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September 12, 2022

USDA Forest Service  
White River National Forest Supervisors Office  
Attn: Scott Fitzwilliams  
900 Grand Avenue  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601-3601  
Submitted electronically: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=62615>

RE: Support for Project 62615 - White River National Forest Water and Riparian Resources Forest Plan Amendment

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Aurora is Colorado's third largest city and our Nation's 54<sup>th</sup> largest city with nearly 400,000 residents. Aurora's water supply originates from the headwaters of Colorado including the Colorado River basin. We have existing infrastructure and conditional water rights to be developed within and conveyed through Forest Service lands. We have worked collaboratively with the Forest Service since the late 1950's to protect our watersheds for resilient and renewable water supplies.

Aurora staff have been involved in numerous stakeholder groups in our watershed areas and are familiar with the development and final documents of the Colorado West Slope In-Lieu Fee Program (Program). We support Forest Service action to amend the Forest Plan and add the Water and Riparian Resource standard as proposed. This action will open opportunities and increase the pace at which wetland, stream, and riparian areas may be restored or enhanced. The Program will provide long-term site protection for all ILF sites and will allow for site specific remedies.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to working with the Forest Service, the National Forest Foundation, and other stakeholders on future ILF projects.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Kitzmann*

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