

**BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS OF  
ARCHULETA COUNTY,  
COLORADO**



P.O. Box 1507  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
(970)-264-8300 / (970)-264-8306 fax

February 25, 2019

RREO Grant Review Committee  
c/o Mr. Eric Heyboer  
Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, CO 80246-1530

Dear Grant Review Committee:

The Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County is pleased to support the Southwest Colorado Council of Governments' (SWCCOG) application of a Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity (RREO) Waste Diversion and Job Creation Grant. Creating local markets for reclaimed materials will benefit both businesses and citizens in southwest Colorado.

Recycling services are challenging in southwest Colorado due to geographic isolation and distance from end markets for reclaimed materials. As identified in the SWCCOG's Waste Audit, supported by a previous RREO grant, there is a significant need in our community for improved recycling service.

Exploring the creation of end markets locally will allow the region to divert more materials as well as create jobs to haul and manage the increased materials. Additionally, in instances such as replacing fill material with crushed glass, local use of recycled materials has the potential to save significant costs for businesses and residents. It is very puzzling that there is no value in recycling glass when there are many ways to use it. Unfortunately, at this time, because of the high cost to our rural community to transport or store it, it has to be deposited into our landfill. This fills up the landfill at a much faster rate, adding a significant cost to the taxpayers when a new landfill needs to be constructed.

Recycling is extremely important to our community. There is a strong need to move forward with improving recycling service in southwest Colorado. The issue has been studied and potential solutions identified. The next step is to determine the specific systems to re-use reclaimed materials within the region, making recycling more economically feasible while creating new jobs. Accordingly, the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County fully supports the SWCCOG's RREO Waste Diversion and Job Creation Grant to improve regional recycling in southwest Colorado.

Thank you and Kind Regards,

Ronnie Maez  
Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners