



EAGLE COUNTY

September 13, 2022

Colorado River Water Conservation District
Community Partnership Program
201 Centennial St., Suite 200
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Board of County Commissioners

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Re: Letter of Support for Basalt Water Conservancy District's Accelerator Grant Application

Dear Colorado River Water Conservation District:

The Eagle County Board of County Commissioners ("BOCC") supports the Basalt Water Conservancy District's ("BWCD") application to the Colorado River Water Conservation District ("CRWCD") for a Community Partnership Program Accelerator Grant.

The Accelerator Grant will help BWCD study and determine the benefits, costs, and feasibility of a pump and pipeline beginning near the confluence of the Roaring Fork River and Cattle Creek up to a point on Cattle Creek. This Feasibility Study will evaluate multi-use benefits of the proposed Project, including the development of water resources, improved or increased agricultural production, increased flows for stream health, improved water quality, drought resistance, etc. The Accelerator Grant will fund the Feasibility Study and assist with developing an appropriate and competitive U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant application (and/or other applicable grants).

Currently, Cattle Creek is over-appropriated: the limited amount of legal and physical water in the creek depresses agricultural production and constrains other land uses. The study will provide invaluable data regarding stream health, agricultural production, the potential for land development, and the necessity of drought mitigation. The study meets Eagle County's strategic priorities of protecting our mountain ecosystems and creating a resilient economy.

We encourage the Community Partnership Program to fund this Accelerator Grant and Feasibility Study. The study is emblematic of the efforts that need to be taken to assist Eagle County, and the greater Western Slope, in making informed water management decisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McQueeney
Chair

Kathy Chandler-Henry
Commissioner

Matt Scherr
Commissioner