

# **Colorado Water Conservation Board**

# Water Plan Grant Application

# Instructions

To receive funding for a Water Plan Grant, applicant must demonstrate how the project, activity, or process (collectively referred to as "project") funded by the CWCB will help meet the measurable objectives and critical actions in the Water Plan. Grant guidelines are available on the CWCB website.

If you have questions, please contact CWCB at (303) 866-3441 or email the following staff to assist you with applications in the following areas:

Water Storage Projects Conservation, Land Use Planning Engagement & Innovation Activities Agricultural Projects Environmental & Recreation Projects Anna.Mauss@state.co.us Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us Ben.Wade@state.co.us Alexander.Funk@state.co.us Chris.Sturm@state.co.us

FINAL SUBMISSION: Submit all application materials in one email to waterplan.grants@state.co.us

in the original file formats [Application (word); Statement of Work (word); Budget/Schedule (excel)]. Please do not combine documents. In the subject line, please include the funding category and name of the project.

Water	Proi	iect	Sum	marv
<b>Hato</b>			<b>U</b> unn	incar y

Name of Applicant Adams State U		iversity
Name of Water Project Water Education		Initiative at Adams State University
CWP Grant Request Amount		\$ 71,859
Other Funding Sources San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative		\$ 48,862
Other Funding Sources Gates Family Foundation		\$ 40,918
Other Funding Sources		\$ 0
Applicant Funding Contribution		\$ 0
Total Project Cost		\$ 161,639

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Applicant & Grantee Information			
Name of Grantee(s):	Adams State University (ASU)		
Mailing Address :	208 Edgemont Blvd., Alamosa, CO 81101		
FEIN:	84-6000542		
Organization Contact:	Dr. Cheryl Lovell		
Position/Title:	Interim President, Adams State University (ASU)		
Email :	president@adams.edu		
Phone:	719-587-7342		
Grant Management Co	ontact: Jody Mortensen		
Position/Title:	ASU Controller of Sponsored Programs		
Email:	jmmorten@adams.edu		
Phone :	719-587-7736		
Name of Applicant- Project Contact: (if different than grantee) Rio de la Vista			
Mailing Address : 81101	Adams State University, 208 Edgemont Blvd., Suite 3150, Alamosa, CO		
Position/Title:	Director, Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center (Salazar Center) at Adams State University (ASU)		
Email:	riodelavista@adams.edu		
Phone:	719-850-2255		
Description of Grantee/Applicant			

# **Description of Grantee/Applicant**

Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).

Founded in 1921 to serve the educational and economic needs of the San Luis Valley, Adams State University (ASU) is a comprehensive liberal arts 4-year public institution of higher education. Designated federally as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, ASU enrolls some 1700 undergraduates and 1000 graduate students.

Founded by Secretary Ken Salazar and family, the Salazar Center began developing conservation programming and initiatives for ASU and community in 2018. Given current local water issues and inspired by water centers at Colorado's state universities, this proposal initiates the Center's role as a water center for the Rio Grande basin, building on regional partnerships.



	Type of Eligible Entity (check one)
x	<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>Public (Districts):</b> Authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
	Private Incorporated: Mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
	<b>Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors:</b> Private parties may be eligible for funding.
	<b>Non-governmental organizations (NGO):</b> Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
	Covered Entity: As defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes.

	Type of Water Project (check all that apply)		
	Study		
	Construction		
Х	X Identified Projects and Processes (IPP)		
	Other		

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

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Other	Explain:	

Location of Water Project			
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in <b>decimal degrees</b> . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.			
County/Counties	San Luis Valley, including: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache Counties		
Latitude 37.4746° N			
Longitude	105.8807° W		

# Water Project Overview

Please provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). Include a description of the project and what the CWP Grant funding will be used for specifically (e.g., studies, permitting process, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the project, where applicable. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, and area of habitat improvements, where applicable. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain.

The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.



With water at the core of the San Luis Valley's (SLV) identity and economy, the time is now to engage Adams State University (ASU) in water education, to enhance its relevance to the community and our changing economy, as an educational and project partner to increase water literacy, assist in projects, and "grow the next generation of water leaders."

The Salazar Center aims to design and implement a water center at ASU to achieve:

#### University Program Development:

- 1) Integrate water educational content into academic courses across disciplines.
- 2) Research feasibility and as possible, offer water curriculum through inter-university collaborations and on-line courses.
- 3) Offer presentations by diverse experts, organize student field trips, learning experiences, develop water related internships and volunteer opportunities in the SLV.
- 4) Assist faculty and students in funding and implementing water related research opportunities.
- 5) Develop Advisory Committee, from within ASU and the community-at-large.
- 6) Generate content for publications, videos, web-based information, press coverage, and other outreach/educational tools.

# Community Programs:

- 7) Offer public programs, featuring local and visiting experts.
- 8) Assist the Rio Grande Water Conservation District and other water entities in community outreach.
- 9) Co-host annual "State of the Basin Symposium" at ASU with water partners.

# Measurable Results

To catalog measurable results achieved with the CWP Grant funds, please provide any of the following values as applicable:

	New Storage Created (acre-feet)		
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive		
	Existin	g Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)	
	Length	of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)	
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)		
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)		
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms		
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning		
5,000+	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity		
	Other Explain: The proposed educational programs and projects in this application support many of the objectives in the Rio Grande BIP and CWP. It will design and develop education and outreach programs and		

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	projects to increase the knowledge base of ASU students and San Luis Valley residents and, through inter-University and other exchanges, Colorado citizens' knowledge of the Rio Grande Basin, its importance, value, challenges and benefits to the State. The long history in this Basin of water rights curtailments to meet Rio Grande Compact obligations, efforts to address groundwater issues through local initiatives, and the extensive partnerships that collaborate on local problem solving, are all relevant to the rest of Colorado, as we face similar challenges across the State.
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#### Water Project Justification

Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of <u>Colorado's Water Plan</u>, the most recent <u>Statewide Water Supply Initiative</u>, and the applicable Roundtable <u>Basin Implementation Plan</u> and <u>Education Action Plan</u>. 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).

The proposed water project shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan Framework for State of Colorado Support for a Water Project (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;)

The goal of this project, to design and develop a water center for the Rio Grande Basin as a program of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center (Salazar Center), at Adams State University, is directly in line with the education and outreach objectives of the Colorado Water Plan outlined in Chapter 9.5. As stated in the plan on page 9-56: "Universities: Several institutions of higher education are actively involved in water supply planning, research, dialogue, and education."

With the many water challenges facing the Rio Grande Basin in the time ahead, there is interest and support both within Adams State University and the community, for engaging students, faculty and the greater community in water issues. The Salazar Center is the ideal base within ASU for this effort, with the Director's long-standing engagement in water. She has served on the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable since its inception (as the Environmental Representative, a member of the Executive Committee, a member of the Education Committee, as well as past Secretary and past Vice Chair) to direct involvement in SLV conservation work that has been vital to helping secure water within the Basin.

The Salazar Center was founded by Secretary Ken Salazar and his family in honor of their parents in 2015. In 2018, Rio de la Vista joined the Center as its first Director, in order to expand the role to address issues and opportunities related to conservation and to engage ASU more deeply into the integrated land, water and natural resources community of the SLV. It is important to note that while the Salazar Center is a part of ASU, its programs are currently 100% grant funded. ASU is eager to develop this opportunity to engage in these issues and provide opportunities for students and contribute to the community's water future. Funding from this and the matching applications will make it possible to plan for and implement the objectives of this application, including integrating water education into ASU's curriculum for the long-term.

The Salazar Center's Director also brings to ASU her connections with the existing water education programs at Colorado's other state universities. She has served on the Advisory Committee for the Colorado Water Workshop at Western Colorado State University since 2009, and through that and other meetings has come to know the leaders of Colorado's university-based water centers at Colorado State University, Metropolitan State University and Colorado Mesa University. She has been reaching out to them for guidance and input on roles and structures for a successful water center, while incorporating her own knowledge of the Rio Grande and extensive connections with the local water

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community. (See attached letters of support from the Directors of these four water entities at Colorado state universities).

To develop a university-based water program would complement the on-going work of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable and its Education Action Plan. There is already a great deal of outreach and water education for K-12 students in the San Luis Valley, through the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative's (RGWCEI) work in the schools, as well as its current role in implementing the Roundtable's community outreach, such as a newsletter, tours within the Basin, video productions and other engagement efforts.

Adding a water program with the capacity of ASU, such as outlined in this application, will supplement the current educational programs and fill a gap: outreach to and engagement of the university community of students and faculty. It will provide additional programs for timely information and water education, and where appropriate, participation in water-related projects and policy development, to the larger community. In addition, it aims to collaborate with RGWCEI and other programs for SLV high school students, to include them in ASU programs where possible as a way to guide them into successful higher education opportunities.

# **Related Studies**

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

This project will include compilation and distribution of CWCB's information along with other new and existing water related studies, articles, and other educational materials and information. This will be in coordination with the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District and other partners in the region. Information to be shared will include the Colorado Water Plan, the Rio Grande BIP, and disseminating the new information emerging from the SWSI work, the Stream Management Plan now underway with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, and other sources.

We will work to integrate basic water information across disciplines into ASU curriculum and develop educational and internship opportunities for ASU student with water entities in the SLV. These will complement and assist in the implementation of related CWCB programs in the Rio Grande Basin.

# Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding

List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order; 6) Percentage of other CWCB funding for your overall project.

NA

# **Taxpayer Bill of Rights**

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

NA



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

(1) Required with application.

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



# ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATION GRANT FUND SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION

#### Introduction & Purpose

Colorado's Water Plan calls for an outreach, education, public engagement, and innovation grant fund in Chapter 9.5.

The overall goal of the Engagement & Innovation Grant Fund is to enhance Colorado's water communication, outreach, education, and public engagement efforts; advance Colorado's water supply planning process; and support a statewide water innovation ecosystem.

The grant fund aims to engage the public to promote well-informed community discourse regarding balanced water solutions statewide. The grant fund aims to support water innovation in Colorado. The grant fund prioritizes measuring and evaluating the success of programs, projects, and initiatives. The grant fund prioritizes efforts designed using research, data, and best practices. The grant fund prioritizes a commitment to collaboration and community engagement. The grant fund will support local and statewide efforts.

The grant fund is divided into two tracks: engagement and innovation. The Engagement Track supports education, outreach, communication, and public participation efforts related to water. The Innovation Track supports efforts that advance the water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.

#### **Application Questions**

\*The grant fund request is referred to as "project" in this application.

#### Overview (answer for both tracks)

In a few sentences, what is the overall goal of this project? How does it achieve the stated purpose of this grant fund (above)?

This project will design and develop a water center for the Rio Grande Basin at Adams State University's (ASU) Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center (Salazar Center). It will work with faculty and community experts to offer water education for students within ASU's curriculum and to engage the university and San Luis Valley community in order to "grow the next generation of water leaders" and broaden public awareness of water concerns and conservation efforts.

Who is/are the target audience(s)? How will you reach them? How will you involve the community?

With the serious water challenges now facing the Rio Grande Basin, there is interest and support both within Adams State University and the community, for new programs to engage faculty and educate students in water issues. Inherently, such a program will collaborate with community water entities, from state and federal land, water and wildlife agencies to local water districts and the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, along with and the diverse conservation, restoration and community non-profits and initiatives that are active in the SLV. This will be achieved by offering new educational programs and presentations at ASU, involving ASU students in service learning projects and internships, and offering increased community programs to provide water information targeting Rio Grande Basin issues and opportunities for active participation.

The connection with ASU and the San Luis Valley is also an integral part of this effort. First, Adams ASU is the only 4-year institution of higher education in the relatively remote, agricultural San Luis



#### Overview (answer for both tracks)

Valley (SLV), an 8,000 square mile area in south-central Colorado. Hispanics constitute 47% of the SLV population (46,827). Our counties are among the poorest in the state. One quarter of SLV families live in poverty and the regional median household income (\$34,560) is 47% lower than the state's and 38% lower than the nation's (\$55,322). Fewer than 25% of adults (and only 12% of Hispanic adults) aged 25 and older in the SLV have completed a bachelor's degree (2010 U.S. Census, 2012-16 American Community Survey estimates).

ASU draws 71% of its 1,700 undergraduates from Colorado; more than 38% are from the SLV. Designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) since 2000, ASU has the largest percentage of Hispanic students (35%) and minority students (49%) of any 4-year institution in CO (fall '18 ASU data). More than 46% of ASU undergraduates qualify for federal Pell grants. The university also enrolls nearly 1,000 graduate students.

These statistics indicate the importance of water in the basin, as it sustains the primary economic base here: agriculture. And they indicate the vital role of education in offering residents with the opportunity to achieve higher education and open doorways to successful careers, of which there are so many either directly in water or for which water literacy would be an important asset.

The Water Education Initiative will also involve the community through the development of an Advisory Committee, drawn from within ASU and the local water leadership (as noted in attached support letter from Travis Smith). We will also seek the on-going counsel of the leaders of the water centers at Colorado's other state universities (see attached letters of support.). The structure and role of this group will be determined by the initial group of willing participants in the Committee.

Describe how the project is collaborative or engages a diverse group of stakeholders. Who are the partners in the project? Do you have other funding partners or sources?

The SLV is renowned for its collaborative approach to caring for natural resources and developing locally based solutions to water and other critical challenges. The Salazar Center will fill a current gap in that collaborative network, by bringing the SLV's 4-year institute of higher education (ASU) into the process as a new partner through the various educational programs described in this application. The partners in this effort are numerous and include the agencies, districts and non-profits noted above, most of which are also active members of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable\*\*. Through her decades of engagement with these water and conservation partners, the Salazar Center's Director brings her extensive network of SLV and statewide associates in the areas of water and conservation to the development of a water center at ASU.

For the purpose of this grant, the overall project would be funded by CWCB along with proposed matching funds from the following partners, with applications for funding in progress. The total matching funds would exceed the 1-to1 match requirement for this CWP application. The budget indicates the allocation of their funds for project elements. (See attached letters of confirmation, regarding pending applications and timing of their Grant Committee and Board approvals.)

- The San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative (SLVCCI) is itself a collaboration between the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (RiGHT), Colorado Open Lands, Western Rivers Conservancy and funder, the LOR Foundation. Applications are due on February 15, 2019 with awards announced in early April 2019.
- 2) The Gates Family Foundation has made substantial investments in the SLV through conservation organizations such as RiGHT. The Salazar Center's Director was directly engaged in developing those conservation initiatives and has been in discussion with GFF's Natural Resources Program Officer, Russ Schnitzer, regarding the development of a water



#### Overview (answer for both tracks)

center for ASU. The request to GFF will be submitted on April 1, 2019 with Board decisions in June 2019.

\*\*See the attached letters of support from local partners including:

- Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Chair Nathan Coombs
- former CWCB Board member Travis Smith
- Rio Grande Water Conservation District General Manager Cleave Simpson

\*\*And letters from Colorado's existing water centers and programs:

- CSU- Colorado Water Institute's Reagan Waskom
- Metro State- One World One Water's Tom Cech
- Mesa-Ruth Hutchins Powell Water Center's Hannah Holms
- Western- Colorado Water Workshop Director Jeff Sellens

Describe how you plan to measure and evaluate the success and impact of the project?

The project will be measured by both the overall momentum of development of a water center role at ASU and the implementation of each component/task outlined in this application. This includes ASU's curriculum development and student engagement in field trips, events and internships. We will work with faculty who are involved in curriculum design for this program and with ASU's Office of Civic Engagement and Office of Assessment to develop methods for gauging student learning through courses and future internships.

For the community portion of the project, the participation in and attendance at water presentations and water projects will be indicators of success. We will also work with ASU's Office of Assessment and other resource people to design and include evaluation elements for programs being offered.

What research, evidence, and data support your project?

The success of the water centers at other state institutions in Colorado in providing educational curriculum, supporting water research and assisting the local or statewide water communities in outreach and education is evidence of the potential contributions of such entities. Examples include the Colorado Water Institute's on-going role in managing research funding from CWCB, the Mesa Water Center's partnership with the Colorado River District in hosting their annual "State of the River", their highly regarded annual conference and other community programs, the OWOW's on-line water certificate course, and over three decades of Western hosting its annual Colorado Water Workshop.

In the San Luis Valley, the central role of water in the community's identity and economy, the current and emerging threats to the water future, from water exportation threats to groundwater management and climate change, along with the aging population of farmers and ranchers (who own the majority of the SLV's water and who are the members of Boards, ditch companies, etc.) all point to the need for education that supports and informs the next generation of water leaders.

In addition, changing demographics in the SLV population, as new people move here for new reasons, such as the emerging recreation economy, also indicate the need to educate younger and new residents regarding water management. With Colorado's rate of population growth, and the SLV's

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#### Overview (answer for both tracks)

attractive attributes, from the Great Sand Dunes National Park to millions of acres of public lands, the SLV is likely to experience growth and have new residents who have little water knowledge.

There are many organizations working in water related projects. For example, SLV Great Outdoors works with partners across the region to develop new trails and other outdoor recreation opportunities, including for youth programs. Other local efforts include Alamosa's Rio Revitalization, the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project and its Del Norte Riverfront Project, Headwaters Alliance's work in Creede and the upper Rio Grande, a Culebra River watershed plan, the conservation work of the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, Colorado Open Lands, Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust, the Rio Grande Farm Park and Local Foods Initiative, Conejos Clean Water, an active Soil Health group. Many have received CWCB support over time. These projects and organizations offer many entry points for people to engage in learning about water as well as developing and implementing water sustainability practices, such as forest health, river and stream restoration, wetland and working lands conservation, and collaboration with agricultural water users to achieve shared goals for our shared water future. These partners also provide opportunities for the learning experiences, volunteer and internships that will be integral to water education for ASU students as well as possible presenters for ASU classes and public presentations.

Describe potential short- and long-term challenges with this project.

A short-term challenge for this project is how to best engage ASU faculty in actively developing new curriculum that integrates water education and building upon existing relationships to implement functioning internships for ASU students with local water entities. A long-term challenge will be the development from an initial start-up effort to eventually institutionalizing water education at ASU and establishing the Salazar Center's emerging community role as a water center.

Please fill out the applicable questions for either the Engagement Track or Innovation Track, unless your project contains elements in both tracks. If a question does not relate to your project, just leave it blank. Please answer each question that relates to your project. Please reference the relevant documents and use chapters and page numbers (Colorado's Water Plan, Basin Implementation Plan, PEPO Education Action Plan, etc.).

#### Engagement Track

Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement measurable objective set forth in Colorado's Water Plan to "significantly improve the level of public awareness and engagement regarding water issues statewide by 2020, as determined by water awareness surveys."

This project is to support the design and development of a water center at the SLV's only university, in order to directly raise public awareness and engagement in water issues. The objectives of the project include building faculty capacity to provide water education, engaging students at this Hispanic Serving Institution in learning about water through many avenues, from classes, presentations, field trips, and service learning, volunteer work, and internships that prepare them for the many career paths available in water, and/or water literacy that will help them succeed.



The Director has been developing this plan in conjunction with and under the guidance of key ASU personnel and departments. She has discussed and engaged the leadership (including the President and Academic Vice President); faculty (in areas of the sciences, Biology, Hydrology, Geography, Geology, etc.; the new Outdoor Recreation and Stewardship major; the emerging Food Studies Program; as well as Agriculture, business, English, History, and Art); administrative support areas (including the offices of Extended Studies which offers on-line and continuing education and Civic Engagement which organizes and recruits students for volunteer, service learning and internship opportunities), the Co-Curricular Recreation and Engagement program, and student government.

The community outreach role of the water center will likewise provide programs that raise public awareness of the area's water needs and challenges. As evidenced by the packed room of 100 diverse community members (vs just the usual active water community members) who attended the September 2018 "Tale of Two Rivers" talk at ASU, presented by Cleave Simpson (General Manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District) and Reagan Waskom (of the Colorado Water Institute), the interest is strong.

The planned "State of the Basin Symposium" for Feb. 2019, is already gaining a great deal of interest. With the increased risk of water exportation, there is significant increased interest in water as well. The time is ripe to engage more community members, enhance their water literacy, and involve them in the many key strategies needed to achieve a more sustainable water future for the SLV.

Describe how the project achieves the other measurable objectives and critical goals and actions laid out in Colorado's Water Plan around the supply and demand gap; conservation; land use; agriculture; storage; watershed health, environment, and recreation; funding; and additional.

Essentially *all* of these areas of objectives, goals and actions identified in the Colorado Water Plan require a base of water knowledge among the people leading and implementing projects. As outlined throughout this application, the proposed combination of developing water education at ASU and community interactions and engagement will contribute to that base for both students and residents of the San Luis Valley. As indicated by the various partners identified in this application, the role of conservation, land use and management, agriculture, watershed health, environmental concerns and wildlife, with associated recreation water issues and needs, as well the role of water storage and reservoirs in the Rio Grande Basin, are all integral to comprehensive water education. There are many opportunities for field trips, volunteer and service learning, and internships for ASU students with local organizations and management agencies and districts. These same entities are partners in providing broader community education through programs throughout the year and for the State of the Basin Symposium.

The information, videos and other content generated will also be available to interested people across Colorado and beyond, and contribute to knowledge of the Rio Grande in Colorado, our challenges and collective efforts to solve those locally through innovation and collaboration.

As this application indicates, this proposal aims to engage students and the community in learning about and as possible participating in activities across the key areas identified above through numerous means. Examples are:

- Building water education into ASU's curriculum across disciplines
- Offering student internships with various water management agencies and districts as well as non-profit conservation, restoration and recreation organizations
- Partnering with these entities to offer community educational programs
- Making the content of those programs available to students and the public

Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement goals set forth in the applicable Basin Implementation Plan(s).

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This proposal will both complement and supplement the education, outreach and public engagement goals of the Rio Grande Basin's BIP. By adding the community-based university to these efforts, we bring additional capacity, resources, and an expanded audience, i.e. the student body. Specifically addressing the goals specified in the Rio Grande Basin BIP (see Chapter 7- page 161) and of the Rio Grande Roundtable Education Action Plan for 2015 to 2018 as follows:

#### Topic 1: Outreach

This Water Education Initiative will provide more news content for both print and radio shows. It will introduce the video vignettes produced by Roundtable and partners addressing many aspects of Rio Grande Basin water to the campus community, for use in courses and educational programs.

#### Topic 2: Watershed Education

This initiative will expand the reach of the Roundtable's products, introduce direct new and expanded public audiences to the Colorado and Basin Water Plans, as well as direct interested students and public toward participation in the Roundtable meetings, tours and efforts.

Topic 3: Provide a medium for all residents, civic groups, water entities and local governments to be able to speak and understand water.

This initiative will likewise engage the ASU students and faculty in this process. The public programs and events such as the "State of the Basin Symposium" will reach new and expanding audiences with both basic water education and timely information about water challenges and opportunities in the Rio Grande Basin.

Describe how the project achieves the basin roundtable's PEPO Education Action Plans.

See above answer.

#### Innovation Track

Describe how the project enhances water innovation efforts and supports a water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.

While this project is focused on water education, water literacy and knowledge are important for supporting, sparking and sustaining innovations in water management that benefit agriculture, the environment, and a clean, reliable water supply for people far into the future.

Describe how the project engages/leverages Colorado's innovation community to help solve our state's water challenges.



Innovation Track

NA

Describe how the project helps advance or develop a solution to a water need identified through TAP-IN and other water innovation challenges. What is the problem/need/challenge?

NA

Describe how this project impacts current or emerging trends; technologies; clusters, sectors, or groups in water innovation.

NA



# Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

Statement of Work		
Date:	January 31, 2019	
Name of Grantee:	Adams State University, for the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center	
Name of Water Project:	Water Education Initiative	
Funding Source:	Colorado Water Plan	
Water Project Overview:		

With water at the core of the San Luis Valley's (SLV) identity and economy, and the challenges that face the Rio Grande basin's water future, the time is now to engage Adams State University (ASU) in water education, to enhance its relevance to the community and our changing economy, and as an educational and project partner to increase the community's water literacy, assist in water related projects and research, and "grow the next generation of water leaders."

For context, it is valuable to note that Adams State has a high percentage of first generation and low-income students, many of whom are from the San Luis Valley and have family roots in agriculture. Adams State is a "Hispanic Serving Institution" with an undergraduate population that is more than 35% Hispanic. The university and the community are deeply interconnected and interdependent. An effective approach to water education must likewise be integrated.

This proposed Water Education Initiative will design and build capacity in order to address the needs of the university and the surrounding community as follows:

- 1) University Program Development:
  - a) Plan and develop water curriculum across relevant disciplines and departments
  - b) Plan, develop, and initiate "co-curricular" opportunities for students, i.e. experiences that complement their learning, engage their curiosity and engage them in real life situations and interactions that can open doors to future career opportunities. There are career opportunities in water directly, ranging from agricultural producers, to working in state or federal agencies, water districts, non-profit organizations addressing water, as educators, and more. A base of practical water knowledge can also serve students well in future careers and leadership roles, ranging from District or Ditch Company board members, community leaders and government/elected positions, and education, for example.



2) Community Programs: Develop and offer water education programs for the residents of the region. These will be coordinated with the Roundtable and other partners, to meet the interests and concerns of SLV residents. On one end of the spectrum of residents are the multi-generational families in the agricultural community, with their vital role as the holders of the majority of the Basin's water rights. On the other end are the newcomers to the area who care about the natural resources but may be uninformed regarding how water is managed, the history of water concerns in the SLV, and how the greater community needs to work together to achieve a secure and sustainable water future for the Basin.

#### **Project Objectives:**

In order to plan, develop and implement the initial elements of a relevant and effective water education program for ASU and the Rio Grande Basin community, the following specific objectives have been identified:

# University Program Development:

For Curriculum Development:

- 1. Work with ASU faculty to integrate water educational content into existing academic courses across disciplines
- 2. Research feasibility of and, as possible, offer water curriculum classes through interuniversity collaborations and on-line courses.

For Co-Curricular Programs and Opportunities:

- 3. Offer presentations by diverse experts, organize student field trips and learning experiences, and develop water related internships and volunteer opportunities in the SLV.
- 4. Assist faculty and students in funding and implementing water related research opportunities.

Engaging ASU and Community Expertise:

- 5. Organize a Water Education Initiative Advisory Committee, from within ASU and the community-at-large.
- 6. Generate content for publications, videos, web-based information, press coverage, and other outreach and educational tools.

# Community Programs:

(which will also benefit ASU students and contribute to the above objectives)

- 7. Offer public programs on current water issues, solutions and opportunities to contribute to a secure and sustainable water future, featuring local and visiting experts. Scheduling will be coordinated with availability of presenters and to correlate with and avoid conflicts with other local water meetings and programs.
- 8. Assist and collaborate with the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable and other water entities in community outreach and education.
- 9. Host an annual "State of the Basin Symposium" at the university for the overall community, in conjunction with diverse water partners.



Tasks

#### Task 1 – University Program Development:

Description of Task:

The Director will work with ASU leadership, Advisory Committee, faculty, and staff, with input from students and information gleaned from the experience and guidance of other Colorado state institutions of higher education, in:

Curriculum Development:

- 1. Work with ASU faculty to integrate water educational content into existing academic courses across disciplines
- 2. Research feasibility of and, as possible, offer water curriculum classes through interuniversity collaborations and on-line courses.

#### Method/Procedure:

For Curriculum Development:

- Integrating water into academic courses across disciplines will engage faculty in curriculum development efforts, which is very timely as ASU is instituting new approaches to targeting student interests and adapting existing courses through several avenues. One of these is to build a suite of courses that address specific "themes" that thread across disciplines and departments. This also opens the opportunity to draw upon the tremendous knowledge and experience of the local water community, to serve as guest speakers and resources for developing water focused curricula.
- 2) Designing and implementing water education courses for on-line delivery originating either with ASU or through an external partner (depending on the above mentioned feasibility research). This can offer ASU students (and community members with such interests) learning opportunities and as possible, certificates or college level credits as the university builds capacity for offering water education content.

#### Deliverable:

For Curriculum Development:

- 1) This task aims to integrate water content in multiple disciplines and interdisciplinary and place-based education, through ASU's emerging curriculum through the following:
  - a. Developing water as a "theme" within ASU's emerging curriculum revamp. Specifically, to qualify as such, there will need to be at least three "general education courses" offered that integrate water into the syllabus for that class. This could range from an earth science class to political science to economics to culture to agriculture to history to literature and arts.
  - b. Pursue ways to integrate water information into additional elective and required classes, such as ASU's required First Year Seminar classes and in majors across disciplines and/or within the inter-disciplinary degree program.
- 2) As noted, and with a new focus on on-line education, it is possible for ASU to partner with other state schools to offer either for-credit and/or certificate offerings in water education. Similar to the existing agreement between ASU and CSU to provide agricultural classes online and thus allowing ASU students to earn an ag degree, this grant will support our planning process to research, identify and initiate planning for



#### Tasks

ways to supplement ASU's water curriculum and provide water education for credit (or continuing education) through inter-university partnerships. We will implement such agreements if at all possible, in this time frame. This can build momentum while we continue to build water education capacity on campus at ASU that relates to the Rio Grande Basin.

#### Tasks

#### Task 2 – Develop and Implement Co-Curricular Water Education for ASU students

#### Description of Task:

The Director will work with ASU leadership and faculty, with input from the Advisory Committee, students, faculty and information gleaned from the experience and guidance of other Colorado state institutions of higher education, to:

- 1. Organize presentations by diverse experts within classes and for campus and community.
- 2. Organize and host student field trips and learning experiences
- 3. Develop water related internships and volunteer opportunities for ASU students in the SLV.
- 4. Assist faculty and students in funding and implementing water related research opportunities.

#### Method/Procedure:

- 1. Organize presentations by diverse experts within classes and for campus and community
  - a. There is great breadth and depth of water knowledge in the SLV community. We will reach out to the water community and work to engage them as guest lecturers in classrooms and for broader audiences, for example as speakers for the lunchtime talks offered on campus, and for community meetings such as the Chamber of Commerce networking lunches.
- 2. Organize and host student field trips and learning experiences. Examples include:
  - a. Host an EcoFlight "aerial" school for the Rio Grande Basin. Note that the Salazar Center collaborated with EcoFlight's statewide "Flight Across America" program in the fall of 2018 (See news article at: <u>https://alamosanews.com/article/slv-water-education-takes-flight</u>) Based on the success of that, which included an ASU student participating in the full program and their inclusion of the SLV in their itinerary, we are now planning for a fall 2019 program focused on the Rio Grande Basin. This would provide



# Tasks

Tasks
participating ASU students (approximately 15) with overflights of the various river corridors and unique features of the Basin combined with on the ground site visits and discussions with water experts and organizations in these areas. These could include:
<ul> <li>the entire Rio Grande- learning about the reservoirs at the headwaters, the Rio Grande Compact, water administration, the Rio Grande Initiative that has conserved over 25,000 acres of private lands and associated senior surface rights</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Conejos River- reservoirs, role in compact, progressive water measuring methods as implemented by the Conejos Water Conservancy District, etc.</li> <li>Culebra River: its ownership history (as 100% privately owned watershed), history, operations and cultural aspects of acequias,</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>conservation efforts and watershed planning underway on private lands</li> <li>Closed Basin and Great Sand Dunes National Park and Baca National Wildlife Refuge, with the extensive wetlands in the northern areas of the SLV- visit to the BOR's Closed Basin operations, the water rights, hydrology and wildlife of the Park and Refuge, and the interdependence</li> </ul>
of ground water and internationally important wetlands
b. Engage and travel with a "team" of ASU students and SLV residents to attend and participate in the new "Water Futures Games" to be held at Western State
Colorado University, with the first of these being held at the end of May 2019.
c. Engage students to travel to the Mesa and Metro's annual fall water retreat. Plan to host a similar/collaborative retreat in the SLV in 2020.
<ol> <li>Develop water related internships and volunteer opportunities for ASU students in the SLV.</li> </ol>
a. Funds from this proposal will support 4 summer internships that will provide students
with direct work experience in water agencies, districts and or non-profits. b. Volunteer opportunities will be developed to assist with stream and river restoration
projects, acequia spring cleaning days, and other conservation related activities throughout the year. Already we are collaborating with Volunteers for Outdoor
Colorado to co-host a work day for riparian restoration for Public Lands Day on
September 28, 2019. We are also researching opportunities with the New Mexico-
<ul> <li>based Quivira Coalition to co-host restoration projects here in the SLV&gt;</li> <li>4. Assist faculty and students in funding and implementing water related research</li> </ul>
opportunities.
a. Coordinate with Reagan Waskom to inform ASU faculty and students about available
CWCB research funding
<ul> <li>Identify and inform interested ASU faculty and students about research funding available through the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, USDA, and other sources.</li> </ul>
c. Work to connect and involve ASU with other research projects underway through
agencies or organizations such as the USFWS, National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, and others.
Deliverebles

**Deliverables:** 



#### Tasks

The deliverables for this task will include reports documenting the outcomes identified above. The reports will document participation numbers and survey results, interviews, press coverage, student produced papers or other products (videos, presentations, etc.), research results, video productions, and other products. We will gather feedback from students, faculty and community partners (such as intern hosts) regarding speaker presentations, field trips and participation in special programs both at ASU and with community or other institutional partners and student interns. We will also track and document results from research projects proposed and funded through the efforts of this initiative.

# Tasks

# Task 3 – Community Water Education Programming

#### **Description of Task:**

This task will work with ASU leadership and faculty, with input from community partners as well as faculty and students to:

- 1. Host public Water Education programs, featuring local and visiting experts.
- 2. Assist the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable and other water entities in community outreach for water education.
- 3. Host annual "State of the Basin Symposium" with water partners

#### Method/Procedures:

- Determine interest levels regarding key topics through feedback forms and surveys at events, Advisory Committee input, and other methods, identify presenters, and organize 3 to 4 public Water Education programs (within the time frame of this grant), featuring local and visiting experts. Topics could range across disciplines and areas of interest. These would be both strategic in order to educate the community, and opportunistic, for when visiting experts can be accessed and engaged to offer presentations. Subjects could address issue such as:
  - Sociological: How a community can enhance collaborative efforts, effectively engage and resolve conflicts, and cooperatively solve natural resource problems
  - Scientific: Climate change- potential impacts and how to mitigate, adapt and enhance resiliency in our region
  - Agricultural: Soil health's potential to reduce water application and enhance ag productivity
  - Watershed and Ecological Conditions: Wetland assessment report (near completion by local Wetland Dynamics biologists- supported by CWCB funds) and conservation/restoration programs such as the current Stream Restoration Study (also supported by CWCB funds)
- 2. Assist the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable and other water entities in community outreach for water education. This could involve hosting or cohosting such events as:



#### Tasks

- a. Meetings such as with visiting elected or government officials (such as the planned water community meeting with Attorney General Phil Weiser in 2-19), hosting receptions and/or meetings on campus with statewide Boards/Commissions such as CWCB, CPW, Groundwater, CDPHE, etc.
- b. Workshops to provide more in depth and shared learning experiences related to water issues, practices for restoration, soil health and more, community collaborative practices, planning processes, consensus building around water issues, economic impacts and opportunities related to changes in water availability and water management (such as ground water management subdistricts and well rules and regulations), and other water related subjects.
- 3. Co-host an annual Rio Grande "State of the Basin Symposium" with water partners. (Note: The Salazar Center is organizing the first of these for February 23, 2019 with cohost Rio Grande Water Conservation District and sponsorship from the Conejos Water Conservancy District, SLV Water Conservancy District and the SLV Irrigation District. It highly likely that this will establish the need for an annual high-profile, valley-wide forum, to engage and educate the general public on water issues.

#### Deliverable:

As this proposal is to initiate the design and development of this program, specific deliverables for this will be programs identified with input from the Advisory Committee as well as key water partners in the community, such as the Roundtable and RGWCD leadership. These will include new presentations and possible workshops to be held on campus with local or visiting experts, and the production and co-hosting of the State of the Basin Symposium with the RGWCD in the spring of 2020.

### Tasks

Task 4 – Create, gather and disseminate Rio Grande Basin water education materials and resources

### Description of Task:

Gather, generate and distribute content for publications, videos, web-based information, press coverage, and other outreach and educational tools.

#### Method/Procedure:



# Tasks

- 1. Work with local water partners to provide content for publications that inform and educate about Rio Grande Basin water issues, history, and natural resources
- 2. Contract for high-quality video recordings of keynotes and events
- 3. Provide web links to above products
- 4. Use ASU's marketing outreach to attract press coverage of events, interviews and stories that inform both local and regional audiences
- 5. Begin a "water library," as a resource for ASU and the community, both physical and digital to house Rio Grande Basin publications, books, archives, and data bases to provide resources for research, planning and educational programs. This could include important archival materials that are now scattered and relatively unknown or inaccessible (such as the extensive aerial photos of the river corridor now housed in a drawer in the back room of the local DWR office) or soon to be needing a home (possibly including the extensive research on SLV reservoirs done by Mel and Camille Getz, or Rio Grande related files from long-time attorneys for Rio Grande entities such as David Robbins.)

#### **Deliverable:**

The deliverable for this will be a plan for and the initial gathering and organizing of available information and making water educational content, publications, and resources available to the ASU and broader SLV the community.

# **Reporting Requirements**

**Progress Reports:** The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

**Final Report:** At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant's letterhead that:

- Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.
- Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

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



#### Payment

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and must include invoices for all work completed. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by task, an estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire Project in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues, and proposed or implemented corrective actions.

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of this contract are not reimbursable. The last 10% of the entire grant will be paid out when the final deliverable has been received. All products, data and information developed as a result of this contract must be provided to CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation.

# **Performance Measures**

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

(a) Performance standards and evaluation: Grantee will produce detailed deliverables for each task as specified. Grantee shall maintain receipts for all project expenses and documentation of the minimum inkind contributions (if applicable) per the budget in Exhibit B. Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines full documentation of project progress must be submitted with each invoice for reimbursement. Grantee must confirm that all grant conditions have been complied with on each invoice. In addition, per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.

(c) Monitoring Requirements: Grantee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of project progress per Exhibit A. Progress shall be detailed in each invoice and in each Progress Report, as detailed above. Additional inspections or field consultations will be arranged as may be necessary.

(d) Noncompliance Resolution: Payment will be withheld if grantee is not current on all grant conditions. Flagrant disregard for grant conditions will result in a stop work order and cancellation of the Grant Agreement.



**COLORADO** Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

# **Colorado Water Conservation Board**

Water Plan Grant - Exhibit B Budget and Schedule

Prepared Date: February 1, 2019

Name of Applicant: Adams State University

Name of Water Project: Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center's Water Education Initiative

Project Start Date: June 1, 2019 Project End Date: July 31, 2020

Task No.	Task Description	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Grant Funding Request		Match Funding		Total	
Project Director & Personnel									
Tasks 1 to 3	Water Program Development at ASU	6/1/19	7/31/20	\$	28,340	\$	37,946	\$	66,286
Task 4	Community Water Education Programmi	8/1/19	7/31/20	\$	12,146	\$	7,555	\$	19,701
Other Direct Costs									
Tasks 1-3	Travel- Project Director	6/1/19	7/31/20	\$	2,000			\$	2,000
	Contractual: Video Services	6/1/19	7/31/20	\$	2,000	\$	3,000	\$	5,000
	Contractual: web Content	6/1/19	7/31/20	\$	2,000			\$	2,000
	Outreach & Educational materials	6/1/19	7/31/20			\$	3,000	\$	3,000
	Visiting Speakers Travel & Fees	6/1/19	7/31/20			\$	3,000	\$	3,000
	Co-curricular costs- Student Travel	6/1/19	7/31/20			\$	15,000	\$	15,000
Task 4	Travel- Project Director	6/1/19	7/31/20	\$	2,000			\$	2,000
	Contractual: Video Services	6/1/19	7/31/20	\$	5,000			\$	5,000
	Outreach & Educational materials	6/1/19	7/31/20			\$	2,500	\$	5,000
	State of the Basin Symposium	9/1/19	4/1/20	\$	5,000	\$	5,000	\$	10,000
	Visiting Speakers Travel & Fees	6/1/19	7/31/20		· · ·	\$	3,000	\$	3,000
	Community Meetings/Workshops	6/1/19	7/31/20	\$	4,000	-	· · ·	\$	4,000
ASU Indirect		8/1/19	7/31/20	\$	9,373		\$9,779	\$	19,152
	<b>I</b>	0,1/13	Total		71,859	\$	89,780	φ \$	161,639

Page 1 of 1

# SAN LUIS VALLEY CONSERVATION FUND

COLORADO OPEN LANDS LOR FOUNDATION

RIO GRANDE HEADWATERS LAND TRUST

January 28, 2019

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

Dear Members of the Board,

This letter is to confirm that the San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative is anticipating a \$48,900 request for funding from the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center to support their Water Education Initiative at Adams State University in Alamosa. Grant applications for our upcoming cycle are due February 15<sup>th</sup>, with grant award decisions to be made in April. If awarded, our funding would serve as match for a Colorado Water Plan grant.

While we cannot confirm at this time that funds will be awarded, we have a long-standing partnership with the Director of the Center, Rio de la Vista, and Adams State University. As members of the local community, we are well aware of the immense water challenges we are facing, and thus the value of and need for a new level of university level water education in the Rio Grande Basin.

On behalf of the San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative, we encourage such important initiatives and appreciate your consideration of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center's proposal to develop an important new water education role for Adams State University and the San Luis Valley community.

Sincerely,

Allen Law Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust

Judy Lopez Colorado Open Lands

Dieter Erdmann Western Rivers Conservancy

GATES FAMILY FOUNDATION

31 January 2019

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

Members of the Colorado Water Conservation Board,

This letter is to confirm that the Gates Family Foundation is working with the Director of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center (the Center) regarding a forthcoming proposal for funding in support of the Center's Water Education Initiative at Adams State University in Alamosa. We are working with them to develop a proposal for support of that initiative in the range of \$40,000, to be included in the Foundation's second quarter grant cycle. Proposals are due April 1, with Board decisions to be made in June. If awarded, Gates Family Foundation funding would serve as cash match for a Colorado Water Plan grant.

While we cannot confirm at this time that funds will be awarded, the Foundation has a long-standing partnership with the conservation community in the San Luis Valley, including with the Director, Rio de la Vista. Based on the many years of engagement through a number of grants supporting conservation projects and initiatives, the Foundation is well aware of the immense water challenges facing that community and region. The Foundation understands and takes seriously the value of and need for innovative university-level water education for the benefit of the San Luis Valley and Rio Grande Basin.

The Gates Family Foundation encourages such important initiatives and appreciates the Colorado Water Conservation Board's consideration of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center's proposal to develop an important new water education role for Adams State University and the San Luis Valley communities.

Sincerely,

Russell Schnitzer Senior Program Officer – Natural Resources



# Rio Grande Water Conservation District

8805 Independence Way • Alamosa, Colorado 81101 Phone: (719) 589-6301 • Fax: (719) 992-2026 Protecting & Conserving San Luis Valley Water

January 28, 2019

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

Dear Members of the Board,

As the General Manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, I write this letter in support of the Colorado Water Plan grant application from the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center for their Water Education Initiative at Adams State University in Alamosa. Through my role with this District, as well as work with the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, the IBCC, Colorado Water Congress, and more, and as the current Chairman of the Adams State University Board of Trustees, it is clear to me that there has never been a more important time to provide water education at all levels to our community.

It is also very timely to build that capacity within our regional institution of higher learning, where the potential for providing college level water education is ripe for development. The proposed Initiative from the Salazar Center provides that opening and has the support of the larger water community. We all recognize the critical need to empower and inform the "next generation of water leaders" here, as the proposal states. Our water challenges are substantial, and only growing in breadth and intensity. The next generation will need to be educated and engaged in order to have the tools and knowledge necessary to address them.

The Initiative aims to build capacity and curriculum for Adams State, to engage students in educational programs and provide interaction with the broader water community. If funded, the Colorado Water Plan grant will support new programs such as the State of the Basin Symposium that the Salazar Center is hosting in partnership with this District and many local partners, new internships to provide students with the work experience to enter the professional world of water, new presentations for the community and university such as the "Tale of Two Rivers" talk that I presented with Dr. Reagan Waskom in September of 2018, unique opportunities such as the EcoFlight aerial education program, and many more exceptional and engaging learning opportunities for students and the broader community. With the Salazar Center's Director, Rio de la Vista, personal commitment to our water future and the professional ability to work collaboratively across the many sectors and interests with a stake in that future, Adams State University has the chance to launch this Initiative and provide new and valuable contributions to water education for the Rio Grande Basin, which complement the existing K to 12 and community educational programs. The timing is truly urgent, and the opportunity is ripe.

Thank you for your consideration and I encourage your full support of the proposal.

Sincerely,

1.

Cleave Simpson General Manager

January 27, 2019

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

Dear Members of the Board,

This letter is to express my support for the Colorado Water Plan grant application from the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center for their Water Education Initiative at Adams State University in Alamosa. Over my years of work in water in the Rio Grande Basin, as Superintendent of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District, as a member of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, and as a member of your Board, I can attest that there has never been a more important time to provide water education at all levels to our community.

Having worked with the Salazar Center's Director, Rio de la Vista, over much of that time, I can speak to her deep commitment to our water future and ability to work collaboratively across the many sectors and interests with a stake in that future. And it is interesting that with all the past investments in education in our community, we have not engaged the important partners and the potential for college level water education with Adams State University. The proposed Initiative from the Salazar Center's opens that door for the first time.

With this Initiative, there is a new opportunity to build capacity and curriculum for Adams State. The proposal will actively engage students in educational programs and provide interaction with the broader water community, from participation in programs such as the State of the Basin Symposium that the Salazar Center is launching in partnership with the Rio Grande Water Conservation District and many local partners, to internships that provide students with the work experience to enter the professional world of water. These are valuable and new contributions to water education for the Rio Grande Basin. The time is now to take the opportunity and support this important effort to, as the proposal states: "grow the next generation of water leaders" for our Basin.

The Salazar Center's Water Education Initiative will help to advance these goals, and for that reason I have agreed to serve on the Advisory Committee for the program. Thank you for your consideration and I encourage your full support of the proposal.

Respectfully,

Travis L. Smith Senior Water Consultant DiNatale Water Consultants travis@dinatalewater.com 719.298.0915



Colorado Water Institute E102 Engineering Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-1033 Phone: (970) 491-6308

January 24, 2018

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

Dear Members of the Board,

This letter is to express my support for the Colorado Water Plan grant application from the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center for their Water Education Initiative at Adams State University in Alamosa. I have been counseling the Salazar Center Director, Rio de la Vista, on priorities and approaches for developing a successful approach to university-based water education since she began her role at ASU in 2018.

Per her invitation, I was pleased to visit the ASU campus last September to provide faculty there with information about the CWCB funded research grants and to co-present a community talk with Cleave Simpson on the groundwater issues and approaches in the South Platte and Rio Grande Basins. The over-100 attendees to that talk on a Monday night was strong evidence of the interest in and need for community and university focused water education. It was also strong evidence of her ability to produce quality events that will draw significant community interest.

Given the water challenges that the San Luis Valley community is facing, combined with their long history of collaborative problem solving, the time is ripe for ASU to develop water education, curriculum and student engagement. With her long-standing involvement in the San Luis Valley's water issues and solutions, Rio de la Vista also brings the experience, knowledge, credibility and network of people to help ASU launch this important Initiative. It will require significant time investment to build and coordinate such a program, and we are there to assist and support it in the time ahead. We welcome the partnership of Adams State University in providing water education to the students and citizens of Colorado and the Colorado Water Institute stands ready to work with Rio on this initiative.

Thank you for your consideration and I encourage your support of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center's proposal to develop an important new water education role for Adams State University and the San Luis Valley community.

Sincerely,

E AS

Reagan M. Waskom, Director



January 25, 2019

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

Dear Members of the Board,

On behalf of the One World One Water Center (OWOW) at Metropolitan State University, this letter is in support of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center's application to the Colorado Water Plan for their Water Education Initiative at Adams State University. This proposal would be an important part of bringing water education into the state's universities.

The emerging role of the Salazar Center at Adams State University helps to provide water education opportunities to students, faculty and the broader community of the San Luis Valley. Having been in conversation with the Director, Rio de la Vista, since she took on her role in 2018, I can speak to her commitment to the water future of the Rio Grande Basin, built through her years of direct land and water conservation efforts, engagement with the Roundtable, and involvement with water across the state. In laying the ground work for water education at Adams State, Rio has diligently reached out to me and other water centers, invested herself in attending our annual student retreat with the Water Center at Colorado Mesa University, and our international water study program as well. All of these efforts indicate her own passion for learning, which is critical in designing and providing learning experiences for students. I look forward to continuing to work with Rio and Adams State to engage in new and creative interactions and collaborations across state institutions.

The timing is urgent for water education across Colorado and is vital for the people of the Rio Grande Basin. Thus, this opportunity to support the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center in creating a new center of water education is likewise timely and important. I hope that you will support this proposal.

Sincerely,

Tom G.Q

Tom Cech, Co-Director One World One Water Center MSU Denver



RUTH POWELL HUTCHINS WATER CENTER **Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center** 1100 North Avenue • Grand Junction, CO 81501-3122 970.248.1968 (o) • 1.800.982.6372 ext. 1968

January 30, 2019

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

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing to express my support for the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center's application to the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program for the Water Education Initiative at Adams State University in Alamosa. The Director of the Salazar Center, Rio de la Vista, and I have both been long-time participants at the Colorado Water Workshop in Gunnison, and I have provided her with information about the work of our Water Center as she has been developing the idea of a water education role at Adams State. She also participated in our Fall 2018 Student Water Field Conference on Grand Mesa, and we have continued to discuss further inter-university collaboration since then.

With the importance of water issues in Colorado, and the many challenges that the San Luis Valley community is facing, this is a timely opportunity for increased water education programs and curriculum there, along with student and community engagement. Thanks to her many years of involvement in the San Luis Valley's water community, as well as her understanding of statewide water issues, Rio de la Vista is well positioned to launch this program. With her active outreach and engagement with other university programs, she also can help us all enhance our shared knowledge and ideas for effective education and collaborative programs.

At the same time, to begin a substantial and lasting program will need support to build and coordinate such a program. In addition to supporting the effort at Adams State in any way that I can, I also welcome the partnership and sharing of ideas between our schools in the mission of providing water education to the students and citizens of Colorado.

Thank you for your consideration. I encourage your support of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center's proposal.

Warm Regards,

Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center at Colorado Mesa University

# WESTERN STATE COLORADO UNIVERSITY

Learning, Elevated.

January 29, 2019

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

Dear Members of the Board,

As the Director of the annual Colorado Water Workshop at Western State Colorado University, I am writing to lend my support for the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center's application to the Colorado Water Plan for their Water Education Initiative at Adams State University. The Director of the Salazar Center, Rio de la Vista, is a long time contributor to the Colorado Water Workshop, serving as a speaker on numerous occasions and on our advisory committee for many years. In that role, I have greatly appreciated her innovative ideas for conference topics, her broad network of contacts in Colorado and beyond, and her interests and knowledge that integrate a range of issues, from water and agriculture, to land management and rural communities—as well as her ability to make critical connections between these fields and how they can all support greater resiliency for Colorado's water future.

It is through her involvement with our conference that I have learned much about the water challenges facing the San Luis Valley community. In that region, as across Colorado, there is a need for quality, engaging water education, to empower and inform the water leaders of the future. The emerging role of the Salazar Center in launching a Water Education Initiative offers this opportunity to Adams State University and to the broader community. We will gladly continue and build upon on our long-standing relationship and aim to assist Adams State in developing water education for that region and to engage in creative interactions and collaborations across state institutions.

I urge your support of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center's proposal to create a new center of water education in a region of the state that can benefit greatly.

Sincerely,

Jeff Sellen Director, Colorado Water Workshop Professor, School of Environment & Sustainability

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