



# UPPER CLEAR CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 3058  
Idaho Springs, CO 80452

November 16, 2023

Metro Basin Roundtable and Colorado Water Conservation Board

**RE: Letter of Support for the 2023 Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership WSRF Grant Application**

Dear Ms. Darling,

The Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association (UCCWA) is deeply interested in any efforts to reduce wildfire risk. UCCWA is designated under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act as the management agency responsible for reviewing proposed actions that may impact water quality in the watershed. Our membership includes municipalities, counties, dischargers, and related entities located in the upper Clear Creek watershed, primarily in Clear Creek and Gilpin counties.

Clear Creek is a center stone for our community. Our membership is acutely aware of the risks in the watershed including water quality degradation from historic mining operations, sediment and chemicals from major roadway operations, potential catastrophic wildfires and post-fire impacts, and other water quality and quantity stressors from drought and climate change. UCCWA supports any efforts to reduce those risks. We believe the best way to protect our source water is through collaborative efforts, and specifically through the Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership, which we view as an implementation arm for water quality improvement and protection projects in our watershed.

The Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership is a needed watershed coalition in the basin and UCCWA is committed to supporting the organization to ensure stakeholders are working with the most recent data and continuing to make science-based, data-driven decisions on how to prioritize restoration and mitigation work.

UCCWA was one of the primary financial contributors to the Upper Clear Creek Pre-Wildfire Planning Study completed by Matrix Design Group in 2021. It is especially critical to integrate into this study newly acquired alluvial fan and debris flow mapping from the Colorado Geological Survey for Gilpin County and Clear Creek County. UCCWA also wants to support the Clear Creek Partnership as it transitions from a stage of planning into implementation by investing in project tracking capabilities. The project map on the [clearcreekpartnership.org](http://clearcreekpartnership.org) website is a critical education and engagement tool to use in stakeholder discussions in addition to its functionality as a project tracking database for the Clear Creek watershed.

Sincerely,

*Bradford R. Benning*

Bradford Benning, Esq.  
UCCWA, Chair