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 (OOMAPAS, 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.
2. SISTER PARKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT
   2.1. The City of San Luis Río Colorado, in collaboration with Pronatura Noroeste, Nancy Saldaña, UABCS, Paul Cawood Hellmund, and AFC+A develops a Colorado River Greenway in Mexico that reconnects the people of San Luis Río 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 Latinas, 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 Río 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 Río Colorado, incorporating water from the San Luis Río 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 Río Colorado of the United Mexican States

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

For Denver Sister Cities International

Beth Hendrix
Executive Director
Denver Sister Cities International

For the City of Denver of the United States of America

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

For Pronatura Noroeste

Oscar 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 Herology, 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