The objectives of the Grand Mesa Water Users Association are to: to conserve and administer member-owned stored water and to distribute it an equitable and economical manner to owners; to keep and record the amount of water stored by each member and to release water from any part of the system to each member; to administer or distribute water to members for irrigation; and to protect and defend member’s water rights. The Association administers water from over 100 privately owned reservoirs on the Grand Mesa which provide more than 28,000 AF for irrigation and water for four municipalities. The Association provides these services for approximately 2,000 users in total.

This grant will help fund phase 1 of a multi-year project, with each phase taking approximately 2 years to complete. Phase 1 would provide improvements to 50 of the Association member’s 100 reservoirs. Specifically, the grant would provide funding to perform digital reservoir capacity surveys, install electronic water level recording instrumentation and transmission equipment, and develop a software system to assist in water distribution efforts. The software would serve multiple purposes including: 1) acting as a database cataloging all information on the reservoirs; 2) providing an interactive map with filling decrees; 3) providing a tool for analyzing priorities; 4) displaying a dashboard of water administration activities; 5) identifying reservoir seep and alert users with alarms; and 6) providing a forecasting tool for predicting future demand and delivery. Combined these improvements would allow the Association to more effectively understand, track and manage its large system of reservoirs to benefit both agricultural and municipal users.

Funding Recommendation: Staff is not recommending funding for this project. The project does not meet the requirements of the Supply and Storage category goal for increasing storage or supply. The application also did not include the required feasibility study for construction projects, and the efficiencies gained under this project appear to be related to operations instead of water conservation.