

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
TO ESTABLISH  
THE RIVER SISTERS PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN DENVER AND SAN LUIS RIO COLORADO**

**ON**

**MARCH 22, 2018  
SAN LUIS RIO COLORADO**

The City of Denver and the City of San Luis Rio Colorado, together with the Cocopah Indian Tribe-Mexico, the Water, Wastewater and Sanitation Utility (DOMAPAS, for its initials in Spanish) of San Luis Rio Colorado, Denver Water, Pronatura Noroeste, the Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC, for its initials in Spanish), Denver Botanic Gardens, artist Rik Sargent, urban designers Nancy Saldaña and Paul Cawood Hellmund, and the Americas for Conservation + the Arts (AFC+A) (hereinafter referred to as "The Parties"), have decided to establish the "River Sisters Partnership" in recognition of the important role that the protection and restoration of the Colorado River can play in the economic development, quality of life, and culture of urban Colorado River water users on both sides of the United States-Mexico border.

**OBJECTIVE**

The objective of The Parties is to formalize a bilateral relationship to create a goodwill leadership exchange effort and binational collaborative projects that advance the restoration of the Colorado River and celebrates the hydrological, economic, and social interdependencies of urban Colorado River water users from the River's source to the sea.

**AREAS of COLLABORATION**

The Parties are committed to pursuing and supporting joint initiatives in the following areas:

**1. CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

- 1.1. AFC+A establishes the City San Luis Rio Colorado as the co-host (with the City of Denver) of the annual Americas Latino Eco Festival.
- 1.2. In support of this collaborative effort, Rik Sargent confers the original mold of the One World One Water (OWOW) sculpture, and the creative rights of casting and installing 2 OWOW sculptures, to the City and the people of San Luis Rio Colorado.
- 1.3. San Luis Rio Colorado, Denver Arts and Venues, AFC+A, and Pronatura Noroeste collaboratively look at the viability of developing a sister Red Rocks amphitheater in the Sonoran Desert in San Luis Rio Colorado, to help bring the Colorado River back to the sea with music.

## **2. SISTER PARKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

2.1. The City of San Luis Rio Colorado, in collaboration with Pronatura Noroeste, Nancy Saldaña, UABC, Paul Cawood Hellmund, and AFC+A develops a Colorado River Greenway in Mexico that reconnects the people of San Luis Rio Colorado and the Colorado River Delta region to the Colorado River, and helps bring the Colorado River back to San Luisinos.

2.2. The City of Denver, in collaboration with AFC+A, evaluates the viability of developing a sister park to the Colorado River Greenway (2.1 above) that recognizes the contribution of Latinos, and Mexicans in particular, to the culture and identity of Denver; and celebrates the hydrological and economic contributions of Colorado as a headwater state to the Colorado River Basin region.

2.3. In coordination with Pronatura Noroeste, OOMAPAS, and the City of San Luis Rio Colorado, the Denver Botanic Gardens' Center for Global Initiatives and the One World One Water Center (co-directed with Metropolitan State University of Denver) spearhead the creation of a master development plan and a capacity building plan to guide the establishment of a botanic garden on the Cocopah Wetland Park in San Luis Rio Colorado, incorporating water from the San Luis Rio Colorado municipal wastewater plant.

## **3. WATERSHED REFORESTATION AND FRESHWATER RESTORATION**

3.1. AFC+A will explore with Pronatura Noroeste the viability of developing a voluntary carbon offset pilot project, and freshwater restoration certificates, with the University of Colorado-Boulder.

## **4. OTHER**

4.1. The Parties agree to pursue additional joint initiatives not described herein but put forth for consideration, and agreed upon, by the Parties.

4.2. This MOU does not, is not intended to, nor should it be understood to, affect or extend the legal responsibilities of any of the parties, create or extend any legal rights to any person or entity not a party to this MOU, or confer remedies on any party in the event of its breach.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Parties will convene a River Sisters Council to coordinate the execution of this memorandum (MOU) and official River Sister events.

## **MODIFICATIONS AND TERMINATION**

1.1. This MOU may be amended during its term by mutual agreement in writing, specifying the date of the amendment.

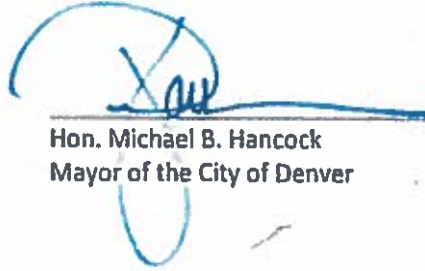
1.2. Any party may terminate its participation under this MOU by written notice. The termination of a party's participation will not affect the other parties' commitments and participation under this MOU, nor the completion of the activities, projects or programs of cooperation that would have been formalized during its term.

**For the City of San Luis Rio Colorado  
of the United Mexican States**



Hon. José Enrique Reina Lizárraga  
Mayor of the City of San Luis Rio Colorado

**For the City of Denver  
of the United States of America**



Hon. Michael B. Hancock  
Mayor of the City of Denver

**For the Cocopah Indian Tribe  
of northwestern Mexico**



Hon. Alfonso Tambo Ceceña  
Governor of Cocopah Indian Tribe

**For Denver Sister Cities International**



Beth Hendrix  
Executive Director  
Denver Sister Cities International

**For Pronatura Noroeste**



Osvel Hinojosa  
Director of Water and Wetlands Program  
Pronatura Noroeste

**For Americas for Conservation + the Arts**



Irene Vilar  
Executive Director  
Americas for Conservation + the Arts

For the Autonomous University of Baja California



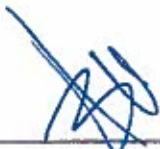
Dr. Jorge Ramirez  
Chief of Hydrology, Geophysics,  
and Environmental Impact Department  
Autonomous University of Baja California

For the Denver Botanic Gardens



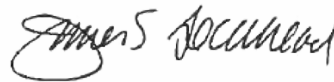
Brian Vogt  
Chief Executive Officer  
Denver Botanic Gardens

For the Water, Wastewater and Sanitation Utility  
of San Luis Rio Colorado



C. Jesús Antonio Navarro Acosta  
Director General, OOMAPAS

For Denver Water



Jim Lochhead  
CEO/Manager  
Denver Water

Urbanist Paul Cawood Hellmund



Urbanist Nancy Saldaña



Artist Rik Sargent



Artist Manuel Cuen Gamboa



President  
San Luis Rio Colorado Writers  
and Cultural Promotion Association