



October 2, 2024

Maria Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Subject: Support for the Town of Minturn's Water Treatment Modernization Initiative

Dear Commissioner Calimlim Touton,

On behalf of the Minturn Community Fund, I write to express our strong support for the Town of Minturn's "*Water Treatment Modernization Initiative*," which is seeking U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART Drought Resiliency funding. With USBR support, the Town will modernize its 60+ year-old water treatment facility by building a new plant with membrane filtration and associated water utility improvements. This facility is critical to meeting the Town's current and future water needs and increasing the reliability of water supplies for this small, rural community.

The Minturn Community Fund (MCF) is a non-profit organization that was founded over 20 years ago and exists to connect the people, enhance the lives, and preserve the culture of Minturn. We have partnered with the Town since our inception and value the many collaborative projects, programs, and initiatives we have tackled together. The MCF supports this *Water Treatment Modernization Initiative* because improvements to the WTP are essential to improving water infrastructure and reliability to protect the well-being of Minturn residents. Without federal funding support, the high cost of modernizing Minturn's water infrastructure will put a significant strain on our neighbors, with homeowners facing a monthly rate increase of more than \$115. Keeping Minturn an affordable place to reside and raise a family is a vital piece of "enhancing the lives" of our community.

Thank you for considering the Town of Minturn's *Water Treatment Modernization Initiative*. On behalf of the entire MCF Board, please give Minturn's application the highest consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you wish to discuss this further.
Sincerely,

Diana Scherr, President of the Board
970-376-4445 cell