



September 7, 2022

Windy Gap Environmental Fund
In Care of The Grand Foundation
P.O. Box 1342
Winter Park, CO 80482
Attn: Megan Ledin, Executive Director

Subject: Letter of Interest to Apply for The Windy Gap Environmental Fund to Stabilize the Fraser Riverbank Next to Safeway

Dear Windy Gap Environmental Fund Committee Members,

The Town of Fraser proposes to address long-term erosion concerns on the Fraser River next to the Safeway shopping center. The river bend immediately upstream from Safeway was stabilized with rip rap several years ago but erosion continues to deteriorate this section of riverbank, contribute to sediment concerns, and create undesirable shifting of the river.

This erosion/water-quality/safety concern was identified in public scoping 2017-18 for our Cozens Ranch Open Space Masterplan and more recently during trail planning for the Marianne's Loop Trail. We propose to partner with the Upper Colorado River Watershed Group (UCRWG) to reconfigure and stabilize this riverbank reach with a combination of:

- Rock cross vane and J-hooks as installed upstream along the river at the Lions Pond diversion to help slow the river and better remove sedimentation.
- Toe-wood revetment using native materials including willow and gravel from the opposite river bank.

Our consultant has discussed the project in concept with Tyler Adams at the Army Corps of Engineers and with Jon Ewart at Colorado Parks and Wildlife who would be involved in this project to ensure a successful and environmentally conservative approach.

With the identified partnerships on this project, we're confident that a reasonable plan, budget, and clear scope of work can be created to best address this problem.

The desired outcome for this project is to shift the river flow to the northeast approximately 15-20ft, stabilize the river with a “stair-stepping” sequence to lower the intensity of the river to ensure sustainable bank stabilization and work to remove harmful sedimentation from the Fraser River that has become a growing concern regarding fishing populations. We believe this would be an excellent project to enhance the Fraser River, protect our essential grocery store, and improve the Town of Fraser’s trail system with better access and rich educational opportunities.

Sincerely,

Mayor Philip Vandernail
Town of Fraser