

Sandra Farrell, C.P.A.

Chief Operating Officer
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October 4, 2024

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

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

Dear Commissioner Calimlim Touton,

On behalf of the Eagle County School District RE50J, I write to express our strong support for the Town of Minturn's "Minturn 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.

Eagle County School District (ECSD) provides PK-12 public education to approximately 6,500 children in Eagle County. This includes Vail Ski and Snowboard Academy (VSSA) located in Maloit Park, Minturn and currently has over two-hundred students attending it. VSSA is a unique public school that allows serious winter sports athletes the opportunity of training and competition in their sport at Ski and Snowboard Club Vail (SSCV) in a challenging, college-preparatory academic environment. Maloit Park, which features 10 kilometers of Nordic trails, is built and maintained by SSCV. First opened in 2011, the SSCV Nordic Center has quickly become the setting for world-class training and competition as a FIS-homologated site that has played host to numerous high-level events, such as NCAA Regionals. The trails also provide a great venue for the community to enjoy the outdoor sports of Nordic skiing and snowshoeing. Other outdoor activities occur year-round on the multiple trails and throughout the open space.

ECSD supports the Minturn's Water Treatment Modernization Initiative. Maloit Park has a small ECSD mobile home park that currently provides housing opportunities for sixteen families. The district is also moving forward with housing development that will provide an additional 120 housing units for teachers and district employees over the next few years. Having access to safe drinking water for residents is a priority. The concern about the capacity to meet future development exists for the district even though these 120 units were secured prior to the moratorium. ECSD is relying on these homes to be affordable to help attract and retain staff. The fear of having significant rate increases will impact the affordability of these units. The financial impact to improve the water treatment plant is very significant so any additional resources accessible to the Town of Minturn will be beneficial to current and future residents.

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Thank you for considering the Minturn Water Treatment Plan Modernization Initiative. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you wish to discuss this. We also thank you for considering the Town of Minturn's funding request.

Regards

Sandra Farrell

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Eagle County School District

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