

SOUTHWEST BASINS ROUNDTABLE

Michael Preston, Chair
c/o Dolores Water Conservancy District
P.O. Box 1150
Cortez, Colorado 81321
970-565-7562

October 29, 2018

Chris Sturm, Watershed Restoration Program
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Animas River Removal and Replacement of Invasive Phreatophytes, Phase II

Dear Chris,

This letter is in support of the Animas River Removal and Replacement of Invasive Phreatophytes, Phase II submitted by Mountain Studies Institute to the Watershed Restoration Program.

The proposed project was reviewed by the Southwest Basin Roundtable on April 11, 2018 and the Roundtable authorized this letter of support. This project addresses and contributes to the Measurable Outcomes of the following goals identified in the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan:

- **A5 Maintain watershed health** by protecting and/or restoring watersheds that could affect critical infrastructure and/or environmental and recreational areas.
- **D1 Maintain, protect and enhance recreational values and economic values** to local and statewide economies derived from recreational water uses, such as fishing, boating, hunting, wildlife watching, camping, and hiking.
- **E1 Encourage and support restoration, recovery, and sustainability** of endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic and riparian dependent species and plant communities.
- **E2 Protect, maintain, monitor and improve the condition and natural function** of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries, and to support native species and functional habitat in the long term, and adapt to changing condition.

The Southwest Basin Roundtable has consistently supported phreatophyte removal and replacement projects and is encouraged by the progress that has been made in the Basin. Please give this application your favorable consideration. You can contact me at 970-565-7562, mpreston@frontier.net, if you have questions or wish to discuss this application in more detail.

Sincerely,



Michael Preston, Chair
Southwest Basin Roundtable