AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Ratification of Correspondence; Christopher Caskey

Action Requested:

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

Please see the attached letters

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Josh Ost **Submitter's Email Address:** jost@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ○

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 4/20/2018

◉ Consent Agenda ○ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 0

Agenda Date: 5/1/2018

Revised April 2015

Gunnison County
COLORADO

Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners
Phone: (970) 641–0248 • Fax: (970) 641–3061
Email: bocc@gunnisoncounty.org • www.GunnisonCounty.org

Christopher Caskey
Delta Brick & Climate Company
1732 Wazee Street #206
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Christopher Caskey,

Gunnison County is a high-elevation county in western Colorado containing the headwaters of several significant river systems. As such, watershed health in our county has enormous impact on water users in Gunnison County and downstream. Northwest Gunnison County is the watershed of the North Fork of the Gunnison River, an important stream supporting wildlife, recreation, towns, ranches, farms, orchards, and vineyards. Much of the North Forks' flow is mediated by Paonia Dam and Reservoir, which is at the end of its planned life as it fills with fine, clay-like sediment. The resilience of our water system is threatened by this sedimentation, which reduces storage capacity and requires sediment flushing in ways that impact the downstream environment. We are therefore interested in solutions that will mitigate reservoir siltation.

This North Fork area is also a location of a number of different coal mines --active, inactive, and abandoned—which vent significant amounts of methane as waste. To facilitate stakeholder dialogue, Gunnison and Delta counties convened the North Fork Coal Mine Methane Working Group whose stated mission is "the support of the coal mines and surrounding communities in the North Fork Valley through the development of a comprehensive strategy for education, capture, exploration of mitigation, and economic utilization of coal mine methane."

We appreciate your work on developing a potential solution to both these challenges by using heat from burning methane to fire ceramics (such as brick, tile, and pots) from Paonia Reservoir clay. We support your proposal to further study such utilization, as there are engineering, market, stakeholder acceptance, and environmental questions outstanding. Successful utilization would bring many positive impacts including increased water supply resilience, improved recreation opportunities in Paonia State Park and the river system downstream, mitigation of the climate impact of methane venting, and job creation. Please keep us informed of your progress and we would be happy to continue to offer our perspective and introductions as appropriate.

Sincerely,

Phil Chamberland, Chairperson | Jonathan Houck, Commissioner | John Messner, Commissioner

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Jake Hartter & Christopher Caskey
Western Slope Conservation Center
204 Poplar Ave
PO Box 1612
Paonia, CO 81428

Dear Chris & Jake,

We support your proposal to the Healthy Rivers Fund.

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