AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Correspondence; Letter of Support for the Endanger

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

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

Summary:

Letter of Support to add Crystal Mill to Endangered Places by Colorado Preservation Inc

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Laura Stanley for David Baumgarten **Submitter's Email Address:** lstanley@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ◉ Required ○ Not Required

Comments:
ok db 8/1/18

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: 8/1/2018 Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ◉

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 8/2/2018

○ Consent Agenda ◉ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 5

Agenda Date: 8/7/2018

Revised April 2015

August 7, 2018

Colorado Preservation, Inc.
1420 Ogden Street, Suite 104
Denver, Colorado 80212

Attention: Kim Grant
kgrant@coloradopreservation.org

Re: Letter of Support for Endangered Places Application; The Crystal Mill

Greetings:

The Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County is the local government of general jurisdiction for Gunnison County, Colorado, which includes the Crystal River Valley.

Our County—and the Crystal River Valley—contains, on private property, the Crystal Mill, historically known as the Sheep Mountain Mill; the Crystal Mill is significant as one of the most beautiful, picturesque, and, reputed to be, the most photographed historic building site in Colorado State.

It is both our privilege and our responsibility to provide this letter of support to place the Crystal Mill and associated land on the State's list of Endangered Places.

The Mill, constructed in 1893, harnessed the river adjacent to the mill to power the air compressor housed inside. Early engineers had built a dam across the river, which funneled water down the vertical penstock (the ladder-like structure) onto a horizontal wheel, which drove an axle in the penstock. The penstock powered the air compressor. In turn, the enormous compressor ran drills in the nearby Sheep Mountain and Bear Mountain mines. The drills were used to bore holes in the mine walls for the placement of dynamite. Once the dynamite was detonated, the miners removed the ore. The Mill closed its operations in 1917. Continuing efforts to preserve it have been aided by Gunnison County and Aspen Historical Societies, residents of Crystal and Marble, interested individuals, and the owners of the property—all caught by the spectacle of the old Mill.

The historic building, and its location in the Crystal River Valley, uniquely illuminate the heritage of Colorado's roots in different ethnic peoples, mineral extraction, transportation intrigues and colorful individuals—all against a background of the rugged Elk Mountains and magnificent panorama.

One need only quickly review "Marble—A Town Built On Dreams," Oscar McCollum Jr., Sundance Publications (1993) to become apprised of the rich and thorough documentation of the historic, educational, economic, and social value of the Crystal Mill and site. Placing the

Crystal Mill on the state's list of Endangered Places would provide not only the opportunity to help a family's and a community's efforts to preserve this heritage, but also foster a private-public partnership to continue the opportunity for the public to safely view, enjoy and become educated by this fragile site.

The Board of County Commissioners strongly urges approval of this application, and will make itself and County staff available to you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

_____	_____	_____
Phil Chamberland, Chairperson	Jonathan Houck, Vice Chair	John Messner, Commissioner