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June 17, 2024

To: Grand Valley River Corridor Initiative Core Team

From: City of Fruita City Council

Re: River Corridor Master Planning Letter of Support

The Grand Valley River Corridor Initiative (RCI) is a community-driven initiative focused on supporting and maintaining a healthy river corridor (Colorado and Gunnison Rivers in Mesa County) and the associated needs, uses, and values for today and future generations. The RCI was formed as a coalition of interested parties in 2020 to address the acute need for enhanced coordination, planning, and collaboration on river corridor-related activities. A Core Team leads the RCI with representatives from RiversEdge West, Colorado Mesa University, One Riverfront, and American Rivers.

The RCI Core Team hosted three multi-jurisdictional planning workshops in Grand Junction on November 7th, 2023, February 6th, 2024, and May 8th, 2024, to convene planners and professionals from Mesa County, Fruita, Grand Junction, and Palisade (Grand Valley local jurisdictions) to discuss the future of the Grand Valley River Corridor, craft a shared vision for the River Corridor, and discuss planning strategies to support the development of an inter-jurisdictional river corridor planning framework. Representatives from all four jurisdictions agreed to bring the question of pursuing a collaborative planning process for the river corridor to each of their elected bodies and moving forward with a multi-jurisdictional River Corridor Master Plan.

The following RCI vision statement was drafted by all parties to reflect the shared values of communities throughout the Grand Valley: *"The communities of the Grand Valley are committed to a data-driven approach to steward a resilient, vibrant, and healthy river corridor that supports the values of agriculture, habitat and wildlife, recreation, economic growth, and sustainable development benefiting today's and future generations."*

With this letter of support, the City of Fruita City Council recognizes and acknowledges that:

- The Grand River Valley Corridor holds significant ecological, recreational, and economic value for the communities of Mesa County, Grand Junction, Palisade, and Fruita;
- The state of the river has been changing in recent years with more recreation and development along the river; and,
- Coordinated planning and management of the Grand River Valley Corridor is essential to preserving its natural beauty, enhancing recreational opportunities, and fostering sustainable development.

We agree to collaborate with RCI and its Core Team and pledge our support in the development and implementation of a comprehensive Grand Valley River Corridor Master Plan with the other Grand Valley local jurisdictions. Furthermore, we agree to support RCI and its Core Team in facilitating and identifying necessary funding and cost-share models to hire a contractor to facilitate the collaborative creation of a River Corridor Master Plan.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2024.

City of Fruita
Mayor Matthew Breman