

DENVER BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: April 10, 2013

Board Item: V-A- 16

2013 Assessment to the South Platte Water Related Activities Program, Inc. in Support of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program

Contract # 14186A

Action by Consent

Action

Information

On September 27, 2006, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne signed the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program ("Program"). The governors of the states of Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska signed the document on January 1, 2007, initiating the official start of the Program. The Program is designed to allow existing and future water use to continue in a way that protects the endangered species. If the Program is not successful, existing water uses can be negatively impacted and the federal permitting of water supply projects in the Platte River basin will become much more difficult.

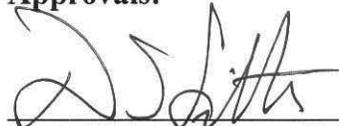
The South Platte Water Related Activities Program, Inc. ("SPWRAP") is a Colorado nonprofit corporation established by Colorado water users for the purpose of representing water users' interests in the Program. A Colorado water user must become a member in SPWRAP and pay the annual assessment to obtain the regulatory benefits provided by the Program. The funds generated by annual assessments are used to help the state meet its obligations under the Program. As long as the state meets its Program obligations, members of SPWRAP are protected.

Assessment rates in SWRAP have remained unchanged since 2010. Denver Water was assessed and paid \$410,185 to SPWRAP in 2012. Staff included \$420,000 in the 2013 budget under CCCN 305, MPC 4AR0022, TOE 5080 to pay Denver's 2013 annual assessment. It is anticipated that Denver's assessment will be similar for the remaining six years of the first increment of the Program so the 10-year Capital Plan reflects this anticipated ongoing expense.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board approve the payment of \$411,314.40 for Denver Water's 2013 assessment to SPWRAP.

Approvals:



Dave Little, Director of Planning

Respectfully submitted,



James S. Lochhead
CEO/Manager