



TOWN OF RICO
INCORPORATED OCTOBER 11, 1879
2 North Commercial Street
Post Office Box 9
Rico, Colorado 81332
Office # 970.967.2861
Fax # 970.967.2862
www.ricocolorado.gov

March 19, 2025

Dear Program Manager:

The Town of Rico Board of Trustees have the opportunity to support a relationship with members of the Rico Geothermal Coalition (RGC) and their associated partners including, Teverra (Geothermal/Geology Consultant) and Academic professionals, focused on the advancement of geothermal technology in Rico. The Board of Trustees is addressing this letter to you in support of their application to the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) Geothermal Energy Grant Program: Community District Heating/Thermal Energy Network, for Phase 3 funding. The CEO funded Phase 1 Scoping Study to assess the development of a thermal energy network in Rico, Colorado has a will continue to provide a clearer understanding of the Rico hydro geothermal resource and the community readiness for this project. The Town supports the continuation of the Rico Geothermal Project in the next design phase. Based on collective experiences living in the south-central Colorado region and understanding of the value of a secure, consistent, reliable heating and cooling system, the Board of Trustees strongly believe that this project, if successful, will provide value to the town of Rico and will provide a clear framework and template for similar local municipalities throughout the Rocky Mountain Region.

Development of a geothermal district heating/cooling system in Rico by the RGC has significant interest as shown by the research studies previously performed and could have significant impact for the community to reduce heating related carbon emissions and heating costs for residents. The Board of Trustees will be following the progress of this project as the results will be directly applicable to our municipality and could help our economy through providing additional employment opportunities, more stable heating prices, and a roadmap to further decarbonization and economic sustainability for similar small towns throughout the region and the country. As we continue to see the progress of Phase I, the Board of Trustees is confident there will be additional interest in exploring the opportunity for Rico and to implement a district heating/cooling system designed for other municipal buildings, commercial districts and residential housing throughout Colorado.

Therefore, the Board of Trustees extend our endorsement of this team and their application for funding and encourage you to give serious consideration to investing more grant money in their innovative and promising new approach to geothermal district heating and cooling, combining a small scale geothermal resource with a new generation district heating/cooling system.

Sincerely,

Patrick Fallon, Mayor
On behalf of the Town of Rico Board of Trustees