



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Supply Reserve Fund

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Godfrey Ditch Company	
Name of Water Project		
Basin Account Request Subtotal		\$56,000.00
Applicant Cash Match		\$19,000.00
Applicant In-Kind Match		\$0.00
Basin Requests		
Sources of Funding		

Grant Details

Water Project Justification

The Godfrey Ditch (“Godfrey”) is located along the South Platte River, in LaSalle Colorado. Established in 1883, the Godfrey has primarily serviced the agricultural community for the past 140 years and now serves a variety of water users. The ditch has seen everything from severe droughts to large scale flood events, including the 2013 flood which submerged much of the ditch company infrastructure. During this flood event the Godfrey River diversion was completely washed out and has subsequently been replaced. Furthermore, the flood submerged and damaged the company measuring device or flume. The damage coupled with the ageing condition of the infrastructure has resulted in the need to replace the Godfrey flume, which is the subject of this grant request. The Godfrey Ditch Flume Replacement project aligns with The Colorado Water Plan and South Platte and Metro Basin Implementation Plan by supporting continued agriculture, increasing the states administrative efficiency, and helping to maintain a vibrant riparian zone along the South Platte.

According to the South Platte and Metro Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan the basin’s goals are centered around protecting irrigated agriculture which is a key function of the Godfrey Ditch (Basin Implementation Plan, 3). Robust agriculture is a shared vision the Godfrey has with the Colorado Water Plan (Colorado Water Plan, 9). The water delivery in this area has been vital to the agricultural community providing water to multiple centennial farms, in the historic Godfrey Bottoms. From the 1950’s through 2015 the Godfrey Ditch has irrigated a max of 1,261 acres, in 1956, and a minimum of 1,118 acres in 2015. As of 2020, there are approximately 724 irrigated acres. The Colorado Water Plan States “Irrigated agricultural areas and infrastructure supports habitat and provides open space and recreational opportunities. However, agriculture is coming under increasing pressure with population growth and decreasing water supplies. In spite of these pressures, our agricultural economy and culture need to be sustained” (Colorado Water Plan, 192). The Godfrey Ditch Company has maintained the historic use and supported the historic culture of the Godfrey Bottoms while inviting additional water users into the Ditch Company.

While the Colorado Water Plan discusses “irrigation efficiency technologies can reduce water losses on-farm and in ditches that deliver water from rivers and streams to farms” (Colorado Water Plan, 30). The Basin Implementation Plan also sees that “financial resources are needed to maintain or replace irrigation infrastructure” (Basin Implementation Plan, 11). This sentiment of wanting to increase irrigation efficiency but being unable to

support the high cost resonates within the Ditch Company, as the local shareholders are often on strict budgets. Large projects like this increase efficiency but create financial burdens in agricultural operations. While not all Godfrey shareholders are in this current situation- equitable solutions must be sought after to ensure the diversity of water use along the ditch stays intact. “Pragmatic solutions addressing the needs of a variety of water interests” is a major theme not only for the Godfrey but for the South Platte Basin as identified as an overarching theme (Basin Implementation Plan, 24).

The Godfrey Ditch is an influential driver to the working agricultural operations and the rich environment and habitat along the footprint of the ditch. The Godfrey Ditch Company is an example of the Colorado Water Plan’s Technical Highlights in the statement “Working agricultural operations also remain the economic backbone of many of Colorado’s rural communities and provide important ecosystem services, such as open space and wildlife habitat” (Colorado Water Plan, 46). The agricultural lands have also provided a rich environmental habitat within this stretch of the South Platte River and specifically the Godfrey Ditch, as it parallels the river in close proximity. This unique location results in irrigation tail water runoff directly benefiting the adjacent riparian zone, of the South Platte River. Much of which is a natural corridor and sanctuary for local wildlife. Additionally, the recent river diversion replacement project included fish and boater passage for improved recreation and stream connectivity. Replacement of the company flume ensures continued ditch operations, delivering water to agricultural lands that in turn support habitat for local wildlife.

The Godfrey Ditch Flume Replacement project aligns with the second goal of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, to maximize the development of native South Platte Supplies (Basin Implementation Plan, 26). The Godfrey Ditch Company understands that these projects must have a collaborative and multiple purpose for agriculture, industrial, municipal, and environmental interests. The Ditch Company has exemplified this understanding in previous projects including the River Diversion where the company invested and prioritized fish and boater passage. “Pragmatic solutions addressing the needs of a variety of water interests” is a major theme not only for the Godfrey but for the South Platte Basin as identified as an overarching theme of the Basin Implementation Plan (Basin Implementation Plan, 24). The Godfrey Ditch services a variety of water users including augmentation plans, industrial and municipal end users. This in turn supports the continued economic growth of both the metro area and South Platte basin.

The major theme in the South Platte Basin is to continue a leadership role and performance in efficient use and management water (Basin Implementation Plan, 24). Water efficiency is a critical point for the Godfrey Ditch as demonstrated by the Department of Natural Resources in coordination with this project. Efficient use of water is critical for understanding streamflow and diversions along the ditch. Water studies and future planning are critical for not only this point on the South Platte River, but also Colorado as a whole. “Valuable data” is thoroughly addressed throughout the Colorado Water Plan and “sets the stage for shared understanding of risks” for a more “water resilient Colorado” (Colorado Water Plan, 3). The Water Plan later states that there are “gaps in data collection” that hurt informed decision making and if addressed could better inform decisions. (Colorado Water Plan, 151) This project aligns with the need for efficient water use, which requires effective measurement for the viability and administration of the South Platte River.

This grant will help facilitate continued agricultural crop production, industry along the front range, and increased administration efficiencies. The Godfrey Ditch flume replacement project perfectly aligns with the Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado Water Plan.

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Godfrey Ditch Company
Mailing Address: PO Box 129 LaSalle CO 80645

FEIN: 841,251,842

Organization Contact: Dan Gallen
Position/Title: Godfrey Ditch Treasurer
Phone: 303-746-2416

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Grant Management Contact: Dan Gallen
Position/Title: Godfrey Ditch Treasurer
Phone: 303-746-2416

Email: dgallen@auroragov.org

Agency Information

Agency Type	Ditch Company
Current Assessment	\$350.00
Number of Shareholders or Customers	13
Number of Shares	160.00
Number of Taps	
Average Monthly Water Bill	
Annual Water Delivery (acre-feet)	

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Irrigation ditch company

Location of Water Project

Latitude	0.000000
Longitude	0.000000
Lat Long Flag	
Water Source	
Basins	
Counties	
Districts	

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	
Type of Water Project	
Scheduled Start Date - Design	11/4/2023
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	11/4/2023
Description	

Measurable Results

0	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
0	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
0	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
0	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
0	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
0.00	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
\$0	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
0	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
0	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)

0	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
0	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
0	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
No additional measurable results provided	