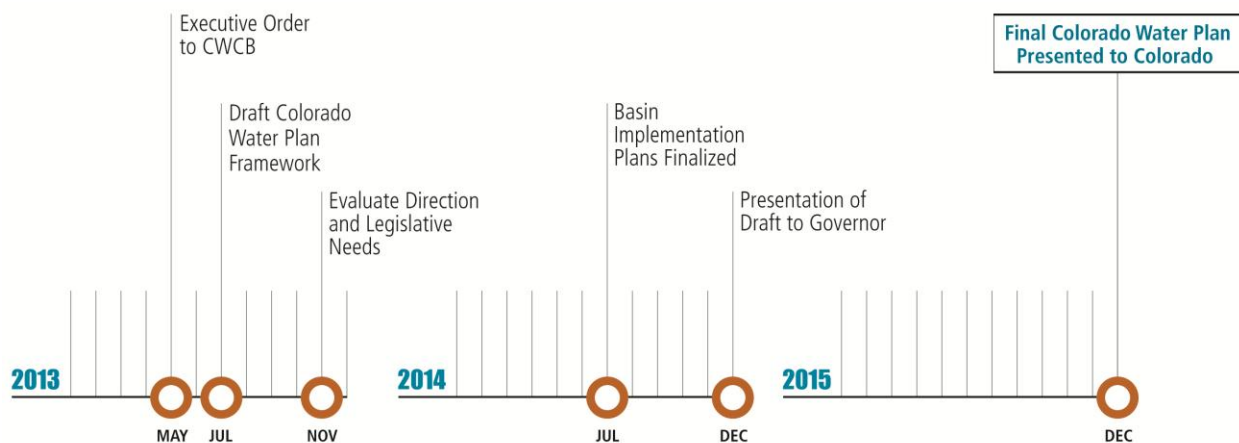

Providing Input on Colorado's Water Plan – A Guide for Municipal and Industrial Entities in Submitting Input **DRAFT VERSION 02/07/2014**

Development of Colorado's Water Plan

Colorado's Water Plan will leverage and integrate nine years of work accomplished by Colorado's Basin Roundtables, the Interbasin Compact Committee, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to determine how to implement water supply planning solutions that meet Colorado's future water needs while supporting healthy watersheds and environment, robust recreation and tourism economies, vibrant and sustainable cities, and viable and productive agriculture.

Colorado's Water Plan is a grassroots effort. Each Basin Roundtable is currently in the process of developing its own plan. These Basin Implementation Plans will identify the specific challenges to a secure water future that each basin faces, the strategies it will pursue to address those challenges, and the projects and methods that the basin may implement to meet its water needs. Due to the CWCB by the end of July, 2014 in draft form, these Basin Implementation Plans will then be incorporated into the first draft of Colorado's Water Plan by December, 2014. A general timeline is included below.



COLORADO'S WATER PLAN TIMELINE

Purpose of This Document

This document was created in order to guide entities with municipal and industrial interests on how to provide input to be incorporated into Colorado's Water Plan. It specifies the draft sections of the Framework for Colorado's Water Plan on which comments related to municipal and industrial issues should focus. The current version of the Framework can be found online at www.coloradowaterplan.com. Input should be formally submitted to your Basin Roundtable by email or in person at Basin Roundtable meetings so that it can be incorporated directly into the Basin Implementation Plan. Contact your Basin Roundtable for timelines for submitting this information. Find contact information for your Basin Roundtable at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/basin-roundtables/Pages/main.aspx>. Please also copy cwaterplan@state.co.us when you email input to your Basin Roundtable.

Other input can be submitted directly to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) by emailing cwaterplan@state.co.us. We suggest that you submit this information to the CWCB by May 2, 2014, however there is no formal cutoff date for the submission of input.

We appreciate your participation in the development of Colorado's Water Plan. Email cwaterplan@state.co.us if you have any questions. You can access this document online at www.coloradowaterplan.com.

I. Water Demand by Sector

Background

Covered entities will already be submitting data related to their water demand as part of the 1051 Survey due to the CWCB by June 30, 2014. The responses to this survey will also include entities' rate structures, tap fee structures, conservation programming and related budget levels. The survey does not request information on covered entities' wet, dry or average year demand data.

Requested Input

- *Treated Water Deliveries:* While the 1051 Survey will inform CWCB of treated water deliveries, retail water providers should inform the Basin Roundtables and the CWCB of the total quantity of treated water deliveries for wet, dry, and average years so that year to year variability in water demands can be assessed.
- *Water Loss:* Each service area should inform their respective Basin Roundtable and CWCB of the total percentage of water lost between raw water diversions and the drinking water treatment plant so that they may include this information in their Basin Implementation Plan.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 3. Water Demand by Sector** of the Framework.

II. Meeting Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Gaps

Requested Input

- *Future Water Supply Gap:* Water providers who do not currently have planned projects or methods planned to sufficiently meet projected customers' needs in the year 2050, should inform their respective Basin Roundtable and the CWCB.
- *Supply Declines from Climate Change:* Water providers who have done research on how climate change might affect system water supply yields or demands in the future should inform the CWCB. This information will be incorporated into the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) update, which will inform Colorado's Water Plan.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 5.5 Meeting the Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Gaps** of the Framework.

III. Watershed Health/Management

Background

Watershed health and management provides a tremendous opportunity for multi-purpose projects that protect critical infrastructure, water quality, human health and safety, and the environment.

Requested Input

- *Critical Watersheds:* Inform your Basin Roundtable of identified critical water infrastructure that could be impacted by at-risk watersheds.
- *Watershed Management:* Inform your Basin Roundtable of any activities your utility performs to protect a watershed that is critical to water infrastructure, water quality, and/or the environment.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 5.3 Watershed Health/Management** of the Framework.

IV. Municipal and Industrial Conservation

Background

Conservation plans exist for nearly all the water providers who deliver 2,000 acre feet or more.

Requested Input

- *Use of Conservation:* Work with your Basin Roundtable to determine how conservation could be used to help meet future water needs compared to other uses such as drought reserve, operational efficiencies, etc.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 5.6.1 Municipal and Industrial Conservation, Reuse and Land Use** of the Framework.

V. Alternative Ag-to-Urban Transfers

Requested Input

- *Alternative Transfer Mechanisms:* Inform the CWCB if your entity is interested in doing an agricultural transfer pilot project, or if you currently participate in an alternative transfer mechanism. If you are a participant in the CWCB ATM Grant Program you do not need to respond with this information.
- *Agricultural Transfer Mitigation:* Inform the CWCB if you currently mitigate the loss of irrigated agricultural lands due to permanent agricultural transfers.
- *Alternative Transfer Ideas:* Inform the CWCB and your respective Basin Roundtable if your entity has additional ideas on how to make alternative agricultural transfers a viable option.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 5.7 Alternative Agricultural to Urban Transfers** of the Framework.

VI. Municipal and Industrial Projects and Methods

Background

In 2010, SWSI identified hundreds of existing and planned municipal and industrial projects and methods. If these identified projects and methods are implemented, they will meet a large portion of future water needs, however additional projects and methods will likely be needed as well. Municipal and industrial identified projects and processes (IPPs) are projects and methods that water providers are planning to implement and rely on for their customers. IPPs may include reuse projects, in-basin projects, transbasin projects, and agricultural transfers. Specific IPP data will, upon request, be kept confidential. Please contact CWCB at cwaterplan@state.co.us for more information.

Requested Input

- *New & Updated IPPs:* Additional IPPs should be submitted to the appropriate Basin Roundtable for inclusion in your respective Basin Implementation Plan. In addition, any updates to projects that are currently on the list should be submitted. Included in this submission should be the raw water yield for wet, dry and average years, and the amount of expected treated water deliveries that will be yielded. Also, the expected date the project is expected to come on line and the project costs should be included.
- *New Multi-Purpose or Regional Projects & Methods:* In addition to projects and methods you are planning for your own system, ideas for collaborative and multi-purpose projects should be provided to your Basin Roundtable.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 5.8 Municipal, Industrial, and Agricultural Infrastructure Projects and Methods** of the Framework.

VII. Existing Water Supply O&M

Background

Based off national averages, Colorado's current water infrastructure requires about \$3,000,000,000 in maintenance between now and 2050.

Requested Input

- *Current Supplies:* Water providers should inform the appropriate Basin Roundtable of the amount of current supplies provided annually to their customers. This should include how much yield comes from reuse, transbasin, agricultural transfer, and in-basin projects.
- *Rates of Maintenance:* In addition, water providers may indicate to their respective Basin Roundtable and CWCB how much future operation and maintenance will cost, the age of your oldest infrastructure, and percent of the system that is being maintained or replaced each year.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 5.8.2 Existing Water Supply Operation and Maintenance** of the Framework.

VIII. Framework on More Efficient Water Project Permitting Processes

Background

The purpose of this work is to fine tune the permitting process so that important issues are "front-loaded" for discussion and resolution.

Requested Input

- *More Efficient Permitting Thoughts:* Tell the CWCB your thoughts on how this can be done without being pre-decisional or undermining permitting processes.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 5.10 Framework on More Efficient Water Project Permitting Processes** of the Framework.

IX. Education and Outreach Opportunities

Background

Outreach and public engagement activities are critical to ensuring that stakeholders throughout Colorado are informed of and engaged in solutions for Colorado's water future. Each Basin Roundtable is working to involve people in the Basin Implementation Plan process and the CWCB is working statewide to engage stakeholders and the public in the development of Colorado's Water Plan.

Requested Input

- *Current Education & Outreach:* Inform your Basin Roundtable and the CWCB of ways you are utilizing education and outreach efforts within your area to increase the level of knowledge regarding development of the Basin Implementation Plan and Colorado's Water Plan.

- *Additional Education & Outreach:* Inform your Basin Roundtable and the CWCB of additional ideas for how you can assist in education and outreach activities.
- Send related contact information for your entity's education and outreach lead to cowaterplan@state.co.us so that CWCB and your Roundtable can coordinate outreach efforts with your entity.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 7. Outreach and Public Engagement** of the Framework.