



Colorado River District

Protecting Western Colorado Water Since 1937

MEMORANDUM

February 28, 2019

TO: CRWCD Board of Directors

FROM: Michael Eytel, Senior Water Resources Specialist *ME*

Subject: Fiscal Agency for Wild & Scenic USGS Flushing Flow Study

ACTION: Staff requests the Board authorize the River District to act as the fiscal agent for the CWCB funding and to authorize the General Manager to execute the Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Society for the Wild & Scenic Flushing Flow Study.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES: *1. Outreach and Advocacy*
4. Colorado River Supplies
10. Water Quality.

Summary

In 2018, the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group (SG) issued a request for proposals to identify the magnitude, duration, and frequency of flushing flows for recreational fishing in the Colorado River from below Gore Canyon to Dotsero (“Study Area”). Flushing flows are stream flows that move gravel-sized and finer sediment in riffles to help maintain spawning habitat for fish production. The SG Alternative Management Plan provisionally defined the flushing flow as “a daily average flow of at least 2,000 cubic feet per second (ft³/s) maintained for three consecutive days with a frequency of occurrence once in two years on average.” The SG would like to study the adequacy of this provisional flushing flow.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) proposes to evaluate the adequacy of flushing flows in the Study Area using in-situ monitoring techniques. The USGS maintains three stream gages in the Study Area and is uniquely positioned to monitor bedload movement as a function of discharge. The timing and duration of bedload movement will be determined using hydrophones to continuously record bedload movement in two riffles within the study area.

In 2009, the Colorado General Assembly created the Wild and Scenic Rivers Fund CRS 37-60-122.3 to foster cooperative and collaborative processes aimed at the development of protections for river-dependent outstandingly remarkable values (“ORVs”). The Wild & Scenic SG requests the River District to be fiscal agent for the USGS Flushing Flow Study. As the Fiscal Agent, the River District would receive a Purchase Order in the amount of \$99,976 from the CWCB and be

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responsible for contracting with the USGS, through a Joint Funding Agreement (“JFA”), to conduct the study. These efforts will require minimal time from accounting and technical staff. Staff recommends 2.67% administration fee to offset related staff costs. Acting as fiscal agent for the Wild & Scenic USGS Flushing Flow Study is a continuation of ongoing River District support for the Wild & Scenic effort.