

# STATE OF COLORADO

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## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
Phone: (303) 866-3441  
Fax: (303) 866-4474  
www.cwcb.state.co.us



### *News Release*

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### *Contact:*

Jennifer Gimbel, CWCB, 303 866 3441 x3214

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Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

Harris D. Sherman  
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel  
CWCB Director

Dan McAuliffe  
CWCB Deputy Director

## CWCB awards \$3.3 million in water grants *State Board also approves \$2 million in loans*

DENVER, Colo. – The Colorado Water Conservation Board has awarded \$3.3 million to 14 projects intended to help Colorado communities identify and meet critical water supply needs.

The grant awards, which were made from the CWCB's Water Supply Reserve Account program, were announced at its September meeting in Steamboat Springs. The board also voted to support two dam safety projects and two agricultural projects with low-interest loans.

"Providing support for important projects through our grants and loans program is very gratifying because it's through these projects that state policies take concrete form," said Jennifer Gimbel, director of the CWCB. "The Board works hard to ensure that money is not only available for projects, but it is well-spent."

The grants approved this month cover a broad range of water activities. In the metro area, two grants totaling over \$1 million address water supply and infrastructure limitations in Denver's south metro area which currently relies on non-renewable groundwater.

In Southwestern Colorado, the La Plata Archuleta Water District received \$400,000 to initiate permitting necessary for the construction of its water system to serve a projected population of almost 10,000. Many residents in the La Plata-Archuleta area currently haul water due to water quality and water quantity limitations.

The City of Pueblo received a grant of \$190,000 to explore sediment removal in a degraded section of Fountain Creek while the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District received \$180,000 for a study to determine the availability and sustainability of groundwater resources in the Upper Arkansas River valley.

In addition, five agricultural applicants received a total of over \$1 million to address a range of issues including: canal lining rehabilitation, reservoir seepage, recharge and wetlands enhancement, community education, leveraging federal funds for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Three grants were awarded to address the non-consumptive environmental needs of river restoration and water quality assessment.

The Water Supply Reserve Account program was created to identify and meet critical water supply needs by funding a broad range of eligible activities including the construction of infrastructure such as reservoirs, storage, pipelines and river improvements, feasibility studies, studies of human and environmental needs, and technical assistance for permitting or environmental compliance.

The Water Supply Reserve Account is administered by the CWCB in collaboration with the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) and the nine Basin Roundtables established under House Bill 05-1177.

The recently approved loans cover a broad range of water activities. Two project loans will help address dam safety concerns; one in the South Platte River Basin and one in the Colorado River Basin. Two agricultural applicants received loans totaling over \$1.5M. One of the agricultural loans was to address augmentation needs along the South Platte River and the other was a canal lining project to reduce salinity loading into the Colorado River.

The Water Project Loan Program and the Non-Reimbursable Project Investments Program provide low-interest loans to qualified borrowers for raw water projects that develop and/or preserve waters Statewide.

A complete list of approved grants is available on the CWCB web site:  
<http://cwc.state.co.us/Home/InformationReleases/>

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