

Garrett Varra, South Platte Basin Roundtable WSRF Committee Chair

December 1, 2022
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Colorado Water Conservation Board Water Plan Grant application titled "Flow Monitoring at Gold Lake and Left Hand Park"

Dear Nora Flynn,

On behalf of the South Platte Basin Roundtable pleased to write in support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Colorado Water Plan Grant application titled "**Flow Monitoring at Gold Lake and Left Hand Park.**" Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to achieve a healthy and resilient watershed that protects local water rights, improves water administration for beneficial uses such as ecosystem health, and optimizes water management to mitigate climate uncertainty. The South Platte basin Roundtable voted unanimously at it's November meeting to allow the WSRF committee to decide upon support for this project. On November 29th, 2022 the SPBRT WSRF committee unanimously voted to support this project.

Using water efficiently is becoming increasingly important as water demand is increasing in Colorado and beyond. Yet lack of flow measurement throughout the St. Vrain Watershed limits quantitative tracking of water use accountability. This project will improve flow measurement through better stream gauging, measurement devices, and telemetry by installing measurement devices in three new locations in/near the headwaters of Left Hand Creek. This project will also engage adjacent landowners in learning about water management and viewing publically accessible flow data.

Further, the proposed project will implement recommendations outlined directly in the St. Vrain and Left Hand Stream Management Plan to improve water use and management in the St. Vrain Watershed (including Left Hand Creek) through better quantitative tracking of flows. As part of the this project's collaborative approach, the Watershed Center and the Left Hand Ditch Company are partnering to bring diverse expertise to the project from the Left Hand Ditch Company's deep knowledge of the stream and ditch system to the Watershed Center's experience with outreach, grant management, and restoration.

Importantly, for our Roundtable, the proposed project addresses multiple objectives from our Basin Implementation Plan. Better quantitative data about flows is a foundational step in protecting and enhancing the watershed and it also promotes maintaining and improving agriculture. The public outreach component of the project process advance our goals for community outreach and education on water matters within the South Platte watershed.

We encourage CWCB to support this project. We believe feel that the Watershed Center and the Left Hand Ditch Company have done a good job developing a proposal that will result in implementation of a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the CWCB Water Plan, the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, and the St. Vrain Watershed Stream Management Plan.

Sincerely,



Garrett Varra, South Platte Basin Roundtable WSRF Committee Chair