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November 22, 2022

Attn: Amy Moyer, Community Funding Partnership
Colorado River Water Conservation District
201 Centennial St., Suite 200
Glenwood Springs, CO81601

RE: Community Funding Partnership Support Letter: Enhancing Soil Moisture Observations to Support Water Resource Management in the Upper Yampa River Basin

The Routt County Board of County Commissioners hereby formally supports Yampa Valley Sustainability Council and Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes' proposal to the Colorado River Water Conservation District's Community Funding Partnership for the project, "Enhancing Soil Moisture Observations to Support Water Resource Management in the Upper Yampa River Basin".

This project would help enable Routt County to more accurately understand and make informed decisions about our water resources. For example, it is critical that we have accurate information to support decisions related to new residential development in designated growth areas and for our agricultural economy to thrive.

In 2021, the County adopted a Climate Action Plan which states that the County is experiencing increased drought, extreme heat, flooding, wildfires, and shifts in seasonal weather patterns. These changes are already impacting agriculture, snowpack, air and water quality, water supply and watershed health in Routt County.

Routt County also recently adopted the 2022 Routt County Master Plan which further recognizes the water resource challenges posed by a changing climate in the County, and the importance of better understanding and monitoring changes to our water resources. Specifically the plan mentions, "new and emergent watershed monitoring infrastructure (e.g. SNOTEL, soil moisture, streamflow, etc.) present opportunities to better understand how water resources are changing due to climate change and increased temperature."

We feel this project aligns well with objectives in both plans and will benefit Routt County. Therefore, we encourage you to approve funding for the "Enhancing Soil Moisture Observations to Support Water Resource Management in the Upper Yampa River Basin" proposal.

Sincerely,
ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

M. Elizabeth Melton, Chair