



WESTERN RESOURCE
ADVOCATES

August 2, 2013

Jim Pokrandt: Chair, Colorado Basin Roundtable
c/o Colorado River Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 1120
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602

Re: Recommendation for SGM to complete the Colorado Basin Roundtable's Basin Implementation Plan

Dear Mr. Pokrandt,

Western Resource Advocates (WRA) is a solution-oriented non-profit conservation organization with 15 years of experience on river and water issues throughout the West. Our team of attorneys, engineers, and policy analysts has found many collaborative ways to improve water management, including on the Colorado River and its major tributaries. WRA staff also has significant experience working on technical aspects of the Statewide Water Supply Initiative, with members of the Inter-Basin Compact Committee, and with various Basin Roundtables, developing proactive approaches for meeting our future water needs while protecting our rivers and the vibrant recreation, environment, and local economies they support.

We enthusiastically recommend Schmueser Gordon Meyer, Inc. (SGM) to complete your Basin Implementation Plan (BIP). We have worked closely with SGM staff and feel they are extremely well-qualified to undertake the research, analysis, facilitation and other duties your BIP will require. They are very familiar with water issues and well-connected throughout the state, especially in the Colorado River Basin. In the past two years, we hired SGM to complete two assessments, to identify top candidates for municipal and agricultural conservation programs. SGM completed each phase in a timely manner and as outlined. They were accountable and responsive to our feedback, provided frequent status updates, and went beyond their budgeted work to ensure delivery of a superb end product. Their work reflects a nuanced understanding of Colorado water law and water management as well as access to key staff and leaders in many West Slope communities. They were able to sort and prioritize robust quantitative data with qualitative metrics to generate clear, concise, and powerful reports.

We believe SGM can provide the Colorado Basin Roundtable a BIP it can be proud of, and one that will stand the test of time with useful information and insights that state agencies, water managers, and the general public can understand and work with for years to come.

Sincerely,

Bart Miller, Water Program Director
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