

Left Hand Ditch Company  
P.O. Box 229  
Niwot, Colorado 80544

September 8, 2022

Saint Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District  
1715 Ironhorse Dr; Suite 250  
Longmont, CO 80501

Dear St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District Board of Directors,

Thank you for the opportunity to request funding from the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (“the District”). The Left Hand Ditch Company (LHDC) appreciates the District’s previous support of the LHDC. This new project, titled “**Flow Monitoring at Gold Lake and Left Hand Park**” will enable the LHDC to purchase and install five additional water measurement data loggers and associated telemetry at Left Hand Park Reservoir and Gold Lake Reservoir.

### **Project Description**

Using water efficiently is becoming increasingly important as water demand is increasing in Colorado and beyond. Water is needed for a variety of beneficial uses including support of the basin’s ecological attributes. Yet lack of flow measurement throughout the basin limits quantitative tracking of water use accountability. One way to improve quantitative tracking of water use accountability is through better stream gauging, measurement devices, and telemetry. These devices record flow and provide quantitative data about the amount of water available in ditch and stream systems that can be allocated and ultimately delivered for beneficial uses. The LHDC proposes to install measurement devices in five new locations to improve quantitative tracking of water flowing into ditch canals. Devices include:

- Gold Lake Reservoir: Flow measurement at inlet, flow measurement at two outlets, and lake level measurement.
- Left Hand Park Reservoir: Flow measurement at outlet and lake level.

This project aligns with the District’s funding criteria because it provides quantitative information about water flow in the basin. This information is needed for tracking water use accountability to protect local water rights, improving water administration for beneficial uses, and optimizing water management to mitigate climate uncertainty. The project timeline is one year with work planned to occur during mid to late summer. Project planning, management, and oversight will be provided by the LHDC.

### **Description of Organization**

The history of the LHDC dates back to the 1800s when farmers settled in the lower parts of the Left Hand Creek Watershed and began diverting water from the creek to grow crops in the semi-arid environment. In 1860, farmers constructed one of the first trans-basin diversions in Colorado, the South St. Vrain Diversion. This diversion conveys water through a constructed dam, gates, and ditch from the neighboring South St. Vrain Creek (headwaters at Lake Isabelle) into Left Hand Creek via James Creek. The LHDC was officially formed in 1866 and today provides water for more than 500 shareholders (168,000 shares) to irrigate up to 30,000 acres, as well as provide raw water for the Left Hand Water District. The LHDC is governed by a Board of Directors which includes: John Schlagel, President; Joel Schaap, Vice president; Steve Meyrich, Secretary; Corey Heil, Treasurer; and Ron Sutherland, Director. The LHDC is ready and able to complete this project based on experience installing 20 similar measurement devices throughout the Left Hand Ditch system.

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### Funding Request and Match

All funds are estimates to be finalized upon receipt of final contract estimates. Cost estimates were provided based on preliminary contractor estimates. Contractor estimates can be provided upon request.

### Project Scope and Budget

Descriptions below include (1) purchase and installation (including minor site grading and restoration) of water measurement data loggers and associated telemetry and (2) project oversight and management by LHDC staff.

Description	Total Cost
Gold Lake Inlet Canal Radar Level	\$ 34,595
Gold Lake Outlet Lake Level and Velocity Sensors	\$ 52,845
Left Hand Park Outlet Lake Level and Velocity Sensors	\$ 40,310
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 127,750</b>

### Funding Request and Match Amount

Total Project Cost	District Funding Request	Match Funding (Total)
\$ 127,750	\$ 60,625	\$ 67,125

Match funding sources include the following:

- CWCB Water Plan Grant: \$ 60,625. Application will be submitted by December 1 with notification of award in January (and Board approval in March). If Water Plan Grant funding is not awarded or is partially awarded the LHDC will pursue alternative grant funding (e.g. CWCB Water Supply Reserve Funding Grant, application due February 1) and/or LHDC cash match.
- In-Kind Funding: \$ 6,500. Provided as staff time by the LHDC based on \$50.00 per hour rate.

### Stakeholder Involvement

The LHDC works directly with many diverse stakeholders throughout the watershed from farmers and ranchers, to water districts and city/county/state/federal government officials (Left Hand Water District, Boulder County, City of Boulder, City of Longmont, U.S. Forest Service), to special interest groups (e.g. Trout Unlimited). The LHDC engages with these stakeholders by sharing information, responding to requests, and collaborating on projects. The LHDC is also one of thirteen voting board members of the Left Hand Watershed Center. Via this role, the LHDCs engages with additional diverse stakeholders such as other landowners, the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership, and Colorado Division of Reclamation and Mine Safety. As a Board Member, the LHDC engages with the broader community by speaking at outreach and education events.

### District Recognition

The LHDC will recognize the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District in several ways, including:

1. Contribution will be highlighted on the LHDC website: <https://lefthandditchcompany.com/Default.aspx>
2. Contribution will be highlighted in the slide presentation at LHDC's annual meetings each February.
3. Any other mutually agreed upon outreach and marketing materials.

Sincerely,

Terry Plummer  
Vice President of Maintenance & Operations, Left Hand Ditch Company