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March 27, 2020

Mr. Rick Garcia
Executive Director
Department of Local Affairs
1313 Sherman Street, #521
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Garcia:

The Sonoran Institute is writing in support of the Pueblo Regional Comprehensive Plan grant proposal submitted to the DOLA Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF).

The City of Pueblo, Pueblo County, and Pueblo Water formed a team to attend our 3-day Growing Water Smart workshop in September 2019. During this workshop the team outlined their objectives and strategies for resilient, water-smart development.

The region desires to develop a first-ever water element within the Pueblo Regional Comprehensive Plan that establishes a vision for the strategic uses of their water resources to meet the goals and objectives of retaining and enhancing their quality of life, continuing efforts to enhance ecosystem health, economic growth and sustainability, water conservation, and public health.

We intend to support the Pueblo region in carrying out this important endeavor. Pending award of this EIAF grant and pending Sonoran Institute award of a Colorado Water Plan Grant for FY2021, Sonoran Institute intends to grant Pueblo County \$10,000 in Technical Assistance funds to contribute toward the establishment of a water element in the Comprehensive Plan.

The integration of a water element into a region's comprehensive plan is a strong step towards achieving the goals outlined in the Colorado Water Plan, and Sonoran Institute supports this and other similar endeavors across Colorado.

Respectfully,

Waverly Klaw

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