



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 Eagle River Fire Protection District, 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.

The Eagle River Fire Protection District supports Minturn's Water Treatment Plant Modernization project for the following reasons:

1. **Enhanced Fire Safety:** Modernizing the water treatment plant ensures a reliable water supply, crucial for firefighting operations, especially in emergencies. Our region is seeing fires that burn hotter and faster, and the greatest change in that regard is occurring in areas above 8,000 feet.
2. **Improved Water Quality:** Upgrading the plant will enhance the quality of water available to residents, reducing health risks and ensuring safe drinking water.
3. **Infrastructure Reliability:** The current plant, built in the 1960s, is outdated. Modernization will prevent potential failures and ensure consistent water service.
4. **Economic Benefits:** A modern water treatment facility can attract new businesses and residents, boost the local economy, and provide financial stability.

5. Environmental Protection: Upgrading to more efficient technology will reduce environmental impact, ensuring sustainable water management practices.

Thank you for considering the *Minturn Water Treatment Modernization Initiative Project*. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Karl Bauer', with a stylized, overlapping loop structure.

Karl Bauer, Fire Chief  
M.S., CFO, EFO