
Breanna A. González, MA

May 11, 2023

Attn: Metro Roundtable

Dear MRT Chairwoman Barbara Biggs and MRT Members,

As a Metro water user, advocate, policy coordinator, and recreationist, I am highly interested in the open position of Recreation representative. I believe my intersectional skills and experience would be of great value to the Roundtable.

As outlined in my resume, I have taken a non-traditional path to my professional career in water conservation, but I firmly believe that non-traditional solutions are necessary to address the unprecedented challenges facing our water supply. With a background in international development, public health, and education, and a decade of experience in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion facilitation/management, I have identified immediate gaps in the watershed issues of the Metro region, and I am committed to ensuring that the ideas, voices, and needs of all stakeholders are sincerely recognized.

As the Colorado Field Coordinator for Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO) with the National Wildlife Federation and a Member of the Next100 Colorado Coalition, I am directly involved in addressing the concerns of Metro water users on a daily basis. Through my work, I regularly engage with local and state elected officials, particularly Latino officials in the greater Metro area, who explain their communities' concerns and request direct educational and policy support. I support these officials and their communities through authentic relationship-building and emphasizing how their water concerns intersect with every aspect of their and their families' lives.

At HECHO, I am leading a campaign on basins and tributaries knowledge for our local water users while also connecting with Latino water professionals from the Lower Basin states, like Arizona and Nevada, to dialogue about interconnectivity solutions with us here in the Upper Basin, which includes Latino water professionals out of the Denver area. Thanks to my consistent partnership with the One World One Water Center (OWOW) in my role, I will be a panelist at the Watershed Summit, speaking to bridge the gap and clear up any misconceptions about water usage and drought mitigation between the urban and rural populations of Colorado. Additionally, I am leading a Colorado River Recommendations Report that took the thoughts and opinions about water boards from Latino leaders in Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. The Recommendations Report will ultimately go to the CWCB with actionable steps to support Latinos in joining water boards as we make up 22% of the Colorado total population and the Metro area, however, these numbers are not reflected in water boards across the state.

Intersectionality is a fundamental part of my passion for connecting Metro water users to their watershed and their role in engaging with it. I am proud to be the lead host of the First Annual Water Justice Film Festival, which tells stories of recreation, farming, and the Indigenous perspective on water protection for the greater Front Range community in partnership with American Rivers, National Young Farmers Coalition, TRCP, and Patagonia. In addition to these consistent stakeholder engagements to better educate people about the Water Plan, the state of the River, and the roles and responsibilities of our Metro Roundtable, I regularly engage with Water Education Colorado, and CSU SPUR Hydro to bridge communication and education.

Thank you for considering my nomination. I am confident that my skills, experience, and dedication to water conservation and equitable representation would be a valuable addition to the Metro Roundtable. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss my application further. I am looking forward to the opportunity to speak with you.

Best Regards,

Breanna A. González, MA