



MEMORANDUM

OCTOBER 5, 2017

TO: ERIC KUHN, GENERAL MANAGER
CC: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: DAVE KANZER, P.E., DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER
SUBJECT: 2017-18, 2018-19, AND 2019-20 WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

Staff requests Board action to authorize the General Manager to renew all pertinent contracts with cost share cooperators and selected contractors to enable the River District to act as the Fiscal Agent and administrator for the Central Colorado Mountain River Basin Weather Modification Program for the next three years: 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20. The total amount of funding to be managed for this project is estimated to be approximately \$280,000 per year. This includes \$25,000 per year direct contribution by the River District.

All contracting documents are subject to review and approval by the General Manager and General Counsel and relevant agreements will be subject to a 3% management fee and are subject to annual budgeting and appropriations and contingent upon receipt of sufficient cost-share partner funding.

Background

Beginning last year, the River District assumed the active management of the Central Colorado Mountain River Basin Weather Modification Program (hereafter referred to as the “CCMRB Program”) on behalf of 7 principal cost share partners, including the Front Range Water Council (FRWC), several ski areas, the CWCB (with funding from Lower Colorado River Basin contributors). Prior to that and since 2012, the River District had only participated as a financial contributor at \$25,000 per year.

The CCMRB Program partners have again requested that the Colorado River District assume the administration and fiscal management of the program. To do so, the River District will collect funds pursuant to a multi-partner cost-share agreement and will disburse payments to contractors to perform cloud-seeding activities. To perform the winter cloud seeding, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, the River District will hire and manage subcontractors (Western Weather Consultants, North American Weather Consultants, others) to meet the objective of snowpack augmentation. Additionally, it is anticipated that Maria Pastore (sole proprietor) will continue to act as an additional contracted project manager, directly managing, and overseeing the contractors and disseminating and facilitating information to, and from, contributing partners to ensure the objectives of the CCMRB Program are being met.

The Colorado Water Conservation Board is a significant funding partner for the CCMRB Program and several other related cloud-seeding, snowpack augmentation programs throughout Colorado; they are also the delegated authority that grants and administers the CCMRB 5-year permit (currently undergoing renewal). It is important to note that much of the CWCB cloud-seeding funds comes from contributions from Lower Basin states that are interested in augmenting Colorado River snowpack for the purpose of increasing water availability or ‘system water’ with hopes that it increases Lake Powell inflows. Such augmentation is part of the Upper Colorado River basin “Drought Contingency Plan” or DCP. However, under state law, this ‘system water’ has no specific owner and is available for diversion and/or appropriation.

Additionally, outside funding is provided for the CCMRB Program (*i.e.*, Vail Resorts contributions) that is not be collected or managed by the River District. These funds are expended directly to the CCMRB Program contractors to support cloud seeding that directly influence their recreational properties, but which contribute additional basin runoff.