

SOUTHWEST BASINS ROUNDTABLE

Michael Preston, Chair

c/o Dolores Water Conservancy District

P.O. Box 1150

Cortez, Colorado 81321

970-565-7562

January 27, 2020

Chris Sturm and Ben Wade

Colorado Water Conservation Board

1580 Logan Street, Suite 600

Denver, Colorado 80203

SUBJECT: SWBRT Letter of Support, Mountain Studies Institute, Animas River Community Forum

Dear Chris and Ben,

I am writing in support of Mountain Studies Institute's application for funding to support the Animas River Community Forum. The proposed project was discussed at the January 15, 2020 Roundtable and I was authorized to provide this letter of Roundtable support. A quorum of Roundtable members was present.

The Animas River Community Forum (ARCF) is a community group that formed in the Animas River Watershed in response to the Gold King Mine (GKM) spill incident of August 5, 2015. Since its inception, the Forum's purpose has been to promote communication, coordination and collaborative action; foster knowledge, education, and robust communication; support resiliency in our communities; and enhance planning to improve public safety and health, all while respecting the institutional authorities and decisions of governmental and community organizations. Since the 416 Fire, the Forum has brought stakeholders together to create a draft *416 Fire Recovery and Response Action Plan*.

The work of the ARCF supports goals within Colorado's Water Plan in Sections 6.2 and 9.5, related to public outreach, engagement, and education, as well as promoting health and stewardship of water resources.

This project meets the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan's (BIP) Goal A4: "Promote dialogue, foster cooperation and resolve conflict among water interests in every basin and between basins for the purpose of implementing solutions to Southwest Colorado's and Colorado's water supply challenges (SWSI 2010)" by supporting a collaborative approach to dialogue regarding the Animas River. Stakeholders that attend ARCF meetings and workshops engage on multiple topics regarding municipal water use, land management implication for water quality, agricultural practices and irrigation, and impacts of drought. These conversations serve to foster an informed public.

The ARCF also contributes to the Southwest Basin Roundtable's Education Action Plan priority to provide water education for constituents in the region (Southwest Basin's Public Education, Participation, and Outreach Implementation Plan).

Please feel free to contact me at 970-739-4181, or mpreston@frontier.net, if you have questions or wish to discuss this application in more detail.

Sincerely,



Michael Preston, Chair
Southwest Basin Roundtable