AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: BOCC Letter of Support; Gunnison Rising

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

Letter of support for Government campus at Gunnison Rising

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Cathie Pagano **Submitter's Email Address:** cpagano@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ◉ Required ○ Not Required

Comments:
ok db 8/15/19

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\dBaumgarten Discharge Date: 8/15/2019 Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ◉

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 8/15/2019

◉ Consent Agenda ○ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 0

Agenda Date: 8/20/2019

Revised April 2015

Gunnison County Board of Commissioners

August 20, 2019

Chad Stewart, Forest Supervisor

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest

2250 South Main St.

Delta, CO 81416

Re: Letter of Support for a Government Campus at Gunnison Rising

Dear Mr. Stewart,

The Gunnison County Board of Commissioners is writing to express our support for the location of a government campus at the 17-acre site in the Gunnison Rising development that was previously annexed into the City of Gunnison.

Early in 2018, the landowners of Gunnison Rising partnered with local leaders from the City, County and Western Colorado University to take a fresh look at the 633-acre Gunnison Rising Master Plan at the east entrance of Gunnison. They unanimously agreed to partner on a joint conceptual planning process, including contributing towards a portion of the planning costs.

The collaborative planning process solidified the idea of a 17-acre site as a government campus that was approved in the original project. This site has existing entitlements for a land management campus. The site is unique because it allows government agencies with similar activities and purposes to consolidate their operations more efficiently in a single location, have more modern facilities, provide convenient access for clientele and increase collaboration across agencies. This benefits the agencies, the public and the community in general. This government campus was created in the hope that the USFS, BLM, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife office would co-locate in one place to provide a high level of customer service to our guests and residents.

The site identified is at the east entrance to Gunnison and would serve as a “front door” to a future State park that is being studied for 3,000 acres of public land along the 7.5-mile Tomichi Creek corridor. Integrating the government campus with the new State park is a compelling proposition that has growing support among State leaders. We have initiated the idea of the State Park in this location and continue to work with officials at the Colorado Department of Natural Resources to begin the planning process.

A decision by the U.S. Forest Service to locate at the Gunnison Rising site may enable and encourage other government entities to do the same. A campus facility with multiple land managers housed at the same location would be a benefit to our residents and visitors. We appreciate your interest in the matter and your consideration of our support.

Jonathan Houck

Chair, Gunnison County Commissioners

John Messner, Gunnison County Commissioner

Roland Mason, Gunnison County Commissioner

Gunnison Rising

MEMORANDUM

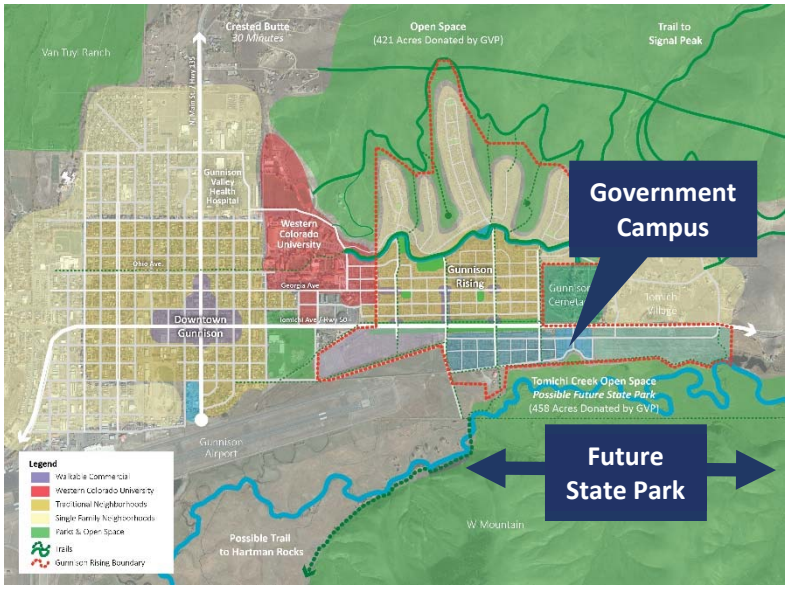
To: Matthew McCombs, District Ranger, Gunnison CO

From: Community Leaders in Gunnison

Date: August 7, 2019

Re: Letter of Support for a Government Campus at Gunnison Rising

Early in 2018, the landowners of Gunnison Rising partnered with local leaders from the City, County and Western Colorado University to take a fresh look at the 633-acre Gunnison Rising Master Plan at the east entrance of Gunnison. They unanimously agreed to partner on a joint Conceptual Planning process, including contributing towards a portion of the planning costs.



Several significant ideas came out of the planning process, including continuing to designate the 17-acre site as a government campus that was approved in the original Planned Unit Development for the project. Based on the current land use approvals, this site has entitlements for a land management campus and City Staff has worked with Gunnison Rising to create a cost-effective plan to provide utilities to the site. The site is unique because it allows government agencies with similar activities and purposes to consolidate their operations more efficiently in a single location, have more modern facilities, provide convenient access for clientele and increase collaboration across agencies. This benefits the agencies, the public and the community in general.

The site identified is at the east entrance to Gunnison and would serve as a "front door" to a future State park that is being studied for 3,000 acres of public land along the 7.5-mile Tomichi Creek corridor. Integrating the government campus with the new State park is a compelling proposition that has growing support among State leaders as they become aware of it.

This government campus was created in the hope that the USFS, BLM, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife office would co-locate in one place to provide a high level of customer service to our guests and residents. Again, it has the appropriate zoning, an approved highway access plan from the Colorado Department of Transportation, and a utility plan created with our Public Works Department to expedite development of this land for this purpose. We are aware other land management agencies are

evaluating locations for offices and vehicle/equipment storage, and we have highly recommended this site. The landowners are prepared to offer the initial land parcels below market value to jump-start the process to help realize this part of the vision for Gunnison Rising. There are other government agencies in Gunnison with needs for improved facilities. We believe that a decision by the USFS to locate on the government campus will lead to others doing the same.

The undersigned local leaders and project partners encourage the USFS to consider this location for consolidated future operations. Please let us know if we can be helpful. Consider us as partners as you plan for your future in Gunnison.

City of Gunnison

Jim Gelwicks, Mayor

Russ Forest, City Manager

Western Colorado University

Greg Salsbury, President

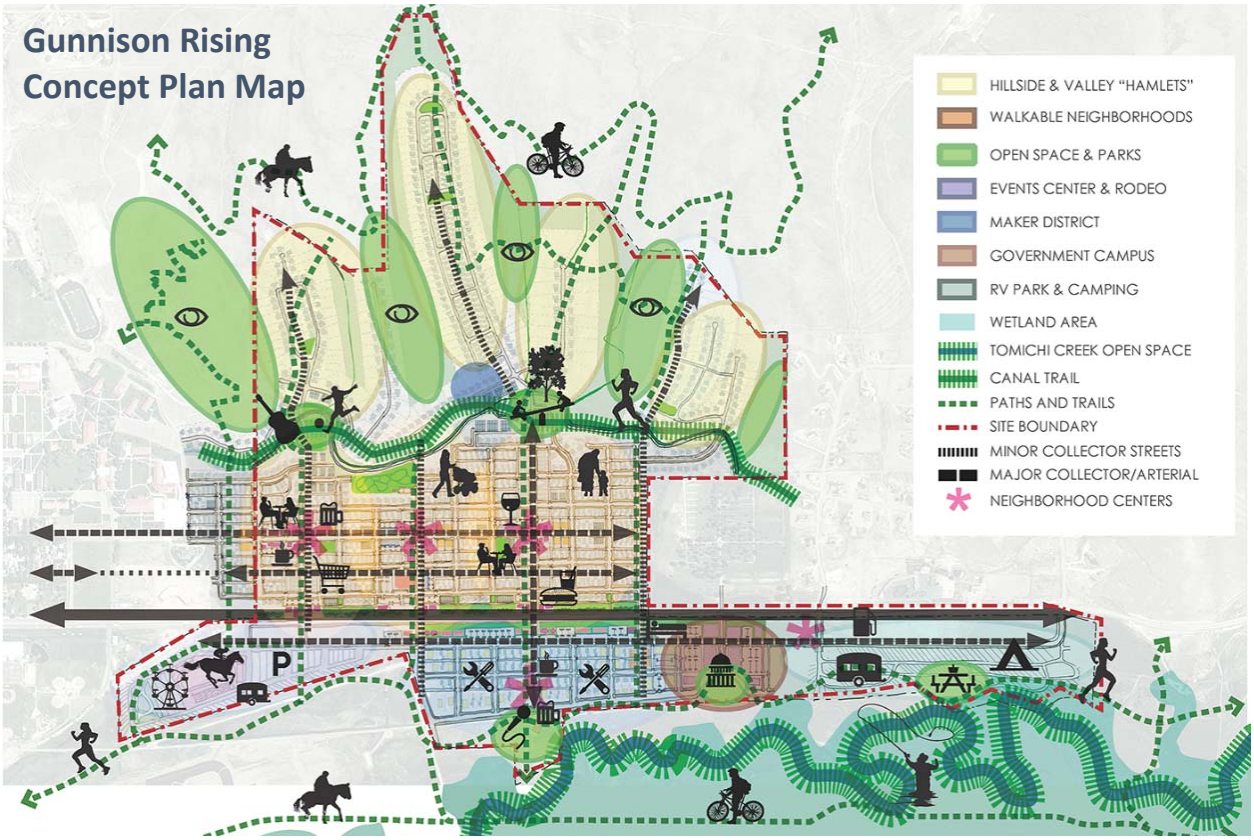
Julie Baca, VP of Finance and Administration

Gunnison County

John Messner, Commissioner

Cathie Pagano, Community and Economic Development Director

Gunnison Valley Properties

Richard “Dick” Bratton, Managers/Owners

Byron “Chris” Chisman, Managers/Owners