

R-26-02

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF AN ADDITIONAL \$25,000 TOWARD THE PURCHASE BY THE TOWN OF SILVER PLUME OF THE TAYLOR KENNEDY FAMILY MINING CLAIMS FOR USE AS OPEN SPACE, BRINGING THE TOTAL CONTRIBUTION TO \$125,000

WHEREAS, in the charter of the Clear Creek County Open Space Commission (“OSC”) approved and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Clear Creek County (“Board”) on December 6, 2022, states the OSC may recommend use of land acquisition funds to assist other entities to advance purchases of lands that are in the County’s interest to be secured or conserved; and

WHEREAS, in the Fall of 2024, the Taylor Kennedy Family mining claims (“Taylor Kennedy Claims”), comprised of 122 mining claims spanning over 350 acres and located adjacent to property previously purchased by the Town of Silver Plume (“Town”), went up for sale; and

WHEREAS, the Taylor Kennedy Claims, located on Republican Mountain, begin at the north end of Silver Street in Silver Plume, at approximately 9,200 thousand feet, and stretches up the mountainside to 11,200 thousand feet. Concurrently, the popular public (non-motorized), interpretive 7:30 Mine Trail also begins in the Town at Silver Street, and winds in and out of the Taylor Kennedy Claims for its entire 1.8-mile length; and

WHEREAS, the Taylor Kennedy Claims are located within the boundaries of the Georgetown – Silver Plume National Historic Landmark District. The Town has decided to pursue the purchase of the Taylor Kennedy Claims. The Town worked with Great Outdoors Colorado, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Gates Family Foundation, History Colorado, local funders and Mountain Area Land Trust to secure funding for the purchase. MALT has agreed to help procure funding and will hold the conservation easement on the property; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of the Taylor Kennedy Claims by the Town of Silver Plume will greatly benefit the Town’s Silver Plume Mountain Park Project (“SPMP”) area and provide key habitat for the State’s iconic and prominent Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep which migrate through the area from the Colorado Parks & Wildlife managed State Wildlife Area as well as the Board designated Sheep Keep Area; and

WHEREAS, the SPMP is highly visible to twenty-five million travelers annually on Interstate 70 and the area will allow the residents of Silver Plume to protect the unique nature of their Town and its vitality as they will be able to manage the open space surroundings to their community as part of the SPMP; and

WHEREAS, the planned Clear Creek Trail - Clear Creek Greenway location is the southern boundary of the SPMP, and the acquisition of these parcels will provide an interpretive node for the Greenway about Bighorn Sheep as well as Clear Creek County’s rich mining history; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes that the Taylor Kennedy Claims offer an opportunity to provide recreational amenities to both the residents of the County and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the OSC is committed to providing for the conservation and preservation of public and private lands to meet recreation, open space, historic preservation, wildlife protection, scenic protection, and educational needs of both residents of the County and visitors; and

WHEREAS, public lands have long-term benefits, associated with open space, wildlife habitat, trails and recreation, hence providing financial support to this purchase by the Town will ensure that the land will be managed for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this County, the citizens of Colorado as well as visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Ownership of the 122 Taylor Kennedy Claims in the SPMP area will enable the Town to protect its economic vitality and preserve its unique small-town qualities; and

WHEREAS, the Town's purchase of the Taylor Kennedy Claims that comprise the SPMP will preserve the habitat of the prominent Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep; and

WHEREAS, the OSC has worked closely with the Town itself and as a part of the Historic District Public Land Commission, which collaboratively oversees management of the public lands within the Georgetown-Silver Plume National Historic Landmark District on the protection of wildlife habitat, landscape vistas, recreation and historical/cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Town initially approached the OSC in October 2024, and again in January 2025, to assess the OSC's interest in assisting the Town in their purchase of the Taylor Kennedy Claims; and

WHEREAS, on February 4, 2025, the Town presented a letter to the OSC requesting that the OSC recommend that the Board support the purchase and approve a contribution from the Open Space Trust Fund (Acquisition) of \$100,000.00 toward the purchase of the Taylor Kennedy Claims; and

WHEREAS, the OSC indicated that they were supportive of the purchase and at its February 12, 2025, meeting, passed a motion recommending that the Board support the purchase of the Taylor Kennedy Claims through a contribution in the amount of \$100,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Trust Fund (Acquisition) with the approval of the Board has financially assisted municipalities within Clear Creek County to purchase key parcels which have protected open space in the region; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2025, the Board approved the \$100,000.00 contribution from the Open Space Trust Fund (Acquisition) toward Silver Plume's purchase of the Taylor Kennedy Claims; and

WHEREAS, the Town entered into a purchase agreement with the Taylor Kennedy family for the purchase of the Taylor Kennedy Claims for a purchase price of \$1,001,600.00, and has secured committed contributions of \$971,600.00 for the purchase; and

WHEREAS, in October 2025, the Town approached the OSC to provide an update on the Town's fundraising efforts as they were alerted that the funding from NoCo Places was going to be less than was requested, and were approximately \$30,000.00 short in the funding for the purchase of the Taylor Kennedy Claims; and

WHEREAS, the OSC urged the Town to seek additional funding from other sources, and as a last resort, would consider a recommendation to the BOCC for an additional contribution if needed; and

WHEREAS, in December 2025, the Town reported back to the OSC that the Town had secured an additional \$5,000.00 in funding, however there was still a funding shortfall of \$25,000.00 and asked if the OSC would consider an additional contribution; and

WHEREAS, at its December 10, 2025, meeting, the OSC passed a motion recommending that the Board contribute an additional \$25,000.00 toward the purchase of the Taylor Kennedy Claims; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to memorialize its March 4, 2025, approval of a \$100,000.00 contribution from the Open Space Trust Fund (Acquisition) toward the Town's purchase of the Taylor Kennedy Claims and also approve an additional \$25,000 contribution for this purchase, bringing the total contribution to \$125,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Clear Creek County, that this resolution memorializes the decision made by the Board on March 4, 2025, to approve a \$100,000.00 contribution from the Open Space Trust Fund (Acquisition) to be used by the Town of Silver Plume to purchase the Taylor Kennedy Claims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Clear Creek County hereby approves an additional contribution of \$25,000.00 from the Open Space Trust Fund (Acquisition) to be used by the Town of Silver Plume to purchase the Taylor Kennedy Claims.

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ADOPTED this 6th day of January, 2026, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Clear Creek County Board of County Commissioners.

Rebecca Lloyd, Chair

Jodie Hartman-Ball, Commissioner

ATTEST:

George Marlin, Commissioner

Deputy Clerk and Recorder for
Brenda L. Corbett
Clear Creek County Clerk and Recorder