

John W. Suthers
Attorney General

Cynthia H. Coffman
Chief Deputy Attorney General

Daniel D. Domenico Solicitor General

STATE OF COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Natural Resources and Environment Section Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center 1300 Broadway, 7th Floor Denver, Colorado 80203 Phone (720) 508-6000

AGENDA

Colorado Natural Resources Trustees Meeting June 17, 2014, 11:30 am

Call-in information:

x6015 (If dialing from inside AGO) +1(720) 508-6015 (Local dial in) 888-239-0071 (Toll-Free dial in) enter the access code below followed by # key. Participant code: 68297322

- 1. Rocky Mountain Arsenal Foundation Fund Denver's Montbello Project (David Banas, Susan Newton, Ed Perkins)
- 2. West Creek Natural Resources Injury Assessment and Settlement Proposal; Decision Item regarding settlement proposal (David Banas, Susan Newton)
- 3. Rocky Mountain Arsenal Foundation Fund Revised Brighton Eagle Preserve Proposal (David Banas, Susan Newton, Ed Perkins, Gary Wardle)

Executive Session

- 4. Rocky Mountain Arsenal Foundation Fund Denver's Montbello Project
- 5. Rocky Mountain Arsenal Foundation Fund Revised Brighton Eagle Preserve Proposal
- 6. Staff Report to Trustees Regarding RMA Recovery Fund (David Banas, Ed Perkins, Susan Newton)

Open Session

- 7. Decision Item regarding Montbello Project
- 8. Decision Item regarding Brighton Eagle Preserve

ITEM #1

Michael B. Hancock



City and County of Denver

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING
DENVER, COLORADO • 80202-5390
TELEPHONE: 720-865-9000 • FAX: 720-865-8787

TTY/TTD: 720-865-9010

March 14, 2014

Colorado Natural Resource Trustees Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center 1300 Broadway, 10th Flr. Denver, CO 80203

Dear Trustees:

Over seven years ago, I envisioned returning a vacant piece of land in my City Council district to its native prairie state and providing it to the citizens of Montbello who had been injured by the hazards of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Today, we are on the precipice of making that happen thanks to funding from the Natural Resource Damage Fund and our partnership with Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK).

Through our partnership with ELK, the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation has assured that the land is owned by the city and protected into perpetuity. The next step is to create 4.5 acres of native prairie and riparian vegetation, replacing the type and function of habitats that were injured by past Arsenal activities. This landscape could be utilized for open space enjoyment, so all kids and their families, regardless of income or ethnicity, could not only experience Colorado's native ecosystem but actually be a part of that restoration.

As you know, the Montbello community was intended to benefit from the Arsenal settlement and its mission to "restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the natural resources ... that were injured by hazardous substance releases from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal."

Through this project, Montbello residents can be included in the distribution of this funding and begin to see resources returned to the community that was damaged. I encourage your support.

My team looks forward to presenting this model in its entirety at the next trustees meeting to update you on our significant accomplishments to date.

Respectfully,

Michael B. Hancock

Mayor

March 18, 2014

Colorado Natural Resource Trustees Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center 1300 Broadway, 10th Floor Denver, CO 80203

RE: Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Funds - Montbello Open Space

Dear Trustees:

On behalf of the list of individuals below, please find the enclosed letters that have been written to express the collective support for the City of Denver's application for Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) funds for the Montbello Open Space project. We have been aware of this proposal for several years and were pleased when you approved \$500,000 toward purchasing the property in July 2012.

We thank you for your insight in initially approving Denver's Montbello Open Space project application for both Foundation and Recovery Funding and urge you to proceed with final approvals of these funds so that the transformational work promised by this vision can become a reality.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar, Former Interior Secretary and U.S. Senator, WilmerHale, Partner Alan Gilbert, Former Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior Howard Kenison, Linquist & Vennum, Partner David Lucas, Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Senator Lois Tochtrop, State Senator - District 24 Representative Angela Williams, Colorado State Representative District 7 Mayor Sean Ford, Commerce City Councilman Chris Herndon, Denver Council District 11

Councillian Chris Herndon, Denver Council District 1

Happy Haynes, Denver School Board, Chair

Commander Les Perry, Denver Police Department, District 5

George Sparks, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, President and CEO

Dr. Scott Sampson, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, President of Research & Collections and Chief Curator

Brian Vogt, Denver Botanic Gardens, President and CEO

Loretta Pineda, Former ELK Board Member, Colorado Division of Mining Reclamation and Safety, Director

Enclosures

WILMERHALE

Ken Salazar *

March 14, 2014

+1 720 274 3131 (t) +1 720 274 3133 (f) ken.salazar@wilmerhale.com

Colorado Natural Resource Trustees Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center 1300 Broadway, 10th Floor Denver, CO 80203 SECRETARY U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR 2009-2013

U.S. SENATOR REPRESENTING COLORADO 2005-2009

> ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF COLORADO 1999-2004

RE: Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Funds – Montbello Open Space

Dear Trustees:

We are writing to express our collective support for the City of Denver's application for Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) funds for the Montbello Open Space project. All of us have been aware of this proposal for several years and were pleased when you approved \$500,000 toward purchasing the property in July 2012. We understand that a number of questions have been raised as the result of inconsistencies in the original application, but we also understand that those questions have been addressed by Denver and we encourage you to allow it to proceed.

Due to its proximity to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, the Montbello neighborhood was directly impacted by the pollution that took place on the site. Denver's proposal to turn a vacant lot in the heart of this neighborhood into a short grass prairie natural area and outdoor classroom seems to us to be an especially potent use of these Funds. (This project is consistent with the NRD screening criteria: "The project must meet the Trustees' intent to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent natural resources that were injured by hazardous substance release at the site. The project must be located in the vicinity of the site, or demonstrate an ecological nexus to injured site's natural resources (i.e., provide benefit to local ecology or habitat".) Directing NRD funds in support of this effort is an opportunity to take a step toward rectifying the environmental injustice that continues to reverberate today.

Denver has made the wise decision to cultivate strong collaborations on this project with two non-profit organizations with significant, proven track records - The Trust for Public Land and Environmental Learning for Kids. Because the property was privately owned and listed for sale, Denver turned to The Trust for Public Land (TPL) for help in securing it. TPL has a 40 year history nationally, and a 32-year track record in Colorado, of creating parks and protecting land for people. Following your approval of the projects identified by the eligible municipalities in the "Foundation" round, and the award of a Great Outdoors Colorado local government grant to Denver for this project, TPL purchased the property in December 2012 at a discount for

^{*} Admitted only in CO. Not admitted in DC. Practice supervised by members of the firm who are members of the DC bar.

March 14, 2014 Page 2

\$1,113,000. TPL has been incurring about \$40,000/year in transaction and holding costs since then awaiting Denver's purchase.

As a means of ensuring this open space would serve as an effective outdoor classroom and gateway to experiences in nature and stewardship, for over a decade Denver has worked closely with a Montbello based non-profit organization, Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK). ELK has served Denver, Adams, and Arapahoe counties with a core base of service in the Montbello community for 18 years, providing science education, natural resource career exploration, and outdoor experiences to over 163,000 young people and their families. In 2004, ELK began tracking our alumni into college and beyond. As of June 2013, ELK has successfully tracked 71 of our alumni who are currently in, or have graduated from, college. Sixty percent (60%) of these alumni are majoring or working in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) related field. Eighty percent (80%) are people of color and 46% are female.

Although Denver will retain the ultimate responsibility for the maintenance and liability of the site, ELK's involvement in the project will help ensure that the property will be taken care of on a daily basis and for the long term. Research across the country clearly demonstrates that local community engagement in park design, development and stewardship results in dramatically reduced trash, graffiti and vandalism incidents and increased public use and safety.

Lastly, in the summer of 2013, with a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions for Communities grant, TPL (working closely with Denver and ELK) began a master planning effort to guide the restoration and development of the site as a public natural area. The organizations held three public community meetings and six stakeholder meetings to gain input to help guide and inform the planning process. This Master Plan now provides a community-endorsed conceptual blueprint to achieve the project's vision.

In closing, we thank you for your insight in initially approving Denver's Montbello Open Space project application for both Foundation and Recovery Funding and urge you to proceed with final approvals of these funds so that the transformational work promised by this vision can become a reality.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

Former Interior Secretary and U.S. Senator

Partner, WilmerHale

Alan J. Gilbert 1425 Cherryville Road Greenwood Village, CO 80121

March 13, 2014

The Honorable John W. Suthers
Ms. Martha Rudolph
Mr. Robert Randall
Colorado Natural Resource Trustees
Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center
1300 Broadway, 10th Floor
Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: Montbello Open Space Project and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage Funds

Dear General Suthers, Ms. Rudolph and Mr. Randall:

I write to support the City of Denver's application for Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) funds for the Montbello Open Space project. I understand Denver has been working with you on this project since July, 2012. I encourage you to continue to give it your support.

I have followed this proposal closely for several years. I was pleased and grateful when you approved \$500,000 for the purchase of the property in July 2012.

The proximity of the Montbello site to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal is an especially significant reason to complete the project. I hope that close cooperation between the project and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal will, in the future, provide a unique benefit to the Montbello neighborhood and the broader Denver community. I know the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would like to see this benefit occur.

Denver's proposal to turn a vacant lot in the heart of an urban neighborhood into a short grass prairie natural area and outdoor classroom is an important and worthwhile use of the NRD funds you distribute. It will tie the restoration of this open space directly to the natural resources damaged in the past at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. And it will directly support this highly deserving community in a very positive way.

Denver collaborates on this project with two non-profit organizations that have significant and proven track records benefiting natural resources and the public. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) are highly valued and trusted organizations in our community. This is a particularly important aspect of this project, and it supports your continued funding of the project.

Because the Montbello property was privately owned and listed for sale, Denver turned to TPL for help. As you know, TPL has a 40-year history nationally – and a 32-year track record in Colorado – creating parks and protecting land. Following your approval of the projects identified by the eligible municipalities in your "Foundation" round of funding and the award of a Great Outdoors Colorado local government grant to Denver for this project, TPL invested \$1,113,000 in the project. TPL used that money to purchase the property in December 2012.

TPL continues its significant investment in this project. While awaiting Denver's eventual purchase of the project property, TPL continues to incur about \$40,000 per year in transaction and holding costs.

Collaboration with ELK, a Montbello based non-profit organization, is also a great benefit to this project. EKL will ensure the project will be an effective outdoor classroom and a beneficial gateway to experiences in nature and stewardship.

Denver has worked closely with ELK for more than a decade. ELK has served Denver, Adams, and Arapahoe counties, with core service in the Montbello community, for 18 years. ELK has provided science education, natural resource career exploration, and outdoor experiences to more than 163,000 young people and their families.

ELK is highly successful at its work in the Denver community. As an example, as of June 2013 ELK has 71 alumni currently in or graduated from college. Sixty percent of these alumni major or work in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) related field. Eighty percent are people of color. Forty-six percent are female.

I am confident the Montbello Open Space project is going to be successful – and that your investment of NRD funds will lead to substantial public and natural resources benefits. Denver will retain responsibility for the maintenance and liability of the site, but ELK's involvement will help to ensure the property and the project will be taken care of over the long term and on a daily basis. This sort of direct local community engagement in park design, development and stewardship results in dramatically reduced trash, graffiti and vandalism incidents and increased public use and safety.

Significantly, too, for your funding decision, the general community has been heavily involved in the detailed planning for this project. In the summer of 2013, using a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation *Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions for Communities* grant, TPL (working closely with Denver and ELK) began to create a master plan to guide the restoration and development of the Montbello site as a public natural area. As part of this planning process, three public community meetings and six stakeholder meetings have been held so far. It is significant to the use of NRD funds from Rocky Mountain Arsenal that this master plan is now a community-endorsed conceptual blueprint to achieve the project's vision.

We all want the remarkable promise of this important project to become a reality. Thank you for your past approval of Denver's Montbello Open Space project for both Foundation and Recovery Funding. I ask that you now give your final approval for the use of these funds for this project.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Alan J. Gilbert



Howard Kenison (303) 454-0505 hkenison@lindquist.com www.lindquist.com Lindquist & Vennum LLP 600 17th Street Suite 1800 South Denver, CO 80202-5441 Phone: (303) 573-5900 Fax: (303) 573-1956

March 14, 2014

Colorado Natural Resource Trustees Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center 1300 Broadway, 10th Floor Denver, CO 80203

Re: Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Funds – Montbello Open Space

Dear Trustees:

We are writing to express our collective support for the City of Denver's application for Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) funds for the Montbello Open Space project. All of us have been aware of this proposal for several years and were pleased when you approved \$500,000 toward purchasing the property in July 2012. We understand that a number of questions have been raised as the result of inconsistencies in the original application, but we also understand that those questions have been addressed by Denver and we encourage you to allow it to proceed.

Due to its proximity to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, the Montbello neighborhood was directly impacted by the pollution that took place on the site. Denver's proposal to turn a vacant lot in the heart of this neighborhood into a short grass prairie natural area and outdoor classroom seems to us to be an especially potent use of these Funds. (This project is consistent with the NRD screening criteria: "The project must meet the Trustees' intent to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent natural resources that were injured by hazardous substance release at the site. The project must be located in the vicinity of the site, or demonstrate an ecological nexus to injured site's natural resources (i.e., provide benefit to local ecology or habitat".) Directing NRD funds in support of this effort is an opportunity to take a step toward rectifying the environmental injustice that continues to reverberate today.

Denver has made the wise decision to cultivate strong collaborations on this project with two non-profit organizations with significant, proven track records - The Trust for Public Land and Environmental Learning for Kids. Because the property was privately owned and listed for sale, Denver turned to The Trust for Public Land (TPL) for help in securing it. TPL has a 40 year history nationally, and a 32-year track record in Colorado, of creating parks and protecting

land for people. Following your approval of the projects identified by the eligible municipalities in the "Foundation" round, and the award of a Great Outdoors Colorado local government grant to Denver for this project, TPL purchased the property in December 2012 at a discount for \$1,113,000. TPL has been incurring about \$40,000/year in transaction and holding costs since then awaiting Denver's purchase.

As a means of ensuring this open space would serve as an effective outdoor classroom and gateway to experiences in nature and stewardship, for over a decade Denver has worked closely with a Montbello based non-profit organization, Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK). ELK has served Denver, Adams, and Arapahoe counties with a core base of service in the Montbello community for 18 years, providing science education, natural resource career exploration, and outdoor experiences to over 163,000 young people and their families. In 2004, ELK began tracking our alumni into college and beyond. As of June 2013, ELK has successfully tracked 71 of our alumni who are currently in, or have graduated from, college. Sixty percent (60%) of these alumni are majoring or working in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) related field. Eighty percent (80%) are people of color and 46% are female.

Although Denver will retain the ultimate responsibility for the maintenance and liability of the site, ELK's involvement in the project will help ensure that the property will be taken care of on a daily basis and for the long term. Research across the country clearly demonstrates that local community engagement in park design, development and stewardship results in dramatically reduced trash, graffiti and vandalism incidents and increased public use and safety.

Lastly, in the summer of 2013, with a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions for Communities grant, TPL (working closely with Denver and ELK) began a master planning effort to guide the restoration and development of the site as a public natural area. The organizations held three public community meetings and six stakeholder meetings to gain input to help guide and inform the planning process. This Master Plan now provides a community-endorsed conceptual blueprint to achieve the project's vision.

In closing, we thank you for your insight in initially approving Denver's Montbello Open Space project application for both Foundation and Recovery Funding and urge you to proceed with final approvals of these funds so that the transformational work promised by this vision can become a reality.

Very truly yours,

INDQUIST & VENNUM

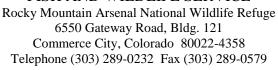
Howard Kenison

HK/lkp



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE





March 15, 2014

Colorado Natural Resource Damages Trustees Colorado Department of Law Office of the Attorney General Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center 1300 Broadway, 10th Floor Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Funds - Montbello Open Space

Dear Trustees:

We are writing to express our collective support for the City of Denver's application for Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) funds for the Montbello Open Space project. All of us have been aware of this proposal for several years and were pleased when you approved \$500,000 toward purchasing the property in July 2012. We understand that a number of questions have been raised as the result of inconsistencies in the original application, but we also understand that those questions have been addressed by Denver and we encourage you to allow it to proceed.

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In closing, we thank you for your insight in initially approving Denver's Montbello Open Space project application for both Foundation and Recovery Funding and urge you to proceed with final approvals of these funds so that the transformational work promised by this vision can become a reality.

Sincerely,

David Lucas Refuge Manager



Lois Tochtrop

SENATE DISTRICT 24
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
200 E. COLFAX AVENUE
DENVER, COLORADO 80203
CAPITOL: 303-866-4863
lotochtrop@aol.com

SENATE CHAMBER STATE OF COLORAD DENVER

COMMITTEES
BUSINESS, LABOR & TECHNOLOGY
CHAIR

AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY VICE CHAIR

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER

RE: Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Funds – Montbello Open Space

Dear Trustees:

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Sincerely,

Lois Tochtrop

Senator Lois Tochtrop

State Representative ANGELA WILLIAMS Colorado State Capitol 200 East Colfax Avenue, Room 271 Denver, Colorado 80203

Capitol: 303-866-2909 Business: 720-257-9575

Email: angela.williams.house@state.co.us



COLORADO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Capitol Denver 80203 Chairman:

Business, Labor, & Economic and Workforce Development Committee Legislative Audit Committee Member:

House Services Committee State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee

March 14, 2014

Dear Trustees:

RE: Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Funds - Montbello Open Space

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Sincerely,

Angela Williams

Colorado State Representative

Angela Williams

House District 7



March 12, 2014

RE: Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Funds – Montbello Open Space

Dear Trustees:

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Lastly, in the summer of 2013, with a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions for Communities grant, TPL (working closely with Denver and ELK) began a master planning effort to guide the restoration and development of the site as a public natural area. The organizations held three public community meetings and six stakeholder meetings to gain input to help guide and inform the planning process. This Master Plan now provides a community-endorsed conceptual blueprint to achieve the project's vision.

In closing, I thank you for your insight in initially approving Denver's Montbello Open Space project application for both Foundation and Recovery Funding and urge you to proceed with final approvals of these funds so that the transformational work promised by this vision can become a reality.

Sincerely,

Sean Ford

Commerce City Resident and Mayor

(D-Adams County)

Christopher Herndon

CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 11

Committees: Co-Chair, Redistricting Government & Finance Business, Workforce & Sustainability

City and County of Denver

ROOM 451 • CITY & COUNTY BUILDING DENVER COLORADO • 80202 PH.: 720-865-9534 FAX: 720-865-9540 EMAIL: Christopher.Herndon@denvergov.org



RE: Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Funds - Montbello Open Space

Dear Trustees:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Denver's application for Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) funds for the Montbello Open Space project. I understand that a number of questions have been raised as the result of inconsistencies in the original application, but I also understand that those questions have been addressed by Denver and I encourage you to allow it to proceed.

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Thank you for your insight in initially approving Denver's Montbello Open Space project application for both Foundation and Recovery Funding. I urge you to proceed with final approvals of these funds so the transformational work promised by this vision can become a reality for the people of Denver and the region.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Herndon, MPA

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Denver City Council

District 11



RE: Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Funds – Montbello Open Space

Dear Trustees:

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Allegra "Happy" Haynes

Hazpy Hayne

RE: Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Funds - Montbello Open Space

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Sincerely,

DENVE

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

LES C. PERRY

87034

Commander
District 5

DISTRICT 5
DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

720-913-1400 (Office) 720-913-1402 (Direct) Les.Perry@denvergov.org (E-mail)

www.denvergov.org/police

Positive Comments on Complaints 720-913-6665

4685 N Peoria St Denver, CO 80239







March 12, 2014

RE: Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Funds - Montbello Open Space

Dear Trustees:

Many of us are are writing to express our collective support for the City of Denver's application for Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) funds for the Montbello Open Space project. All of us have been aware of this proposal for several years and were pleased when you approved \$500,000 toward purchasing the property in July 2012. We understand that a number of questions have been raised as the result of inconsistencies in the original application, but we also understand that those questions have been addressed by Denver and we encourage you to allow it to proceed.

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Since elv.

become a reality

George Sparks



March 13, 2014

RE: Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Funds - Montbello Open Space

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Sincerely,

Scott D. Sampson, Ph.D.

Vice President of Research and Collections

March 17, 2014

RE: Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Funds – Montbello Open Space

Dear Trustees:

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CEO

Mr. Brian Vogt

Mr. Charles Woolley

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Sincerely,

Brian Vogt Chief Executive Officer

Loretta E. Pineda 465 South Pearl Denver, CO 80209 March 17, 2014

Colorado Natural Resource Trustees Ralph Carr Colorado Judicial Center 1300 Broadway Denver, CO 80203

Dear Trustees:

RE: Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Funds - Montbello Open Space

I am writing to express my support for the City of Denver's application for Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damage (NRD) funds for the Montbello Open Space project.

Due to its proximity to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, the Montbello neighborhood was directly impacted by the pollution that took place on the site. Denver's proposal to turn a vacant lot in the heart of this neighborhood into a short grass prairie natural area and outdoor classroom is long overdue.

The City of Denver has cultivated two strong partnerships on this project with two non-profit organizations with significant, proven track records - The Trust for Public Land and Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK). I served on the Board of Directors for ELK for 5 years and I've been involved with the organization for 18 years. For the past 18 years ELK has provided science education, natural resource career exploration, and outdoor experiences to over 163,000 young people and their families.

This project represents for ELK an important strategic move and the natural area and outdoor classroom is an opportunity to take a step toward providing experiences close to the northeast neighborhood that has been a base of service for ELK. The project has required thoughtful planning to guide the restoration and development of the site as a public natural area. ELK and its partners have held three public community meetings and six stakeholder meetings to gain input from the community. This Master Plan now provides a community-endorsed conceptual blueprint to achieve the project's vision.

Is the project challenging? Yes. Is ELK up to the challenge? Yes. The leadership of ELK and staff are extremely dedicated to inspiring, educating and transforming our youth. In addition, they have excellent skill in organizing people and resources for efficiency and success. I thank you for your insight in initially approving Denver's Montbello Open Space project application for both Foundation and Recovery Funding and urge you to join me and others in transforming this vision into a realty.

Nour Ef winds

Sincerely,

June 12, 2014

Susan Newton, Project Manager
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246
Electronically delivered



RE: Public Comment Montbello Open Space

Dear Ms. Newton:

How much? How much pollution beyond pesticides, chemical warfare agents, and incendiary munitions, including Sarin nerve agent and mixes of hydrazine rocket fuels, does a community need to be saddled with before the powers that be will recognize that any slice of nature will benefit wildlife, and more importantly, benefit the people who have been negatively impacted by living next to such a highly toxic site it was designated by the EPA a Superfund site? How many acres does it take for the powers that be to decide birds, mice, spiders, snakes, rabbits, raccoons, foxes, and a variety of other wildlife deserve improved shelter, food, and water to survive and thrive? Half an acre, two, 4.5, or hundreds, thousands? How many? How many children will grow up without a connection to wildlife close to their homes, if they do not have living examples in their own communities? It will always be the "thing" [nature] that exists "out there" not in my own community. My community and the one I serve, Montbello, was good enough to be neighbors with a Superfund site, that produced pesticides and nerve gas, yet my community is not good enough to have a slice of nature, a 4.5 acre restored shortgrass prairie. I ask you why?

In Colorado, the Attorney General, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or their delegates (Colorado Parks and Wildlife) serve as the Natural Resource Damages Trustees (Trustees). They are responsible for acting on behalf of the public when Colorado's natural resources are injured or destroyed as a result of an oil spill or release of hazardous substances. Are they acting on behalf of the people of Montbello?

In both Consent Decree's between Shell Oil Company, the U.S. Army, and the State of Colorado, natural resources are defined as, "land, fish, wildlife, biota, air, ground water, drinking water supplies and other such resources belonging to, managed by, held in trust by, appertaining to, or otherwise controlled by the State of Colorado. The mission of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is to protect and improve the health of Colorado's people and the quality of its environment. The mission of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), the state agency responsible for wildlife management, is "To perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state ...and provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources". Within the application for CPW's Wildlife Habitat Protection Program, they do not suggest, or include specific acreage required to provide benefits to wildlife; a follow-up phone call to the Land Protection Specialist listed on the application confirms that there is no set minimum acreage required for a site to provide benefits to wildlife. For over 40 years, national organizations, such as the National Wildlife Federation, through its Community Wildlife Habitat™ program, has engaged neighborhoods, towns, cities, counties, and others in creating wildlife-friendly

landscapes to improve air and water quality, restore vital wildlife habitat and improve the health and well-being of inhabitants—one property at a time. Again, they do not specifically identify a minimum acreage needed to provide benefits to wildlife and other natural resources.

Whose subjective opinion matters in deeming if a site has wildlife benefit, when there are likely biases and possible stereotypes at play in deciding if a low-income community of color deserves to have an open space amenity in walkable distance, and one within a mile of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge? In 2006, a group of federal, state, city and county elected officials established through a Cooperative Agreement an inter-jurisdictional partnership known as - the Northeast Greenway Corridor Leadership Committee - to restore, develop, and preserve a "world-class, urban greenway and open space network" for the preservation of a "system of stream and river corridors, riparian ecosystems, wildlife movement routes, and recreational trails by establishing an integrated greenway corridor and open space network across jurisdictional boundaries."

In the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Natural Resource Damages Project Evaluation Criteria, there has been systematic exclusion (unintentional or intentional, it's hard to say) of the Montbello community through a very subjective assertion that the Montbello Open Space site does not meet the screening criteria for project qualification requirements that projects should be located in the vicinity of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (we do meet this as we are one mile directly south of the Arsenal); should have direct benefit to ecological resources associated with the South Platte River Basin along the Front Range, OR otherwise provide clear benefits to the same natural resources that were injured at the site (restoration to a shortgrass prairie, where there is already proof of wildlife utilizing the Montbello site). That is, projects must have a clear geographical or ecological nexus to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Projects with a high degree of geographical and ecological connection to the site will be preferred over projects that do not have such a connection. There are \$27.4 million dollars for the Natural Resource Damage Fund – Foundation and Recovery; the Montbello Open Space is asking for 3.5% of these funds, for a total request of \$970,181.

Although the Montbello Open Space project is not located in the traditional, exclusive and privileged view of mountain, river, or riparian wildlife habitat that the powers that be would want to personally recreate in, for my Montbello community, I believe we deserve an open space with wildlife habitat to encourage expanded wildlife education and viewing experiences to build the next generation of stewards and to start to heal the environmental injustice that continues to reverberate today.

Sincerely,

Stacie Gilmore Executive Director



CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

BOARD MEMBERS
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May 31, 2012

Mr. Scott Gilmore Deputy Manager of Parks and Planning 201 West Colfax Avenue, Department 601 Denver, CO 80201

RE: Case 12-23 – your request for an advisory opinion

Dear Mr. Gilmore:

On May 24, 2012, after discussing the matter with you, Denver Board of Ethics considered the request for an advisory opinion that Manager of Parks and Recreation Lauri Dannemiller filed on March 15, 2012.

The facts as the Board understands them are as follows. You are the Deputy Manager for Parks and Planning of the Parks and Recreation Department. You and your wife, Stacie Gilmore, founded a non-profit organization called Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) about 16 years ago. You have never been a paid employee of ELK. Your wife is now the executive director of ELK.

The Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with other communities in the metropolitan area to obtain funds from the federal government from a settlement of litigation concerning environmental contamination at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, now transformed into a National Wildlife Refuge. One of the four projects in Denver's proposal is to purchase land in the Montbello neighborhood that would be leased to ELK. Manager Dannemiller says that:

In order to avoid a conflict of interest, before submitting the application (for funding to the federal government) Denver Parks and Recreation put a plan in place which removed Mr. Gilmore from the decision-making process. Mr. Gilmore took no direct official action in the decision to go forward with the application. Mrs. Gilmore met only with Manager Dannemiller and (Director of Planning) Gordon Robertson to provide background on the necessity of the

DENVER BOARD OF ETHICS

WEBB MUNICIPAL BUILDING 201 West Colfax, 2nd Floor - (2.H-13) Department 703 - (for U.S. Mail)

Denver, CO 80202-5330

E-mail: michael.henry@denvergov.org Website: www.denvergov.org/ethics

Phone: (720) 865-8412 Fax: (720) 865-8419 project to the Montbello area...All recommendations for projects from this fund came from Gordon Robertson...directly to Lauri Dannemiller, Manager of Parks and Recreation.. Ultimately, funding will be accepted by the Mayor and City Council for final approval.

Manager Dannemiller asked: "Given these circumstances, does the Ethics Board perceive any conflict of interest in our proposed handling of the application process and future securing of funds from this settlement?"

On another subject, you and/or your wife informed several young people in the ELK program that paid summer internships will be available in the Parks and Recreation Department, with the selection process being managed by Career Service Authority. You say that you recognize that the ELK young people must be given no special preference in selection of the interns and that any non-ELK applicants must be treated fairly and measured by the same criteria.

Conflicts of interest are regulated by Section 2-61 of the Denver Code of Ethics:

Sec. 2-61. Conflict of interest while employed.

The purpose of this section is to avoid influence on the official actions of city officers, employees or officials by their private or family interests,

- (a) Except when advised by the city attorney that the rule of necessity applies, an officer, official, or employee shall not take direct official action on a matter before the city if he or she or a member of the immediate family, a business associate or an employer other than the city of the officer, official or employee has any substantial employment, contractual, or financial interest in that matter. A substantial interest shall be deemed to exist if:
 - (1) He or she or a member of the immediate family, a business associate or an employer other than the city is the other party in the matter;
 - (2) He, she, a spouse, a domestic partner or minor children solely or aggregated together, a business associate or an employer owns or own one (1) percent or more, or a member of the immediate family other than a spouse, domestic partner or minor children own or owns five (5) percent or more, of another party in the matter;
 - (3) He or she, a member of the immediate family, a business associate or an employer is an officer in another party in the matter;
 - (4) He or she, a member of the immediate family, a business associate or an employer is directly involved in obtaining the

city's business for another party in the matter;

- (5) He or she, a member of the immediate family, a business associate or an employer is directly involved in negotiating the contract or preparing the bid, proposal, response to a request for qualifications, or similar document for another party in the matter, other than in a purely clerical capacity; or
- (6) A member of his or her immediate family performs more than a nominal portion of the work in the matter, or supervises or manages more than a nominal portion of the work...
- (f) Officers, employees or officials who are prohibited from taking direct official action due to a substantial conflict of interest shall disclose such interest to his or her colleagues on a board or commission or to his or her supervisor or appointing authority, shall not act or vote thereon, shall refrain from attempting to influence the decisions of others in acting or voting on the matter and shall work with his or her supervisor or appointing authority to ensure that the matter is assigned to someone without conflicting interests.
- (g) No officer, employee or official may have any other employment or position which is incompatible with his or her duties or that adversely affect the interests of the city. (emphasis added)

"Direct official action" is defined in Section 2-52(b) as:

- (1) Negotiating, approving, disapproving, administering, enforcing, or recommending for or against a contract, purchase order, lease, concession, franchise, grant, or other similar instrument in which the city is a party. With regard to "recommending," direct official action occurs only if the person making the recommendation is in the formal line of decision making.
- (2) **Enforcing laws or regulations** or issuing, enforcing, or regulating permits, licenses, benefits or payments;
- (3) Selecting or recommending vendors, concessionaires, or other types of entities to do business with the city;
- (4) Appointing and terminating employees, temporary workers, and independent contractors.
- (5) Doing research for, representing, or scheduling appointments for an officer, official, or employee, provided that these activities are provided in connection with that officer's, official's, or employee's performance of (1) through (4) above. (emphasis added)

The Board of Ethics advises you and Ms. Dannemiller that the Code of Ethics will not be violated if you did not and will not take any direct official action regarding the ELK program, if the land is obtained and leased to ELK and that you must not attempt to influence the decisions of others in the Parks and Recreation Department regarding ELK, including Mr. Robertson. The Board urges you to be particularly mindful of the need to separate yourself from any decisions at Parks and Recreation regarding ELK in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety, particularly since Mr. Robertson directly reports to you. In addition, in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety, you should remove yourself from any role in interviewing or selecting young people from ELK for any Parks and Recreation internships.

The Board thanks you and Ms. Dannemiller for submitting this request for an advisory opinion and you for attending the Board's meeting on May 24, 2012.

For the Board of Ethics:

Leslie M. Lawson

Chair

Copy: Lauri Dannemiller

Iontbello, Denver

irding and environmental education. nterpretative kiosk, and sitting areas al and aquatic habitats will provide s of vacant land, create native e riparian and wetland habitat an existing pond. These I with other funds.

chievement for a community with mental justice issues and direct nded to introduce underserved 's natural resources. It will be a

Ecological benefits:

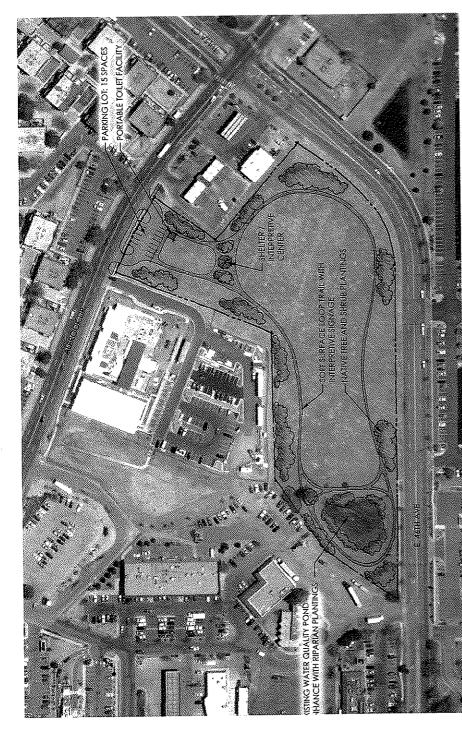
Surface water—Enhancing the ecological function of from the water. Proposed riparian plantings increase the existing detention basin/water quality pond will reduce runoff and increase removal of pollutants the filtration and immobilization of contaminants.

promote and increase infiltration during and after storm events. Wetland and riparian vegetation Groundwater-Improvements to the pond will communities will benefit groundwater. Soils-The project will improve soils by reducing erosion and allowing the development of nutrient rich soil base for revegetation.

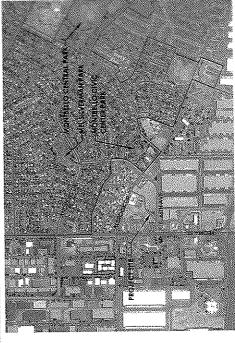
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Project Area (Acres)	5.5
Leverage Total	190%
Leverage NRD	140%
Total Project Cost	\$1,450,000
Total Match	\$950,000
Proposed Match that Meets NRD	\$700,000
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nd Calculation, Montbello Total Cost Funding Sources
a
\$500,000 NRD
\$350,000 GOCO
\$250,000 Private Foundation
\$250,000 GOCO
\$50,000 City of Denver/ELK
18018050
\$30,000 City of Denver/ELK
\$1,450,000 \$1,450,000



area of riparian vegetation. The proposed project disturbed grassland, detention pond, and a small Vegetation-The site currently contains a mix of will create a more diverse and natural complex of riparian, wetland, and native prairie plant communities. Wildlife-The created wetland, riparian, and prairie including prairie dogs, grassland birds and raptors Refuge and the Sand Creek Regional Greenway. in close proximity of the native habitats on the areas will provide habitat for small mammals –



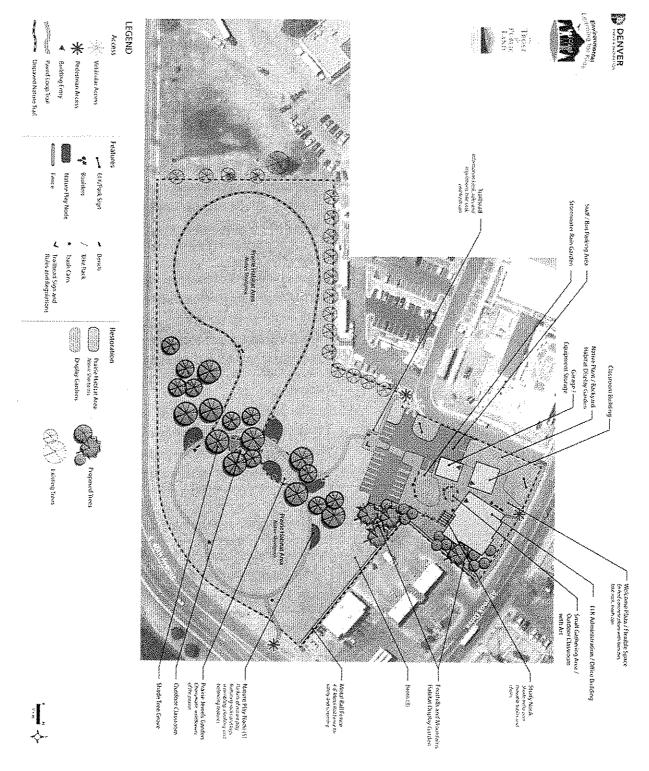
Proximity to the RMA and other natural systems:

Montbello shares a 3 mile border with the RMA. The Site is located one mile south of the RMA.

This site is important in the region as it protects an

grant will provide \$0.5 million, 34 percent of the » Total project cost is \$1.45 million, of which the Matching funds and partners:

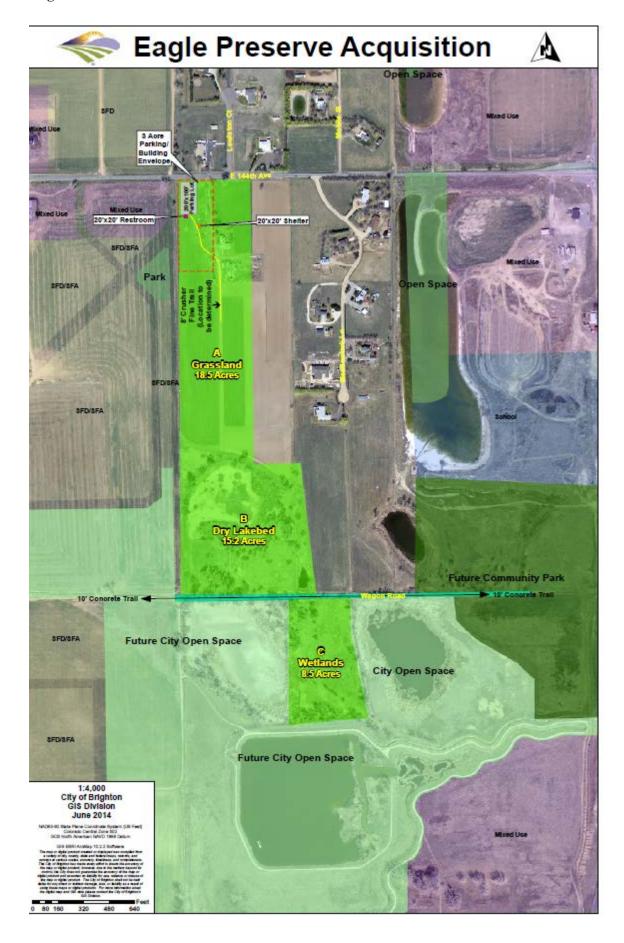
total project cost



infrastructure projects with the prairie restoration areas, and recreation facilities and areas, and parking, and the spatial relationship of these c. Provide updated site map including all planned structures, building, outdoor

ITEM #3

Page 4



Parks & Recreation

500 South 4th Avenue Brighton, CO 80601 303-655-2049 www.brightonco.gov

June 12, 2014

State of Colorado Natural Resource Trustees Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center 1300 Broadway, 7th Floor Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: Northeast Greenway Foundation Fund Grant for Eagle Preserve Acquisition

Dear Trustees:

The City of Brighton was awarded a grant through the Northeast Greenway Foundation Fund for the purchase of the Eagle Preserve Property, 42 acres of open Space and wildlife habitat. The 42 acres is part of a larger 178 acre open space park. Adams County is also a grantor in the acquisition of the property. During the due diligence to prepare a contract for the purchase, the City submitted a Conservation Easement to be placed on the property. The Conservation Easement included a 3 acre "Building Envelope" that would allow for the construction of a 20,000 square foot, 20-25 car, parking lot, a 20'X20' picnic shelter, and a small restroom in the northwest corner of the property adjacent to 144th Avenue, see attached map. The County and the City desire to have public access to open space properties. The parking lot is required to allow for public access. The overall use of the property will be open space and wildlife habitat as presented in the original grant.

A second issue that is of concern is there is a "Wagon Road" that bisects the property. The wagon road was used in the 1800's by the farmers to access a joint watering pond for irrigating their properties. The City proposes to use the wagon road as a 10' wide concrete pedestrian/bike trail corridor to allow people living in the subdivisions west of the Eagle Preserve Open Space to access parks and retail to the east. This trail will also be part of a trail system that provides access to the entire178 acre open space park. The owner of Wagon Road donated the land to the City subject to a Permanent Easement being placed on the property. The wagon road will be included in the conservation easement with the trail limitations included. NRD Funds are not being used to purchase this property.

These two issues were not made clear in the original grant proposal considered by the Trustee. The City has presented the additional information to the Northeast Greenway Working Group for their comments and approval. The City of Brighton is requesting authorization from the Natural Resource Trustees to move forward with the grant to purchase the 42 Acre Eagle Preserve Property.

I will be available during the June 17, 2014 phone conference meeting for questions.

Sincerely,

Gary Wardle, Director Park and Recreation City of Brighton

Sent via email

