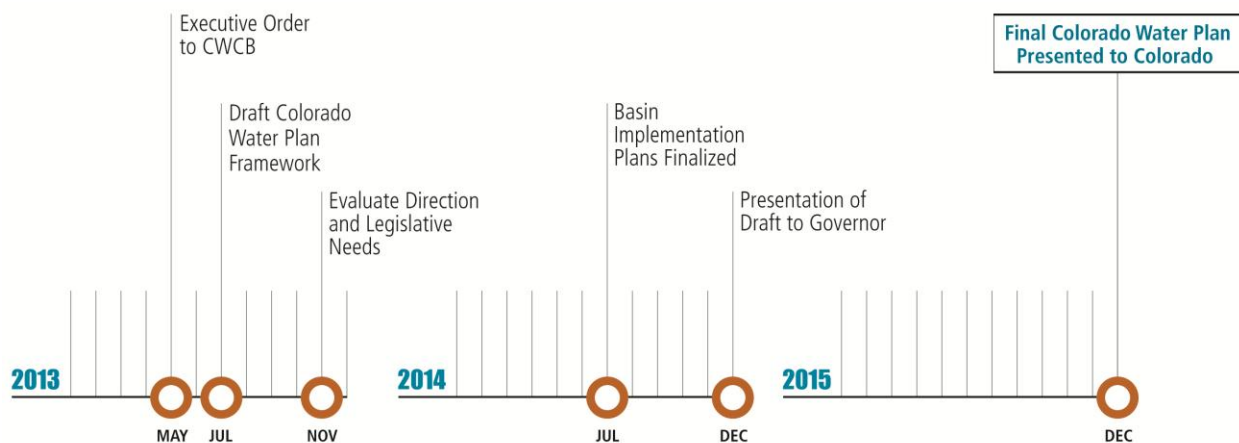

Providing Input on Colorado's Water Plan – A Guide for Submitting Input Related to Agriculture **DRAFT VERSION 04/14/2014**

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 agricultural 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 agriculture 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 cowaterplan@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 cowaterplan@state.co.us. We suggest that you submit this information to the CWCB by June 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 cowaterplan@state.co.us if you have any questions. You can access this document online at www.coloradowaterplan.com.

I. Water Demand by Sector

Background

As part of the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) update, data will be updated including current irrigated acres, the irrigation water requirements, and the amount of water currently consumed due to existing constraints. This reflects the same approach as the SWSI 2010 report (available at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/water-supply-planning/Documents/SWSI2010/SWSI2010Section4.pdf>). Any concerns or input regarding the elements of SWSI 2010 should be communicated to the CWCB at cowaterplan@state.co.us.

Requested Input

- *Irrigation Efficiency:* If you have quantified your irrigation efficiency (the amount of water diverted versus the amount of water consumed for agricultural purposes), please inform the CWCB of that data.
- *Future Water Demands:* If you are planning to increase or decrease the amount of water used to irrigate your agricultural lands, either through efficiencies or a change in the amount of lands irrigated, please inform the CWCB at cowaterplan@state.us.
- *Agricultural Needs Studies:* If you have any agricultural water planning information about current and future water needs, please inform your respective Basin Roundtable so that they may include this information in their Basin Implementation Plan. The Basin Implementation Plan Guidance Document is included in Appendix 2 for reference.

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

Background

The agricultural gap will be defined by each Basin Roundtable in goals and measurable outcomes related to agriculture. For instance, some basins may want to limit the amount of permanent agricultural transfers to those projects already planned or those that will result in the urbanization of agricultural lands. Other basins may consider the expansion of agriculture as a viable goal.

Requested Input

- *Input on Goals and Measurable Outcomes:* Agricultural water providers and users should inform their respective Basin Roundtable on viable goals and measurable outcomes for the basin related to agriculture.
- *Future Water Supply Gap:* Agricultural water providers and users who plan on expanding agricultural uses, but do not currently have planned projects or methods to sufficiently meet projected customers' needs in the year 2050, should inform their respective Basin Roundtable.
- *Supply Declines from Climate Change:* Agricultural 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. Agricultural Conservation

Background

Agricultural conservation refers to those measures that reduce agricultural consumptive use. For instance, practices such as mulching and drip irrigation reduce soil moisture loss. Agricultural conservation is distinguished from agricultural efficiency which uses water in a more targeted fashion, but does not reduce consumptive use. The Colorado Agricultural Water Alliance recently released a white paper in 2008 on agricultural conservation. This paper is available at:

http://coagwater.colostate.edu/docs/Meeting_CO_Future_Water_Supply_Needs_September_2008.pdf.

Requested Input

- *Planned Agricultural Conservation:* If planning on implementing agricultural conservation measures, please let your Basin Roundtable and the CWCB know.

How Your Input will be Used

Input on this item will inform **Section 5.6.2 Agricultural Conservation** of the Draft Colorado's Water Plan Framework.

IV. 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:* Agricultural producers should inform the CWCB if they are interested in working with municipalities to mitigate impacts of permanent agricultural transfers.
- *Alternative Transfer Ideas:* Inform the CWCB 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.

V. Agricultural Projects and Methods

Background

Specific Identified Projects and Processes (IPP) data will, upon request, be kept confidential. Please contact the CWCB at cowaterplan@state.co.us for more information regarding confidentiality.

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 also be submitted. 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. This may include agricultural and urban water sharing mentioned as mentioned above in item IV, as well as opportunities for sharing agricultural water with streams, improving in-stream or riparian habitat, and/or improving water quality (e.g., infrastructure upgrades, salinity control program projects, Water Trust/CWCB leases or donations, changing irrigation methods or crops, participating in a water bank, etc.)

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.

VI. Existing Water Supply Operations and Maintenance

Requested Input

- *Current Supplies:* Agricultural water providers may inform the appropriate Basin Roundtable of the amount of current supplies provided annually to their customers.

- *Rates of Maintenance:* In addition, agricultural water providers may indicate 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.

VII. 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.

VIII. 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, and in the process beyond the plan’s implementation.

Requested Input

- *Current Education & Outreach:* Inform your Basin Roundtable and the CWCB of ways your entity is utilizing education and outreach efforts 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 your entity can assist in education and outreach activities throughout the development and longer-term implementation of the Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado’s Water Plan.
- 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.