRA grant described in #2 above, which was approved by the South Platte Basin Roundtable)
- c. CWCB Board approval date: January 2011
- d. Contract number: CTGG1 2015-2938, CMS#76987
- e. Summary: While evaluating organizational structures under the WSRA grant (grant #2 above), the Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District conducted parallel work under the CWCB's Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer Methods grant program (ATM grant program) focused on developing an operations plan for the organization, called the



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### Previous CWCB Grants

Northeast Colorado Water Cooperative (NECWC). The ATM grant work for operational planning is still ongoing and addresses the following items:

- i. Technical issues such as identifying, quantifying and determining reliability of long term water supplies (from ATMs, excess augmentation credits and newly developed water rights) as well as evaluating accounting and data management needs and existing/new infrastructure to exchange, retime and store such water.
- ii. Legal issues such as addressing third party and internal water rights and injury concerns.
- iii. Financial and operational considerations for a water marketing organization.
- iv. Development of short and long term operational plans.

#### 4) **ATM Grant: Implementation of the Northeast Colorado Water Cooperative**

- a. Applicant: Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District
- b. Approving RT: NA (roundtable approval was not required, but the work built upon the WSRA grant described in #2 above, which was approved by the South Platte Basin Roundtable)
- c. CWCB Board approval date: May 2013
- d. Contract number: Original contract C150531, CMS#61149. The original contract was closed and a Purchase Order was issued in 2018 to accommodate a contract extension necessitated by a pending WaterSMART grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation that will broaden the implementation of the cooperative. The Purchase Order number is POGG1 PDAA 201800000675.
- e. Summary: Applied for and awarded in 2013, this grant builds upon previous grants, and is oriented toward implementing the water cooperative. This work is ongoing and entails:
  - i. Evaluate supplies, demands and delivery strategies for initial NECWC participants. Extensive use was made of analytical tools developed during previous phases of work (i.e. exchange capacity tool, operational planning model, etc.).
  - ii. Refine and implement an accounting system to track the movement of water among NECWC members. Work on the accounting system involved acquisition and input of data from participating augmentation plans, ditch companies, water providers, etc. and testing of the accounting system.
  - iii. Meet with members to identify potential legal and operational concerns with the cooperative and to collaborate on potential solutions prior to initiating the water court process.
  - iv. Conduct startup and ongoing cooperative management tasks.

The NECWC was incorporated in January of 2014 with a current membership of 22 water user organizations. NECWC is governed by a 5-member board of directors elected by members. The NECWC can facilitate water leases not requiring water court approval.

#### 5) **South Platte Storage Study**

- a. Applicant: Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District (LSPWCD)
- b. Approving RT: South Platte Basin and Metro Roundtables
- c. CWCB Board approval date: September, 2016
- d. Contract number: #CTGG1 2017-851
- e. Summary: LSPWCD committed to be the fiscal agent for the Colorado General Assembly directed (HB16-1256) study. Now complete, the study's primary objective was to investigate multiple possible sites in the Lower South Platte Basin for constructing new reservoirs, enlarging existing reservoirs, or for implementing alternative storage mechanisms. Each of these identified sites will include the following analysis as per HB16-1256: The final South Platte Storage Study report can be found at:  
[http://southplattebasin.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/South-Platte-Storage-Study\\_FINAL-REPORT.pdf](http://southplattebasin.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/South-Platte-Storage-Study_FINAL-REPORT.pdf)

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### **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.

Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District has no TABOR limits on revenue.



## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Water Supply Reserve Fund

#### Exhibit A - Statement of Work

<b>Date:</b>	August 1, 2018
<b>Water Activity Name:</b>	South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study
<b>Grant Recipient:</b>	Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District (LSPWCD)
<b>Funding Source:</b>	Water Supply Reserve Fund – Statewide & Metro/South Platte Basin Accounts

**Water Activity Overview:** (Please provide brief description of the proposed water activity (no more than 200 words). Include a description of the activity and specifically what the WSRF funding will be used for.

In partnership with municipal and agricultural collaborators, LSPWCD seeks WSRF support to continue detailed investigation and evaluation of a regional, multi-purpose, multi-benefit water development concept for the South Platte Basin. This “Regional Concept” embodies Colorado’s water values (Colorado’s Water Plan, Chap. 10) and builds upon approaches outlined in the South Platte/Metro BIP (Chap. 4.6.2).

The Regional Concept envisions multiple storage facilities and additional conveyance capacity strategically positioned throughout the Basin and operationally linked. This infrastructure network would store unappropriated native flow, reusable supplies, water derived from ATMs, and excess augmentation plan water in portions of the Basin where water is most available. This “Concept water” then would be delivered, either directly or by exchange, to specified “demand gateways” to meet diverse municipal, agricultural, environmental and recreational demands.

The proposed Water Activity will advance applicant’s and collaborators’ prior conceptual-level analyses by answering important outstanding questions regarding:

- an organizational structure for the concept;
- development of more precise demand estimates for municipal, agricultural, and environmental purposes by engaging water managers;
- refinements to the Regional Concept based on end-user needs;
- identification of water quality challenges and potential solutions;
- potential project cost estimates.

**Objectives:** (List the objectives of the project)

The proposed water activity for which WSRF funds are sought will achieve the following five objectives:

- Refine understanding of specific municipal, agricultural, and environmental/recreational water supply demands (e.g., timing, amount, location, quality) the Regional Concept could meet, and at what cost.
- Refine understanding of options for optimizing operations of the envisioned linked infrastructure network and how its development might be phased as demands materialize to produce the most benefits in the most efficient way.
- Develop options for an organizational or institutional structure best suited to support development and operation of a regional water development concept capable of delivering benefits broadly.
- Develop an outreach and education plan to facilitate broad and sophisticated public understanding of the Regional Concept and its benefits.
- Position the Regional Concept by the end of 2019 for serious consideration about whether and how it will be implemented.

Tasks
<b>Task 1 - Task Force: broadening and deepening understanding of Regional Concept and work yet to be done to refine it</b>
<p><u>Description of Task:</u></p> <p>The intent of this Task is to ensure sufficient resources remain available, beyond those that have been expended thus far, to organize, convene, and support the Regional Concept Task Force ("Task Force"), whose purposes generally are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate on a work plan and funding proposal to support the next phase of work on the Regional Concept, thereby building on Regional Concept work completed over the past two and half years by the applicant and collaborators.</li> <li>Participate in a process, to be designed and led by the applicant, by which proposals for professional consulting services to execute the work plan will be solicited and selected.</li> <li>Review consultant work products and advise on the overall pace and trajectory of the work plan and project results.</li> <li>Help broaden and deepen public understanding of the Regional Concept by functioning as a principal forum for engaging other interested organizations and individuals who will be identified in part through a coordinated public education and outreach effort to be developed in partnership with the applicant, collaborators, and professional consultants selected to support this next phase of work on the Regional Concept (see Task #8).</li> </ol> <p>The Task Force is a newly formed group consisting, at present, of Metro and South Platte Basin Roundtable members, water resource professionals (including the applicant and collaborators), and other stakeholders in the Basin. The Task Force was established for the purpose of expanding the circle of people working to further develop and refine the Regional Concept. As such, the Task Force's present efforts and future work is intended to help amplify investment over the past two and half years by the applicant and collaborators in work to formulate and preliminarily model and evaluate the Regional Concept. Task #1 is specifically envisioned to span the period from April 1, 2018, when initial steps were undertaken to organize the Task Force, to that future date on which the proposed Water Activity will be complete, thereby encompassing several months of Task #1-related work completed prior to the anticipated December 31 contract execution date for the proposed Water Activity. Cash and in-kind expenditures by the applicant and collaborators during this period are proposed as match, since these expenditures have constituted the sole means of support provided to the Task Force.</p>
<p><u>Method/Procedure:</u></p> <p>The applicant and collaborators already have taken steps to organize and empanel the Task Force. Beginning in April 2018, the applicant and collaborators planned for and later hosted, in May, two educational workshops for Metro and South Platte Basin Roundtable members and other South Platte Basin Stakeholders and encouraged workshop attendees to consider participating in the work of the Task Force. The applicant and collaborators also extended additional invitations to participate on the Task Force to various other audiences to whom background presentations on the Regional Concept were made in May and June 2018. In response to these initial invitations, over 30 individuals representing over 30 different entities agreed to participate on the Task Force, and three meetings have been convened to date.</p> <p>Should funding to support the next phase of work on the Regional Concept be secured, the applicant, collaborators, and initial Task Force members will continue efforts to broaden the Task Force's membership through additional education and outreach (see Tasks #3-5 and Task #8 below). It is anticipated that six meetings of the Task Force will be held over the duration of the Water Activity for which WSRF support is sought for purposes of reviewing consultant work products and related matters.</p>
<p><u>Grantee Deliverable:</u></p> <p>The Task Force is a principal means by which the applicant and collaborators seek to broaden and deepen understanding of the Regional Concept and broaden and deepen participation in efforts to refine it. Therefore, the grantee's deliverable for this task will be a Task Force that has met regularly over the duration of the grant period (schedule to be determined) and which has contributed meaningfully to the refinement of the Regional Concept and to efforts to help others who may not be as familiar with the Regional Concept to understand its potential benefits as an alternative to other sources of water supply,</p>

especially supplies secured through permanent transfer of water from irrigated agriculture to other beneficial uses. This deliverable will be measured by notes, handouts, presentations, and meeting summaries (as may be needed) to support the Task Force's work over the course of six meetings over the duration of the proposed Water Activity.

**CWCB Deliverable:**

The CWCB's deliverable will consist of an invitation to continue its participation on the Task Force, along with associated agendas, notes, handouts, and presentations supporting the Task Force's work. In addition, a description of Task Force members, meetings, and functions will be provided in the Final Report (Task #10).

## Tasks

### **Task 2 - Organizational Framework/Institutional Structure: identification and analysis of options**

**Description of Task:**

The intent of this Task is to develop information that can inform and support future consideration by the Task Force and other appropriate entities of an organizational framework/institutional structure best suited to support develop and operation of the Regional Concept. Conversely, it is not the intent of this Task for prospective consultants to develop a specific recommendation regarding a particular organizational/institutional type or model, since the goal is to produce an evaluation of relative strengths and weaknesses of different institutional/organizational types and models to inform future discussion. Accordingly, prospective consultants with expertise in law, policy and organizational analysis will work with the applicant, collaborators, and the Task Force to identify, describe and analyze different types or models of organizations/institutions capable of supporting the development, operation, financing, ownership, and governance of the Regional Concept, provide examples of each, and evaluate their relative strengths and weaknesses.

**Method/Procedure:**

For ease of communication, the development, operation, financing, ownership, and governance of the Regional Concept will be referred to as "desirable management capacity" and work associated with this Task will be referred to as "desirable management capacity analysis." The analysis will involve the following methods/procedures:

- a. Prospective consultants will identify, describe, and analyze up to five types or models, with representative examples, of organizations/institutions capable of providing desirable management capacity. Prospective consultants will consider organizations/institutions currently in existence and functioning in Colorado, as well as those elsewhere in the United States, drawing upon relevant information from literature, interviews/phones calls, and direct experience. Prospective consultants also will consider whether and how existing Colorado-based organizations/institutions could be expanded or altered to provide desirable management capacity. Finally, prospective consultants will consider whether any given organization/institution (e.g., new, existing, or some hybrid) might be phased in over time as components of the Regional Concept are developed in response to growing demand. At a minimum, for each example of an organizational/institutional type or model, the requested analysis should provide the following information (to the extent applicable):
  - i. organizational/institutional mission/function
  - ii. organizational/institutional history, including principal reason(s) for creation
  - iii. service area
  - iv. principal assets, if any
  - v. legal authorities
  - vi. budget history and revenue mechanism(s)
  - vii. governance/decision-making processes
  - viii. organizational chart
  - ix. nature and quality of relationship to general and special purpose governments that may deliver services/govern within service area
  - x. significant adaptations to changing circumstances experienced over life of

Tasks	
	<p>organization/institution and how these adaptations have been addressed by those in decision-making capacities</p> <p>xi. phasing considerations</p> <p>b. Prospective consultants will distill characteristics of organizational function and form common to successful regional water organizations/institutions, and report on findings as an early deliverable of this Task. Information contained in this early deliverable will be used to inform preparation of a series of questions to be asked of potential participants/end-users/beneficiaries of Regional Concept water (hereinafter “targeted municipal entities”) during focused technical outreach that is envisioned as part of Task #3, as well as outreach conducted to ascertain better information regarding demands envisioned as part of Tasks #4 and #5. Questions will be designed to elicit information from potential participants/end users/beneficiaries regarding “desirable management capacity” characteristics they would value most in an organization designed to implement the Regional Concept and with which they may one day partner.</p> <p>c. Prospective consultants will rank (e.g., high, medium, low) each identified organizational/institutional type or model based on criteria to be developed in consultation with applicant, collaborators, and the Task Force. Example criteria may include: relative ease of establishment, relative consistency with existing organizations/institutions, relative efficiency of operations, relative transparency of governance structure/processes; and degree with which a given organizational/institutional type or model reflects preferences gleaned from discussions envisioned as parts of Tasks #3-5.</p> <p>d. Prospective consultants will include summary tables that allow easy comparisons between identified organizational/institutional types or models, with examples being used to help illuminate points of comparison and contrast. Relative ranking of organizational/institutional types or models, using criteria to be identified, should be provided in a side-by-side comparative table. For ease of use and comprehension, description of each option shall be limited to two to three pages.</p>
	<p><u>Grantee Deliverable:</u></p> <p>a. Technical memorandum describing up to five types or models, with representative examples, of organizations/institutions capable of providing desired management capacity.</p> <p>b. Technical memorandum summarizing characteristics common to successful regional water management/development organizations/institutions. Prospective consultants will produce this deliverable on a schedule that allows the information to be used in meetings envisioned as part of Tasks #3-5, described below.</p>
	<p><u>CWCB Deliverable:</u></p> <p>a. A summary of task results and findings in the Final Report.</p> <p>b. Inclusion of technical memoranda in the Final Report's appendices.</p>

Tasks	
<p><b>Task 3 - Technical Outreach: interviews with “targeted municipal entities” to refine understanding of demands and desirable characteristics of regional organization/institution</b></p>	
	<p><u>Description of Task:</u></p> <p>The intent of this Task is to improve current understanding of municipal demands that might be served by the Regional Concept, deepen and broaden understanding of the Regional Concept among potential municipal and industrial participants/end-users/beneficiaries, and gather information to inform work to be performed to complete Task #2. Prospective consultants will develop and execute “entity-specific” meetings with a wide range of municipal utilities, special districts, rural domestic water supply organizations, and other similar organizations (“targeted municipal entities”) operating in regions of the South Platte Basin likely to experience high rates of growth in future water demand.</p> <p>The purposes of these meetings are (1) to reach out to and educate potential municipal and industrial participants/end-users/beneficiaries of Concept water regarding the Regional Concept’s potential to help address unmet municipal and industrial demands in the South Platte Basin; and (2) to gather more specific information on volume, timing, quality, opportunities for reuse, and locational parameters that will characterize the demand profiles of prospective municipal and industrial end-users of Regional Concept</p>



Tasks
<p>water.</p>
<p><u>Method/Procedure:</u> Prospective consultants will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identify and contact representatives of “targeted municipal entities,” with assistance from applicant, collaborators, and Task Force members, in order to secure meetings to:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. further introduce “targeted municipal entities” to Regional Concept; and</li> <li>ii. acquire information related to demands and desirable characteristics of the organization/institution that may be created/adapted to implement the Regional Concept (see Task #2 above).</li> </ol> <p>For budgeting purposes, 20 meetings are assumed to be necessary to complete this Task.</p> </li> <li>b. Prepare for meetings by, in part, developing a brief (i.e. 1-2 pages) operational summary that describes how the Regional Concept could address challenges associated with the entities’ ability to develop new water supplies while lessening pressures to secure these supplies through permanent dry-up of irrigated agricultural land in the South Platte Basin.</li> <li>c. Conduct meetings and any follow-up that may be needed, including revising operational summaries as may be necessary to reflect the results of the meetings, noting entities’ willingness/interest, or lack thereof, in helping to refine the Regional Concept to a point where decisions regarding its implementation can be made, and documenting any concerns they may be expressed about the Regional Concept.</li> </ol>
<p><u>Grantee Deliverable:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Background documents: While remaining attuned to the need for discretion around any information that is proprietary or simply private, and to the extent advisable and consistent with good practice, prospective consultants will prepare a brief operational summary in advance of and in preparation for each “targeted municipal entity” outreach meeting, that includes:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. a general articulation/description of the Regional Concept and how its yield might augment the entities’ existing water supply portfolio</li> <li>ii. a description of how the Regional Concept could address disadvantages that may be embedded in the targeted entity’s future water supply plans (i.e., “buy and dry” that leads to a loss of irrigated acres; single-purpose/user water development strategies that overlook partnership opportunities; and scale economies that could come from multi-purpose/user approaches)</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Revised operational summary that reflects the following information:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. After each targeted municipal entity meeting, prospective consultants will revise the operational summary with information as to what has been learned about the entity’s future water demand profile (e.g., timing, quantity, location, and quality of future water supplies) and the “desirable management capacity” characteristics, if any, the targeted municipal entity likely would want reflected in a partner organization whose purpose is to implement the Regional Concept.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p><u>CWCB Deliverable:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A summary of task results and findings for inclusion in the Final Report.</li> <li>b. Inclusion of revised operational summaries in the Final Report’s appendices.</li> </ol>

Tasks
<p><b>Task 4 - Refine Understanding of Agricultural Demands and Supplies</b></p>
<p><u>Description of Task:</u> The intent of this Task is to refine current understanding of agricultural demands and supplies that might be served by and contribute to the Regional Concept, deepen and broaden understanding of the Regional Concept among potential participants/und-users/beneficiaries, and gather information to support completion of Task #2. Prospective consultants will characterize currently unmet and future unmet agricultural demands in Districts 1, 2, and 64 at a sufficiently detailed level of detail to make</p>

Tasks
<p>determinations about whether and how Concept water not used by targeted municipal entities could be used to offset at least some unmet agricultural demands. Prospective consultants will also characterize how Concept water derived from ATMs and unused recharge credits could be made available for use by the Regional Concept in ways mutually beneficial to irrigators and other Regional Concept beneficiaries.</p>
<p><u>Method/Procedure:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prospective consultants will conduct an analysis of agricultural irrigation demands in Districts 1, 2, and 64, using SWSI, the BIP, information from the Northeast Colorado Water Cooperative, existing research on Alternative Transfer Methods, the South Platte Decisions Support System, and other relevant data. Information to be provided shall include specific water-short ditches, water-short augmentation plans, and other agriculturally-related water uses (broadly defined) that might benefit from increased supplies from the Regional Concept in concert with meeting demands of targeted municipal entities, as well as the frequency and degree to which these ditches, augmentation plans, and other uses are water short, to the extent known.</li> <li>Prospective consultants will review the results of this analysis with irrigators in up to three meetings, to be convened with assistance from the South Platte Roundtable members, and will revise the information produced through Task #4a, as necessary, to reflect additional information generated through these meetings.</li> <li>Prospective consultants will describe additional Regional Concept components and operational characteristics, if any, that would allow the Regional Concept to meet at least some unmet agricultural demands in Districts 1, 2, and/or 64. Further, consultants will be directed to summarize the extent and frequency with which unmet agricultural demands could be met by the Regional Concept, as it may be adjusted based on additional information. Information should be developed in such a way that can be easily incorporated into revised Regional Concept modeling (see Task # 7).</li> <li>Prospective consultants will identify potential reaches or regions along the South Platte from which Concept water derived from Alternative Transfer Methods (ATMs) and unused recharge credits could be generated and describe how water supplies derived from these sources could be stored, conveyed and utilized via the Regional Concept. Prospective consultants will recommend additional work, if any, that could be conducted in the future to advance and catalyze a market for ATMs in association with the Regional Concept, as well as additional work needed to support inclusion of unused recharge credits into Concept water supplies.</li> </ol>
<p><u>Grantee Deliverable:</u> Technical memorandum containing information described above for inclusion in the Final Report.</p>
<p><u>CWCB Deliverable:</u> A summary of task results and findings for inclusion in the Final Report. Inclusion of technical memorandum in the Final Report's appendices.</p>

Tasks
<p><b>Task 5 - Refine Understanding of Environmental and Recreational Demands</b></p>
<p><u>Description of Task:</u> The intent of this Task is to refine current understanding of environmental and recreational attributes and associated water supply needs that might be served by the Regional Concept, deepen and broaden understanding of the Regional Concept among stakeholders interested in advancing regionally important environmental and recreational water-related objectives, and gather information to support completion of Task #2. Prospective consultants will identify and describe environmental and recreational attributes and associated water demands that could be met by Regional Concept operations, or otherwise addressed in the configuration, design, and construction of the Regional Concept, thereby addressing targeted environmental/recreational opportunities/needs unlikely to be addressed in the foreseeable future in the absence of the Regional Concept.</p>
<p><u>Method/Procedure:</u> a. Prospective consultants will use methodological approaches described in the South Platte/Metro BIP,</p>



Tasks	
<p>Appendix D, to determine environmental and recreational attributes most likely to benefit by being incorporated into the planning and development of the Regional Concept.</p> <p>b. Prospective consultants will consider, specifically and at a minimum, the following environmental/recreational opportunities/needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Platte River Recovery Implementation Program considerations</li> <li>ii. Wetland/riparian habitat value creation/enhancement</li> <li>iii. Aquatic habitat creation/enhancement</li> <li>iv. Potential mitigation opportunities to address negative impacts to identified environmental or recreational attributes that may arise due to construction and operation of the Regional Concept.</li> </ul> <p>c. Prospective consultants will review the results of this analysis with environmental and recreational representatives of the Roundtables, and other organizations that may be identified in consultation with the applicant, collaborators, and the Task Force, in up to three meetings and will revise information developed as part of this Task to reflect additional information generated through these meetings.</p> <p>d. Consultants will describe additional Regional Concept components and operational characteristics, if any, that would allow the Concept to meet identified water demands associated with targeted environmental and recreational attributes.</p>	
<p><u>Grantee Deliverable:</u></p> <p>Technical memorandum containing information described above for inclusion in the Final Report.</p>	
<p><u>CWCB Deliverable:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A summary of task results and findings for inclusion in the Final Report.</li> <li>b. Inclusion of technical memorandum in the Final Report's appendices.</li> </ul>	

Tasks	
<b>Task 6 – Water Treatment Strategies: identification and comparison</b>	
<p><u>Description of Task:</u></p> <p>The intent of this Task is to illuminate a spectrum of water treatment strategies, ranging from highly engineered approaches to minimally engineered approaches that rely instead on managed natural systems to the greatest degree possible to achieve water quality objectives. These objectives will be defined by prospective consultants in consultation with the applicant, collaborators, and the Task Force. Prospective consultants will identify and analyze a range of up to five options, including conceptual-level costs, for addressing the water quality implications of the Regional Concept in both the near-term and longer-term.</p>	
<p><u>Method/Procedure:</u></p> <p>Prospective consultants will be encouraged, at a minimum, to address in their analysis the relative benefits and costs of water quality treatment options spanning a broad spectrum of possible water quality treatment strategies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Treating water of typical South Platte River quality to known treatment standards using existing technologies and brine disposal strategies. For comparative purposes, this analysis might be viewed as the “baseline analysis” against which other strategies are compared.</li> <li>b. Treating water of typical South Platte River quality to known treatment standards using a combination of natural pre-treatment options such as surface water blending and aquifer filtration in concert with other engineered treatment technologies and brine disposal strategies.</li> <li>c. Treating water of typical South Platte River quality by developing a program to invest in non-point source reduction methods and strategies, potentially at multiple scales throughout the basin and focused on water quality constituents to be determined in consultation with the applicant, collaborators, and the Task Force. Prospective consultants will give further consideration to how such a program could be combined with other strategies such as natural pre-treatment (see Task #6b above) and existing treatment technologies and brine disposal strategies (See Task #6a), to achieve water quality objectives.</li> </ul>	

Tasks
<p><u>Grantee Deliverable:</u> Technical memorandum that describes each option included in the evaluation and compares costs and relative feasibility of all options.</p> <p><u>CWCB Deliverable:</u> a. A summary of task results and findings for inclusion in the Final Report. b. Inclusion of technical memorandum in the Final Report's appendices.</p>

Tasks
<p><b>Task 7 - Regional Concept Refinement and Re-modeling</b></p> <p><u>Description of Task:</u> It is the intent of this Task to provide resources to adjust/refine the Regional Concept's infrastructure configuration (see Exhibit C) to reflect further consideration of existing and new information, including that provided by the 2018 South Platte Storage Study, that derived from Tasks #3-6, and other information sources. Should prospective consultants, after consulting with the applicant, collaborators, and the Task Force, determine that such adjustments/refinements are advisable, prospective consultants will make adjustments/refinements to the Regional Concept and re-model its capacity to meet projected municipal, agricultural and environmental/recreational demands. As part of this analysis and decision-process, prospective consultants should consider how construction of the Regional Concept's various discrete infrastructure elements could be phased to remain responsive to changes in demands that may occur over time. Within the limitations of budget and schedule, prospective consultants will offer recommendations regarding preferred locations and capacities of discrete infrastructure components.</p> <p><u>Method/Procedure:</u> Prospective consultants will use the existing Regional Concept spreadsheet model, including data sources used to support this model, for this task. The model will be provided to the selected consultant(s) for their use in conducting the work for this task. The re-modeling work will consider the following: a. Input from the applicant, collaborators, and Task Force; b. New information and refined understanding of demands derived from completion of tasks #3-6; c. Relevant existing information resources, especially that contained in the recently completed South Platte Storage Study, regarding location/operation of new storage capacity (above and below ground) that corresponds with the Concept's hypothetical storage "near Henderson", "near Kersey", "near Balzac", and "near Julesburg" (see Exhibit C); d. Ways to maximize exchange potential to efficiently "re-position" water in the basin for beneficial use without contributing to permanent dry-up of currently irrigated land, in conjunction with direct conveyance by pipeline e. Potential to phase the concept, particularly in relation to the timing of demand projections gleaned from tasks #3-6 and to cost considerations to be illuminated as part of Task #9.</p> <p><u>Grantee Deliverable:</u> a. Technical memorandum that describes key components of a refined/adjusted Regional Concept, how these components remain operationally linked, and new modeling results b. Revised Regional Concept spreadsheet model</p> <p><u>CWCB Deliverable:</u> a. A summary of task results and findings for inclusion in the Final Report b. Inclusion of Technical Memoranda in the Final Report's appendices</p>

Tasks
<p><b>Task 8 –Outreach and Education Plan: development and, if resources allow, implementation</b></p>

Tasks
<p><u>Description of Task:</u></p> <p>The intent of this Task is to plan for and support outreach and educational actions needed to deepen and broaden understanding of the Regional Concept and its potential benefits. Prospective consultants will deploy relevant public relations and communication expertise to work with the applicant, collaborators, and the Task Force to develop and, as resources permit, implement an outreach and education plan to complement and broaden outreach/education benefits derived through Task #1 and Tasks #3-5. The precise purposes, and therefore content, of this Regional Concept Outreach and Education Plan will be developed through this initial consultative process.</p>
<p><u>Method/Procedure:</u></p> <p>In addition to working closely with the applicant, collaborators, and the Task Force, prospective consultants will consider how existing outreach and communication resources that have been developed to support Statewide and Roundtable-specific water-related outreach and education activities, such as the <a href="http://southplattebasin.com">southplattebasin.com</a> website, mailing lists and calendars, can be used to develop and support implementation of the Regional Concept Outreach and Education Plan. To the extent budget and schedule limitations allow, prospective consultants will be encouraged to engage Roundtable members and other interested South Platte Basin Stakeholders to help implement Outreach and Educational actions identified in the Plan.</p>
<p><u>Grantee Deliverable:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outreach and education plan and, to the extent resources allow, its implementation (<i>Note: should available financial resources be insufficient to implement this plan, the deliverable will consist of the plan and an estimate of costs to implement the plan, along with an implementation budget.</i>)</li> <li>Consultant will compile copies of meeting agendas, content, mailing list, sign in sheets and other documentation such as survey responses or e-mail inquiries relating to the Regional Concept</li> </ol>
<p><u>CWCB Deliverable:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A summary of task results and findings for inclusion in the Final Report.</li> <li>Inclusion of the plan in the Final Report's appendices.</li> </ol>

Tasks
<p><b>Task 9 - Updated Cost Estimates</b></p>
<p><u>Description of Task:</u></p> <p>It is the intent of this Task to develop updated, conceptual-level cost estimates of the Regional Concept, taking into account any refinements to the configuration of the Regional Concept that may be made as part of Task #7 and building on existing Regional Concept cost analyses already performed by the applicant and collaborators and which will be made available upon final consultant selection. Based on Task #3-5 findings related to the timing of future water demands and refinements to the Regional Concept that may be completed as part of Task #7, prospective consultants will also consider the cost implications of different approaches to phasing development of the Regional Concept.</p>
<p><u>Method/Procedure:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the results of the refined Regional Concept modeling effort and original concept cost estimates (to be provided) as points of departure, prospective consultants will develop estimated costs for each of the concept infrastructure components, taking into account any refinements to the configuration of the Regional Concept that may be made as part of Task #7. Treatment cost estimates will be included but presented separately due to likely disparities in the detail of understanding, even after completion of Task #6, of treatment infrastructure requirements in comparison with other Concept infrastructure elements. These disparities notwithstanding, prospective consultants will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that cost estimates will be informed by information developed in Task #6.</li> <li>Cost estimates will include design/build costs for each element, operational and maintenance costs, and projections of likely permitting costs.</li> <li>Cost estimates will normalize costs on an acre-foot basis for comparison to other water supply options.</li> </ol>

Tasks
d. Cost estimates will consider how development of the Regional Concept could be phased to remain responsive to changing demands over time. Conversely, cost estimates will consider scale economies that may be achieved over the Concept's lifecycle by developing portions of the Regional Concept in advance of projected need.
<u>Grantee Deliverable:</u> Technical memorandum summarizing cost estimation methods and findings.
<u>CWCB Deliverable:</u> a. A summary of task results and findings for inclusion in the Final Report. b. Inclusion of the technical memorandum in the Final Report's appendices.

Tasks
<b>Task 10 - Final Report</b>
<u>Description of Task:</u> It is the intent of this Task to report on work and work products associated with Tasks #1-9. Prospective consultants will prepare a final report that summarizes options and information generated by Tasks 1-9 in an executive summary and organizes task-specific technical memorandum into appendices to the report.
<u>Method/Procedure:</u> a. Develop an executive summary and final report summarizing the findings of Tasks # 2- 8, including technical memorandum in appendices as applicable. b. Provide initial documentation to the Grantee and Task Force for their review, and incorporate comments as necessary.
<u>Grantee Deliverable:</u> Final Report with appendices
<u>CWCB Deliverable:</u> Final Report with appendices

Tasks
<b>Task 11 – Overall Grant Administration/Project Management/Project Facilitation</b>
<u>Description of Task:</u> Grant administration capacity will be necessary to ensure the applicant can fulfill all grant reporting, invoicing, and liaison obligations to the CWCB and to the Metro and South Platte Roundtables that may be required as conditions of grant agreements between the applicant and these granting organizations. In addition, project management capacity will be necessary to manage and coordinate a team of consultants with diverse expertise and likely employed by several independent firms to adequately address all tasks. Finally, overall project facilitation capacity will be needed to support the applicant, collaborators, and the Task Force in their work with prospective consultants and to ensure decisions regarding overall project coordination and strategic direction are made in a timely and inclusive manner that is responsive to the needs of the project, its beneficiaries, and other stakeholders. This project facilitation function will be additive, rather than identical or duplicative, to the convening and facilitation functions envisioned as part of Task #1.
<u>Method/Procedure:</u> a. The applicant will be principally responsible for grant administration (i.e., reporting to CWCB and Roundtables, invoicing, overall communication and coordination), with assistance from prospective consultants. b. Prospective consultants will designate a primary consultant with responsibility for management of subcontractors, invoicing, providing progress reports, engaging and interacting with the applicant,

Tasks
<p>collaborators, and the Task Force, and otherwise managing the project to successful conclusion. Note: this task envisions up to three consultant presentations to the CWCB, the Metro and South Platte Basin Roundtables, and/or other relevant groups. This task also envisions being responsive to communication/outreach needs/opportunities as they arise, within reason and limitations of budget and schedule, by working with the applicant, collaborators, and the Task Force to determine which needs/opportunities to address and how best to address them as they arise. Ideally, the Expanded Outreach and Education Plan provided for by Task #8 will offer serve as a source of guidance with respect to which outreach/education opportunities should be addressed in what manner. There nevertheless likely will be a period time before the Task #8 plan is complete when communication outreach needs/opportunities could present themselves, thereby underscoring the desirability for prospective consultants to have strong communication capacity at their disposal from the inception of the project.</p>
<p><b>Grantee Deliverables:</b> Prospective consultants will submit a brief project management plan as a component of proposals to be solicited as part of a competitive selection process. This project management plan will describe how project management responsibilities will be divided between the consultant, sub-contractors (if any), and the Grantee. This plan will also address QA/QC and overall project schedule, including a schedule for submittal of draft reports and associated draft documents needed to support the Grantee's reporting obligations to the CWCB. Finally, this plan will offer prospective consultants' view on how best to maintain the Water Activity's overall strategic direction, with appropriate deference to the original thinking that animated early efforts to formulate and evaluation the Regional Concept.</p>
<p><b>CWCB Deliverable:</b> Same as Grantee Deliverable</p>

Budget and Schedule
<p><b>Exhibit B - Budget and Schedule:</b> This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined <a href="#">Budget and Schedule</a> that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in <u>excel format</u>. A separate <u>excel formatted</u> Budget is required for engineering costs to include rate and unit costs.</p>

Reporting Requirements
<p><b>Progress Reports:</b> The grantee 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. The CWCB may withhold reimbursement until satisfactory progress reports have been submitted.</p>
<p><b>Final Report:</b> At completion of the project, the grantee shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the grantee's letterhead that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.</li> <li>Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.</li> <li>Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.</li> <li>Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.</li> </ul>
Payments

### Reporting Requirements

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures, must include invoices for all work completed and must be on grantee's letterhead. 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.

The CWCB will pay the last 10% of the entire water activity 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 water activity and purchase order or contract will be closed without any further payment. Any entity that fails to complete a satisfactory Final Report and submit to CWCB within 90 days of the expiration of a purchase order or contract may be denied consideration for future funding of any type from CWCB.

### Performance Requirements

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 Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the final deliverable is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the final deliverable has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per the 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 the 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.



### Colorado Water Conservation Board

#### Water Supply Reserve Fund

#### EXHIBIT B - BUDGET AND SCHEDULE - Direct & Indirect (Administrative) Costs

Date: August 1, 2018

Water Activity Name: South Platte Regional Water Development Concept

Grantee Name: Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District

Task No. <sup>(1)</sup>	Description	Start Date <sup>(2)</sup>	End Date	Matching Funds (cash & in-kind) <sup>(3)</sup>	WSRF Funds (Basin & Statewide combined) <sup>(3)</sup>	Total
1	Task Force: broadening and deepening understanding of Regional Concept and work to refine it	1-Jan-19	30-Sep-19	\$70,000	\$15,000	\$85,000
2	Organizational framework/institutional structure: identification and analysis of options	1-Jan-19	30-Sep-19	\$5,000	\$40,000	\$45,000
3	Technical outreach to "targeted municipal entities" to refine understanding of demands and desirable characteristics of regional organization/institution	1-Jan-19	30-Sep-19	\$5,000	\$50,000	\$55,000
4	Refine understanding of agricultural demands	1-Jan-19	30-Sep-19	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$35,000
5	Refine understanding of environmental and recreational demands	1-Jan-19	30-Sep-19	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$30,000
6	Water quality treatment strategies: identification and comparison	1-Jan-19	30-Sep-19	\$5,000	\$50,000	\$55,000
7	Regional concept refinement and re-modeling	1-Jan-19	30-Sep-19	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$35,000
8	Outreach and education plan: development and implementation	1-Jan-19	30-Sep-19	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$40,000
9	Update cost estimates	1-Jan-19	30-Sep-19	\$5,000	\$35,000	\$40,000
10	Final report	1-Jan-19	30-Sep-19	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
11	Overall grant administration/project management/project facilitation	1-Jan-19	30-Sep-19	\$5,000	\$35,000	\$40,000
<b>Total</b>				\$120,000	\$350,000	\$470,000

(1) The single task that include costs for Grant Administration must provide a labor breakdown (see Indirect Costs tab below) where the total WSRF Grant contribution towards that task does not exceed 15% of the total WSRF Grant amount.

(2) Start Date for funding under \$100K - 45 Days from Board Approval; Start Date for funding over \$100K - 90 Days from Board Approval.

(3) Round values up to the nearest hundred dollars.

• Reimbursement eligibility commences upon the grantee's receipt of a Notice to Proceed (NTP)

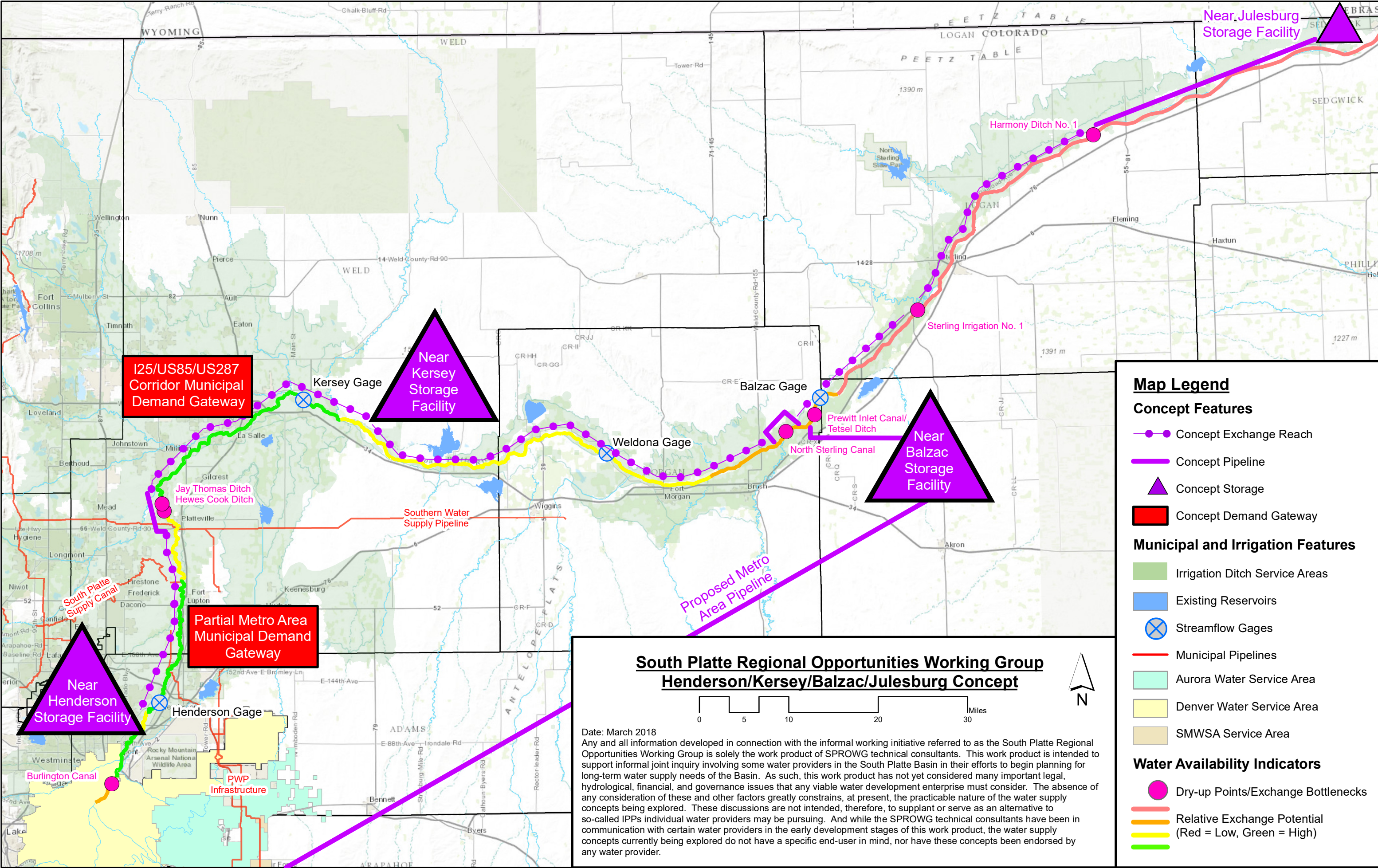
• NTP will not be accepted as a start date. Project activities may commence as soon as the grantee enters contract and receives formal signed State Agreement.

The CWCB will pay the last 10% of the entire water activity budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of the CWCB staff project manager. Once the Final Report has been accepted, the final payment has been issued, the water activity and purchase order (PO) or contract will be closed without any further payment. Any entity that fails to complete a satisfactory Final Report and submit to the CWCB with 90 days of the expiration of the PO or contract may be denied consideration for future funding of any type from the CWCB.

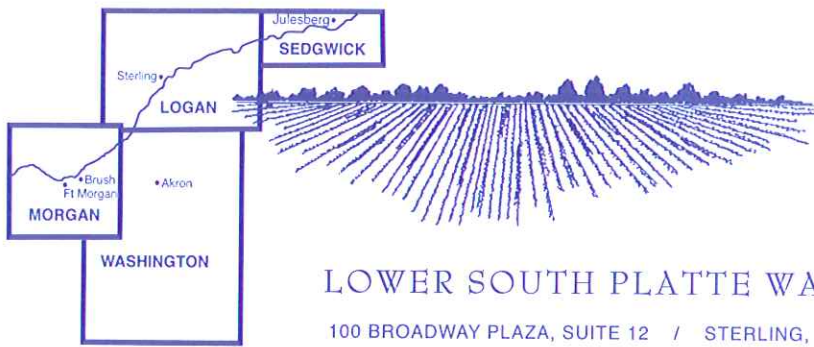
• Additionally, the applicant shall provide a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of contract execution

• Standard contracting procedures dictate that the Expiration Date of the contract shall be 5 years from the Effective Date.









July 30, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
c/o Rebecca Mitchell, Director  
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721  
Denver, Colorado

RE: Colorado Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Grant Application  
South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

The Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District (LSPWCD) hereby commits to provide both matching cash funds and in-kind services for the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study, should the grant application be successfully approved. LSPWCD's cash contribution is \$3,333 and the total estimated value of the in-kind services to be provided by LSPWCD for the project is \$10,000.

The South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (SP BIP) outlines the potential concept to develop multi-purpose and multi-benefit regional infrastructure in the South Platte Basin to efficiently capture and deliver a variety of water supplies to water users in the basin. In addition, the recently completed South Platte Storage Study identifies and highlights the ability to store available water in the basin. LSPWCD has worked for the past three years with other entities including: Northern Water, North Sterling Irrigation District, St. Vrain and Left-Hand Water Conservancy District, Aurora Water, Denver Water and South Metro Water Authority on advancing ideas in the SP BIP to develop a concept for more effectively managing the water supplies in the South Platte basin for the benefit of all water users in the region. This effort, known as the South Platte Regional Opportunities Working Group, brought its initial findings to the South Platte and Metro Roundtables in March 2018. Both Roundtables supported the advancement of the concept through the development of a guiding Task Force to determine and advance the next steps of this work. The joint Task Force has worked to develop and submit a Water Supply Reserve Fund grant application for both Roundtable and State WSRF funding. This WSRF application is now in front of the Roundtables and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) for consideration. In addition, to providing cash and in-kind match for this grant, LSPWCD has committed to be the applicant and fiscal agent for this grant application.



The proposed scope of work includes: Task Force convening/facilitation; the identification and analysis of possible options for a governing organizational/institutional structure; the technical outreach to identified stakeholders with further refinement of demands; the further analysis and definition of South Platte basin agricultural demands; further evaluation of South Platte basin recreational and environmental demands; and a baseline investigation and comparison of water quality treatment strategies. These tasks will allow for greater concept refinement and modeling and result in a reconnaissance-level estimation of costs and a final report summarizing the finds. Project management, facilitation and a broad communication/outreach program will also be included in this effort. The study seeks to identify potential strategies to meet near-and long-term challenges to regional multi-use and multi-benefit infrastructure in the South Platte basin.

We look forward to working with the Colorado Water Conservation Board and staff on the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study. We believe that the results of this work will have regional and state-wide benefits. Please contact me at (970) 522-1378 or [jmfrank@lspwcd.org](mailto:jmfrank@lspwcd.org) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Joe Frank,  
General Manager

cc: LSPWCD files



July 30, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
c/o Rebecca Mitchell, Director  
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721  
Denver, Colorado

**RE: Colorado Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Grant Application  
South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study**

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

The guidelines for the Water Supply Reserve Fund grant program require the submittal of a Letter of Financial Commitment by the grant applicant. Northern Water does hereby commit to provide both funds and in-kind services for the proposed South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study, should the grant application be successfully approved. Northern Water's in-kind cash contribution is \$10,000 and its contribution toward in-kind services is estimated to be \$12,000.

For the past three years Eric Wilkinson and Jim Hall have collaborated with numerous South Platte water users, including Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District, South Metro Water Supply Authority, North Sterling Irrigation District, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, Aurora Water and Denver Water, on advancing a concept for water supply for the benefit of all water users in the region. That collective effort, known as the South Platte Regional Opportunities Working Group, brought its initial findings to the South Platte and Metro Roundtables in March 2018. Both Roundtables supported the advancement of the concept through the development of a guiding Task Force. Those applications are now in front of the Roundtables and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) for consideration.

Northern Water is encouraged by discussions related to these concepts and believe CWCB support of further efforts is consistent with both the South Plan Basin Implementation Plan and Colorado's Water Plan. We look forward to working with the Colorado Water Conservation Board and its staff on the study. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Jim Hall at [jhall@northernwater.org](mailto:jhall@northernwater.org) or me at [bwind@northernwater.org](mailto:bwind@northernwater.org), or by telephone at 800-369-7246.

Sincerely,

Bradley D. Wind, P.E.  
General Manager



## ST. VRAIN AND LEFT HAND WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

9595 Nelson Road, Suite 203 • Longmont, CO 80501 • 303-772-4060 • [www.svlhwcd.org](http://www.svlhwcd.org)

July 30, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
c/o Rebecca Mitchell, Director  
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721  
Denver, Colorado

**RE: South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study**

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

The St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District ("District") has worked for the past three years with its partners, including the Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District, Northern Water, the North Sterling Irrigation District, the Metro Water Supply Authority, Aurora Water and Denver Water, on advancing a concept for more effectively managing the water supplies of the South Platte River for the benefit of all water users in the region. That collective effort, known as the South Platte Regional Opportunities Working Group, brought its initial findings to the South Platte and Metro Roundtables in March 2018. Both Roundtables supported the advancement of the concept through the development of a guiding Task Force and the application for both Roundtable and State grant funding. Those applications are now in front of the Roundtables and the Colorado Water Conservation Board ("CWCB") for consideration.

The Colorado Water Plan implicitly states, under the Conceptual Framework, that it is inherently each basin's responsibility to cooperatively and efficiently manage available water supplies, and that efforts to do so should seek to provide benefit to multiple users and uses. By looking at available water supplies and demands, infrastructure and exchange methodologies and collaborative water sharing programs such as Alternative Transfer Methods for our agricultural communities, the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study seeks to identify potential strategies to meet these near- and long-term challenges.

The District is committed to provide both funds and in-kind services for the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study. The total estimated value of the in-kind services to be provided by the District is \$4,000; the District's cash contribution is \$3,333.

We look forward to working with the Colorado Water Conservation Board and its staff on the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study, and I sincerely believe that the results of this work will have regional and state-wide benefits.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean T. Cronin".

Sean T. Cronin





SOUTH METRO WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

8400 East Prentice Avenue Suite 315  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Phone 720 216 5158  
Fax 720 216 5154

July 30, 2018  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
c/o Rebecca Mitchell, Director  
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721  
Denver, Colorado

**RE: Colorado Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Grant Application  
South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study**

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

The guidelines for the Water Supply Reserve Fund grant program require the submittal of a Letter of (Financial) Commitment by the grant applicant. The South Metro Water Supply Authority (Authority) does hereby commit to provide both funds and in-kind services for the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study, should the grant application be successfully approved. The total estimated value of the in-kind services to be provided by the Authority for the project is \$10,000; the Authority's cash contribution is \$3,334.

The Authority has worked for the past three years with its partners, including the Lower South Platte Conservancy District, Northern Water, the North Sterling Irrigation District, the St. Vrain and Left-Hand Water Conservancy District, Aurora Water and Denver Water, on advancing a concept for more effectively managing the water supplies of the South Platte River for the benefit of all water users in the region. That collective effort, known as the South Platte Regional Opportunities Working Group, brought its initial findings to the South Platte and Metro Roundtables in March 2018. Both Roundtables supported the advancement of the concept through the development of a guiding Task Force and the application for both Roundtable and State grant funding. Those applications are now in front of the Roundtables and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) for consideration.

The proposed scope of work includes: Task Force convening/facilitation; the identification and analysis of possible options for a governing organizational/institutional structure; the technical outreach to identified stakeholders with further refinement of demands; the further analysis and definition of South Platte basin agricultural demands; further evaluation of South Platte basin recreational and environmental demands; and a baseline investigation and comparison of water quality treatment strategies. These tasks will allow for greater concept refinement and modelling and result in a reconnaissance-level estimation of costs and a final report summarizing the findings. Project management, facilitation and a broad communication/outreach program will also be included in this effort.

The Colorado Water Plan implicitly states, under the Conceptual Framework, that it is inherently each basin's responsibility to cooperatively and efficiently manage available water supplies, and that efforts to do so should seek to provide benefit to multiple users and uses. By looking at available water supplies and demands, infrastructure and exchange methodologies and collaborative water sharing programs such as Alternative Transfer Methods for our agricultural communities, the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study seeks to identify potential strategies to meet these near- and long-term challenges.

We look forward to working with the Colorado Water Conservation Board and its staff on the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study, and I sincerely believe that the results of this work will have regional and state-wide benefits. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [lisadarling@southmetrowater.org](mailto:lisadarling@southmetrowater.org) or (720)-216-5158.

Sincerely,

Lisa G. Darling, Executive Director

July 30, 2018

Ms. Rebecca Mitchell, Director  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St., Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Colorado Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Grant Application  
South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

I am writing to express Denver Water's support for the grant application by the Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District to fund the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study. Since 2015, Denver Water has supported and participated in a group known as the South Platte Regional Opportunities Working Group to identify possible long-term benefits from a regional water supply concept in the South Platte basin. In addition to its financial and staff time contributions to advancing this effort through 2017, for the upcoming study Denver Water has committed an additional \$10,000 in matching cash funds and will contribute an estimated \$22,000 of matching in-kind funds.

So far, this concept has shown great promise for making use of in-basin water supplies to meet future, basin-wide demands and providing an opportunity for agricultural water users to use alternative transfer mechanisms (ATMs) for sharing water with others during drought. It is time to take this effort to the next level and discover more about the potential end-users of water from such a system, how it could meet environmental and recreational needs, and how it could begin to be developed. This will be a complex and long-term undertaking that will have state-wide implications, and Denver Water believes it is time to get started. We urge the Colorado Water Conservation Board to approve this grant request.

Thank you,

  
James S. Lochhead  
CEO/Manager

Water Resources Division  
15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Suite 3600  
Aurora, Colorado 80012  
303.739.7370

July 31, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
c/o Rebecca Mitchell, Director  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Colorado Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Grant Application  
South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

Per the guidelines for the Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Program, The City of Aurora, acting by and through its Utility Enterprise ("Aurora Water"), is submitting this letter of support and commitment to the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study Grant. Should the grant application be successfully approved, Aurora Water have committed to in-kind services in the amount of \$12,000 and cash contributions in the amount of \$10,000 for the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept process.

The proposed scope of work for the Pre-Feasibility Study includes, but is not limited to: Task Force convening/facilitation; the identification and analysis of possible options for a governing organizational/ institutional structure; the technical outreach to identify stakeholders with further refinement of demands; the further analysis and definition of South Platte basin agricultural demands; further evaluation of South Platte basin recreational and environmental demands; and a baseline investigation and comparison of water quality treatment strategies. These tasks will allow for greater concept refinement and modelling and result in a reconnaissance-level estimation of costs and a final report summarizing the finds. Project management, facilitation and a broad communication/outreach program will also be included in this effort.

The Colorado Water Plan implicitly states, under the Conceptual Framework, that it is inherently each basin's responsibility to cooperatively and efficiently manage available water supplies, and that efforts to do so should seek to provide benefit to multiple users and uses. By looking at available water supplies and demands, infrastructure and exchange methodologies, and collaborative water sharing programs such as Alternative Transfer Methods for our agricultural communities, the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study seeks to identify potential strategies to meet these near- and long-term challenges.

Aurora Water looks forward to the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study becoming a reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marshall P. Brown  
Director, Aurora Water



# The North Sterling Irrigation District

112 North 8th Avenue - P.O. Box 103 - Phone (970) 522-2025  
STERLING, COLORADO 80751-0103

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JAMES T. YAHN, P.E.  
Manager

August 6, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
c/o Rebecca Mitchell, Director  
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721  
Denver, Colorado

RE: Colorado Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Grant Application  
South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

The North Sterling Irrigation District along with the Prewitt Operating Committee through our manager Jim Yahn, has, for the past three years, worked with partners, including the Lower South Platte Conservancy District, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the South Metro Water Supply Authority, the St. Vrain and Left-Hand Water Conservancy District, Aurora Water and Denver Water, on advancing a concept for more effectively managing the water supplies of the South Platte River for the benefit of all water users in the region. That collective effort, known as the South Platte Regional Opportunities Working Group, brought its initial findings to the South Platte and Metro Roundtables in March 2018. Both Roundtables supported the advancement of the concept through the development of a guiding Task Force and the application for both Roundtable and State grant funding. Those applications are now in front of the Roundtables and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) for consideration.

During the initial three year phase, over \$200,000 was contributed, predominately by Denver, Aurora, and Northern to further the idea of regional water opportunities in the South Platte Basin. All the other entities, except Prewitt and North Sterling, have contributed financially to a lesser degree, however we have all contributed a significant amount of time to the effort. The guidelines for the Water Supply Reserve Fund grant program require the submittal of a Letter of Commitment by the grant applicant. As in the past, North Sterling is willing to commit the in-kind services of our manager for the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study, should the grant application be successfully approved. The total estimated value of the in-kind services to be provided by Prewitt and North Sterling for the project is \$10,000. We think this is a very worthwhile effort and is in keeping with the values and goals of the Colorado Water Plan.

We look forward to working with the Colorado Water Conservation Board and its staff on the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study, and I sincerely believe that the results of this work will have regional and state-wide benefits. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our manager at [jim@northsterling.org](mailto:jim@northsterling.org) or (970) 520-0170.

Sincerely,  
NORTH STERLING IRRIGATION DISTRICT



David Hernandez, President

# The Prewitt Operating Committee

112 North 8th Avenue - P.O. Box 333 - Phone (970) 522-2025  
STERLING, COLORADO 80751-0333

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Manager

August 1, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
c/o Rebecca Mitchell, Director  
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721  
Denver, Colorado

**RE: Colorado Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Grant Application  
South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study**

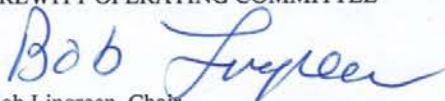
Dear Ms. Mitchell,

The Prewitt Operating Committee along with the North Sterling Irrigation District through our manager Jim Yahn, has, for the past three years, worked with partners, including the Lower South Platte Conservancy District, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the South Metro Water Supply Authority, the St. Vrain and Left-Hand Water Conservancy District, Aurora Water and Denver Water, on advancing a concept for more effectively managing the water supplies of the South Platte River for the benefit of all water users in the region. That collective effort, known as the South Platte Regional Opportunities Working Group, brought its initial findings to the South Platte and Metro Roundtables in March 2018. Both Roundtables supported the advancement of the concept through the development of a guiding Task Force and the application for both Roundtable and State grant funding. Those applications are now in front of the Roundtables and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) for consideration.

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We look forward to working with the Colorado Water Conservation Board and its staff on the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept Pre-Feasibility Study, and I sincerely believe that the results of this work will have regional and state-wide benefits. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our manager at [jim@northsterling.org](mailto:jim@northsterling.org) or (970) 520-0170.

Sincerely,  
PREWITT OPERATING COMMITTEE

  
Bob Lingreen, Chair