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Chamber & EDC awarded \$45,000 U.S. Economic Development Administration grant to enhance rail infrastructure

Colorado Springs, Colo. – April 26, 2021 – Today, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced that Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC will be awarded an EDA Grant for \$45,000. The grant will be used to advance planning efforts for the Front Range Dual-Service Rail Park of Southern Colorado, the first of its kind in the Pikes Peak region. Key partners in securing the grant opportunity include El Paso County, City of Fountain, and the Edw. C. Levy Co.

The Rail Park is proposed to be located southwest of the City of Fountain and west of Interstate 25 on Fort Carson’s eastern boundary. The 2,500-acre project will improve the Pikes Peak region’s economic development portfolio and attract investment and jobs from companies and industries whose needs include services and supply chain via rail.

The vision for the Rail Park includes a dedicated rail spur to Fort Carson to relieve mission deployment risk, enhance mission training capacity, and expand community job growth.

“Congratulations to the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC for securing this grant. This is a huge economic development win, said El Paso County Board Chair Stan VanderWerf. “Our strategy is to evaluate multiple growth opportunities in our region, and the Rail Park is a great example of an infrastructure solution that will help create and grow jobs locally.”

“We’re thrilled to start a new chapter in Southern Colorado and spur new activity with rail infrastructure. We’ve collected data over the past decade that indicates that a dual-service rail solution in this region would increase competitiveness for new and expanding projects and job creation.” – Cecilia Harry, CECD, chief economic development officer, Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC.

“The City of Fountain has worked closely with our regional partners on this project for over a decade and is elated to receive this Economic Development Administration funding. This is a prime example of regionalism at work and Fountain is very grateful for the efforts of all our engaged and contributing partners. This project will support and enhance Fort Carson’s mission, as well as providing a strong economic engine for Southern Colorado in the creation of skilled jobs and capital investment.” -- Mayor Gabriel Ortega

“The Edw. C. Levy Co. has supported the economy of Southern Colorado since we purchased Schmidt Construction in 1985. We are proud to be the private entity in this unique public private partnership that will not only enhance Ft.

Carson's rapid deployment capability but also facilitate the development of a 21st century industrial rail park. This is a fabulous opportunity to enrich Colorado's economy for generations to come." - L. Steven Weiner, Vice President, Edw. C. Levy Co.

EDA grants help to fulfill regional economic development strategies designed to accelerate innovation and entrepreneurship, advance regional competitiveness, create higher-skill, living-wage jobs, generate private investment, and fortify and grow industry clusters.

About the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC

Serving as the area's largest chamber of commerce and economic development organization, the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC works to build and maintain a superior business climate in which companies of all kinds can thrive, and supports current and future local business to fuel a diverse economy and high quality of life. Learn more at www.ColoradoSpringsChamberEDC.com

About El Paso County

El Paso County Government is a premier regional leader dedicated to serving and bettering the lives of all 750,000 people who live in the state's 2nd most populous county. Guided by our respect for citizens, the "Code of the West", and a deep desire to innovate, El Paso County protects our region's most vulnerable, develops the local economy, and provides crucial services to residents. Learn more at www.ElPasoCO.com

About City of Fountain

The City of Fountain is the second largest city within El Paso County, Colorado, nestled along the I-25 and immediately adjacent to Fort Carson Army Post. The city represents the Southern gateway to the Pikes Peak Region and serves as the commercial spine to the greater Fountain Valley, which boasts a population of over 103,500 residents. The military is a major contributor to the economic vitality of the community, with Fort Carson serving as the largest employer in the region. Fountain's business focus on national defense, manufacturing, transportation & logistics, renewable energy, entrepreneurialism, and motorsports are key elements of a resilient and sustainable local economy and healthy job creation. Since early 2000, the City of Fountain continues to experience double-digit growth annually, with an average household income of \$61,242 and a young median age of 28.9. Residents enjoy expansive vistas, quality housing, a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and award winning schools. Fountain proudly maintains at its core a welcoming All-America hometown feel, and the city's motto, "Pure Colorado," embodies a rich history in ranching and agriculture, while also embracing a strong military presence and the amenities of modern family living. To learn more, please visit www.fountaincolorado.org

About the Levy Co.

The Levy Group of Companies started in 1918 as a hauler of slag from Henry Ford's new Rouge steel mill. Today Levy employs over 2,500 people with operations on five continents. Our products include lightweight aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, agricultural products, and more. We provide services that include construction materials, road building, flame cutting and treatment, steel mill services, logistics, and laboratory testing. Levy employees proactively share ideas, pool their creativity, develop the systems, and deliver the processes to transform our products and services into innovative solutions that best meet our customers' needs. At Levy, it is our values – integrity, honesty, and a strong work ethic – that help shape the culture of our company. It's the culture of continuous improvement – always searching for a way to make a product or process the best that it can possibly be –

that sets our team apart from the competition, builds momentum to meet future challenges head on...and turns challenges into Solutions for Your Environment. See www.edwclevy.com.