



MEMORANDUM

DECEMBER 28, 2018

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CC: ANDY MUELLER, GENERAL MANAGER
FROM: DAVE 'DK' KANZER, P.E., DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER DK
SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION REQUEST: USGS JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR 2019

***ACTION:** Request delegated authority to the General Manager to enter into a joint funding agreement ("JFA") with the USGS, subject to review by legal counsel, to engage in cooperative water gauging and sampling activities in 2019. The water quality and quantity monitoring activities as defined in the USGS JFA would commit the River District to \$529,292, as reflected in the adopted 2019 budget. Delegated authority is also requested for the General Manager to enter into agreements, subject to review by legal counsel, with cooperating partners for reimbursement of some of the USGS gauging and sampling activities, estimated to be a total of \$100,000.*

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S):

- 2. A. The River District will increase its outreach efforts with water organizations and other local organizations in the Gunnison, White and Yampa River basins. The goal will be to use River District resources to help those basins address their consumptive and non-consumptive water needs.*
- 3. C. The River District will engage in and support water supply planning efforts, local and regional, which include adapting to climate change impacts.*
- 7. A. The River District will work proactively with District constituents and basin roundtables to better quantify and refine both the consumptive and non-consumptive water needs, in amount, location and timing, throughout the District, including projected needs that may result from climate change.*
- 7. C. The River District will look for opportunities where its efforts are needed as a catalyst to help in-District interests plan for and meet their water needs in a manner that is consistent with the District's compact contingency planning goals and objectives.*
- 10. A. The River District will proactively convene and facilitate, as needed, local stakeholder groups to address local and regional water quality concerns to protect against regulatory actions.*

Background

The Colorado River District has been cooperating with the USGS to collect, analyze and publish water quality and quantity data across the River District for almost 30 years. The data products generated by the USGS are highly valued by water resource managers and water users across the basin country because they are subject to rigorous, quality-controlled, unbiased, state-of-the-science protocols.

The USGS cooperative water program continues to be the largest program that the USGS administers in the State of Colorado and it represents the largest single River District budget item, programmed to be \$529,292 in 2019 calendar year (this includes stream gaging, water quality sampling and monitoring).

These cooperatively-funded monitoring and assessment activities are detailed in annual Joint Funding Agreements (JFAs) that specify the cost, frequency, location, parameters collected, and technologies employed. The JFAs also summarize the cost-sharing details and funding commitments of the River District, the USGS and other contributing partners.

The cooperative monitoring programs are designed to not only meet specific River District objectives, but to also aid constituent groups (*e.g.*, conservancy districts, watershed groups and local governments) understand and manage their water resources. All of the major tributary sub-basins in the Colorado River District have active groups that cooperate to increase efficiency and reduce redundancy in water resource data collection efforts.

For example, the River District staff works directly with groups in the Upper and Lower Gunnison, the middle Colorado River, the Roaring Fork, the Eagle, the White and the Yampa River Basins to optimize and to leverage USGS monitoring in these areas. Such coordination efforts have resulted in significant contributions from these interested stakeholder group participants. These partnerships total approximately \$100,000 in 2019. Going forward, it is anticipated that River District expenses associated with the USGS JFAs will continue to be offset by direct partner contributions via cooperative agreements.

Proposed 2019 USGS Joint Funding Agreement Details

For 2019, the USGS provides \$229,000 of cost-share, approximately one third of the annual total program expenditures of \$758,000. Of the customer costs of \$529,000, the contributing partners provide approximately 20% of the total customer cost share (\$100,000) with the River District's enterprise and general funds picking up the balance of \$429,000; this represents about 57% of the annual program costs. The financial details and specific monitoring and assessment activity details are reflected in the 2019 JFA and associated program spreadsheet tables; this information is available for review upon request.