

DENVER BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: October 28, 2009

Board Item: 2-A-1

2009-2010 Weather Modification Program

Action by Consent

Action

Information

This agreement, Contract No. 12651A, is between the Board, the Winter Park Resort (Intrawest/Winter Park Operations Corporation (IWPOC), and Western Weather Consultants, LLC ("Consultant").

The purpose of the agreement is to perform cloud-seeding activities (weather modification) from November 2009 through January 2010.

In 2002, the Board contracted the Consultant to perform cloud-seeding activities for November 2002 through March 2003. The wintertime cloud-seeding operation uses propane/silver iodide generators to seed the clouds with silver iodide crystals in an attempt to increase condensation and precipitation. The program focused on cloud-seeding the watersheds within the Board's water collection system. This target area included the Blue, Fraser, Williams Fork and South Platte Rivers and their tributaries above 9,000 feet in elevation. The Board's contract with the Consultant was for \$699,895. Several ski areas and metropolitan water providers contributed money and reimbursed the Board for that effort. In 2003, the Board again contracted with the Consultant for a November 2003 through mid-February 2004 program that targeted the Blue and South Platte River basins. The Board's contract for this program was \$400,000.

The intended target area for the 2009-2010 cloud-seeding program centers on the Winter Park Resort. This target area is part of the watershed from which the Board obtains some of its water supplies for the Moffat Collection System. Weather modification in this area would benefit the ski area by producing more snow in the winter months, and benefit the Board with higher runoff in the spring.

The Consultant will provide weather modification services and operate ten manually operated generators located at sites upwind of the target area. The Consultant will operate the generators for up to 1,690 hours.

The total compensation to Consultant under this Agreement, including costs and expenses, shall not exceed \$110,000. The Consultant will bill the Board for up to the full contract amount, and IWPOC will reimburse the Board half of the costs, or \$55,000, by November 30.

In coordination with the Board's and Winter Park's weather modification efforts, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) will provide \$62,300 and contract with the Desert Research Institute to install and operate two high elevation remotely controlled generators. The target area is the same: Winter Park Resort. Of the \$62,300, half (\$31,150) will be provided by a grant from the CWCB, and the other half (\$31,150) will be provided through the parties to the Seven Colorado River Basin States cloud-seeding agreements (California Six Agency Committee, Southern Nevada Water Authority, and the Central Arizona Water Conservation District). DRI will operate the generators for up to five months (November through March), and provide a report of their seeding times, climatic conditions, and effectiveness of activities.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board approve the agreement.

Approvals:



Director of Planning

Respectfully submitted,



H. J. Barry, Manager



General Counsel