



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Kate McIntire, Outreach, Education and Public Engagement
Water Supply Planning

DATE: July 16, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: 14. Colorado's Water Plan – Review of Public Input and Presentations

Staff recommendation: This is an informational item only. No Board action is required.

Background

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) maintains an Outreach and Communications Plan in order to provide a cohesive strategy and structure for all communications and outreach activities related to Colorado's Water Plan. At each CWCB Board meeting since September, 2013 there has been a public input agenda item regarding Colorado's Water Plan. At the November 2013 Board meeting, staff gave a presentation on statewide opinion-editorials, launch of the Colorado's Water Plan website, and a review of public input received to date. In January, 2014 staff provided a summary of current and planned outreach efforts within each basin statewide and reviewed public input received to date. At the March, 2014 Board meeting, staff provided an overview of public input received between January 16 and March 3, 2014 and took comments from the Board regarding the process for incorporating those comments. Additionally, over one hour, the CWCB Board heard three separate public input presentations from stakeholder groups interested in commenting on Colorado's Water Plan. At the May, 2014 Board meeting, staff provided an overview of public input received between March 4 and May 2, 2014 and took comments from the Board regarding the process for incorporating those comments. Additionally, over two hours, the CWCB Board heard eight separate public input presentations from stakeholder groups interested in commenting on Colorado's Water Plan.

Discussion

Staff will lead a discussion with the Board on the following outreach items:

1. Summary of Input Received Between May 3 and June 20, 2014

Between May 3 and June 20, 2014 the CWCB received 3,028 email submissions containing input on Colorado's Water Plan. Of those emails, 3,007 were form letters submitted through seven different organizations or campaigns. The other 21 emails received were submitted by individuals or groups and 15 of those emails included separate documents attached for review. All of those documents are included in the Board packet for review. In addition, the CWCB received 14 unique webform submissions through the Colorado's Water Plan website. There were over an additional 2,000 unique pageviews on the website between May 3 and



June 20, 2014. A comprehensive summary of all input received will be included in Chapter 7 Outreach, Education and Public Engagement.

2. Public Input Presentations

Staff will provide the Board with an updated printed handout the day of the meeting that lists the groups presenting at the July, 2014 Board meeting.

This agenda item will continue to provide an expanded opportunity for public input regarding Colorado's Water Plan. Groups that do not participate in this agenda item at the July meeting are invited to participate in similar agenda item offered at the September, 2014 Board meeting. Preference will be given to groups that submit formal written input and send to cowaterplan@state.co.us. At least two weeks before each CWCB Board meeting, interested individuals or groups must email cowaterplan@state.co.us with confirmation of who the speaker(s) will be, affiliation, general presentation topics, and any documents related to specific input.

In addition to providing public input directly to the CWCB during this agenda item, interested parties are encouraged to engage directly with their Basin Roundtable as they have all recently created significant opportunities for public input into the Basin Implementation Plan process. Providing input to your Roundtable is a very effective way to be sure that your comments are considered as your basin's Basin Implementation Plan is being drafted. Draft versions of each Basin Implementation Plan are due to the CWCB Board at the end of July, 2014. Find more information including guides for public input online at www.coloradowaterplan.com.



Colorado's Water Plan - Input Received
between 5/3/2014 and 6/20/2014

Item Number	Date	Input Provided By	Method of Input Submission	Related Chapters of CWP Framework	Summary of Input	Documents Submitted for Review	Staff Responses and Recommendations
1	5/4/14	Richard Maslow, Colorado Citizen	Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com	1, 5.9	Comments to be considered in Colorado's Water Plan: Please remember environmental needs, especially for birds in future water assessments.	None	Staff Response: The four values driving Colorado's Water Plan include attention to environmental needs. Those four values are 1) vibrant and sustainable cities, 2) viable and productive agriculture, 3) a robust recreation and tourism industry, and 4) a thriving environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers, streams, and wildlife. Meeting Colorado's nonconsumptive needs is a critical aspect of Colorado's Water Plan. The Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to helping meet future water needs.
2	5/8/14	William Coates, Colorado Citizen	Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com	5.11	Comments to be considered in Colorado's Water Plan: Squeezing extra water out of the Western Slope thru costly diversions to feed the urban sociopathology of Denver is futile. Look to a place with a surplus, like the big flood-control dams on the Missouri River, about 400 to 500 easy miles from Denver across Nebraska. Pipelines and pumping from there should have relatively lower construction costs, easy geology, better access for maintenance & repair. No problem with international treaties on that river, just need an interstate compact.	None	Staff Response: Scenario planning indicates that a new transmountain diversion may not be needed in the future, however some futures suggest that new transmountain diversions may be a necessary part of Colorado's water supply portfolio. Colorado's Water Plan will not include any specific transmountain water projects, but it will discuss how we can move forward with this option should it be needed, based on the IBCC's work. CWCB staff suggests that the commenter read the "Citizen's Guide to Interstate Compacts" published by the Colorado Foundation for Water Education.
3	5/13/14	Pricilladean Vance, Colorado Citizen	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.9, 5.6.1, 5.6.4, 5.7, 5.11	Text from email: " Dear CWCB, I am writing to support your efforts to create the first ever statewide water plan. Thank you for reiterating the importance of the plan, and water conservation, in your recent State of the State address. As our state's communities grow, our rivers are becoming increasingly strained. That means we need to change the status quo. We need our rivers to be clean and flowing - to support our fish and wildlife, tourism, recreation, and future generations. Colorado's Water Plan has the potential to chart an innovative path forward for our state. I urge you to stand up for measures to protect and restore our rivers, push for conservation, and for cities to live within their means. We need to help agriculture modernize and increase efficiency, and stop looking to the West Slope to solve our water issues. We need to maintain working landscapes, support growing communities, and protect river health. Please ensure that Colorado's Water Plan uses our state's ingenuity to "be prepared" for our water future."	None	Staff Response: Colorado's Water Plan will support Colorado's rivers as will be described in Section 5.9, address the need for increased conservation as described in Subsection 5.6.1, and the need for agricultural efficiencies and water sharing practices as described in 5.6.4 and 5.7. With regard to new transmountain diversion projects, the IBCC is exploring innovative ways to address this issue in a balanced manner. Scenario planning indicates that a new transmountain diversion may not be needed in the future, however some futures suggest that new transmountain diversions may be a necessary part of Colorado's water supply portfolio. Colorado's Water Plan will not include any specific transmountain water project, but it will discuss how we can move forward with this option should it be needed, based on the IBCC's work.
4	5/14/14	Ken Ransford, Colorado Citizen	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	General	Text from email: "Stamping DRAFT on the review copies makes them very difficult to read – Please put the Draft in the footer in the future."	None	Staff Response: CWCB staff stamps DRAFT across copies to clearly indicate the version of the chapters that are out for review. Our apologies for the inconvenience.
5	5/14/14	Ann Tartre, Protect the Flows	Email to James Eklund, forwarded to cewaterplan@state.co.us	1, 5.9	Text from email: "...Our members agree that for 150 years, we have done a good job of tapping water resources to support agriculture, industries and cities — in the 21st century, we have valid economic reasons to keep our rivers healthy and flowing: Quality of life economy — why companies and employees want to locate/live/grow in Colorado. Tourism economy. Recreation economy — Colorado River system drives a \$26B recreation economy and 250,000 sustainable, American jobs. To that end, in developing the Colorado Water Plan, we support the following: 1) Keeping Colorado’s rivers healthy and flowing: To leverage Colorado’s assets and drive small business, 21st-century economics demand that the health and viability of our rivers as natural and economic resources be prioritized in water policy and management. 2) A call for municipal conservation: With Colorado’s population projected to double by 2050, Colorado should commit to the top target set by the State Water Supply Initiative—reducing per capita municipal water use by 35 percent by 2050. 3) Investment in agricultural water delivery and reuse: Better than 70 percent of water diverted from our rivers feeds our farms and ranches. Modernizing infrastructure for delivery, irrigation and reuse promotes this foundational industry and Colorado tradition. 4) Modernizing and maximizing existing storage systems: Demand exceeds supply on basins across the state. Drought and the specter of future diversions challenge our rivers, in-stream flows, wildlife and recreation. Investment in efficient use of our current reservoirs and delivery systems should take precedent over new diversions. We hope you will take our members' views into account when crafting the final version of the State Water Plan. We look forward to staying engaged in the process. Thank you for all the work you are doing on behalf of the Colorado River and the residents of Colorado! "	None	Staff Response: The four values driving Colorado's Water Plan recognize the economic and quality of life benefits that our rivers provide. Those four values are 1) vibrant and sustainable cities, 2) viable and productive agriculture, 3) a robust recreation and tourism industry, and 4) a thriving environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers, streams, and wildlife. Meeting Colorado's nonconsumptive needs is a critical aspect of Colorado's Water Plan. The Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to helping meet future water needs. Meeting Colorado's nonconsumptive needs is a critical aspect of Colorado's Water Plan. The Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to helping meet future water needs. "Colorado's Water Plan will support Colorado's rivers as will be described in Section 5.9, address the need for increased conservation as described in Subsection 5.6.1, and the need for agricultural efficiencies and water sharing practices as described in 5.6.4 and 5.7.
6	5/16/14	John Gale, National Sportsmen	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.9, 5.6.1, 5.6.4, 5.7, 5.11	Summary of attachment: The Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance, the Colorado Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Colorado Trout Unlimited, Colorado Wildlife Federation, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership signed a letter requesting that Colorado's Water Plan honor outdoor recreation and tourism by 1) keeping the rivers healthy and flowing, 2) increase efficiency and conservation for municipal use, 3) modernize agriculture and water-sharing practice, 4) Avoid new trans-mountain diversions.	Letter	Staff Response: Colorado's Water Plan will support Colorado's rivers as will be described in Section 5.9, address the need for increased conservation as described in Subsection 5.6.1, and the need for agricultural efficiencies and water sharing practices as described in 5.6.4 and 5.7. With regard to new transmountain diversion projects, the IBCC is exploring innovative ways to address this issue in a balanced manner. Scenario planning indicates that a new transmountain diversion may not be needed in the future, however some futures suggest that new transmountain diversions may be a necessary part of Colorado's water supply portfolio. Colorado's Water Plan will not include any specific transmountain water projects, but it will discuss how we can move forward with this option should it be needed, based on the IBCC's work. The CWCB would like encourage to multipurpose projects and full mitigation.
7	5/12/14	Hilary Back, Colorado Citizen	Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com	1, 5.6	Comments to be considered in Colorado's Water Plan: Please keep our rivers wet. We want water in all of our rivers at all times. Please protect fish and all wildlife by having water in our rivers.	None	Staff Response: The four values driving Colorado's Water Plan include attention to environmental needs. Those four values are 1) vibrant and sustainable cities, 2) viable and productive agriculture, 3) a robust recreation and tourism industry, and 4) a thriving environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers, streams, and wildlife. Meeting Colorado's nonconsumptive needs is a critical aspect of Colorado's Water Plan. The Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to helping meet future water needs.

Colorado's Water Plan - Input Received
between 5/3/2014 and 6/20/2014

Item Number	Date	Input Provided By	Method of Input Submission	Related Chapters of CWP Framework	Summary of Input	Documents Submitted for Review	Staff Responses and Recommendations
8	5/15/14	Ken Scott, Colorado Citizen	Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com	1, 5.9	Comments to be considered in Colorado's Water Plan: Five generations of my family have lived on Colorado's Front Range - primarily within the city of Denver though also in Arvada and Highlands Ranch. I love it here. As long as I can continue to find meaningful and gainful employment, I expect to stay and raise a family of my own here. I don't consider myself to be very politically engaged (for better or worse) and, like many of my fellow Coloradans, I probably fall somewhere in between (or outside of) the polarized red and blue camps that so influence people running for elected office and people working for mass media news outlets. I respect other peoples' right to build the lives they want, just as I hope they respect mine. I do not understand, though, why our region has developed to favor lawns seeded with bluegrass and other non-native water-intensive foliage. Front Range cities are (and probably always will be) more-or-less suburban by nature. That's fine. I don't want to live in downtown New York or Chicago. But we seem to have imported a vision of the American Dream that is simply incompatible with the ecology of our semi-arid environment. I don't know who initially promoted green lawns in Front Range developments. I'm guessing responsibility could be shared by developers and elected officials, and in part by consumers. Attributing responsibility is only useful in so much that it helps us identify a path forward. So lets just say that I view a plan for Colorado's water to be a "shared responsibility." This is sometimes framed as solely a personal choice. That people can choose to xeriscape their lawns and manage their water better. I agree with this perspective. I choose to live in a place without a grassy lawn because I believe water is the most precious resource we have in this state and I personally feel that spraying it onto a tiny patch of grass that sees little use is wasteful and kind of pointless. That said, I object to framing it ONLY as an issue of personal responsibility. After all, a choice has already been made for many people living in or moving to the front range. It just so happens that the choice is an unnaturally green, water-intensive one. So now, if a government body wants to develop a more sustainable development plan by requiring or incentivizing homeowners or developers to xeriscape, they could be seen as "taking away" something from citizens or businesses. Because a wasteful and unsustainable "norm" has been set, it will require government intervention to change the rules of the game. I suspect, given the current political climate in Colorado and the nation at large, that government intervention of any kind - and this kind in particular - would be met with ideological resistance. Even so I would support, for Colorado's Water Plan, aggressive measures to drastically limit the Front Range's use of water. I would support government regulation in order to shift the norm from our current default standard of beauty (that comes from LA or Ohio or Kentucky or who knows where) to one that's more within Colorado's water budget. I recognize that this would be politically challenging for whoever is responsible for reading my comment and doing something with it. But you can be assured that my lone vote and lone voice would lend what weight they can to drastic measures that keep our state's water in the rivers and lakes that sustain fish, wildlife and agriculture rather than someone else's vision of home.	None	Staff Response: The comments expressed are consistent with many of Colorado's Water Plan values. Colorado needs both vibrant cities with urban landscapes and robust recreation and tourism.
9	5/20/14	John Wiener, Colorado Citizen	Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com	Ark BIP, 5.4, 5.9, 5.7, 5.1, 5.3, 5.5., 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.10	Summary of attachment: This set of comments includes (1) comments on the set of materials posted as of 19 May 2014; (2) A general comment from John Wiener – Jumping the Ditch... what is needed. (3) Two stories from the Denver Post (copyright Denver Post), on business as usual – Denver Water deals on the Fraser River. The private property rights in water mean that the market continues to work no matter who is talking; what does that mean for the State Water Plan? And (4) a short sample of background on land loss in Colorado Agriculture. There is serious need for an update on the extent of rural residential development, particularly affecting agricultural and irrigated lands. The damage from landscape perforation is not limited to making the Wildland-Urban Interface an indefensible unmanageable mingling of public and private property.	Review	Staff Response: First, concerning comments related to the Arkansas Basin, CWCB staff will work with the Basin Roundtable to help clarify that one third of irrigational lands are currently irrigated and agriculture as whole benefits from these lands. There is no additional information about the impacts of irrigation efficiency rules on irrigated acreages. Second, CWCB staff will pass any discussion water quality comments to the Water Quality Control Division and Commission. Third, in regard to comments related to climate change and vulnerability of environmental values, this will be discussed in Section 5.9. Fourth, the commenter indicated that the most productive irrigated lands may dry up, and that this should be noted in the plan. CWCB staff will incorporate these comments into Section 5.7. Fifth, additional agricultural comments related to Section 5.1 are not appropriate for the level of detail in this section but will be considered for inclusion in other sections. Sixth, comments related to Section 5.3 will be considered during the development of this section and an initial draft will be available at the September CWCB Board meeting. Seventh, in regards to comments related to Section 5.4, including the water quality concerns around ground water and fracking, these comments will be passed along to the Water Quality Control Division and Commission. Eight, with regards to comments related to Section 5.5 and the need to incorporate climate change to the consumptive and nonconsumptive gap, the 2016 State Water Supply Initiative update will fully incorporate climate change and to the analysis of the gaps and the first draft of Colorado's Water Plan will include some discussion of this topic. Ninth, comments related to Section 5.6 are largely covered in the draft chapter already posted, including some discussion related to scaled agricultural conservation. Tenth, comments related to Section 5.7 encourage the chapter to include examples from other states. CWCB staff will work to incorporate such examples. Eleventh, additional comments related to Section 5.7 include the authors opinions relating to several ATM methodologies. These will be considered as the chapter is revised. Twelfth, the author encourages Section 5.8 to analyze the feasibility of significant low cost increases in surface storage. The need for such projects and methods will be part of the Basin Implementation Plans. Thirteenth, the commenter is concerned that Section 5.10 on permitting will discourage high quality and costly studies. A draft chapter has been published and it is clear that the intent is not only more efficient but more effective permitting studies.

Colorado's Water Plan - Input Received
between 5/3/2014 and 6/20/2014

Item Number	Date	Input Provided By	Method of Input Submission	Related Chapters of CWP Framework	Summary of Input	Documents Submitted for Review	Staff Responses and Recommendations
10	5/20/14	Russell Clayshulte, Bear Creek Watershed Association	Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com	5.4	Comments to be considered in Colorado's Water Plan: The Bear Creek Watershed Association is a water quality management agency. The Association has long recognized the linkage between water quality and water quantity. The Association believes it is critical that the State Water Plan have strong linkages between quality and quantity with more equality between these sometimes conflicting elements. There needs to be better linkage or even union between state regulatory agencies that deal with water issues (e.g., DNR and CDPHE). The State plan should use an adaptive management process to make the plan dynamic and remain updated. The vision of the Association is "The Bear Creek Watershed Association protects and restores water and environmental quality within the Bear Creek Watershed from the effects of land use." How we use the land will greatly influence the state water plan; so the plan should encourage smart land use practices that protect our state water resources. The Association encourages the State plan to consider increasing public awareness of nonpoint source pollution potential, prevention, restoration and involvement in watershed management; develop a statewide education program; make provisions for public review of program progress and success. The state plan should support existing watershed programs and efforts and encourage these watershed program to be part of process. Given resources, local watershed programs can better reach local citizens and help enhance the efforts of a state water management plan. The Association strongly supports the development and implementation of a Colorado Water Plan; long past due. The Association would like to be an asset for this planning process	None	Staff Response: A draft of Section 5.4 has been published and the draft chapter discusses the linkages of water supply and water quality. CWCB staff will pass the comments along to the Water Quality Control Division and Commission for further discussion.
11	5/22/14	Jim Pokrandt	Email to Sean Cronin, forwarded to cewaterplane@state.co.us		Response letter to Twin Lakes Reservoir and Canal Co. & Front Range Water Council from Arkansas, Colorado, Gunnison, Metro, South Platte, Southwest and Yampa-White-Green Roundtable chairs regarding recent letters of concern on how to address "New Supply".	Memorandum	Staff Response: The CWCB appreciates the hard work of the Basin Roundtable chairs.
12	5/28/14	Steve Harris, Southwestern Water Conservancy District	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.4, 5.6,5.7, 5.10	Text from email: Section 5.4 – In subsection 5.4.4.2 there is concern expressed about reuse and “net environmental benefits”. Reuse of water that can be consumed to extinction (e.g. existing TMD water and ag dry up) is essential to meeting the 2050 water demand and though stream flows are an environmental issue, the ability to reuse to extinction must be protected. Section 5.6.1 Page 6 – The Conservation goal and measurable outcome proposed by the SW Roundtable is not included and is requested to be included. Section 5.6.1 Page 10 “Incentives for outdoor water conservation measures:” Las Vegas will pay \$1.50 per square foot to removed grass and does not allow grass in the front of new homes. This type of outdoor conservation should be described in this “bullet” point as an example of what other large municipalities in the Colorado River basin are doing to reduce outdoor water use. Section 5.6.1 Page 11 “Multi-Scale Regulation”: Add to first sentence of first sub-bullet “limitation of amount of grass on new residential lots”. Section 5.6.3 Page 22 Land use policy is a major topic that local governments have a significant amount of concern over state mandates. I am not sure this concern is adequately recognized on this page. Also, limiting the amount of grass per lot is a way to reduce water use without increasing density. Section 5.6.4 Page 30 item #4 last line should be the word “salvaged” not “savaged”. Again under item #7 there is word “wither” in second line that looks like it should be removed. Section 5.7 – No comments. Section 5.10 – A general comment – Under “Next Steps”, a step should be included to review CWP to make sure it does not add to the gauntlet of permits. The BIP’s and CWP could easily, with good intentions, add layers of approvals and extra work unless permitting is reduced in some other manner.	None	Staff Response: CWCB staff will include each of the conservation goals developed by the Basin Roundtables, including the Southwest's. Staff will also work to ensure that subsection 5.6.2 on reuse is coordinated with 5.4. Staff will correct the typographical errors indicated by Mr. Harris. Lastly, staff will take Mr. Harris' concerns about adding additional layers of permitting into account when reviewing Colorado's Water Plan drafts.
13	5/29/14	John Bartholow, Colorado Citizen	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.2, 5.7, 5.6.2, 5.8, 5.10, SP/Metro BIP	Summary of attachment: The letter expressed the importance of healthy rivers and offered comments on consumptive uses including: rate structures; drought criteria; climate change; agricultural dry-up; growth of industries that consume large quantities of water; recycled water; respecting existing federal, state, and local regulations; and reevaluating storage.	Letter	Staff Response: Several of the commenter's suggestions are incorporated into draft chapters, such as Section 5.2 on natural disasters in relation to drought. Many municipal providers have some type of watering restrictions every year. Concerns about farm land dry up are incorporated into Section 5.7 on ATMs. Comments related to aquifer storage and reuse relate to sub-Section 5.6.2 on reuse and Section 5.8 on municipal and industrial (M&I) projects and methods. Aquifer storage and recharge, while a promising and important part of Colorado's water future, is not a panacea and requires surface storage to stage water injection. Concerns relating to "willful disregard of the applicable federal state and local regulations" should largely be assuaged by the draft of Section 5.10 on permitting. The commenter is right that in some circumstance the trade-offs between adequate storage and evaporation must be balanced, however the South Platte Basin Roundtable will have to consider this balance on the Cache la Poudre. General comments related to increasing the cost of water to represent the "real marginal cost of service" are important considerations that must be balanced with local control and access to water for all citizen of Colorado. CWCB has encouraged the Basin Implementation Plans to grapple with the best methods for water conservation. CWCB will pass this letter on to the South Platte and Metro Basin Roundtables.
14	5/29/14	John Bartholow, Save the Poudre	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	SP/Metro BIP	Summary of attachment: The resolution from Save the Poudre stated that status quo policies are harming the Cache la Poudre river and that the organization would support a draft plan that includes aggressive water conservation, optimizing existing water supplies, investigating in river-friendly water projects, and rejects consumptive IPPs and transmountain diversions.	Letter	Staff Response: CWCB staff will pass this letter on to the South Platte and Metro Basin Roundtables.
15	5/30/14	Drew Beckwith, Western Resource Advocates	Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com	5.6.1	Summary of attachment: The letter offered a copy of the remarks provided to the CWCB Board at the May 2014 meeting.	Letter	Staff Response: CWCB appreciates Mr. Beckwith providing a written record of his comments to CWCB Board at the May 2014 Board meeting. The consideration of an increased level of conservation will have to be considered after reviewing the Basin Implementation Plans.

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16	5/31/14	Danica Ramgoolam, Colorado Citizen	Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com	1, 5.6, 5.11	Comments to be considered in Colorado's Water Plan: Please consider NOT pumping water from the western slope to the Front Range. Our watersheds need the water to support healthy ecosystems, river flows for recreation and fish habitat	None	Staff Response: Scenario planning indicates that a new transmountain diversion may not be needed in the future, however some futures suggest that new transmountain diversions may be a necessary part of Colorado's water supply portfolio. Colorado's Water Plan will not include any specific transmountain water projects, but it will discuss how we can move forward with this option should it be needed, based on the IBCC's work. CWCB staff suggests that the commenter read the "Citizen's Guide to Interstate Compacts" published by the Colorado Foundation for Water Education. The four values driving Colorado's Water Plan include attention to environmental needs. Those four values are 1) vibrant and sustainable cities, 2) viable and productive agriculture, 3) a robust recreation and tourism industry, and 4) a thriving environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers, streams, and wildlife. Meeting Colorado's nonconsumptive needs is a critical aspect of Colorado's Water Plan. The Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to helping meet future water needs.
17	5/31/14	Billy Rankin, Colorado Citizen	Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com	5.11	Comments to be considered in Colorado's Water Plan: I feel in this day in age trans-mountain diversions should never be considered. The west slope of Colorado and the Colorado River Basin have enough of their own issues to think about diverting water towards the front range of Colorado. The front range growth needs to happen with water availability in mind and that need s to be the controlling factor. West slope water needs to stay on the west slope, bottom line. Also for ecological integrality of our watersheds i feel as best possible Dam controlled rivers should try and mock the spring flood cycle. The rivers need the flood stage to help the entire system remain ecologically intact.	None	Staff Response: Scenario planning indicates that a new transmountain diversion may not be needed in the future, however some futures suggest that new transmountain diversions may be a necessary part of Colorado's water supply portfolio. Colorado's Water Plan will not include any specific transmountain water project, but it will discuss how we can move forward with this option should it be needed, based on the IBCC's work. Nonconsumptive needs are critically important aspects of the Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan. Although not fully tested, instream flows can be designed to directly benefit riparian areas, and the CWCB Stream and Lake Protection Section has been working with the BLM to design an approach to in-stream flows by providing a flood flow component in the spring. - instream flows conserve riparian areas
18	6/4/14	Emails generated from individuals who submitted a form letter online through Conservation Colorado's website	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.6.4	Text from email: I urge you to sign Senate Bill 23, which helps protect our rivers, promotes voluntary modernization of irrigation practices, and creates much needed flexibility in our water law system. This bill will allow ranchers and farmers to secure investments in much-needed irrigation infrastructure upgrades and to improve the health of our rivers and streams. As you know healthy rivers enhance our local economies and support our agricultural, recreation, and tourism industries. This legislation helps keep more water in our rivers while protecting agricultural water rights. As you have said before "every conversation about water should start with conservation", Senate Bill 23 offers a great opportunity to do just that. Diverse stakeholders ranging from conservationists, ranchers, water providers and citizens like me support Senate Bill 23. I hope that you'll join us in supporting this bill by signing it into law. Please support Senate Bill 23!	82 copies received	Staff Response: On June 5th, 2014 Governor Hickenlooper vetoed SB14-023. In the Governor's veto message, he agrees with the commenter that the goals of the bill are important for our water future but he believes that the breakdown of consensus over the legislation would have made it difficult to adequately implement the bill. The Governor's message continued by asking the Department of Natural Resources and CWCB staff to work with stakeholders to develop a pilot project that addresses opponent's concerns. The CWCB staff is committed to collaboration and consensus building and will continue to incorporate discussions on conservation and agricultural water rights into Colorado's Water Plan.
19	6/4/14	Drew Beckwith, Western Resource Advocates	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us and Kevin Reidy	5.6	Summary of attachments: Western Resource Advocates' commented on CWP Draft Chapter 5.6, included a spreadsheet of future reductions by county, and two whitepapers providing more specific direction for the state to consider on urban water efficiency and reuse.	Redlined section	Staff Response: CWCB appreciates Mr. Beckwith's comments and will work to incorporate them into the section when making revisions. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.1, page 2, paragraph 1, Mr. Beckwith is correct. It comes from the IBCC work with no and low regrets. Staff will attempt to clarify. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.1, page 3 on state knowledge of conservation, both regulations and money were called out from the state level down to the local level to achieve the savings in the reports. Much of the regulations focused on indoor but also had to do with outdoor - landscape, irrigation codes, etc. specifically for new construction. A paragraph has been added to clarify. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.1, page 9 on past legislative action (paragraph 2), staff moved this legislation to the reuse section as opposed to the conservation section. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.1, page 9 recommendations before the first bullet, as the Basin Implementation Plans are completed CWCB staff will revisit the idea of a statewide goal and possibly adjust the savings estimate. Until that time, the no and low regrets goal is a good placeholder. A 1%/year reduction is a laudable goal but CWCB staff does not know that this can be sustained to 2050 as programs mature. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.1, page 9 recommendations on the fourth bullet, CWW current efforts prompted the addition but specifics were still a bit up in air. Staff will check back with them. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.1, page 9 recommendations on the seventh bullet, this is a good example but not sure if it will work in this fashion. If the providers aren't sure of the savings they will get, would they take the chance on a project not being fully funded? Who would guarantee this? I think a third party would be needed to be involved to guarantee the savings. The state could put up some portion of initial money but would need something else to guarantee savings. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.3, page 23 at the end of recommendations, this comment can be explored but CWCB staff would like to incorporate ideas from the Basin Implementation plans to ensure future directions are aligned with local perspectives. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.5, page 32 at the beginning of the section, CWCB staff has received it and will document comments made in that submission. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.6, page 35 in the second paragraph, most likely these numbers are high due to the numbers not being normalized for weather and other factors.

Colorado's Water Plan - Input Received
between 5/3/2014 and 6/20/2014

Item Number	Date	Input Provided By	Method of Input Submission	Related Chapters of CWP Framework	Summary of Input	Documents Submitted for Review	Staff Responses and Recommendations
20	6/4/14	Gary Wockner, Save the Colorado	Email to James Eklund, forwarded to cewaterplan@state.co.us	General	Text from email: Hello James, Over the last 2 weeks, supporters of the Save The Colorado River Campaign have sent you 1,180 emails as official "input" into the public process for the Colorado Water Plan. These emails have been sent to this email address: cewaterplan@state.co.us (I have copied in one of the emails below -- they are addressed to Governor Hickenlooper). Can you please tell me how you will be using this input in the Plan process? - How will you provide this input to the Roundtables, CWCB Board, and Governor? - How will you summarize this input in your public materials? Thank you! Gary	None	Staff Response: At each Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Board meeting since September, 2013 there has been a public input agenda item regarding Colorado's Water Plan. All of the comments received via the Colorado's Water Plan website or by email to cewaterplan@state.co.us have been included in the CWCB Board packets for review and comment are also linked below. Depending on the date of submission, input has or will be reviewed at the next scheduled CWCB Board meeting. While not every individual receives a direct email reply regarding their input, a CWCB staff response and/or recommendation regarding all input received is included in a summary spreadsheet within the related Board packet and also available for review online, the link is provided below. For all input received between May 3 through June 20, there will be a formal response from the CWCB included in the July, 2014 Board packet. Input received between June 21 through August 20 will be included in the September Board packet. Additional deadlines for input received beyond that can be found online here: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cewaterplan/get-involved . At this time, the CWCB is in coordination with the Governor's Office regarding comments related to Colorado's Water Plan. As you know, the first draft version of the plan will be submitted to the Governor on December 10, 2014. Please review the updated schedule including public comment deadlines on the draft of Colorado's Water Plan through 2015 online here: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/CWP-Timeline-052014.pdf You can also learn more by reading the May 2014 Statewide and Basin Status Update for Outreach link on the webpage where you can view a record of input received to date (including links to summary spreadsheets and all of the documents received including all form letters): https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cewaterplan/record-input-received-date Please email cewaterplan@state.co.us with any additional questions regarding your group's public input.
21	6/6/14	Eric Hecox, South Metro	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.1	Summary of attachments: The letter from the South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA) and their represented 14 water providers expressed concerns about the current draft of Section 5.10. SMWSA successions the section should 1) describe the current inefficiencies and problems with the current permitting process; and 2) recommend specific and actionable items on how to make the permitting process more efficient, consistent, and predictable. The SMWSA encourages the CWCB to consider the day-to-day challenges of water supply when developing big picture policy statements.	Letter	Staff Response: CWCB appreciates the detailed letter from the South Metro Water Supply Authority and will consider the permitting improvement suggestion during the revision process of Section 5.10
22	6/9/2014 - 6/11/2014	Emails generated from individuals who submitted a form letter online through Clean Water Fund's "failuretolead.org" campaign	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.6.4	Copy of form letter: "Dear Governor Hickenlooper, You have said in the past that every conversation about water needs to start with conservation. I am hoping you will do just that in the upcoming state water plan which presents an opportunity to create policies that will protect our rivers and our water future. Senate Bill 14-023 would have created an innovative, collaborative, and modest sharing practice that would have helped our farmers, ranchers and our rivers. I am disappointed that you chose to veto this important water conservation measure. As the state water plan develops, I am asking you to make a real commitment to protecting our rivers and streams. It's no longer enough to just have 'conversations about conservation.' We need action as well -- at the legislature, within the plan, in our homes, and from our top leaders like you. The more the state supports collaborative practices that help us save water, the better able we will be to meet our future water challenges and needs. Support Colorado's best interests by taking leadership to create change and to implement creative, collaborative solutions that protect our farms, rivers, and growing communities. "	14 copies received	Staff Response: On June 5th, 2014 Governor Hickenlooper vetoed SB14-023. In the Governor's veto message, he agrees with the commenter that the goals of the bill are important for our water future but he believes that the breakdown of consensus over the legislation would have made it difficult to adequately implement the bill. The Governor's message continued by asking the Department of Natural Resources and CWCB staff to work with stakeholders to develop a pilot project that addresses opponent's concerns. The CWCB staff is committed to collaboration and consensus building and will continue incorporate discussions of conservation and agricultural water rights into Colorado's Water Plan.
23	6/6/2014 - 6/12/2014	Emails generated from individuals who submitted a form letter online through Clean Water Fund's "failuretolead.org" campaign	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.6.4	Copy of form letter: "Dear CWCB,; The upcoming state water plan presents an opportunity to break from the status quo and create water policy for the future that reflects - and protects - our diverse water values. Senate Bill 14-023 would have created an innovative, collaborative, and modest sharing practice that would have helped our farmers, ranchers and our streams. I am disappointed that you chose to veto this important water conservation measure. As the water plan develops, we ask that you make a real commitment to protecting our rivers and streams. It's no longer enough to just have 'conversations about conservation', we need action as well - at the legislature, within the plan, in our homes, and from our top leaders like you. The more the state supports collaborative practices that help us save water, the better able we will be to meet our future water challenges and needs. We need your leadership to create change and to implement creative, collaborative solutions that protect our farms, rivers, and growing communities. You failed to lead on Senate Bill 14-023, please don't fail to lead on our state water plan. "	469 copies received	Staff Response: On June 5th, 2014 Governor Hickenlooper vetoed SB14-023. In the Governor's veto message, he agrees with the commenter that the goals of the bill are important for our water future but he believes that the breakdown of consensus over the legislation would have made it difficult to adequately implement the bill. The Governor's message continued by asking the Department of Natural Resources and CWCB staff to work with stakeholders to develop a pilot project that addresses opponent's concerns. The CWCB staff is committed to collaboration and consensus building and will continue incorporate discussions of conservation and agricultural water rights into Colorado's Water Plan.
24	5/22/2014 - 6/5/2014	Emails generated from individuals who submitted a form letter online through Save the Colorado website	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	1, 5.6, 5.9	Copy of form letter: "Dear Governor Hickenlooper, In your State of the State address, you have said that "every discussion about water should start with conservation." I could not agree more -- now it's time to put your words into action! Many of Colorado's rivers -- including the Colorado River itself, which flows from Colorado to Los Angeles and Mexico -- are already drained and depleted. Further, climate change is a new and bigger threat that will likely decrease the water flowing in our rivers. Despite this, some Colorado cities are trying to build more dams and diversions to take even more water out of our rivers. This is the wrong path forward! We need to protect and restore the rivers in Colorado so that people in the Southwest can have safe, clean, drinking water and healthy rivers flowing throughout our region of the U.S. As you and your staff formulate Colorado's Water Plan, please provide leadership in three key areas: 1. Push for water conservation, reuse, and recycling as key steps in securing our future water needs. 2. Do not support new dams and diversions from Colorado's rivers. 3. Start focusing on river restoration. I urge you and Colorado's Water Conservation Board to protect Colorado's future by safeguarding our rivers for future generations. Thank you!"	1695 copies received	Staff Response: The four values driving Colorado's Water Plan include attention to environmental needs. Those four values are 1) vibrant and sustainable cities, 2) viable and productive agriculture, 3) a robust recreation and tourism industry, and 4) a thriving environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers, streams, and wildlife. The Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to helping meet future water needs. Initial work indicates that conservation will likely be able to meet the needs of an additional one million people. This is not enough to meet all of Colorado's future water demand, so Colorado's Water Plan will also encourage balanced multi-purpose projects to meet our future water needs. The state is working vigorously with other upper basin states and the Colorado River Basin as a whole to mitigate any risks Colorado may face with regard to compact compliance and other interstate issues.

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25	5/13/14 - 6/3/2014	Emails generated from individuals who submitted a form letter online through Conservation Colorado website	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.6.4, 5.7, 5.11	Copy of form letter: "Dear CWCB, I am writing to support your efforts to create the first ever statewide water plan. Thank you for reiterating the importance of the plan, and water conservation, in your recent State of the State address. As our state's communities grow, our rivers are becoming increasingly strained. That means we need to change the status quo. We need our rivers to be clean and flowing - to support our fish and wildlife, tourism, recreation, and future generations. Colorado's Water Plan has the potential to chart an innovative path forward for our state. I urge you to stand up for measures to protect and restore our rivers, push for conservation, and for cities to live within their means. We need to help agriculture modernize and increase efficiency, and stop looking to the West Slope to solve our water issues. We need to maintain working landscapes, support growing communities, and protect river health. Please ensure that Colorado's Water Plan uses our state's ingenuity to "be prepared" for our water future."	5 copies received since the previous Board meeting	Staff response: Colorado's Water Plan will support Colorado's rivers as will be described in Section 5.9, address the need for increased conservation as described in Subsection 5.6.1, and the need for agricultural efficiencies and water sharing practices as described in 5.6.4 and 5.7. With regard to new transmountain diversion projects, the IBCC is exploring innovative ways to address this issue in a balanced manner. Scenario planning indicates that a new transmountain diversion may not be needed in the future, however some futures suggest that new transmountain diversions may be a necessary part of Colorado's water supply portfolio. Colorado's Water Plan will not include any specific transmountain water projects, but it will discuss how we can move forward with this option should it be needed, based on the IBCC's work.
26	5/2/2014 - 6/5/2014	Emails generated from individuals who submitted a form letter online through saveoureenvironment.org	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.9, 5.6.1, 5.6.4, 5.11	Copy of form letter: " Gov. Hickenlooper has said that "every conversation about water should begin with conservation," and I could not agree more. Water is our most precious natural resource and we must take steps now to protect and preserve it in a way that will benefit Colorado's rivers, wildlife, recreation, agriculture, businesses and residents. As you oversee the creation of a plan to meet our future water needs, I urge you to prioritize the following goals: 1. Keep Colorado's rivers healthy and flowing. Colorado's rivers are an integral part of our unique heritage and way of life. Rivers support our wildlife, agriculture, and a multi-billion dollar tourism industry. Protecting and restoring our rivers must be a top priority. 2. Increase and prioritize efficiency and conservation. Finding ways to reduce our water usage is crucial to our ability to meet our growing water needs. State studies have shown that water providers will need to reduce current water use by 35% by 2050 in order to meet our future demands. Expand conservation incentives, increase indoor and outdoor efficiency and support recycling programs. 3. Modernize agricultural and water sharing practices. The state should support voluntary, compensated, and flexible water-sharing agreements between agricultural producers and growing communities while respecting their water rights, as well as incentives to improve agricultural infrastructure that benefits operations and rivers. 4. Avoid new, large, trans-mountain water diversion projects. Trans-mountain diversion projects that drain water from West Slope rivers to supply growing Front Range demands are controversial, costly and damaging. Prioritize conservation and reuse so we can make every drop count and avoid the need for these projects. Thank you for helping to keep these four goals at the forefront of Colorado's water plan drafting process."	71 copies received since the previous Board meeting	Staff response: 1) The CWCB and the Basin Roundtables will be working to support conservation, environment, and recreation in the Basin Implementation Plans and draft of Colorado's Water Plan. Meeting Colorado's nonconsumptive needs is a critical aspect of Colorado's Water Plan. In addition, the CWCB's Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) grant program has been used by several basins to analyze water flow requirements related to ecological values. 2) With regard to conservation, the Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to helping meet future water needs. Initial work indicates that conservation will likely be able to meet the needs of an additional one million people. This is not enough to meet all of Colorado's future water demand, so Colorado's Water Plan will also encourage balanced multi-purpose projects to meet our future water needs. 3) Agricultural water sharing and modernizing agricultural efficiencies are aspects of Colorado's Water Plan and included in Section 5.7 and Subsection 5.6.4. 4) Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation and reuse, however those strategies alone might not be enough to meet Colorado's future water needs. Additional balanced options need to be explored.
27	6/16/14	Mark Pfiher, Front Range Water Council	Email to Rebecca.Mitchell@state.co.us, forwarded to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.10,	Text from email: "Becky, in conjunction with the permitting section of the Water Plan, I previously forwarded to you a copy of E.O. 13604. I had one of our summer interns do some follow-up work regarding actions taken under the E.O. See attachment. There are some concepts referenced that may be useful at the state level. I think that this section of the plan could benefit from some additional concrete proposals/recommendations and FRWC members will be taking a closer look with that in mind. Hope this helps."	Memorandum on EO13604 actions	Staff Recommendation: CWCB staff will incorporate a description of the presidential executive order into Section 5.10, and will consider additional concepts that may be helpful when developing revisions to the section.
29	6/17/2014	Reed Dils, Colorado Citizen	Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com	General	Comments on Colorado's Water Plan Website: You need more photos. I have plenty for the Arkansas	None	Staff Response: Thank you Reed! CWCB staff is beginning to collect photos to be included in Colorado's Water Plan. If you are interested in donating any of your photos, please email cewaterplan@state.co.us.
30	6/16/2014	Stacy Tellinghuisen, Western Resource Advocates	Email to Kevin Reidy, Jacob Bornstein, forwarded to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.6.3	Copy of email: "CWCB Board, Kevin, and Jacob: Please find attached several documents related to the energy-water nexus and the Self-Supplied Industrial subsection of Draft Chapter 5.6 of the Colorado Water Plan. I hope these might be useful resources as you fill out the chapter. Kevin and Jacob, I've included new information on Colorado's emissions trajectory (and likely implications for water resources), and again, I hope it is useful. Please let me know if you have any questions; I look forward to seeing future drafts of the water plan."	Comments on draft chapter 5.6, an article on water use in electrical generation, and a NREL Review	Staff Response: CWCB staff appreciates the forwarded resources to assist with development of 5.6.3 and will work to incorporate them into the subsection during drafting.
31	6/18/2014	Sean Saville, Audubon	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.9.	Summary of attachments: A cover letter and 671 copies of public comment are attached. The Audubon highlighted a number of comments in full that highlight the values and concerns on their commenters.	Excel spreadsheet of 671 comments, highlighted comments and a cover letter	Staff Response: CWCB staff appreciates the Audubon Society's efforts to work with staff to provide a summary of the comments and to discuss Audubon Society's plans to undergo a letter campaign. CWCB provided guidance to Basin Roundtables regarding the need to determine environmental reaches that need additional projects and methods to meet environmental needs, whether flow or habitat related. CWCB has committed its' contractors, CDM Smith and The Nature Conservancy, to assist roundtables to better determine where there is a projects and methods gap for nonconsumptive needs. Several BRTs have decided to work closely with them, such as the Arkansas. In addition, others have proceeded with a "Flow Evaluation Tool, and still others are looking at the benefits of agriculture to the environment, which are particularly relevant to migratory birds. Common metrics to assess flows statewide are difficult. CWCB paid for a pilot of the Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool in the Colorado and the Arkansas. It was successful in the Colorado largely because the Colorado Decision Support system was available. Unfortunately, such a model is not yet available for the East Slope basins. As these models become available CWCB will work with partners and continue to assess how flow, one critical factor in the health of native species, can be better assessed on a broader statewide scale. In the mean-time, staff expects the first version of the Basin Implementation Plans will yield valuable information regarding environmental needs, projects, and methods. Staff hopes the Audubon Society will support future efforts to complete or develop basin models that can help determine natural flows and potential benefits or impacts of future projects.

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32	6/19/2014	Peter McMahon, Colorado Citizen	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	General	Copy of email: "after reading today's (6/19/14) story about the Colorado water plan in the Denver post, I became concerned that there is not a fair representation of water interests in the roundtables. most notably, there appears to be a lack of representation of environmental interests there. I can only hope that whatever plans the roundtable develops, that the public is given a fair chance to comment on them. let's not once again have moneyed interest dominate the discussion of how the public's resources should be allocated. "	None	Staff Response: Each Basin Roundtable is made up of a diverse set of stakeholders and the inclusion of both an environmental and recreational representative is required by the Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act. In addition, representatives from each county, municipalities within each county, industry, agriculture, and domestic water suppliers are required. Lastly, a representative from each water conservation and conservancy district are also mandated. There are also several other at large seats, and many of these are held by environmental interests, and many of the local government representatives are also focused on environmental and recreational issues since their citizens care about these topics and the area may be dependent on tourism. Lastly, the public will have the ability to comment on Colorado's Water Plan over the course of this year and next through several iterations. Many roundtables will also be having public review, and CWCB is encouraging this.
33	6/19/2014	Gary Wockner, Save the Colorado	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	General, 5.6.3	Copy of email: "A great new editorial in the Denver Post by me: http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_25986715/colorados-water-plan-is-being-hijacked Please insert this editorial as public comment in the Colorado Water Plan process. I'd be happy to talk to you about this. Thanks!!"	Copy of editorial	Staff Response: The current course of Colorado Water leads to several of the results the commentator mentions. For instance, without alternatives, up to 35% of Colorado's farms in the South Platte could be dried up. This is one impetus for why Colorado is pursuing the development of a water plan. Colorado's Water Plan will yield better results through support of conservation, reuse, sharing agreements between farmers and municipalities, incentive-based of water-smart land use, and the development of multi-purpose projects and methods. With regard to conservation, the Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to help meet future water needs. Initial work indicates that conservation will likely be able to meet the needs of an additional one million people. This is not enough to meet all of Colorado's future water demand, so Colorado's Water Plan will also encourage balanced multi-purpose projects to meet our future water needs. Scenario planning indicates that a new transmountain diversion may not be needed in the future, however some futures suggest that new transmountain diversions may be a necessary part of Colorado's water supply portfolio. Colorado's Water Plan will not include any specific transmountain water project, but it will discuss how we can move forward with this option should it be needed, based on the IBCC's work. In addition to the environmental representative members of the South Platte Basin Roundtable, several environmental interest groups statewide have been actively involved in development of the South Platte BIP and Colorado's Water Plan. Regarding agricultural water sharing and modernizing agricultural efficiencies, those concepts are already aspects of Colorado's Water Plan and included in Section 5.7 and Subsection 5.6.4. Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation and reuse, however those strategies alone might not be enough to meet Colorado's future water needs. Additional balanced options need to be explored. With regard to the creation of public debt the commenter mentions, this draft chapter of Colorado's Water Plan has not yet been released for review - Chapter 6. Funding and Financing is due to be released in draft form in September, 2014 and will be available online for public review along with all other chapters currently posted in draft form. With regards to fracking, this practice currently uses approximately 18,000 acre feet per year, which is a very small proportion of Colorado's overall water use. However, there may be some areas where there are greater regional effects. In addition, power plants that burn natural gas to make energy use less water than traditional power plants. Colorado's Water Plan will recognize that there is an energy water nexus.
34	6/19/2014	Lodore Brown, Colorado Citizen	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	1, 5.6, 5.9	Copy of email: "Please don't kill our rivers! No more dams and water wasting fracking. Let's focus on conserving the water we have, (no more sprawl!) and coming up with sustainable energy solutions. (Why doesn't the entire city of Denver have solar panels on its public buildings?)Please. Once this water is gone, it's gone. We will have to conserve at some point; better to start now than when we're desperate."	None	Staff Response: The four values driving Colorado's Water Plan include attention to environmental needs. Those four values are 1) vibrant and sustainable cities, 2) viable and productive agriculture, 3) a robust recreation and tourism industry, and 4) a thriving environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers, streams, and wildlife. Meeting Colorado's nonconsumptive needs is a critical aspect of Colorado's Water Plan. The Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to helping meet future water needs.
35	6/19/2014	Jess Rodriguez, Colorado Citizen	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	General, 5.6.3	Copy of email: "I am against unlimited Sprawl and invasion and loss of farm land! Wake up! Why are we always building on farm land ? You think food comes from stores? This constant loss of our water and diversion to outside state Interests smacks of personal gain ... Recreation , fishing and farming always taking a back seat to more growth "Bigger is Better " Capitalistic endless drain on Natural resources instead of conservation and good management... Fracking is \$ to certain elected officials...more water for Fracking less for farming !!! When does the madness stop ?"	None	Staff Response: The current course Colorado is heading down leads to several of the results that the commenter mentions. For instance, without action, up to 35% of Colorado's farms in the South Platte could be dried up. This is one impetus for why Colorado is pursuing the development of a water plan. Colorado's Water Plan will yield better results through support of conservation, reuse, sharing agreements between farmers and municipalities, incentive-based of water-smart land use, and the development of multi-purpose projects and methods. With regards to fracking, this practice currently uses approximately 18,000 acre feet per year, which is a very small proportion of Colorado's overall water use. However, there may be some areas where there are greater regional effects. In addition, power plants that burn natural gas to make energy use less water than traditional power plants. Therefore, from an overall resource management perspective, fracking and the resulting energy production do not consume a significant amount of water compared to statewide municipal and industrial water use. Under Colorado's constitution there is a right to use water for beneficial purposes if it is available. Colorado's Water Plan is not geared toward restricting specific beneficial uses such as fracking.

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36	6/20/2014	Torie Jarvis, NWCCOG/QQ	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.6, 5.10	Copy of email: "attached please find comments from NWCCOG/QQ on the May 2014 draft sections of Colorado’s Water Plan. We’ve included 3 documents: Narrative comments on Chapter 5.6 and 5.10 in PDF form. • Redline comments for chapter 5.6 • The summary from the Land Use Water Conservation Workshop QQ hosted in early May. Thank you, and please let us know if you have any questions."	Narrative Comments, Redline 5.6, Summary of Workshop	Staff Response: CWCB appreciates the edits and suggestions provided by NWCCOG/QQ committee, and will consider these comments during the revisions of these subsections. Regarding Section 5.6.1, page 2, paragraph 1, potential savings is discussed a bit further into the section. Regarding Section 5.6.1, page 4 on state's knowledge of conservation (paragraph 4), this statement refers to putting saved water into drought reserves or something similar. Although it is not the full potential, it is the minimum that should tried for. Regarding Section 5.6.1, page 6 on IBCC actions, the consensus at the IBCC was that this should be the absolute minimum that should be accomplished not just planned for. Regarding Section 5.6.1, page 8 on recent legislative actions, the Governor's rational for vetoing SB14-023 belongs in the Agricultural Conservation Section. Regarding Section 5.6.1, page 1 on partnership recommendations, local governments are the land use authority while the water provider have direct control over the water supply and demand management. This is handled in the land use section. Regarding Section 5.6.3, page 15, land use was originally included in the M&I water conservation section but was separated out as its own section but retained in the overall water conservation section due to how it relates to water conservation. Regarding Section 5.6.3, page 17, incentives are and will be a very important part of saving water. The incentives based approach can be explained in another part of the water plan (i.e. introduction chapter) as opposed to just this section.
37	6/12/2014	Jared McDaniel, Colorado Citizen	Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com	1, 5.6.1	Comments to be considered in Colorado's Water Plan: The first consideration should be the quality of our rivers. It will do us no good to steal from the future to pay the present. Water in this state is a finite resource and future efforts should be focused on conservation of existing allotments, not diverting more from our already "poor" waterways. Keep the rivers wet and cold!	None	Staff Response: The four values driving Colorado's Water Plan include attention to environmental needs. Those four values are 1) vibrant and sustainable cities, 2) viable and productive agriculture, 3) a robust recreation and tourism industry, and 4) a thriving environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers, streams, and wildlife. Meeting Colorado's nonconsumptive needs is a critical aspect of Colorado's Water Plan. The Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to helping meet future water needs.
38	6/19/2014	Laura Belanger, Colorado Section of the WateReuse Association	Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com	5.6.2	Summary of attachment: Redline of Section 5.6.2	Redlined section	Staff Response: CWCB appreciates Ms. Belanger's comments and will work to incorporate them into the section when making revisions. As the Basin Implementation Plans are completed, CWCB staff will incorporate the ideas generated out of these to further describe possible future actions.
39	6/20/2014	Mike Kissack, Arkansas River Outfitters Association	Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com	Ark BIP	Comments to be considered in Colorado's Water Plan: Organization: Arkansas River Outfitters Association Name: Mike Kissack, President Contact Information: mike@americanadventure.com Telephone: 719-395-2409 County: Chaffee The following table identifies important needs in the Arkansas River basin, describes actions to address these needs and/or specific projects or recommendations. These issues involve non-consumptive uses in the upper Arkansas River, describe d herein as the river reach extending from headwaters of the Arkansas River and its tributaries downstream to Pueblo Reservoir. 1. Upper Arkansas: Cooperation with stakeholders for the continued management of the Voluntary Flow Management Program 2. Upper Arkansas: Acquisition of 2,000 acre-feet of water to supplement river flows associated with the Voluntary Flow Management Program 3. Upper Arkansas: Acquisition of a total of 2,000 acre-feet of storage in upper basin reservoirs, including Clear Creek, Twin Lakes, Turquoise, Trout Creek and Box Creek (proposed) Reservoirs 4.Turquoise Reservoir: Develop a recreational management plan identifying water level targets for recreational needs 5. Pueblo Reservoir: Allow for flexibility in the annual operation of the flood control pool 6. Upper Arkansas: Build partnerships between consumptive and non-consumptive users to improve recreational opportunities and promote efficient water management 7. Upper Arkansas: Develop management basin-wide scenarios for water management in low, average, and high runoff years 8. Arkansas River: Water rights coordination between upper and lower basin users to provide efficient and effective water management that benefit to all	None	Staff Response: Staff will pass this information onto the Arkansas Basin Roundtable.

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between 5/3/2014 and 6/20/2014

Item Number	Date	Input Provided By	Method of Input Submission	Related Chapters of CWP Framework	Summary of Input	Documents Submitted for Review	Staff Responses and Recommendations
40	4/18/10	Peg Rooney, Colorado Citizen	Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com	5.9, 5.10, 5.6.3, 8	Comments to be considered in Colorado's Water Plan: Plan needs: 1. Quantifiable water needs for environmental and recreational uses 2. Assessment of river ecosystems and their actual water needs 3. Projects go forward only after these water needs are identified 4. Growth is allowed based on water supply 5. Antiquated water laws need updating for the 21st century 6. Wildlife/bird watching brings in billions of dollars; water and habitat protection are essential 7. Frackers MUST recycle the water they use 7. We are "borrowing" this land from our children, let's take care of it!	None	Staff Response: With regard to points 1 and 2: CWCB provided guidance to Basin Roundtables regarding the need to determine environmental reaches that need additional projects and methods to meet environmental needs, whether flow or habitat related. CWCB has committed its' contractors, CDM Smith and The Nature Conservancy, to assist roundtables to better determine where there is a projects and methods gap for nonconsumptive needs. Several BRTs have decided to work closely with them. In addition, others have proceeded with a "Flow Evaluation Tool, and still others are looking at the benefits of agriculture to the environment, which are particularly relevant to migratory birds. Common metrics to assess flows statewide are difficult. CWCB paid for a pilot of the Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool in the Colorado and the Arkansas. It was successful in the Colorado largely because the Colorado Decision Support system was available. Unfortunately, such a model is not yet available for the East Slope basins. As these models become available CWCB will work with partners and continue to assess how flow, one critical factor in the health of native species, can be better assessed on a broader statewide scale. In the mean-time, staff expects the first version of the Basin Implementation Plans will yield valuable information regarding environmental needs, projects, and methods. Staff hopes the Audubon Society will support future efforts to complete or develop basin models that can help determine natural flows and potential benefits or impacts of future projects. With regard to point 3: Currently water projects must comply with state and federal laws that protect the health of the environment through permitting. A project proponent typically undergoes a process that averages about a decade long and costs approximately \$10 M to select the least damaging project and to find ways to mitigate any impacts to the project. Mitigation and enhancement costs are often on the order of \$150 M for large projects. This process identifies the needs of the river system as part of the analysis and no project moves forward through permitting unless these concerns are addressed. Project permitting is further examined in Section 5.10, as it can be made both more effective and efficient. With regard to point 4: In 2008, the Colorado General Assembly passed H.B. 08-1141 concerning adequate water supply for new developments. The legislation was signed by the Governor and requires a local government to make a determination as to whether an applicant for a development in excess of 50 units or single-family equivalents has demonstrated that the proposed water supply is adequate to serve the proposed development. The act was further amended in 2013 (S.B. 13-258) to clarify several aspects of the 2008 act. With regard to point 5: Water law is updated nearly every year and provides more flexibility and meets a more diverse set of beneficial uses than ever before. Additional changes to water law will continue to be considered through Colorado's Water Plan and other stakeholder processes. With regard to point 6: CWCB, the state government, and the stakeholders directly involved in developing Colorado's Water Plan understand the importance of recreation and the environment both from an economic and ecological perspective. With regard to point 7: Fracking practice currently uses approximately 18,000 acre feet per year, which is a very small proportion of Colorado's overall water use. However, there may be some areas where there are greater regional effects. In addition, power plants that burn natural gas to make energy use less water than traditional power plants. Therefore, from an overall resource management perspective, fracking and the resulting energy production do not consume a significant amount of water compared to current levels. Many fracking operations recycle the water they use. Under Colorado's constitution there is a right to use water for beneficial purposes if it is available. Colorado's Water Plan is not geared toward restricting specific beneficial uses such as fracking. CWCB Staff will discuss with the board whether or not additional regulations to require reuse of fracking water should be further considered.
41	6/20/2014	Melinda Kassen, IBCB member; Bart Miller, Western Resource Advocates, Theresa Conley, Conservation Colorado	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.10.	Summary of attachment: Comments on Chapter 5.10 including - Existing Process Descriptions, Permitting Process Improvements, Ensuring Appropriate Input, and Criteria for State Support.	Comments on draft chapter 5.10	Staff Response: CWCB appreciates the detailed letter from several NGO's representing the conservation community and will consider the permitting improvement suggestion during the revision process of Section 5.10
42	6/20/2014	Sara Avery, Colorado Citizen	Email to cewaterplan@state.co.us	5.7	Copy of email: "I'm writing about the first draft of the water plan. I've learned that it proposes to dam and drain rivers, subdivide and pave over farms, support more water for fracking, and force massive amounts of public debt onto ratepayers. Especially in this time of drought, water is our most precious resource and needs great protections from these activities. Our water plan needs to promote water conservation and efficiency, water recycling, water-sharing agreements with farmers, and cost-effective alternatives. Please save our aquifers!"	None	Staff Response: The current course Colorado is heading down leads to several of the results that the commenter mentions. For instance, without action, up to 35% of Colorado's farms in the South Platte could be dried up. This is one impetus for why Colorado is pursuing the development of a water plan. Colorado's Water Plan will yield better results through support of conservation, reuse, sharing agreements between farmers and municipalities, incentive-based of water-smart land use, and the development of multi-purpose projects and methods.

Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 5/16/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: May 16, 2014

Input provided by: John Gale, National Sportsmen

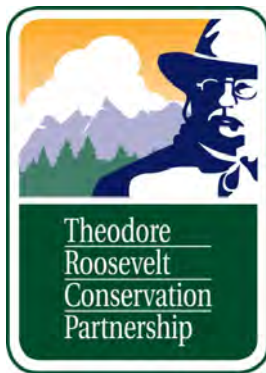
Method of submission: Email to cowaterplan@state.co.us

Related sections of CWP Framework: 5.9; 5.6.1; 5.6.4; 5.7; 5.11

Summary of Input: Summary of attachment: The Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance, the Colorado Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Colorado Trout Unlimited, Colorado Wildlife Federation, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership signed a letter requesting that Colorado's Water Plan honor outdoor recreation and tourism by 1) keeping the rivers healthy and flowing, 2) increase efficiency and conservation for municipal use, 3) modernize agriculture and water-sharing practice, 4) Avoid new trans-mountain diversions.

Documents Submitted for Review: Letter

Staff Response: Colorado's Water Plan will support Colorado's rivers as will be described in Section 5.9, address the need for increased conservation as described in Subsection 5.6.1, and the need for agricultural efficiencies and water sharing practices as described in 5.6.4 and 5.7. With regard to new transmountain diversion projects, the IBCC is exploring innovative ways to address this issue in a balanced manner. Scenario planning indicates that a new transmountain diversion may not be needed in the future; however some futures suggest that new transmountain diversions may be a necessary part of Colorado's water supply portfolio. Colorado's Water Plan will not include any specific transmountain water projects, but it will discuss how we can move forward with this option should it be needed, based on the IBCC's work. The CWCB would like encourage multipurpose projects and full mitigation.



Governor Hickenlooper & Director Eklund,

Colorado's incredible outdoor legacy has been built up on the spectacular landscapes and clean waters that our state's fish and wildlife species call home. We, the undersigned sportsmen organizations, ask you to consider these values that make our state a special place in America and we urge you to protect our sporting heritage as you draft Colorado's Water Plan.

The 2011 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey found that 2.3 million Colorado residents and nonresident visitors spent \$3.0 billion dollars in our state to hunt, fish, and view wildlife. As you know, outdoor recreation is an important driver for Colorado's economy and we appreciate that the Executive Order directing the Colorado Water Conservation Board to write Colorado's Water Plan recognizes the Plan must incorporate three core values including to maintain "a productive economy that supports ... a robust ... recreation and tourism industry" as well as "a strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers and streams, and wildlife."

Colorado's rivers, streams and riparian areas are necessary habitat for over 80% of Colorado's wildlife (and 100% of its fish). Maintaining these resources is critical for hunters and anglers, for the state's economy, and for our quality of life. We applaud your use of Colorado's Water Plan to find cooperative ways to protect and restore these resources, help growing urban areas meet their water needs, and sustaining our important working landscapes for agricultural production.

We see four essential components that must be included in Colorado's Water Plan:

1. Keep Colorado's rivers healthy and flowing. New water development projects should not adversely affect rivers identified for fish and wildlife values, nor let rivers run dry. In

fact, new projects should provide environmental or recreational benefits. For rivers identified with key environmental and recreational attributes, the plan must prioritize protection and restoration projects.

2. Increase water efficiency and conservation in our cities and towns. Colorado's population may double in the next 35 years. Providing water for growing communities while protecting rivers and our quality of life requires improved efficiency and conservation. CWCB studies have shown that water providers could reduce today's water use levels 35% by 2050. We can achieve this by expanding conservation incentives, increasing indoor and outdoor efficiency, and by developing and financially supporting water reuse programs.
3. Modernize agriculture and water-sharing practices. A healthy agricultural industry is vital for our communities, our state and overall economic health. Sportsmen and women appreciate that private landowners allow us to access their properties to hunt and fish. Colorado should support voluntary, compensated, flexible water-sharing agreements, between agricultural producers and growing communities while respecting existing water rights. The state plan should also provide incentives to improve infrastructure that benefit agricultural operations and healthy river flows.
4. Avoid new trans-mountain diversion projects. The historical "go to" strategy for new water supply was to pipe more West Slope water to the Front Range to satisfy new water demands to east of the Continental Divide. Beyond the projects already contemplated and underway, this strategy will not be viable in the 21st century. Trans-mountain projects are both controversial and can exacerbate problems for river and riparian health. Conservation, efficiency, alternative ag transfers and reuse are less expensive, less contentious and more effective. As our colleagues at Trout Unlimited say, "keep our rivers at home."

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations. We appreciate the opportunity to engage in any dialogue with CWCB members and look forward to helping you develop a strong Colorado Water Plan.

Sincerely,

Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance
Colorado Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Colorado Trout Unlimited
Colorado Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 5/20/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: May 20, 2014

Input provided by: John Wiener, Colorado Citizen

Method of submission: Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com

Related sections of CWP Framework: Ark BIP, 5.4, 5.9, 5.7, 5.1, 5.3, 5.5., 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.10

Summary of Input: Summary of attachment: This set of comments includes (1) comments on the set of materials posted as of 19 May 2014; (2) A general comment from John Wiener – Jumping the Ditch... what is needed. (3) Two stories from the Denver Post (copyright Denver Post), on business as usual – Denver Water deals on the Fraser River. The private property rights in water mean that the market continues to work no matter who is talking; what does that mean for the State Water Plan? And (4) a short sample of background on land loss in Colorado Agriculture. There is serious need for an update on the extent of rural residential development, particularly affecting agricultural and irrigated lands. The damage from landscape perforation is not limited to making the Wildland-Urban Interface an indefensible unmanageable mingling of public and private property.

Documents Submitted for Review: Review

Staff Response: First, concerning comments related to the Arkansas Basin, CWCB staff will work with the basin roundtable to help clarify that one third of irrigational lands are currently irrigated and agriculture as whole benefits from these lands. There is no additional information about the impacts of irrigation efficiency rules on irrigated acreages. Second, CWCB staff will pass any discussion water quality comments to the Water Quality Control Division and Commission. Third, in regard to comments related to climate change and vulnerability of environmental values, this will be discussed in Section 5.9. Fourth, the commenter indicated that the dry up of irrigated lands that may be the most productive and this should be noted in the plan. CWCB staff will incorporate these comments into Section 5.7. Fifth, additional agricultural comments related to Section 5.1 are not appropriate for the level of detail in this section but will be considered for inclusion in other sections. Sixth, comments related to Section 5.3 will be

considered during the development of this section and an initial draft will be available at the September CWCB Board meeting. Seventh, in regards to comments related to Section 5.4, including the water quality concerns around ground water and fracking, these comments will be passed along to the Water Quality Control Division and Commission. Eight, with regards to comments related Section 5.5 and the need to incorporate climate change to the consumptive and nonconsumptive gap, the 2016 State Water Supply Initiative update will fully incorporate climate change and to the analysis of the gaps and the first draft of Colorado's Water Plan will include some discussion of this topic. Ninth, comments related to Section 5.6 are largely covered in the draft chapter already posted, including some discussion related to scaled agricultural conservation. Tenth, comments related to Section 5.7 encourage the chapter to include examples from other states. CWCB staff will work to incorporate such examples. Eleventh, additional comments related Section 5.7 included the authors opinions related to several ATM methodologies. These will be considered as the chapter is revised. Twelfth, the author encourages Section 5.8 to analyze the feasibility of significant low cost increases in surface storage. The need for such projects and methods will be part of the basin implementation plans. Thirteenth, the commenter is concerned that Section 5.10 on permitting will discourage high quality and costly studies. A draft chapter has been published and it is clear that the intent is not only more efficient but more effective permitting studies.

COMMENTS of JOHN D. WIENER, J.D., Ph.D., not representing any institution, as of 19 May 2014:

This set of comments includes (1) comments on the set of materials posted as of 19 May 2014;

(2) A general comment from John Wiener – Jumping the Ditch... what is needed.

(3) Two stories from the Denver Post (copyright Denver Post), on business as usual – Denver Water deals on the Fraser River. The private property rights in water mean that the market continues to work no matter who is talking; what does that mean for the State Water Plan?

And (4) a short sample of background on land loss in Colorado Agriculture. There is serious need for an update on the extent of rural residential development, particularly affecting agricultural and irrigated lands. The damage from landscape perforation is not limited to making the Wildland-Urban Interface an indefensible unmanageable mingling of public and private property.

1. Comments on the Draft Materials

Comment on Chapter 2 – initial draft of each basin as of 26 FEB 14 Draft

Comment: there may be inconsistent and problematic treatment of lack of treatment of climate change and impacts on hydrology across the basins and the BIPs. There may also be inadequate treatment of the ESA and its interactions with other changes in water resources, and inadequate treatment of the interactions of climate and water quality, and the distribution of impacts and costs to people.

The new national climate assessment (USGCRP 2014) has been extremely carefully produced with very cautious conclusions and should be the “baseline” for consideration, along with more specific studies including that for Colorado’s climate and the front range water providers study (Averyt et al. 2011, Ray et al. 2008, USGCRP 2014, Woodbury et al. 2012).

The Endangered Species Act is noted as important in most basins, but the interactions with climate change, such as increased ET by vegetation while there may be reduced flows, increased erosion, and cascading impacts from changes in vegetation and streambank and sediment characteristics may be far too important to disregard. There may be TMDLs induced by sheer cumulative change and crossing thresholds which have legal impact or which affect other conditions and impose constraints that can be quite inequitably distributed. Changes in shading, for example, have important effects on water temperature.

There are also interactions with riparian conditions, which may be important contributors to reaching thresholds, due to changes in ecosystem services provided by wetted and wet lands (Wiener et al. 2008).

When a threshold is crossed that invokes at TMDL or the ESA, all prior relevant activities will have had the benefit (usually a significant cost saving) of being unconstrained, and all subsequent activities will bear the cost of working within the limits invoked.

Irrigators may be particularly affected by this where they may be limited in their changes in farming or in their ability to make arrangements for revenue from water or selling.

Note: The U.S. Global Change Research Program, Third National Climate Assessment (2014): This major set of reports provides excellent readable summaries and key findings for each segment and the report as a whole. The entire report is substantial length, but particular parts can be accessed at: < <http://www.globalchange.gov/what-we-do/assessment>>.

Averyt, K., K. Cody, E. Gordon, R. Klein, J. Lukas, J. Smith, W. Travis, B. Udall, J. Vogel, and E. Pugh, 2011, Colorado Climate Preparedness Project: Final Report. Boulder, CO: Western Water Assessment, University of Colorado.
<http://wwa.colorado.edu/publications/reports/>

Ray, A., J. Barsugli, and K. Averyt, 2008, [Climate Change in Colorado: A Synthesis to Support Water Resources Management and Adaptation](#). A Report for the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Western Water Assessment.
<http://wwa.colorado.edu/publications/reports/>

U.S. Global Change Research Program, Third National Climate Assessment (2014): This major set of reports provides excellent readable summaries and key findings for each segment and the report as a whole. The entire report is substantial length, but particular parts can be accessed at: < <http://www.globalchange.gov/what-we-do/assessment>>.

Woodbury M. , M. Baldo, D. Yates, and L. Kaatz (2012). Joint Front Range Climate Change Vulnerability Study. Published by Water Research Foundation. Retrieved from
<http://cwcbweblink.state.co.us/WebLink/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=157704&searchid=4575fc8b-6a7b-4a33-bbf8-35266b2c6742&&dbid=0>

Wiener, J., R. Crifasi, K. Dwire, S. Skagen and D. Yates, 2008, Riparian Ecosystem Consequences of Water Redistribution Along the Colorado Front Range, Water Resources Impact, May 2008, 10(3): 18-21.

Comments related to pages as of 26 Feb 14 Draft:

P 1 of 16 – Arkansas Basin... says that 1/3 of agricultural lands benefit from irrigation but all of agriculture benefits, with closer feed/hay production used by the cattle and dairy industry, though a great deal is imported into Colorado now.

P 2 – Regarding the Arkansas Basin irrigation efficiency rules, is there any information about the impacts of these rules on acreage irrigated, or yields, or costs, separate from changes due to the recent severe and continuing severe drought in the lower Arkansas Basin and Southeast Colorado? This does not appear to be covered in

Pritchett, J., C. Goemans, and R. Nelson (2013). Estimating the Short and Long - term Economic & Social Impacts of the 2012 Drought in Colorado. Retrieved from <http://cwcbweblink.state.co.us/WebLink/0/doc/172871/Electronic.aspx>

P 2 -3 – Regarding water quality and drinking water availability concerns in the lower basin: the Gates et al. work has reported on salinity from irrigation reaching shales, though there may not be good information on salinity from municipal effluent and imported transbasin water creating dissolution of salts on a constant basis and in a large surface due to greater filling of the alluvial area. Links to climate change and TMDLs should be noted. Direct costs that can be noted are the requirement for the Arkansas Valley Conduit, and the additional costs of disposal of brine returned from reverse osmosis water treatments in the Valley. Burkhalter et al. and Gates et al. provide some information on the agricultural losses imposed by salinity.

Therefore, worsened salinity due to increased ET and longer frost-free seasons should be discussed.

In addition, worsened water quality affected by reduction in filtration processes with changes in the riparian vegetation and ecology of floodplains should be addressed. Riparian conditions are quite different from those under unregulated flow regimes of the past (Wiener et al. 2008).

Burkhalter, J. P., and Gates, T. K. 2005. “Agroecological impacts from salinization and waterlogging in an irrigated river valley”. *Journal of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering*, 131(2): 197 – 209.

Gates, T.K., J.P. Burkhalter, J.W. Labadie, J.C. Valliant and I. Broner, 2002, Monitoring and Modeling Flow and Salt Transport in a Salinity-Threatened Irrigated Valley. *Journal of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering* 128(2): 87-99.

Gates, T.K., L.A. Garcia, and J.W. Labadie, 2006, Toward Optimal Water Management in Colorado's Lower Arkansas River Valley: Monitoring and Modeling for Agroecological Remediation. Fort Collins, CO: Colorado State University.

Wiener, J., R. Crifasi, K. Dwire, S. Skagen and D. Yates, 2008, Riparian Ecosystem Consequences of Water Redistribution Along the Colorado Front Range, *Water Resources Impact*, May 2008, 10(3): 18-21.

P 4 – Mainstem Colorado River Basin – Concerns that recreational and environmental values are major economic drivers should be matched with a note on their vulnerability, as discussed regarding the Arkansas Basin, to the interactions of water transfers, climate and hydrologic change, and riparian services changes.

P 4 – The point that 20 percent of irrigated lands are threatened may understate the importance of the most threatened lands, which typically have much higher-than-average productivity as well as access to markets, real estate value, and more senior water rights. This is likely true in all basins except the North Platte and perhaps the Republican.

PP 4 and 7: and also 7 re Dolores-San Juan etc. – Issues mentioned in this section should also note the questions and importance of the ESA, water quality, and the dramatic potential of climate change, noting the work cited above and also the Bureau of Reclamation studies of the Colorado River Basin.

P 4 – Concern over compact shortage in severe and sustained drought is noted but without reference to climate. This seems quite inadequate. References (Averyt et al., etc. are above).
General Comment: The same points noted for pp 1 – 4 apply to almost all of the Basins.

Re: 5.1 – Scenario Planning and Adaptive Water Strategy as of 10 Jan 14

General Comment: Thank you! The description is well written, and the work done by the CWCB staff and the Interbasin Compact Committee is very good, in my opinion. This summarizes a lot of work by the Basin Roundtables and how that was synthesized. This has been an impressive planning process with enormous efforts by hundreds of people.

Comments on pages of the 10 Jan 14 Draft:

P 3 of 10 Jan 14 draft: Comment: while the draft notes that there is “general consensus” on the goal of reduction of losses of agricultural water and lands, as well as impending significant harm to the environment and economy, it does not note the remarkably uneven distribution of costs and losses in the short and mid-term which will affect rural and agricultural interests much more adversely until the indirect costs for urban populations are realized with changes in the costs of transportation, desirable quality and local food, open space, ecosystem services or substitute costs, and losses of recreational and amenity and real estate values.

P 4 of the 10 Jan 14 draft: describes the “Business as Usual” scenario but is inadequate in treatment of the large losses of peri-urban land from productivity for the long-term.

This understates the impact because these lands are better quality, first chosen for farming with low inputs, good soils, good water, and they are generally much more productive than poorer lands, for high value crops (Esseks et al. 2009, Francis et al. 2012). These lands are also better for local markets and low transportation needs, meeting both consumer preferences and goals of reduced energy costs.

Esseks, D., Oberholtzer, L., Clancy, K., Lapping, M., Zurbrugg, A., 2009, Sustaining Agriculture in Urbanizing Counties: Insights from 15 Coordinated Case Studies. University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Available through American Farmland Trust website at <<http://www.farmland.org/resources/sustaining-agriculture-in-urbanizing-counties/documents/Sustaining-agriculture-in-urbanizing-counties.pdf>>.

Francis, C.A., 2010, Conventional Research on Controversial Issues: An Exercise in Futility? Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems 25(1): 3-7.

Francis, C.A., T.E. Hansen, A.A. Fox, P.J. Hesje, H.E. Nelson, A.E. Lawseth, and A. English, 2012, Farmland Conversion to Non-agricultural Uses in the US and Canada: Current Impacts and Concerns for the Future. International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability 10(1): 8-24.

Pp 7-9 of 10 Jan 14 Draft: This indicates the importance of preparing for defense of agricultural land and water in any foreseeable future. The draft does not describe the very large losses already experienced, but all should be well aware of the very substantial reduction in good farmland which has already taken place. Figures which indicate total farmland or cropland for a state do not provide information on land quality, and may be somewhat complex such as designation of all irrigated land as “prime farmland” regardless of location and soil qualities.

Re: 5.2 – Natural Disaster Management as of 10 Jan 14

Comment: This seemed generally very good to me, with the exception of insufficient information on disaster impacts to ecosystem services and soils. The draft provides recent estimates of impacts such as \$726 million in losses from the 2012 drought, and also notes that some losses are very hard to estimate, such as long-term changes in cattle herds. Long-term set-backs in soil formation, and soil quality are not well known but it is known that the increasing frequency of heavy downpours and high intensity precipitation is an important cause of soil erosion and sediment transport (USGCRP 2014; see especially report on agriculture.) The synergistic damage from fires and high-intensity rains and floods is noted. Structural damage to water distribution is also noted, including the floods of September 2013 destruction of diversions and headgates, but the threat of severe losses of agricultural capacity with repeated stresses and high costs is not adequately treated. The risks may be quite under-appreciated.

The draft also links climate change, timing of run-off and precipitation changes to water supply and water quality, and notes the recent extremes in 2011, 2012, and 2013, but may understate the changed probability of extreme events (USGCRP 2014). See also Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Special Report on Extremes of Weather and Climate, available from the ipcc.org website, along with all of the IPCC reports.

Re: 5.3. Watershed Health/Management as of 17 Jan 14

Comment: Additional comment may be made at a later time. Presently, it is noted that other comments made this day, 19 May 2014, are likely relevant, regarding the importance of riparian vegetation which has no legal protection.

Return flows are maintained in the transfer of the consumptive use fraction of a water diversion for which a change decree is made. But, these flows and their timing are maintained in the stream from which diversion was made, and not in the whole pattern of their distribution. The range of interests and ecosystem services provided by seepage and return flows is not presently protected, to the best of my knowledge, and not observed or monitored.

This may be very damaging with decreasing flows, due to transfers, due to hydrologic and climate changes, and due to the impacts affecting other reaches with more prominent problems such as the appearance of a TMDL or an ESA problem. There may be cascading problems which are hard to foresee due to the somewhat unpredictable location of water transfers.

Unforeseen imposition of TMDLs may be particularly difficult for water users who are not monitoring water quality interactions with water quantity and changing conditions; that would probably include all but the largest water suppliers.

This set of issues may not appear in the Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs) or may appear inconsistently, reducing the value of any considerations that are not comparable and not compatible.

Comments below on agroecology and the critical need to manage on a landscape basis are applicable here also.

One potential issue is the scales of efficiency and conservation that are discussed and for which recommendations are to be made. Field scale is not the same as farm scale and not the same as landscape or watershed scale. Landscape scale is going to be increasingly important as irrigators seek more effective use of land potential and more long-term management using ecological potential for meeting many goals. Agroecology principles are noted in “Re-Vision of a Western Irrigated Area...” (Wiener), available in reports section of www.colorado.edu/ibs/eb/wiener/. With illustrations posted under illustrations tab.

Sassenrath, G.F., J.D. Wiener, J. Hendrickson, J. Schneider, and D. Archer, 2011, Achieving Effective Landscape Conservation: Evolving Demands, Adaptive Metrics. In Nowak, P., and M. Schnepf, eds. 2011. Managing Agricultural Landscapes for Environmental Quality II: Achieving More Effective Conservation. Ankeny, IA: Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Section 5.4 – Water Quality as of 30 April 14

Comment: there are two puzzling omissions in the 30 April 2014 draft posted. There is almost nothing on groundwater or increasing integration of groundwater with surface water; e.g. Waskom 2013 Colorado Water Institute report on the South Platte, responding to legislative request. And, there is no mention of the 52,000 active oil and gas and fracking wells in

Colorado, which interact through malfunctions and spills with both surface and ground water. There are expected 3,000 new wells a year

The Denver Post found that more than a tenth of the last 1,000 spills had contaminated groundwater before cleanup was started. Reported spills peaked last year, (but unreported spills may not be detected). The Post found 1.5 spills a day, and large volumes of contaminated drilling products. Only 43 of the 758 spills reported in the last year were from the floods of 2013.

45% of petroleum chemicals spilled remain in the ground after initial cleanup, with about a gallon penetrating soil every 8 minutes.

Colorado Attorney General Suthers is quoted as saying we are ground zero for the impacts of this boom. The jurisdiction may be complicated but it seems puzzling that this significant activity and industrial use of water is not mentioned in the water quality issues given the unknown state of the majority of wells and their future interactions with ground and surface water.

Finley, Bruce, 15 April 2014, Denver Post: “Colorado oil drilling boom intensifies as voter initiatives multiply.”

Finley, Bruce, 04 May 2014, Denver Post: “Colorado faces oil boom ‘death sentence’ for soil, eyes microbe fix.”

Access to maps and information is provided by some environmental groups; the one most focused on this is found at www.fractivist.com . Spills information from their analysis of state data: <http://www.fractivist.blogspot.com/2012/10/17-million-gallons-of-toxic-oil-and-gas.html>.

Comment: as noted in other comments, the water quality issues involved in climate change, reduced flows, withdrawal of return flows through riparian areas, and cascading and synergistic changes are inadequately even mentioned let alone described. This is not a basis for sound policy.

Re: 5.5. Meeting the Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Gaps as of 17 Jan 14

Comment: the “gaps” as identified may be optimistic given the lack of recognition of climate change, and lack of recognition of support for ecosystem services dependent on irrigation return flows. Detailed consideration with sustained observation of return flows is shown in Burkhalter et al 2005, Gates et al. 2002, and Gates et al. 2005. And see also Waskom, 2013 for references to South Platte modeling. The State Decision Support Systems are intended for some other purposes. Riparian conditions and agricultural activities are critical in water quality (e.g. Kiel and Cardenas, 2014, USDA Conservation Effects Assessment Program.)

- Burkhalter, J. P., and Gates, T. K. 2005. "Agroecological impacts from salinization and waterlogging in an irrigated river valley". *Journal of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering*, 131(2): 197 – 209.
- Gates, T.K., J.P. Burkhalter, J.W. Labadie, J.C. Valliant and I. Broner, 2002, Monitoring and Modeling Flow and Salt Transport in a Salinity-Threatened Irrigated Valley. *Journal of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering* 128(2): 87-99.
- Gates, T.K., L.A. Garcia, and J.W. Labadie, 2006, Toward Optimal Water Management in Colorado's Lower Arkansas River Valley: Monitoring and Modeling for Agroecological Remediation. Fort Collins, CO: Colorado State University.
- Waskom, R., 2013, Report to the Colorado Legislature: Concerning: HB12-1278 Study of the South Platte River Alluvial Aquifer. Fort Collins, CO: Colorado Water Institute, Colorado State University. <http://cwi/colostate.edu>
- Kiel, B.A. and M. B Cardenas, 2014, Lateral Hyporheic Exchange Throughout the Mississippi River Network. *Nature Geoscience*: online publication 11 May 2014: doi: 10.1038/NGEO2157. [A very recent reference on some of the ecosystem services provided in riparian areas.]
- See also, for extensive discussion and evaluation of the role of agricultural activities in adding to and subtracting from water pollution, see the USDA Conservation Effects Assessment Program: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/nra/ceap/>.

Re: 5.6 Conservation and Reuse as of 17 Jan 14:

CWCB should request and post an early draft or how to seek information from the Colorado Agricultural Water Alliance group. This may be of high importance to irrigators.

One potential issue is the scales of efficiency and conservation that are discussed and for which recommendations are to be made. Field scale is not the same as farm scale and not the same as landscape or watershed scale. Landscape scale is going to be increasingly important as irrigators seek more effective use of land potential and more long-term management using ecological potential for meeting many goals. Agroecology principles are noted in "Re-Vision of a Western Irrigated Area..." (Wiener), available in reports section of www.colorado.edu/ibs/eb/wiener/. With illustrations posted under illustrations tab.

Sassenrath, G.F., J.D. Wiener, J. Hendrickson, J. Schneider, and D. Archer, 2011, Achieving Effective Landscape Conservation: Evolving Demands, Adaptive Metrics. In Nowak, P., and M. Schnepf, eds. 2011. *Managing Agricultural Landscapes for Environmental Quality II: Achieving More Effective Conservation*. Ankeny, IA: Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Section 5.7 Alternative Agricultural-to-Urban Transfer Methods as of 15 May 14

This is a disappointing section as of 15 May 2014 because there is a great deal more information available from the state in reports on the various projects which have had state funding, such as the high-end irrigation and observation system being developed to facilitate transfers in the SWIIM project and elsewhere.

See: <http://www.swiimsystem.com/home.aspx>

Comment: P 1 of draft dated April 2014 initial draft: One projection is loss of 40% of present remaining South Platte irrigation by 2050 without change in rates of buy-and-dry. This may be understating the impacts, because the South Platte is a “gaining” river after it leaves the Denver Metro area. It actually increases in surface flow because of all the irrigation and seepage that is coming in, as well as the tributaries. So, where the water would come from is related to the issues of transferability to the urbanizing areas, which may mean buying the most senior and moving diversion to the metro. The most senior tend to be the closest to the mountains, where the land is most valuable as well. The pressure on the peri-urban open space, amenity, and ecosystem services provided by the very best land closest to local markets may continue to be the highest, with the biggest impact on all values.

The long history of alternative transfers elsewhere is not mentioned, from other states. A great deal of Colorado effort might also be noted.

Three overviews:

Clifford, P., C. Landry, and A. Larsen-Hayden, 2004, Analysis of Water Banks in the Western States. Olympia, WA: Washington Department of Ecology, Water Resources Program. Available on website at: <<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0411011>>.

Schempp, A., 2009, Water in the 21st Century: Policies and Programs that Stretch Supplies in a Prior Appropriation World. Washington, D.C.: Environmental Law Institute.

Western Governors’ Association, 2012, Water Transfers in the West: Projects, Trends, and Leading Practices in Voluntary Water Trading. <http://www.westgov.org>. (accessed 11 Dec 12).

Some other references:

Colorado Water Institute, Smith, M.L., Ed., 2010, Agricultural/Urban/Environmental Water Sharing: Innovative Strategies for the Colorado River Basin and the West. Fort Collins, CO: Colorado State University. <cwi.colostate.edu/publications/sr/22.pdf>. (accessed 15 May 2014).

Arkansas Basin Roundtable, 2008, Considerations for Agriculture to Urban Water Transfers. Report of the Water Transfers Guidelines Committee; adopted Roundtable and forwarded to Colorado Interbasin Compact Committee, Roundtables, and Colorado Water Conservation Board. <<http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/basin-roundtables/Documents/Arkansas/AgToUrbanReportABRTNov08.PDF>>. (accessed June 12, 2011).

Nichols, P.D., M.K. Murphy, and D.S. Kenney, 2001, Water and Growth in Colorado: A review of Legal and Policy Issues. Boulder: University of Colorado, Natural Resources Law Center.

Olinger, D. and C. Plunkett et al., 2005, "Liquid Assets – Turning Water into Gold", multi-part series with sidebars, 21, 22, and 23 November 2005, [The Denver Post](#).

Palo Verde Irrigation District, "The PVID/MWD Program." Accessed February 2008. <http://www.pvid.org/PVIDMWDProgram/tabid/58/Default.aspx>.

Comment: the critical problem in most of the Colorado thinking is a failure of simplicity, based on observations of many years of meetings including the SWIS basin and technical roundtables and following the discourse in some basin roundtables, Colorado Water Congress, and many other meetings and reports.

The underlying need is not to incrementally finagle water law dating back to mining in the gold rush, but to think about what is needed. Cities require certainty of supply to the extent that they choose to supply growth. Agriculture needs certainty of supply or finance to the extent that is needed to sustain productivity, farm viability, and conserve the agricultural landscapes that provide enormous values. These values include food, fiber and feed, and ecosystem services, wildlife, amenity, recreational value and to the extent that the landscape is preserved in functional condition, flexibility for the future. The increasing value of price-stabilized bio-fuels is also an opportunity that cities should accept; grow your own.

To the extent that the landscape is perforated with other land uses, drained of irrigation, and deprived of so-called inefficiencies which support the existing riparian environment and the myriad un-paid services it provides, we and the future are impoverished permanently.

The leap is this; recognize that long-term or permanent partnerships are needed using municipal capacity and finance and demand to support conservation of irrigated agriculture and its values, especially in the peri-urban areas so rapidly being lost. There are two steps already in use, which are not sufficient. First, lease-backs from municipal buyers to irrigators of water bought in advance of need are a kind of short-term partnership which will not support long-term management and investment in permanent agriculture. Conservation easements stabilize land use but do not provide financing for adaptation as conditions change, and are limited by the expense and private funding capacity. Permanent municipal-agricultural partnerships are the answer.

Ultimately, some situations such as complicated conjunctive management will need basin-scale management, but now the needed step in transfers is most closely followed by the “flex marketing bill” (HB14-1026) which was first introduced in 2014. A modest version should immediately be modeled out with conversations among cities and irrigators, with state support and the Colorado Water Institute.

The draft lists several “ATMs” – here is the very short critique of each:

Rotational Fallowing -- can be good, but so far not clear that deals have been good for (1) ensuring cover crop on fallowed land; and (2) schedule of prices to cover inputs and costs if water sought to be taken at different stages of planting; this could be important and provide security for both sides.

Interruptible Supply – This is a good idea, but lacks flexibility and security because of the legal limit to only three out of ten years. It should also be designed to provide more security and flexibility, and allow transfers in wet years where additional recharge is sought and crops might be produced with less irrigation. And, the time limits do not meet the desires for permanence.

Note: “Permanence” in contracts and human planning is an idea, but it has a lot less weight than the permanence of irreversible damage and loss, such as destruction of capacity, loss of soil and soil-forming conditions, etc. It is unlikely that any deal will last centuries, but it is important that the legal and financial systems be able to support the best possible use of resources.

Deficit Irrigation – Excellent technology balancing crop versus other uses of water, and it should be supported with locally developed “presumptive” figures. That is, a set of figures, which would be on the safe side, to enable a transfer unless objectors demonstrate they are wrong. This will take some investment and some verification over time, but should be pursued.

Water Coop – This may need refinement to enable different scales of management, and may need a presumptive start for maintenance of riparian vegetation and avoiding problems with inadequate flows and water quality/biology problems.

Water Bank – There are many working models; the critical problem with new ones in Colorado would likely be limits that prevent using the bank to meet security/long-term needs, which would defeat the formation of a good working market. Where they are successful, as in Idaho’s water pools and the Northern District, they are supplemental to other transfers.

Water Conservation Easement – Fine idea, and may be better with increased clarity of use of short-term for drought flow needs versus permanent dedications. There are important limits on the private funding for purchase of easements, even with State tax credit transferability.

HB13-1248 – Pilot projects – Should include serious examination with GIS etc. support for re-thinking peri-urban agricultural conservation with municipal partnerships. Wiener has sought to illustrate this with an informal presentation, “Thanks and think BIG”, and substantial reporting, “Re-vision of a Western Irrigated Area” and posted illustrations, maps, etc... available on web at www.colorado.edu/ibs/eb/wiener/.

Flex Water Marketing – HB14-1026 was headed in a good direction, and should be tried, but it remains a lesser form than a real partnership as urged here and elsewhere. It is better to make some progress but as argued here, you cannot jump a 10 foot ditch one foot at a time, and we ought to get on with making the best possible arrangements.

Lease-backs – This is a “soft landing” for farming, but it does not support long-term investments in transition to sustainability, and may in practice guarantee that such transitions will not happen.

Re: 5.8. Municipal, Industrial, and Agricultural Infrastructure Projects and Methods

Comment: This will certainly be important to irrigators on the east slope and probably the west slope as well. This appears to be the reservoir/storage section, and it may reflect more hope for water that can fill buckets than might be realistic. Therefore, there may be increased importance in aquifer storage and recharge projects, which will in turn affect irrigation and water tables, as has been the case already on the South Platte (Waskom 2013).

One issue previously raised and perhaps under-appreciated is the shortage of high-efficiency sites for water storage. The volume to surface ratio and the duration of frozen surfaces are important. Some reservoirs in Colorado may be quite inefficient in terms of water input needed for a given usable output with the desired timing, such as those in shallow porous locations on the Plains. This may be one reason for the explosion of gravel pit storage for recharge for augmentation plans and facilitation of urban water management (the increase is noted in Waskom 2013), along with projects to retain control of water for which second use is allowed because the water is trans-basin in origin and may be re-used by the import owner until control is lost due to mingling with other waters in non-retrievable fashion.

Long-term viability of substantial parts of irrigation may depend on new storage and re-timing and re-use methods. The feasibility of significant low-cost increases in surface storage may be a problem that affects irrigators whose ability to retain irrigation water is directly affected by the costs of alternative supplies and the prices buyers will meet. There was considerable discussion at the time of the Two Forks proposal and permit problem but that may need up-dating with the new information on climate change (Averyt et al. 2011, Ray et al. 2008, Woodbury et al. 2012, and National Climate Assessment, USGCRP 2014).

The potential impacts of continued weather extremes, as experienced in 2011, 2012, and 2013, and continuing climate change are also substantial threats to traditional storage design. The case for capturing flood flows is always attractive, but the economics are not as clear where there may be more drought. The case for re-timing earlier snowmelt flows is also important, and should be carefully examined.

Averyt, K., K. Cody, E. Gordon, R. Klein, J. Lukas, J. Smith, W. Travis, B. Udall, J. Vogel, and E. Pugh, 2011, Colorado Climate Preparedness Project: Final Report. Boulder, CO: Western Water Assessment, University of Colorado.
<http://wwa.colorado.edu/publications/reports/>

Ray, A., J. Barsugli, and K. Averyt, 2008, [Climate Change in Colorado: A Synthesis to Support Water Resources Management and Adaptation](#). A Report for the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Western Water Assessment.
<http://wwa.colorado.edu/publications/reports/>

U.S. Global Change Research Program, Third National Climate Assessment (2014): This major set of reports provides excellent readable summaries and key findings for each segment

and the report as a whole. The entire report is substantial length, but particular parts can be accessed at: < <http://www.globalchange.gov/what-we-do/assessment>>.

Woodbury M. , M. Baldo, D. Yates, and L. Kaatz (2012). Joint Front Range Climate Change Vulnerability Study. Published by Water Research Foundation. Retrieved from <http://cwcbweblink.state.co.us/WebLink/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=157704&searchid=4575fc8b-6a7b-4a33-bbf8-35266b2c6742&&dbid=0>

Waskom, R., 2013, Report to the Colorado Legislature: Concerning: HB12-1278 Study of the South Platte River Alluvial Aquifer. Fort Collins, CO: Colorado Water Institute, Colorado State University. <http://cwi.colostate.edu>

Re: 5.9. Environmental and Recreational Projects and Methods as of 17 Jan 1

Comment: irrigators have strong interests in using support for irrigated farming from environmental and recreational interests and their extensive public and private funding. The irrigator goal may be to forge alliances which realize for farmers some of the value of the benefits provided, and which stabilize the agricultural landscape to conserve capacity to make changes on economic scales and with the freedom to change. It is not clear that the BIPs will pursue those goals.

Re: 5.10 Streamlining the Permitting Process as of 26 April 14

Comment on “streamlining the permitting process”: Many times in the past, that has been shorthand for not doing studies which are often expensive if they are to be worthwhile. But the outcome may be to avoid documentation of unfavorable information, or avoid knowing about things that might increase the expense of a project. This has often, in my opinion, been a part of the anti-regulation efforts. Can one imagine a good social and agricultural impacts study being done if it were not needed? There are some older partial studies, and if they were taken as good enough for a new modified process to avert County involvement, for instance, it is difficult to expect that social and agricultural impacts would be reduced.

The irrigators and the public have a strong interest in getting more information on the values that irrigation and agriculture provide to the public and in conservation of ecological functions as well as the long-term viability of future farming under different economic, energy, population, market and climate conditions. The trend for decades has been steadily increasing recognition of the value of ecosystem services, amenity and recreational values, and open space... one would surely not expect that those valuations are going to go down. One can, however, expect the persistence of old underestimates and disregard of updates or adjustments. One example is the avoidance of costs for water treatment, though use of wetlands and riparian processes. “Gray infrastructure” costs continue to rise very rapidly, while “green infrastructure” costs are fixed at the price of stabilization when it is done.

Re: 6.2. State Water Rights and Alignment as of 17 Jan 14

Comment: State-owned water rights could be involved in many agreements to manage for non-market values in collaboration with managing for municipal, public, and agricultural values. The design of partnerships could be far more creative than the timid incrementalism now treated as radical, in my view. The alignment of State interests and agencies might best commence with review of successful agreements such as creating the Arkansas Headwaters Management program, that balances fishery and floating and other interests. The critical steps may have been careful description of the range of interests, on a localized case-specific basis, and then sincere efforts to develop this successful and very rewarding agreement. Most of the people involved are likely still available for consultation; we had excellent information from several in the Arkansas Basin Roundtable Water Transfers Guidelines Committee.

II. A Comment on Goals and Needs

Jumping the Ditch – About the State Water Plan and Agriculture

John D. Wiener, J.D., Ph.D. john.wiener@colorado.edu

(www.colorado.edu/ibs/eb/wiener/ -- more information available)

Not representing any agency or institution in this comment

After the Statewide Water Supply Initiative, great State agency work, the Basin Roundtables and Interbasin Compact Committee work for many years, the State Water Plan is a **necessary – but not sufficient** –step. Long-term security and productivity for Colorado agriculture requires water and land and long-term futures for Colorado’s agricultural families, too... There are a set of things we need to know about to act effectively, and this is one view of them. If we try to work with only one or two, we may be trying to jump a six-foot ditch one foot at a time! Almost **two-thirds of US cropland** is owned by “small and medium” farms often at high financial risk. Colorado’s future depends on not only a Water Plan but also conservation of capacity to grow. Keeping agricultural water available will not be enough if we lose farms for other reasons.

The bottom line: Landscape-scale diversified agriculture with net profit is necessary to conserve remaining productive capacity, increase resilience to physical and market variability, preserve remaining water quality and ecosystem services (e.g. de-nitrification of agricultural run-off), improve food security and preferences, and conservation of amenity, recreational and real estate values. **WHAT WE NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT:**

Long-term economics of diversified farming and rotation systems: Converting to different kinds of production has costs, but how long does it take to pay off and begin profits for more complicated rotations, more cover crops, more diversified production and lower-input farming? Not so long ago, farming was much more diversified – almost every farm produced a range of crops and livestock, for use on the farm, feeding the farmers and animals, and some for sale. Resilience to weather and market surprises included more eggs and more baskets! Marketing for local sales has improved dramatically, but we're still losing too many acres and families.

Pressure to reduce labor and jobs has also reduced local knowledge of crafts and the place, and many specialized skills though a huge range are still needed. Diversity lives on in the huge devotion to specialty crops, 4-H and FFA programs, and the marvelous variety one sees at a good county fair, but the business of farming is more like a business than like farming for the long term. We need **integration of alternative and conventional agriculture** experience into forms of information that producers, Extension and advisors are used to using. There are a lot of case studies, but they can be hard to use alone. See the National Research Council, 2010: Toward Sustainable Agricultural Systems for the 21st Century (free; www.nap.edu – enter title sought).

Right-Sizing for Net Profits: If a group of farmers are going to grow a set of crops in rotation, can they right-size capital investments in different kinds of equipment? Working in groups is hard but beats going out of business and it might be a significant savings. Let's start to find out how to do this – local custom operations? Cooperatives? Ditches or districts? Pick one kind of tractor and manage a group of them for longevity and least-cost? Pumps? What else? How often can or should we use this to get best return on investments? Lower cost but higher profit!

Long-term Financing: Why is so much of our topsoil and productive capacity subject to annual or short-term planning horizons and short-term pressures for cash profits? Almost every other part of basic infrastructure is financed over the long term, typically 30 years, from home mortgages to water supply construction, to match costs to benefits over the life of things. Why not think that way about food and all the benefits from farming and ranching and forestry? What about using state and municipal partnerships that use long-term financing and low-cost capital from bonds and revolving fund mechanisms to conserve resources including farm families?

Land and Soil Potential: In the long term, we want to be working **with the terrain** and with the ecology for soil conservation, for wind breaks, integrated pest management, drainage and filtration management, and conserving amenities and such benefits as wildlife (and hunting income). There is no doubt in the science that the **landscape scale** works far better for conservation than the rectangular grid. Again, we need to be re-visioning our organization to transition toward this, to capture nutrients instead of buying and losing them, and to maximize returns on what we do add in.

Land, Houses, and Tax Management: Rural residential development that breaks up the landscape and management choices also costs counties typically far more for services than the taxes pay for – we lose all ways. People love being near open space, as well as wanting near-by basics and retail, so there may be important opportunities for “smart growth” that supports and fits with farming and provides high-quality low-cost efficient housing that benefits buyers and sellers and the tax base. See David Carlson’s Agricultural Protective Development Associations – <http://aic.ucdavis.edu/research1/Conserv.ag.pdf> for a great model.

Water Law, Efficiency and Agricultural Stability: Private property rights are the basis for markets and we can increase their value and the values of conserving. **Long-term security** can increase with more support for public benefits that include avoiding risks from expensive and environmentally dangerous thresholds like total maximum daily loads. **Agriculture and urban partnerships** should implement water sharing on a flexible basis using urban financial mechanisms for long-term investments, diversified cropping and securing quality of life. **Keys to efficiency** include making innovation easier with lower costs of trying new ways, lower **transactions costs and less expensive burdens of proof** – such as presumptive figures rather than all new engineering, and reasonable kinds of **reversibility** if we are badly surprised. Stability can’t come from forcing or buying enough, but it can come from taking farming in safer directions. For example, rotational fallowing must also accommodate **cover cropping**. **Diversification** can accommodate fuel crops in the mix, providing safer and cost-controlled city and farm supplies. We must not avoid any possible injury by preventing experiments and innovations – we should protect rights with better mechanisms to provide a remedy, including wet water and financial insurance coverage. The **new technologies** of measuring and following flows are an opportunity we should take. Usable water supplies are not likely to increase.

JUMPING THE DITCH to a sustainable future will take more than one of these parts at a time, but what could be more important? We can’t cross a big ditch without enough momentum, but if we let ourselves try, we can make the leap. The State Water Plan is an important part of building momentum but it won’t get us across without the other parts we need. We need progress in all of these parts to build towards a future where our grandchildren will want to and be able to farm.

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III. Stories on Business as Usual – What does this mean for the power of the State Water Plan?

The Denver Post, (Bruce Finley), covered the agreement struck by Denver Water and Grand County, on Fraser River management, on March 6, 2014. This was the day of the Interbasin Compact Committee Summit Meeting in Golden, CO, I believe.

The irony and importance of this is that so far, it is all business as usual on the cutting edge, by parties acting without public discussion, announced on the same day the IBCC and members of the Basin Roundtables from all over Colorado were reaching some conclusions after literally thousands and thousands of hours of volunteer effort starting in 2003 with the creation of the Statewide Water Supply Initiative and years of roundtables that followed.

Talk and discuss, meet and greet, make connections, establish relationships... feel good... but meanwhile, business goes on by those working in the market and those able to influence the outcome. The Denver Water – Grand County agreement followed another agreement by Denver Water and Trout Unlimited and others, which was also covered in the Denver Post and in an editorial contribution by James Lochhead and David Nickum.

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http://www.denverpost.com/News/Local/ci_25285226/Denver-Water-Grand-County-strike-deal#
accessed May 14, 2014 12:03:11PM MDT

Denver Water, Grand County strike deal on Fraser River

By Bruce Finley The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted: Thu Mar 06 00:01:00 MST 2014 DenverPost.com

Denver Water and Western Slope leaders have reached a deal to try to save the Fraser River and its trout while letting Denver siphon 11 percent more water across the Continental Divide.

The deal obligates city, state and Grand County watershed experts to monitor temperatures in the Fraser and tributaries, count stone flies and other aquatic insects crucial for trout, and document how water flows affect vegetation.

Federal authorities still must approve Denver Water's \$360 million Moffat project, which would put 18,000 acre-feet more water a year into an enlarged Gross Reservoir southwest of Boulder.

But a 13-page agreement between Denver Water, Grand County and Trout Unlimited sets up a teamwork approach to tackling a core problem of keeping enough water in the river for fish to survive.

It creates "a perpetual partnership between Denver Water and these other entities ... to stay at the table and improve the Fraser River environment," Denver Water manager Jim Lochhead said.

For years, Denver Water has been working on this project to diversify its supply system in the face of drought and wildfires damaging watershed along headwaters of the South Platte River.

"Having these incremental additional pieces of storage capacity gives us greater flexibility to deal with the impacts of climate change," Lochhead said. "This is going to be an important step forward for Colorado."

The project would increase Denver Water's diversions from Colorado's Western Slope from 134,000 to 149,000 acre-feet a year, agency officials said. Other Denver water comes from South Platte headwaters, including 3,000 acre-feet in the Moffat project, the officials said. An acre-foot is 325,851 gallons, enough to sustain about 2.5 households for a year.

Trout Unlimited attorney Mely Whiting, who helped negotiate the deal, called it a victory for the river — as long as it is incorporated into any U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for the project. A federal environmental statement is due April 25, and, after 45 days for public comment, permitting decisions are expected to be made in 2015.

"This deal brings people who have the expertise and concern for the Fraser River together to monitor the river and react if things aren't working properly," Whiting said. Front Range residents "are going to continue to take their water. What we're trying to do is balance their need to take water with the needs of the river," she said. "Our goal is for the river to be better than it has been - healthier for fish."

Grand County officials are pleased with the deal, county manager Lurline Curran said.

"Our whole life here is based on the environment," she said. "We need to have enough water for fish. If you have enough for fish, that usually takes care of everything else."

Bruce Finley: 303-954-1700, bfinley@denverpost.com or twitter.com/finleybruce

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http://www.denverpost.com/Opinion/ci_23364868/Together-we-can-meet-Colorado-River#

accessed May 14, 2014 11:59:29AM MDT

Together, we can meet Colorado River challenges

Posted: Sat Jun 01 00:01:00 MDT 2013 DenverPost.com

Conservation groups and water utilities don't always see eye-to-eye on every water resource issue.

A case in point: Trout Unlimited and Denver Water have yet to agree on what constitutes an adequate package of protections for the Fraser River, a Colorado River tributary and stellar trout fishery that is also an important source of water for metro Denver. We're trying to find a package of protections that keeps the river healthy while ensuring that Denver Water's need for system reliability are met through the Moffat Firming Project.

We face tough, complicated issues. What we agree on, though, is the need to preserve the long-term health of the Fraser and Colorado Rivers, and the value of working toward collaborative solutions.

Despite our differences, conservationists, local governments and water suppliers have found in recent years that we can work together to protect our shared interest in a healthy Colorado River — for water supply, agriculture, recreation, tourism, and the environment. We are moving into a new era of cooperation between parties that historically have been at odds with one another.

Together, our goal is a more sustainable future for Colorado. The fact is, for Colorado to prosper, the Colorado River needs to serve multiple needs and interests, from Front Range businesses to Western Slope agriculture and recreation — and do it in a future challenged by growing demands on a limited water supply.

Another truth: The only way to meet our future needs is through smart water planning and cooperation.

We're going to continue seeking common ground, because recent events demonstrate the benefits of working together to address the challenges facing the Colorado River.

- The Colorado water court just approved one of the largest instream flow rights in Colorado's history — keeping 500 cubic feet per second to 900 cubic feet per second, depending on the season, in the river to maintain healthy flows — the result of collaborative work among diverse river stakeholders.
- The 2011 Colorado River Cooperative Agreement among Denver Water and Summit and Grand County water stakeholders will help address existing impacts of diversions on the Upper Colorado River by providing both water and money for restoration work.
- A recent Windy Gap diversion agreement — years in the making — forged between river stakeholders, including Trout Unlimited and the Municipal Subdistrict of Northern Water, will help protect water quality, provide flushing flows and address long-standing aquatic habitat problems by providing funds to restore river habitat and reconnect the Colorado River around the Windy Gap dam near Granby, while at the same time providing additional water supplies for the Northern Front Range. These balanced solutions will help protect the Colorado River's outstanding values while maintaining sufficient flexibility for water supply needs.

Denver residents have done an excellent job reducing water use over the past 10 years, and that should be recognized. Denver residents are Colorado River stakeholders, as well. All users can help by remembering that much of the water we use in our homes and on our lawns comes from the Colorado River, and that by using our water wisely, we are making an investment in the health and future of our state.

We don't want to sugarcoat the real differences that remain over how best to use water, and how best to meet our diverse needs. It's a tough balancing act, often involving compromise and difficult choices.

As Coloradans, we all have a stake in the Colorado River's future, and while we can't control shortages of water, we can make sure that there is no shortage of people willing to work together, listen to each other, and take innovative action to protect the health of our state's namesake river.

We truly are all in this together.

Jim Lochhead is chief executive of Denver Water. David Nickum is executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited.

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VII. Background on land loss in Colorado agriculture:

1. 2012 Census of agriculture data for Colorado:

http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_State_Level/Colorado/

All Colorado data from the 2012 Census of Ag. is available in one pdf, but it is 625 pages:

http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_State_Level/Colorado/cov1.pdf

More than 1/4 of Colorado's irrigated land as of 1997 is gone now! That is 857,448 acres... To relate to a good earlier publication, compare 2012 to 2002, because there is a fine report on losses up to 2002 (Environment Colorado, 2006).

In 2002, there were 2,590,654 irrigated acres in Colorado; in 2012, despite the ethanol and very high feed prices stimulus to bring new land into production, there were 2,516,785 irrigated acres. That's a loss of 73,869 acres... but that was before the drought of 2012. Lost acreage from that is hard to estimate, but may result from not only economic stress from 2012 drought (Pritchett et al. 2013) but also causing consolidation of irrigation on less land with more reliable supply, and from the flood damages to irrigation in 2013 (Draft State Water Plan Chapter 5.2 Natural Disaster Management).

Please notice that in the aggregate, the changes in "land in farms" are complicated by three factors or more. First, between 2007 and 2012, there was a major and continuing economic recession/depression, and that affected land conversion rates. Second there was continuing stimulus for new farming with the ethanol explosion in corn use, which stimulated turnover of other land into soy and other feed, as feed prices skyrocketed, changing the cattle business and the farming business. And third, land classified as "in farms" also includes land in small but

very rapidly increasing “farms” which are not commercial and not lucrative but hobby, retirement, life-style, “horse properties” and other land in rural residential development.

In Colorado, land in “farms” in aggregate increased between 2007 and 2012 by 281,765 acres, but between 1997 and 2012 there was loss of 463,156 acres despite the rural residential development (USDA 2012 Census of Agriculture – State Data; Colorado, p 7). County-level information is probably more valuable for getting a good picture if one can examine it.

Land in large-lot dispersed rural development has exploded, giving the impression that farming is gaining ground, but it is likely that the vast majority is simply residential in parcels 35 acres and larger so as to be exempt from subdivision regulations and until very recently, qualify for a “well by right” for domestic use water supply.

But the picture for irrigated land is clearer: 857,448 acres were lost from irrigation from perhaps the high in 1997 to 2012 alone... This was before the well shut-downs in the South Platte, at the end of a wet period in Colorado, (Pielke et al. 2005). From 1982 to 2012, Colorado lost 684,157 irrigated acres.

Irrigated Land in Colorado	Acres (USDA 2012 Census of Ag.; CO p 7)
1982	3,200,942
1992	3,169,839
2002	2,590,654
2012	2,516,785

And, the quality of the land is not distinguished (Esseks et al. 2009, Francis et al. 2012).

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<http://www.environmentcolorado.org/reports/colorado-forest-project/colorado-forest-project-reports/losing-ground-colorados-vanishing-agricultural-landscape>

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Pielke, R.A., Sr., N. Doesken, O. Bliss, T. Green, C. Chaffin, J.D. Salas, C.A. Woodhouse, J.J. Lukas and K. Wolter, 2005, Drought 2002 in Colorado: An Unprecedented Drought or a Routine Drought? Pure and Applied Geophysics 162 (2005): 1455-1479.

Pritchett, J., C. Goemans, and R. Nelson (2013). Estimating the Short and Long - term Economic & Social Impacts of the 2012 Drought in Colorado. Retrieved from <http://cwcblweblink.state.co.us/WebLink/0/doc/172871/Electronic.aspx>

Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 5/22/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: May 22, 2014

Input provided by: Jim Pokrandt

Method of submission: Email to cowaterplan@state.co.us

Related sections of CWP Framework: Ark BIP, 5.4, 5.9, 5.7, 5.1, 5.3, 5.5., 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.10

Summary of Input: Response letter to Twin Lakes Reservoir and Canal Co. & Front Range Water Council from Arkansas, Colorado, Gunnison, Metro, South Platte, Southwest and Yampa-White-Green Roundtable chairs regarding recent letters of concern on how to address "New Supply".

Documents Submitted for Review: Memorandum

Staff Response: The CWCB appreciates the hard work of the basin roundtable chairs.

Memorandum

TO: Twin Lakes Reservoir and Canal Co.
Front Range Water Council
FR: Chairs of the Arkansas, Colorado, Gunnison, Metro, South Platte, Southwest
and Yampa-White-Green Roundtables
RE: Recent letters of concern regarding a chairs conversation on how to address “New Supply”

May 16, 2014

The Chairs of the Basin Roundtables recently engaged in a visioning discussion on how Colorado’s Water Plan would address the “New Supply” leg of the “Four Legs of the Stool” approach that the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) had developed as a way to balance a water supply future. This discussion was conducted at the request of the IBCC. The IBCC asked the chairs to provide input to the particular New Supply discussion under way at the time at the IBCC. Our discussion evolved to how the Roundtables might construct Section 4.8 in their Basin Implementation Plans.

In an effort to create a process to discuss a process, we started with a concept paper from the Arkansas Basin Roundtable. The concepts were meant only to be illustrative of how a process might work and what it might look like. There were no agreements on the concepts or the numbers associated with the stacking strategy. In an effort to be transparent about our work, we released the working document and the notes from our discussion. That led to many misconceptions. We understand the points made in your letters, however. Thank you for expressing your concerns.

Betty Konarski, **Arkansas Basin Roundtable**
Jim Pokrandt, **Colorado Basin Roundtable**
Michelle Pierce, **Gunnison Basin Roundtable**
Mark Kobeler, **Metro Roundtable**
Sean Cronin, **South Platte Basin Roundtable**
Mike Preston, **Southwest Basin Roundtable**
Jon Hill, **Yampa-White-Green Roundtable**

Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 5/29/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: May 29, 2014

Input provided by: John Bartholow, Save the Poudre

Method of submission: Email to cowaterplan@state.co.us

Related sections of CWP Framework: 5.2, 5.7, 5.6.2, 5.8, 5.10, SP/Metro BIP

Summary of Input: The resolution from Save the Poudre stated that status quo policies are harming the Cache la Poudre river and that the organization would support a draft plan that includes aggressive water conservation, optimizing existing water supplies, investigating in river-friendly water projects, and rejects consumptive IPPs and transmountain diversions.

Documents Submitted for Review: Letter

Staff Response: CWCB staff will pass this letter on to the South Platte and Metro Basin Roundtables.

5/29/2014

Tomorrow is the future and water will be expensive and finite.

~ W.D. Farr, Northern Water Board of Directors, and President of the American National Cattlemen's Association

Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper has adopted the following resolution regarding the development of the South Platte/Metro Basin Implementation Plan, a component of the Colorado Water Plan.

Whereas

1. Flows in the plains' portion of the Cache la Poudre River have been severely compromised by numerous dams and diversions;
2. Water quality in the Poudre has been degraded by waste water discharges, irrigation return flows, runoff from adjacent lands, and urban stormwater runoff to the point that human contact is often inadvisable and several aquatic resources are at great risk;
3. Habitats for aquatic and terrestrial species (including at least one federally threatened mammal, two state threatened fish, and several rare plants) have been degraded both in and adjacent to the river;
4. The Cache la Poudre River has been declared an Endangered River by the highly regarded conservation group American Rivers;
5. The Poudre River has been nominated as an Urban River Corridor Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society;
6. Completing any of the Poudre basin's consumptive Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs, specifically additional dams or diversions) would:
 - a. sharply reduce peak flows such that the remaining flows would rarely have the energy to clean the channel of algae and silt, maintain the channel's capacity to carry flood flows, and be less effective in diluting pollution,
 - b. impair the river's ability to recover from disasters like the High Park Fire, which smothered the river with ash and sediment that are very harmful to the aquatic community, especially the invertebrate food supply,
 - c. further deplete flows critical to sustain downstream endangered species in Nebraska,
 - d. reduce the length of the recreational boating/floating season through Fort Collins and Windsor, and
 - e. would largely benefit people outside the Poudre basin, while most of the impacts would be left for people inside the basin to deal with;
7. It would appear that the draft Implementation Plan will essentially treat recreation and environmental needs (i.e., non-consumptive needs) as a constraint on development of new water storage, not as a fully-fledged objective;
8. There is a legacy of past abuse to rivers throughout the South Platte basin extending back to the mid-1800s¹ that must be rectified.

¹ See <http://savethepoudre.org/when-where-map.html>

9. Further draining Colorado's valued rivers does not in any way match the public's image of what our state is all about: a river should remain a river.

Therefore Be It Resolved

1. We support a variety of elements in the draft plan, including aggressive water conservation and incentives for wiser water use; voluntary water sharing between municipalities and agriculture; transferring irrigation water to municipalities from lands consumed by new subdivisions (given adequate land use controls for those new subdivisions); experiments with plains' aquifer storage such that our rivers can be used as conveyances to those downstream aquifers; and large-scale, environmentally-sensitive water reclamation and desalinization.
2. We also support optimizing our existing water supplies through infrastructure that enables sharing water resources -- and the risk of shortages -- as long as that does not further deplete our river and riparian ecosystems.
3. We recognize that some river-friendly water projects may be expensive. Such is the nature of dealing with a valuable and limited resource. We must pay the full cost for the damage that has been incurred.
4. The State of Colorado should prioritize and substantively fund projects that address recreational and environmental needs in the Cache la Poudre basin such as bolstering stream flows, upgrading diversions to improve fish passage, adding additional streamflow measurement capability, and the like.
5. The State of Colorado should take no actions to expedite, facilitate, endorse, fund, incentivize or otherwise promote the planned consumptive IPPs or similar extractive projects within the Cache la Poudre River basin.
6. The State of Colorado should not interfere with mandatory federal, state or local regulations regarding the IPPs or similar projects in the Cache la Poudre River basin.
7. No more major water diversion projects are necessary just as no more water waste is supportable.

/s/ John Bartholow, for the Board of Directors, for Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper

Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 5/29/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: May 29, 2014

Input provided by: John Bartholow, Colorado Citizen

Method of submission: Email to cowaterplan@state.co.us

Related sections of CWP Framework: 5.2, 5.7, 5.6.2, 5.8, 5.10, SP/Metro BIP

Summary of Input: The letter expressed the importance of healthy rivers and offered comments on consumptive uses including: rate structures; drought criteria; climate change; agricultural dry-up; growth of industries that consume large quantities of water; recycled water; respecting existing federal, state, and local regulations; and reevaluating storage.

Documents Submitted for Review: Letter

Staff Response: Several of the commenter's comments are incorporated into draft chapters, such as Section 5.2 on natural disasters in relation to drought. Many municipal providers have some type of watering restrictions every year. Concerns about farm land dry up are incorporated into Section 5.7 on ATMs. Comments related to aquifer storage and reuse relate to sub-Section 5.6.2 on reuse and Section 5.8 on municipal and industrial (M&I) projects and methods. Aquifer storage and recharge, while a promising and important part of Colorado's water future, is not a panacea and requires surface storage to stage water injection. Concerns relating to "willful disregard of the applicable federal state and local regulations" should largely be assuaged by the draft of Section 5.10 on permitting. The commenter is right that in some circumstance the trade offs between adequate storage and evaporation must be balanced, however the South Platte basin roundtable will have to consider this balance on the Cache la Poudre. General comments related to increasing the cost of water to represent the "real marginal cost of service" are important considerations that must be balanced with local control and access to water of all citizen of Colorado. CWCB has encouraged the basin implementation plans to grapple with the best methods for water conservation. CWCB will pass this letter on to the South Platte and Metro basin roundtables.

5/28/2014

Re: Comments on the South Platte and Metro Draft Implementation Plan & the State Water Plan in General

Dear Mr. Cronin (emailed to sean.cronin@svlhwcd.org and cowaterplan@state.co.us):

As a private citizen, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on parts of the State Water Plan and the South Platte and Metro Implementation Plan. Like the majority of Coloradoans who value our water resources for their environmental and recreational benefits, I am appalled at the depleted flows in our rivers and streams, along with serious impairment to our water quality. A balance of new, 21st century solutions must be put in place to remove the pressure on our fresh water resources as we attempt to “close the gap” to satisfy whatever growth we may face. These solutions must include aggressive water conservation and efficiency, appropriately valuing water through rate structures that reflect the true cost of service, effective water sharing between and among user classes, as well as regional water reuse and recycling.

Though I believe the Colorado Water Plan must include meaningful efforts to protect and restore healthy rivers and streams, I offer the following comments directed primarily toward the consumptive side of the “gap” equation:

1. Apply True Cost-of-Service Rate Structures – As the Front Range continues to grow and drinking water acquisition and treatment become more costly, these higher costs must be equitably reflected in rates for new (and significantly remodeled) homes and businesses. Yes, such rate increases are *in theory* captured through tap fees, and to some extent the actual capital costs may be fully captured if the utility is being honest. But unfortunately, not all utilities assess tap fees equitably, and never (as far as I know) equitably assess differential O&M costs. Instead, O&M costs are spread equally under the rationalization that “old” users are getting greater reliability, better treatment, and so on. A truly honest apportionment should make allowance for increasing capital and O&M costs based on the real marginal costs of service – starting now. For example, if something like the Prairie Waters Project delivers drinking water to supply new growth, albeit at an increased cost, that new growth should “pay its own way” and not pay the same rates as “old” customers.

The same argument should hold for wastewater treatment. For example, if new more expensive technology is required when the population of a utility or district reaches a certain threshold, those new marginal costs must be equitably borne by *new* customers. Not doing so is, in my opinion, a dishonest growth subsidy that does not reflect either the true cost of service or the full cost to our environment. Yes, deciding on equity is complex, but it is being done today and only needs to be done more honestly and transparently.

Therefore, the State of Colorado should assure, through appropriate and stringent regulations, that the true cost of service for both drinking water and wastewater be equitably apportioned to new growth.

2. Use Realistic Drought Criteria – Most Colorado municipalities (and some water districts) plan for a 1-in-50 drought. In essence, this means that homeowners and businesses should, on average, expect no significant interruption or restrictions in treated water delivery 49 out of 50 years. In my opinion, such a stringent 1-in-50 drought criterion is not attuned to our semi-arid environment. Revising the criterion to plan for a 1-in-30 drought would, I believe, far better match our environmental setting and be accepted by the public and most businesses. Who would not agree to a restriction every 30 years? (Appropriate contracts may be allowed for existing businesses with demonstrated hardships; alternately, insurance would be a reasonable market-based option, just as it is for agriculture.) Importantly, the effect of such a policy revision would be to “require” far less storage than is called for today and would save vast quantities from evaporative waste.

Therefore, the State of Colorado should mandate a drought threshold no stricter than a 1-in-30 criterion.

3. Climate Change and Carrying Capacity – You may have seen that a US Military report recently described global climate change as “catalyst for conflict,” stressing that the accelerating pace of extreme weather events threatens national security. I believe the same is true at the state level, though in a different sense. We must be wary of any single-minded strategy to increase domestic water supply, especially more-of-the-same large-scale storage projects, promoted by fear mongering that stresses climate change.

It’s not that I don’t believe in climate change, especially the likely increases in weather extremes. But developing more large-scale storage that further depletes our streams and rivers under the pretense of “solving the climate change problem” invites a false sense of security if we turn around and then encourage growth beyond what Governor Hickenlooper has termed our “carrying capacity.” Overshooting the long-term, sustainable capacity of our water supply would leave us with a truly “hardened demand” as well as “hardened rivers.” In fact, we may already be there.

Therefore, the State of Colorado should promote growth management, sharing water resources, and the other solutions I and many others have recommended, rather than promote new large-scale diversions from our rivers and streams, especially in the name of “solving” climate changes.

4. Farmland Dry-Up – I like and benefit from widespread irrigated farms in my vicinity, as does the environment; I have no appetite for large-scale ag buy-and-dry. However, I also believe it is not in our best interest to interfere with the willing-buyer-willing-seller free market transfer of water from farms to municipalities.

Further, there is a question in my mind about federal crop supports. According to the Environmental Working Group, from 1995 to 2012, federal taxpayers supplied almost \$5.5 billion in subsidies to land owners in Colorado and over \$1.6 billion to landowners in the counties included in the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District’s

boundary¹. Taking water out of our streams and rivers to irrigate crops that presumably would not be grown without being subsidized seems less than ideal. Though there may be legitimate reasons for crop insurance support, such support should only accompany compliance with good conservation practices, such as fostering wildlife habitat and groundwater recharge, improved water use efficiency, reducing nutrients in our waterways, and in situations that will promote water sharing between agriculture and municipalities.

Though I have been talking about federal crop subsidies, the State of Colorado can play a supportive role by concentrating on making flexible, voluntary transfers (such as long-term interruptible supply contracts) easier for all parties, actively discouraging water hungry cropping, and improving good conservation practices through comprehensive extension outreach that is targeted to these broader water-efficient ends.

5. State Sponsored Economic Growth – In a water-short state, does it make any sense to try to attract any industry that consumes lots of water (like paper manufacturing, chemicals, refined petroleum, or primary metals)? It's kind of like farmers irrigating grossly water intensive crops – it makes no sense in our semi-arid climate.

The State of Colorado should make it a policy that the Economic Development Commission not endeavor to attract highly water-extractive industries to Colorado's South Platte Basin.

6. Truth-in-Marketing and Aquifer Storage – The State of Colorado should immediately let it be known that most people who move to the South Platte basin must be resigned to drink “recycled” water and pay the full costs of waste water purification and subsequent drinking water treatment. The flip side is that the State should promote plain's aquifer storage, using our Front Range rivers to deliver the water that would then be both reusable and resistant to evaporation. If it should take reverse osmosis in some cases, then we need to be prepared to pay the full costs of dealing with the waste. As discussed above, that's a cost that new residents must be willing to bear through equitable up-front infrastructure and ongoing fees. No more promoting “pure rocky mountain spring water.”
7. Other State Actions – I must say that I am dismayed with what I have seen in the way of comments on the draft plan from the water development community. These comments call for a willful disregard of applicable federal, state, and local regulations that safeguard the environment during the permitting and operation of proposed or ongoing water infrastructure projects. The State of Colorado should not interfere with these legitimate safety measures and review processes.

¹ Boulder, Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Sedgwick, Washington, and Weld comprise the principal ag producing counties in the South Platte basin. Note that the vast majority of these federal subsidies target irrigated crops such as wheat, corn, barley or sunflowers in these counties.

8. Can there ever be too much storage in a river basin? At some point the increase in evaporative losses due to increased reservoir surface area more than offset any gains in firm yield associated with additional surface storage.

A study of U.S. river basins by Hardison² suggests that safe yield reaches a maximum when the ratio of storage to average annual renewable supply is in the range of 1.6 to 4.6. By this criterion, the point of negative returns may have already been reached in three major basins -- the Lower Colorado, the Upper Colorado, and the Rio Grande, where the ratios of storage to average renewable supply are now within this range.”
(<http://www.gcrio.org/CONSEQUENCES/spring95/Water.html>)

For the Poudre basin, I believe the relevant values are:

- Existing total storage without Horsetooth is 240 kaf (George Varra, Poudre River Commissioner, personal communication, 2007)
- Horsetooth is 156.735 kaf (George Varra, personal communication, 2007)
- Average annual native inflow averages 284.4 kaf
(<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/streamflow/poudre.txt> as of 2007)
- C-BT (Hansen supply canal) inflows average 72.9 kaf (BOR, personal communication, 2007) but would be reduced by 30 to 40+ kaf if Glade were built (NISP planning documents)

If applied to the Poudre basin, including C-BT inflows and Horsetooth, the Hardison ratio would be approximately 1.11. Expanding Halligan or Seaman Reservoirs would, it appears, squeak in just under the line, but adding a Glade-sized reservoir at 177 kaf (not to mention Galeton), pushes this ratio to about 1.8. If the Poudre’s transbasin inflows were added into the total basin water “supply,” it would dampen the risk of crossing Hardison’s threshold, but we should carefully consider the wisdom of ever more large reservoirs.

In short, it is possible that expanding storage in the Cache la Poudre basin may actually diminish overall water yield, a result that would fly in the face of closing the water supply gap. This is another good reason why pushing the envelope on aquifer storage should be a priority.

² Hardison, C.H. 1972. Potential United States water-supply development. J. Irrigation and Drainage Division, Proceedings of the Am. Soc. of Civil Eng. September, 1972, pages 479-492.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft plan(s). I recognize that decisions will be difficult, but it is time for some “affirmative action” for our mistreated rivers.

Sincerely,

/s/ John Bartholow
5402 Old Mill Rd.
Fort Collins, CO 80528

Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 5/30/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: May 30, 2014

Input provided by: Drew Beckwith, Western Resource Advocates

Method of submission: Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com

Related sections of CWP Framework: 1, 5.6, 5.11

Summary of Input: The letter offered a copy of the remarks provided to the CWCB Board at the May 2014 meeting.

Documents Submitted for Review: Letter

Staff Response: CWCB appreciates Mr. Beckwith providing a written record of his comments to CWCB Board at the May 2014 Board meeting. The consideration of an increased level of conservation will have to be considered after reviewing the basin implementation plans.



May 30, 2014

Director Eklund and Members of the Colorado Water Conservation Board,

I would like to provide you with a copy of the remarks I made at the most recent CWCB Board meeting on May 21st in Pueblo. Thank you for the opportunity to speak and I look forward to answering any questions you may have about my testimony.

Sincerely,

Drew Beckwith

Water Policy Manager

drew.beckwith@westernresources.org

720-763-3726

Leadership Needed on Urban Conservation

- Comments directed on M&I water conservation (Section 5.6.1)
- Compliment staff for providing good history of conservation, state of science, examples of best practices
- Couple that with suggesting there is significant room to provide more leadership on conservation in the state plan
- Start with the successes
 - o Past SWSI reports demonstrate we've achieved an 18% reduction in per capita use statewide in less than a decade, nearly 2%/yr reduction on average (SWSI 2010)
 - o Conservation plans on file with state suggest continued savings at nearly 2%/yr for coming decade (CWCB Conservation Levels Analysis, App B)
- So I question why our estimate for conservation savings in the plan is equivalent to little more than 0.5%/yr (CWCB Conservation Strategies medium conservation scenario)
 - o This is ¼ the rate of the *status quo*
 - o This may be the IBCC "no-regrets" strategy, but given that conservation is the cheapest, fastest, and most flexible way to meet future needs, and the Governor's direction that every conversation about water must begin with conservation, we can do better, together

Colorado

2260 Baseline Rd., Suite 200
Boulder, CO 80304

Nevada

204 N. Minnesota St., Suite 2-A
Carson City, NV 89703

New Mexico

409 East Palace Ave., Unit 2
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Utah

150 South 600 East, Suite 2AB
Salt Lake City, UT 84102

- My organization, our partner groups, and several thousand members of the public would like to see the Board adopt the high conservation scenario as its goal – and be there to help achieve it
 - The high conservation goal is equivalent to a 1%/yr reduction in per capita use
 - This level has been adopted by many other western states
 - TX set target per capita goal and recommends 1%/yr as strategy to get there
 - UT 25%/2025 = 1%/yr
 - CA 20% by 2020 = 2%/yr
 - Federal executive orders of 20%/2020 = 2%/yr
 - I provide these examples to show that we wouldn't be alone
 - This is a lot of water, even if only 60% goes to meet the gap, 275KAF statewide
 - Larger than any TMD proposal
- Goal setting is powerful, turns the conversation from can we do this, to let's do this
 - We need to commit to getting the most out of conservation before pursuing more costly, more damaging, and more controversial projects – be they ag fallowing or TMDs
 - The public overwhelmingly supports this approach – Conservation in the West Poll states 78% of Coloradans prefer improved conservation to diversions
 - Conservation should be the 1st and biggest tool out of the box, every single time

Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 6/4/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: June 4, 2014

Input provided by: Drew Beckwith, Western Resource Advocates

Method of submission: Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com

Related sections of CWP Framework: 5.6

Summary of Input: Western Resource Advocates' commented on CWP Draft Chapter 5.6, included a spreadsheet of future reductions by county, and two whitepapers providing more specific direction for the state to consider on urban water efficiency and reuse.

Documents Submitted for Review: Redlined section

Staff Response: CWCB appreciates Mr. Beckwith's comments and will work to incorporate them into the section when making revisions. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.1, page 2, paragraph 1, Mr. Beckwith is correct. It comes from the IBCC work with no and low regrets. Staff will attempt to clarify. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.1, page 3 on state knowledge of conservation, both regulations and money were called out from the state level down to the local level to achieve the savings in the reports. Much of the regulations focused on indoor but also they had to do with landscape, irrigation codes, etc. specifically for new construction. A paragraph has been added to clarify. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.1, page 9 on past legislative action (paragraph 2), staff moved this legislation to the reuse section as opposed to the conservation section. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.1, page 9 recommendations before the first bullet, as the Basin Implementation Plans are completed CWCB staff will revisit the idea of a statewide goal and possibly adjust the savings estimate. Until that time, the no and low regrets goal is a good placeholder. A 1%/year reduction is a laudable goal but CWCB staff does not know that this can be sustained out to 2050 as programs mature. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.1, page 9 recommendations on the fourth bullet, CWW current efforts prompted the addition but specifics were still a bit up in air. Staff will check back with them. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.1, page 9 recommendations on the seventh bullet, this is a good example but not sure if it will work in this fashion. If the providers

aren't sure of the savings they will get, would they take the chance on a project not being fully funded? Who would guarantee this? I think a third party would be needed to be involved to guarantee the savings. The state could put up some portion of initial money but would need something else to guarantee savings. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.3, page 23 at the end of recommendations, this comment can be explored but CWCB staff would like to incorporate ideas from the Basin Implementation plans to ensure future directions are aligned with local perspectives. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.5, page 32 at the beginning of the section, CWCB staff has received it and will document comments made in that submission. Regarding the comment on Section 5.6.6, page 35 in the second paragraph, most likely these numbers are high due to the numbers not being normalized for weather and other factors.

Chapter 5: Water Management

INITIAL DRAFT 5.6: Water Conservation and Reuse

NOTE: This draft section will be modified and supplemented upon receipt of the draft Basin Implementation Plans from the Basin Roundtables and additional work completed by the IBCC.

Introduction

As Colorado heads towards a gap between supply and demand, water conservation activities will play an important role in balancing the need for additional water supply against what can be done to lessen that need. By creating a comprehensive statewide approach to implementing water conservation activities, we can create a consistent approach from the local level up to the state level. While conservation and reuse are not “silver-bullets,” we can achieve the benefits of conservation by creating scalable technical resources, bolstering local initiatives through financial incentives, and sharing best-practices at local and state levels.

This section examines active water conservation, passive water conservation, reuse, land use, agricultural water conservation, self-supplied industrial conservation, and state agency conservation. These various water management strategies will define the road that Colorado will take to close the supply gap, maintain a healthy environment, and preserve agricultural production into the future.

5.6.1 M&I Water Conservation

As described in section 5.1, no matter what future Colorado faces, a significant amount of conserved water will be needed to ensure that we have enough water to meet Colorado's future needs. The minimum saved water identified by the IBCC is nearly 170,000 acre-feet, which is enough water to meet the needs of about 1.1 million people, which is equivalent to thirty percent of all the new people expected to move to Colorado between now and 2050 (No/Low Regrets, 2013). There have been a number of stakeholder-based efforts such as the 2010 Statewide Conservation "mini-summit," work of the IBCC Conservation Subcommittee, and work of the CWCB's Water Conservation Technical Advisory Group, that have helped to 1) determine the minimum levels of conservation needed and 2) chart potential ways to achieve these levels of active conservation. We must also recognize that conservation acts as a management tool to buffer against drought. Water managers reduce demands through conservation over the long term and also in times of drought when water is scarce. The amount of water realized from long term water conservation could be used as drought reserve. In these cases, greater storage is required to maintain drought protection (Mayer, Little & Ward, 2006).



Potential Water Savings:
170,000 AF
Could Serve
1.1 Million Statewide

Benefits of Water Conservation

The CWCB *Municipal Water Efficiency Plan Guidance Document* states that water savings achieved through water efficiency activities can reduce water demands assisting providers in avoiding, downsizing, or postponing the construction and operation of water supply facilities and wastewater facilities as well as eliminate, reduce, or postpone water purchases. In addition to these water supply benefits, there are other societal, political, and environmental benefits. Examples of such benefits include:

- Reduction of wastewater discharges through indoor water savings which can improve water quality and aquatic habitat.
- Reduction of outdoor irrigation runoff which can improve water quality.
- Demonstrating commitment to sustainability.
- Meeting political and regulatory requirements necessary to obtain permitting for local and regional water supply projects.
- Demonstrating leadership to the community that being more efficient is the right thing to do in an arid environment.
- Lowering operational costs such as pumping and water treatment.
- Lowering amount of chemicals needed to treat water.
- Delaying capital costs for projects

Benefits may also be reflected in how the saved water is used. Depending on a provider's water supply portfolio and situation, saved water can be used in the following ways:

- Conserve water for future generations – Saved water can be a less expensive option than acquiring new supplies for future growth and result in less environmental consequences.

- Leases to agriculture – This supports the agriculture sector and can generate additional revenue for the municipality.
- Drought protection – Saved water can be stored for later use during a drought. This in turn improves water supply reliability without having to purchase additional water.
- Instream flows – Saved water may remain in the stream. This can increase flows in particular reaches of the stream.

State of Knowledge on Water Conservation

In 2010, the CWCB funded a first ever *Best Practices Guidebook for Municipal Water Conservation in Colorado* (Best Practices Guidebook). Colorado WaterWise created the Best Practices Guidebook with a large technical and stakeholder group and created fourteen best practices that outline the potential and costs for active water conservation measures that span indoor to outdoor to residential and non-residential. These best practices comprise what a water provider would have to carry out in order to conserve water. They require financial and human resources to accomplish and implementation varies greatly among water providers.

The CWCB created the Levels Analysis Framework that prioritizes the best practices that a local water provider might undertake to achieve its goals. The Levels Analysis focuses on foundational practices first and then proceeds in varying degrees of difficulty organized by technical assistance and incentives, regulations, and education. This will help water provider personnel focus both human and financial resources on the most cost efficient activities (most acre feet saved/resources expended) first and then with time expand to attain the more difficult activities.

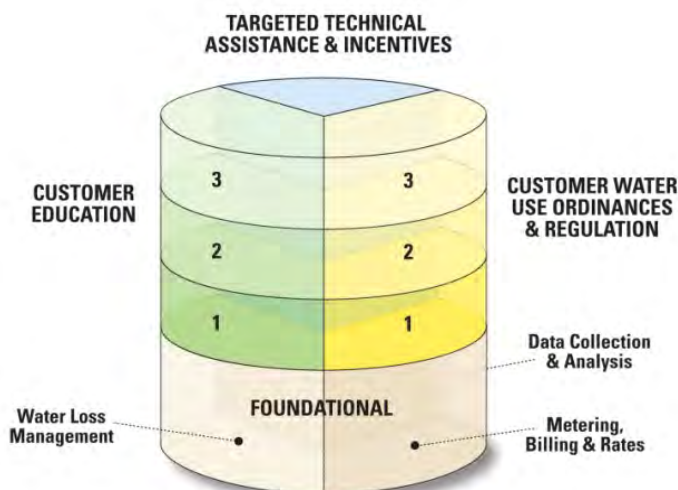


Figure 2-SWSI Levels Analysis Framework

Using the Best Practices as a basis, SWSI 2010 estimated low, medium and high strategies for active water conservation savings. Active water conservation is water conservation that occurs due to the enactment of programs at the local level where financial and human resources are committed to carrying out water efficiency programming. Depending on the level of savings, a varying amount of effort is required to achieve penetration rates consistent with the savings estimates. Many of the activities that would attain the medium to high savings estimates were **estimated to require some kind of regulation** to ensure the success of the savings estimates. The total potential savings ranges from 160,000 to 461,000 acre feet statewide in 2050 (CWCB 2010 b).

Not all of these savings can or should be applied to meet future growth. Not every municipality that conserves water will need all of it to meet future growth, and there are legal barriers that restrict water providers from sharing conserved water. In addition, most entities do not have the infrastructure to either share water or re-time conserved water so that it can be used when it is

needed. In addition, some entities may choose to utilize conserved water as part of their strategic drought reserve. Initial estimates by the roundtables indicate that between fifty and sixty percent of conserved water could be used to meet future growth. Approximately 170,000 acre-feet was  determined to be the plausible amount that could be applied to meet future needs, no matter what type of future Colorado may face.

In addition to this amount, another 150,000 of savings will likely accrue by 2050 due to natural replacement rates of fixtures and appliances (CWCB, 2010a; CWCB, 2010 b). These passive water conservation savings occur when home and property owners need to replace their indoor water fixtures and appliances. Their choices tend to save water compared to old appliances and fixtures due to large-scale regulatory or legislative initiatives such as the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (1992 EPACT). Passive water conservation can be considered a baseline of water savings that will occur naturally and thus should be included in demand projections. As customers replace their toilets, dishwashers, clothes washers, showers and the like, many will choose WaterSense or EnergyStar labeled fixtures and appliances, which use less water. This will be further supported through recent legislation (see below).

Examples of Exemplary Water Conservation

Municipalities have done a remarkable job in the past decade reducing per person water needs. Statewide, this amounts to a little under twenty percent (SWSI 2010), but some municipalities have reduced their per person water use by as much as thirty percent. Others have developed regional and cooperative approaches to reduce water use. Most of the largest water providers in Colorado have CWCB approved water conservation plans and most of the M&I demand is covered by an approved CWCB plan. 

Many water providers have adopted best practices, including landscape practices, water loss management and inclining block rate structures. For example, of the CWCB approved water conservation plans on file, approximately 85% of water providers along the Front Range and East Slope and 77% of West Slope water providers have inclining block rate structures (CWCB, 2011). Below are a few examples that highlight some efforts. There are many more great examples of water conservation across the state, but there is not room to include them all.

- *Aurora Water*
Aurora Water has implemented landscape and irrigation standards along with tiered rate structures. Additionally, they are creating a customer information system using geographic information systems, excel based water use calculator and state of the art communication tools to efficiently focus incentives to specific customers and to collaborate with their customers more closely.
- *Douglas County*
All covered entities in Douglas County have CWCB approved water conservation plans and the vast majority of the smaller providers manage water conservation activities under a regional water conservation plan. Of the covered entities, all are implementing water conservation best practices such as landscape/irrigation ordinances, landscaper certification requirements, a variety of incentives, tiered rate structures (including water

budgets), smart metering with a customer feedback loop, new construction requirements in relation to water conservation and customer education.

- *Denver Water*
Denver Water has made progress through their “Use Only What You Need” campaign over the last 8 years. Now they are taking that one step further with creating water budgets for their largest customers and customizing their efficiency approach with each one. This way their largest customers know exactly “what they need” and can be more efficient with their water use.
- *Greeley, Boulder, Highlands Ranch and Castle Rock*
All of these municipalities have adopted water budget rate structures tied to actual water use on a site. Using winter quarter average as a proxy for indoor use and GIS imagery to define water use outside, these communities have used this tool to manage their summer peak demands through technology, education and appropriate pricing.
- *Ute Water/Grand Junction/Clifton*
Starting in 2002, the Grand Valley Water Providers came together to create a drought response plan called DRIP or Drought Response Information Project. This was a success and is still in action. Modeling this effort, they came together again to create a regional water conservation plan. This effort made sense since their systems are interconnected and generally reside in the same media shed.
- *More Regional Plans*
Many communities and water providers are not required by statute to have a CWCB approved conservation plan due to their small size. These small water providers can however come together and create more than the sum of their parts.
 - In the lower Arkansas Valley, 38 small water providers came together to create a regional water conservation plan, under guidance from Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, as a roadmap of how they were going to plan and implement conservation over the next 50 years.
 - Steamboat Springs completed a community conservation plan that brought together three water providers under a single community plan in 2010.
 - Presently, five communities in the Roaring Fork Watershed (Aspen, Snowmass Village, Basalt, Carbondale and Glenwood Springs) are creating their own regional conservation plan that ties directly into their Roaring Fork Watershed Plan.

Basin Implementation Plans

For 2014, each Basin Roundtable is formulating their own implementation plan that will include water conservation goals and activities in addition to already planned projects and methods, use of Colorado River water, and alternatives to agricultural transfers.

**SUMMARY OF BIP WORK TO DATE IS BELOW. THIS WILL BE
UPDATED BASED ON BIP WORK.**

A number of basins have created the following draft goals (Initial Draft Statewide Basin Implementation Plan Goals, 2014)

The Arkansas Basin has submitted a WSRA grant that explicitly aims to further explore conservation.

The Colorado Basin has created a goal “to develop land use policy improvements addressing conservation and awareness of limited available water supply and develop water court process recommendations to encourage efficiency, conservation, and reuse.”

The South Platte/Metro Basin has an overarching theme of continuing “its Leadership Role in Efficient Use and Management of Water - No person, company or institution operates without risk/perils of change. The State’s future, and the future of each of its river basins, depends on efficient, sustainable and collaborative solutions.” They also have the following goals and measurable outcomes:

Goal: Continue the South Platte River Basin’s leadership in wise water use.

- MO#1 – Further quantify the successes of programs implemented in the past several years throughout the South Platte River Basin and establish a general baseline against which the success of future programs will be assessed.
- MO#2 – Distribute and encourage adoption of “best management practices” as “guidelines” (not standards) for M&I water suppliers to consider in their “provider-controlled” programs recognizing the significant differences in climates, cultures and economic conditions throughout the South Platte River Basin.
- MO#3 – Maintain and enhance current levels of municipal water reuse and consider studies to quantify the effects of: 1) additional municipal water conservation on water available for reuse; 2) additional municipal water reuse in relation to water available for exchanges; 3) reuse and successive uses of water downstream including effects on agricultural water shortages.
- NC MO#1 – Ensure conservation, reuse and drought management plans take into consideration environmental and recreational focus areas and attributes.

Finally, the Southwest Basin has a “goal of promoting and incentivizing wise and efficient water use through implementation of municipal conservation strategies to reduce overall future water needs”.

Each Basin is in the process of compiling all of their strategies for closing their M&I gap. These are preliminary goals and as more plans are fleshed out more goals will be finalized.

Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Actions

In 2010, the IBCC Water Conservation Subcommittee developed a list of water conservation strategies that were included in an IBCC “Letter to the Governors” (IBCC Report to Governors, 2010). Among the recommendations were a number of short-term and longer term conservation actions that ranged from statewide education campaigns to legislation addressing indoor and outdoor water use.

In 2013, the IBCC developed the “No and Low Regrets Action Plan” for water conservation (No/Low Regrets, 2013). This strategy outlines what minimum level of water conservation should be carried out statewide. The IBCC reached consensus on the need to reach low to medium levels of water conservation regardless of the future scenario, and the near term potential future actions that would be needed to achieve this (Table 1).

Table 1: Interbasin Compact Committee Potential Future Actions Summary

- 1) Improve Tracking and Quantification of Conservation**
- 2) Establish a Statewide Conservation Goal with Intermittent Benchmarks**
 - a) Develop general political support for a statewide conservation goal
 - b) Develop statewide agreement tying conservation to new supply development and agricultural transfers
 - c) Support local entities in their efforts to outline and report their own approaches to help achieve the statewide goal.
 - d) Explore best approach to implementation of standards to achieve goal
 - e) Develop and implement conservation standards
- 3) Continue to Support Local Implementation of Best Practices**
 - a) Continue implementation of state conservation programs
 - b) Encourage use of levels framework and best practices guidebook
- 4) Promote Enabling Conditions for Use of Conserved Water**
 - a) Maintain and develop storage and infrastructure for the use of conserved water
 - b) Promote incentives for the use of conserved water
 - c) Identify and, where possible, resolve legal and administrative barriers to the use of conserved water
 - d) Identify and explore barriers to sharing conserved water
- 5) Develop New Incentives for Conservation**
 - a) Explore funding options in support of the Water Efficiency Grant Program
 - b) Develop professional education and certification programs
 - c) Develop new eligibility requirements for state grants and loans that include certain conservation levels or indications of commitment to conservation
 - d) Develop conservation standards for communities planning to use agricultural transfers or new supplies for future water needs
 - e) Develop incentives that incorporate the following concepts: encourage a base level of conservation; assess issues, benefits, and drawbacks of the current definition of "covered entities;" conservation water markets; small community support; permitting incentives
- 6) Explore Legislative Concepts and Develop Support**
 - a) Explore legislative options and support for indoor plumbing code standards
 - b) Explore legislative options and support for outdoor water efficiency standards
 - c) Engage in outreach and education efforts to explain the need for legislation; develop political support
- 7) Implement Education and Outreach Efforts**
 - a) Track public attitudes through baseline and ongoing surveys
 - b) Develop statewide messaging and use focus groups to refine and guide implementation
 - c) Develop decision-maker outreach strategies
 - d) Pursue a coordinated media campaign

Recent Legislative Actions

Partly in response to the work of the Basin Roundtables and the Interbasin Compact Committee, there have been some recent legislative developments. The legislative process can be contentious and does not always reflect the collaborative nature found at the Basin Roundtables and Interbasin Compact Committee. Many of the Basin Roundtables have expressed an interest in working more closely with their legislative representatives to increase the level of understanding for both bodies. As in this session, there have been bills passed in the last few years that will direct the course of statewide water conservation implementation for the foreseeable future.

Senate Bill 14-017, concerning a limitation on the approval of real estate developments that use water rights decreed for agricultural purposes to irrigate lawn grass, was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor in 2014. The bill seeks to identify and quantify the types of best practices that could be used to limit municipal outdoor water conservation and to determine if proposed legislation is needed to facilitate the implementation of those practices. The bill directly refers to the work of the Basin Roundtables and the IBCC, stating, “As part of the Colorado water conservation board’s statewide water supply initiative and the interbasin compact committee and basin roundtable process, a “No/Low Regrets Action Plan” has been developed, an important element of which is to establish an implement conservation strategies to extend the ability of existing water supplies to meet increasing needs and thereby minimize agricultural dry-up.”

Senate Bill 14-103, known as “the fixtures bill,” was passed by the General Assembly. It would phase out less efficient water using fixtures and requires that only WaterSense specified fixtures may be sold in Colorado. These fixtures are those fixtures that carry the EPA WaterSense label, are third party certified and presently are 20% more efficient than existing fixtures. In addition, these fixtures do not cost more than their less-efficient counterparts. The bill’s supporters estimate that it would garner approximately 40,000 acre feet of savings annually by 2050 and would increase the replacement rate of existing fixtures. (Denver Water, 2014). The bill is consistent with the Interbasin Compact Committee’s suggestion to explore legislative options to help increase indoor water efficiencies.

Past Legislative Actions

HB 10-1051 will have a long lasting impact on how Colorado plans for water conservation. This bill that requires covered entities (those water providers that deliver over 2000 acre feet of water annually) to submit water use and water conservation data to the CWCB. This is a good first step to better quantifying and tracking water conservation activities and water demand in Colorado. This bill is being implemented in 2014 and the data will be valuable to state water supply planning processes.

HB10-1358 required the builder of a new single-family detached residence, for which a buyer is under contract, to offer the buyer a selection of water-saving options, including:

- Water-efficient toilets, lavatory faucets, and showerheads;
- Dishwashers and clothes washers that meet federal Environmental Protection Agency energy star program standards if they are to be financed, installed, or sold as upgrades through the home builder;

- If the landscaping is financed, installed, or sold as upgrades through the home builder and maintained by the homeowner, landscape design that follows the Green Industry's best management practices; and
- Installation of a pressure-reducing valve that limits water pressure in the residence to 60 pounds per square inch.

As a side note, SB 14-103 would effectively **remove** the first bullet above that relates to water efficient toilets, faucets and showerheads in order to streamline legislation and avoid duplication.



HB 09-1129 authorized a pilot program for the collection of precipitation from rooftops for nonpotable uses. The program can include up to 10 new residential or mixed-use developments. At present, the Sterling Ranch development in Douglas County is the first and only pilot to begin and is at the beginning of their first construction phase.

HB 05-133 stated that an owner would not abandon their water right if certain conditions were met. Two conditions refer to “a water conservation program approved by a state agency and a water banking program as provided by law”. These don’t go as far as allowing sharing but it does state that an owner of a water right won’t lose the right if non-use stems from water conservation activities.

Water Conservation Recommendations

THIS WILL BE UPDATED TO REFLECT BIP CONSERVATION WORK 

In the past decade, great strides in understanding and implementing water conservation activities have taken place across Colorado. Most of the largest water providers in Colorado have CWCB approved water conservation plans, most of the M&I demand is covered by an approved CWCB plan, Colorado-specific Water Conservation Best Practices were created, SWSI 2010 refined water savings projections to reflect current industry knowledge, House Bill 10-1051 was passed and implemented to collect current water use and water conservation data and local water providers are implementing more measures than ever before.

With all these successes there is still much to do. Incentives and technical resources will assist in creating a space where more measures can be implemented but local regulation will have to be implemented to attain higher level of water conservation as well as the focus on foundational activities within a water provider’s water system to ensure that water systems are operating as efficiently as they can.



- **Foundational Activities:**

A comprehensive focus on foundational activities at the water system level will be necessary to attain water efficiency and support the business practices of local water providers. Conservation oriented rate structures, such as water budgets, comprehensive water loss programs using industry standard water auditing practices and improved data collection on customer water uses are all foundational practices that **should be carried out** by all utilities. Implementation of these practices supports a water provider’s business model and helps to assure revenue stability and efficient use of resources. The foundational



activities **could be incentivized or tied to regulatory vehicles** such as local land use codes or water system connection requirements.

- **Better Tracking and Quantification:**

Advances have been made over the last decade in tracking and quantifying water conservation data. With the passage of HB10-1051 into C.R.S 37-60-126 (4.5), the CWCB can now collect annual water use and water conservation data from covered entities across Colorado. This is a necessary first step for tracking demands and water conservation program savings but will need to be expanded upon to include creation of savings tracking tools as well as savings estimating tools. For the typical water provider, water conservation savings are estimated using rules of thumb and not by analyzing actual demand reductions at the customer level. With creation of more technical resources, a water providers' ability to estimate savings will improve, reliability of these savings will increase and the input into future BIPs will improve as well. This is consistent with the Interbasin Compact Committee's first No and Low Regret Action.



Additionally as passive savings are attained they will have to be monitored closely. Whether we reach these savings and decide to increase the savings goal will influence how we proceed in terms of adopting new, higher efficiency standards in the future. Part of this would be the option to adapt to increasing efficiencies in technologies that are created for the marketplace. Specifically, this speaks to the adoption of WaterSense specifications for indoor fixtures as well as adoption of WaterSense specifications for outdoor technology. If products that meet these levels of water efficiency are sold in Colorado's marketplace, we will be more assured of reaching passive levels of water conservation savings by 2050. Additionally, monitoring progress and adopting these standards creates certainty for garnering savings as well as for the marketplace. This process creates a minimum standard that can be adapted easily to accommodate higher efficiency technologies as they are created and certified.

- **Incentives for outdoor water conservation measures:**

Outdoor water conservation is an area that has been touched on in the past decade but **efforts have not gone very deep**. This sector of water use, along with the commercial, industrial and institutional sector, will be the most important to address in the coming years. For example, incentives for retrofitting higher water landscape with lower water landscapes, more efficient irrigation systems and siting higher water use landscapes to create more appropriate use areas would help garner higher levels of water savings. Addressing outdoor water use creates multiple benefits like water savings, smarter growth patterns and less runoff of pollutants to urban water ways. This is consistent with SB14-017 and the IBCC's No and Low Regrets Action Plan.

- **Water Conservation Education and Outreach:**

Implement far reaching water conservation education and outreach measures for creating water stewards across different segments of the population from children to adults to elected officials to citizens. A comprehensive education program will tie together the other actions illustrated within this section and provide the "why" for carrying out these actions. These efforts could be rooted in each BIP and carried out to address specific issues that

occur in each basin. As part of this work, surveys of public attitudes will need to be carried out and partnerships with water providers and other water educators will also be critical in accomplishing this task. From a water conservation perspective Colorado WaterWise, a water conservation non-profit organization, could assist in carrying out water conservation and stewardship education messaging across the state. The recommendation is consistent with the No and Low Regrets Action Plan.



- **Multi-Scale Regulation:**

- As savings become more difficult to achieve local regulatory efforts to shape how new construction interacts with water use may be necessary to accomplish local water conservation goals. For example, local jurisdictions could craft landscape and irrigation ordinances, tap fees that reflect actual water uses and more stringent green construction codes that include higher efficiency fixtures and appliances and more waterwise landscapes. Some examples include:

- Aurora Water crafted a comprehensive set of landscape and irrigation standards with the City of Aurora's Planning department.
- The City of Westminster has tap fees that reflect water usage for new development and is backed up by landscape and irrigation standards.
- Town of Telluride has a rigorous green building requirement for new construction, remodeling and additions that includes indoor and outdoor water conservation measures.

This has a direct connection to land use patterns and codes and should be considered as a comprehensive way to address the statewide water supply gap.

- On a larger scale, possibly the state level, more robust professional education and certification programs for the landscape industry could assist in creating a more water efficient ethic across Colorado. Industry best practices could be tied to local ordinances making a consistent approach for the landscape industry to be more successful and be more water efficient. Green Industries of Colorado (GreenCO) have shown support for this type of regulation in the past as a way to level the playing field and encourage the highest level of professionalism.

- **Partnerships**



Partnerships will be key to carrying out many of these previous recommendations. As we have seen through the roundtable and IBCC process, bringing different people and groups together is not always easy but can be extremely productive. Creation of or renewal of partnerships between the CWCB and the following groups will be very important for reaching our water conservation goals:

- Local Water Providers- Probably our most important partners in that they carry out water conservation programs to benefit their water system.
- Intra-state government (Department of Local Affairs, Division of Water Resources, Department of Regulatory Agencies and State Facilities)
- Green Industry (GreenCO, Irrigation Association)
- Home Building/Construction (Home Builders Association, LEED, U.S. Green Building Council)

- Non-Governmental (Colorado WaterWise, Alliance for Water Efficiency, Western Resources Advocates, American Water Works Association, Water Research Foundation)
- Academia (Colorado State University, CU-Boulder, CU-Denver, One World One Water Center-Metropolitan State)

- **Funding**

Stable future funding sources will be critical to enhancing water conservation activities over the near term and long term. The use of funds to implement water conservation activities statewide is a wise investment due to the fact that these are some of the most inexpensive strategies that can be implemented today and will allow local water providers to be more efficient with the water resources they already have. This is truly a no and low regret for Colorado's water supply future. Presently, the Water Efficiency Grant Program (WEGP) receives \$500,000 per year through Tier 2 severance tax funds. Periodically, full funding does not appear and thus staff must be careful on how funds are spent. As Colorado water providers move forward in implementing more sophisticated and integrated water conservation programs, this grant fund will be called upon more and more. The lowest hanging fruit has been picked and if Colorado chooses to continue to use water conservation as a viable option for closing the gap, more annual WEGP funding will be required, more consistent WEGP funding will be necessary and different and varied funding will have to be created.

Additionally, loans and grants may have to be used to bolster implementation of larger advanced metering infrastructure projects, web based customer service portals and advanced water utility billing computer systems. At present, CWCB loan funds can only be used for raw water projects with the exception of meters on potable systems. Colorado Water and Power Authority grants money from their Drinking Water Revolving fund that includes distribution rehabilitation and water meters along with scoring criteria that specifically calls out water conservation.

Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) grants could also be employed to fund water conservation programming. Given the more regional aspect of some conservation programming in the past few years and the larger expenditures for more system infrastructure types of programs, WSRA funding could help fill some of the larger projects.

- **Market for conserved water**

The use of and/or sharing of conserved water has been discussed extensively in the IBCC and state water supply planning process. The SWSI 2010 water conservation section stated that even though the section illustrated a range of potential water savings it did not necessarily translate those into closing the gap:

“...it did not integrate a water supply analysis, and did not attempt to discern the legal, temporal, or spatial availability of conserved water toward meeting the gap in future water supplies. The conditional forecasting methodology used for this SWSI 2010 update assumes that the identified

strategies will be implemented and does not account for water providers' management decisions, such as storing a portion of the savings for drought or strategic planning or using a portion to improve stream flows for environmental or recreational benefits. Management decisions consider legal, temporal, economic, social, political, and spatial constraints that must be understood at a local utility level, and should be part of integrated resource planning that considers the specific water rights portfolio, system reliability, drought response, etc."

These are extremely important aspects of using conserved water to consider when addressing the water supply/demand gap. If water providers do not have the legal means to share conserved water across jurisdictions or basins then the amount applied to the gap may not be as much as could be possible. The IBCC No/Low Regrets Action Plan identified two points where more work must be done:



- o Identify and, where possible, resolve legal and administrative barriers to the use of conserved water
- o Identify and explore barriers to sharing conserved water

These points have much in common with allowing conserved agricultural water to be used for instream flows or using a water bank for the conserved water.

As Colorado looks to the future, water conservation will play an important role in managing our finite water resources. This section illustrates that there are a number of mechanisms and tools that can be employed to create a successful water conservation approach that diminishes the gap between supply and demand. The combination of foundational measures, incentives, regulation, education and partnerships creates a holistic approach to efficient water resource management that one or two of these approaches by themselves cannot accomplish. By creating a holistic prioritization framework, this management system can define the arena in which water efficiency can take place in the future by creating pricing incentives, monetary incentives, regulations that shape actions and education that transforms Coloradans from water customers into water stewards.



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5.6.2 Reuse

According to SWSI 2010, the reuse of existing  supplies has been projected to provide  00 to 61,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water, which accounts for about 10 percent of the total Identified Projects and Processes (IPP) projected yield. The full use of reusable water supplies will play an integral role in closing the supply gap while extending the resource through efficient reuse of water.

The use of reclaimed water is controlled by Regulation 84, which was developed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC). This regulation currently authorizes the use of reclaimed water for landscape irrigation (including single-family residential irrigation) and various commercial and industrial uses such as cooling tower use, dust control, soil compaction, mechanized street cleaning, fire protection, and zoo operations. To achieve the goal of the protection of public health and the environment, the current Regulation specifies various approved uses, treatment and water quality requirements for specific reuse categories, conditions for use, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting (RMWEA/RMSAWWA Water Reuse Committee).

Colorado water law defines what water supplies can be reused, and to the extent each source can be reused. Currently there are a limited number of sources that can legally be reused in Colorado:

- **Nonnative water**  Water imported into a basin through a transbasin diversion can be reused to extinction. Transbasin diversions account for a substantial quantity of the total reusable supply in Colorado.
- **Agricultural-Municipal Water Transfers:** Agricultural transfers are generally available for reuse; however, reuse is limited to the historic consumptive use of the original agricultural water right decree. Reuse is applicable for water from traditional purchase of agricultural water rights and alternative transfer methods (ATMs).
- **Nontributary groundwater:** Reuse of nontributary groundwater is allowable.
- **Other Diverted Water:** Any water right with a decreed reuse right may be reused to the extent described in the decreed reuse right.

There are two ways in which these different source types can be reclaimed for reuse:

- **Direct Reuse:** This is the process in which the return flows from the various supplies are physically reclaimed either for potable or nonpotable uses. An example of this can be found in Aurora's Sand Creek Water Reclamation Facility for potable water or Colorado Springs Utility's non-potable water system.
- **Indirect Reuse:** This process entails the exchange or substitution of the return flows from a reusable source. The most common form of Indirect Reuse is through river exchanges, where a utility lets the reusable water flow downstream, and diverts an equal amount of water from an upstream source.

Exemplary Examples of Reuse

Currently there are  treaters of reuse water in Colorado. Most of these treaters are on the East slope along the Front Range. According to the IBCC's No/Low Regrets Action Plan, a few examples are:

Colorado Springs Utilities: Colorado Springs Utilities has produced reuse water for over 50 years in the form of direct reuse for irrigation and cooling. Irrigation consists of water to golf courses, parks, campuses, and other properties while cooling water is used for the cooling towers in the Drake Power Plant. According to CSU, this has yielded a savings of 1 billion gallons of drinking water per year.

Aurora Water's Prairie Waters Project: This project is an indirect potable reuse where water is pumped back 34 miles to Aurora from aquifer recharge and recovery basins in the Brighton area. Aurora picks up water from the South Platte River that it has rights to and pumps it back to the Peter Binney purification plant where it is mixed with existing water resources after treatment. The purification plant can treat up to 50 MGD.

Denver Water: Denver Water has an extensive reuse system that serves many large customers such as parks, golf courses and Denver Zoo. This system is a direct reuse system and it has a capacity of 30 MGD and is expandable up to 45 MGD.

Basin Implementation Plans

***SUMMARY OF BIP WORK TO DATE IS BELOW. THIS WILL BE
UPDATED BASED ON BIP WORK. ALL OF THE WORK BELOW IS IN
DRAFT FROM AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE***

Reuse of water has appeared in a couple of Basin Implementation Plan drafts. According to the *Initial Draft Statewide Basin Implementation Plan Goals* on Colorado's Water Plan website, a number of basins have created the following draft goals:

Colorado Basin-The Colorado basin is focusing on efforts that include developing water court process recommendations to encourage efficiency, conservation, and reuse.

Metro/South Platte Basin-The Metro/South Platte basin is viewing reuse water in the context of the Colorado River. Their initial goals state, "A balanced program to plan and preserve options to responsibly develop Colorado River water to benefit both east slope and west slope consumptive and nonconsumptive water uses is needed to assure that the State's plan has equal focus on the previously identified strategies including: 1) developing IPPs; 2) municipal conservation and reuse; 3) agricultural transfers and 4) new supply."

Southwest Basin-The Southwest Basin has a straight forward goal to "Support and implement water reuse strategies."

Reuse Recommendations

- **Improve quantification, planning and tracking for potential**
At the present time, the area of reuse water in Colorado needs more research to be carried out. According to the IBCC's No/Low Regrets Action Plan, there is a lack of reliable data on how much water is currently being reused, how much potential there is and how much water is planned on being reused. More work must be done assessing how much water providers are using of their fully consumable supplies and how much more can be utilized.

As a future planning effort, regional plans and projects should be explored to utilize efficiencies in size and expenditure. Currently, the Water, Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency (WISE) partnership is underway with participation between Denver Water, Aurora Water and the South Metro Water Supply Authority. Planning for future projects such as this will be crucial to extending water supply options and increasing efficiencies in garnering those additional water supplies.

Additionally, Regulation 84 has shown to be a very flexible framework that has adapted over the years to accommodate changes and advances in the science of reuse water. Regulation 84 was created in year 2000 and has been amended four times since then to accommodate changes and new uses. As Colorado plans its reuse future, this flexibility will be paramount to adapting to new water resource challenges.

- **Research and development of additional reuse options**

At present time, reuse water can be used for landscape irrigation, heating/cooling, vehicle washing and evaporative industrial uses. There is momentum in the near future for expanding to uses such as food crop irrigation. Locally, water providers are looking at reuse water for community garden irrigation and other such types of food crop settings. It is critical that research continue to better define the water quality needs for various reuse options to ensure treatment decisions are based on sound scientific information to facilitate the maximum benefit of reuse and efficiently invest public funds in treatment.

On the national level as well as in Colorado, research has begun to focus towards potable reuse systems. In Colorado, most reuse systems have been non-potable in nature. Examples exist in California as well as in Big Springs, Texas where there are projects underway. Due to severe drought and serious long term water resource challenges, the Colorado River Municipal Water District (water provider for Big Springs) has undertaken the initiative of “reclaim 100% of the water, 100% of the time”. Technologically, this type of system works today but more research will be needed to show reliability to assure regulators and to gain public acceptance (WateReuse Foundation, 2011). According to the Water Reuse Foundation, the Water Reuse Research Foundation and WateReuse California launched the Direct Potable Reuse Initiative (DPR) in June of 2012 to advance DPR as a water supply option in California. This was driven by the establishment in recent years of statewide goals for the use of recycled water, and a mandate from the California legislature to come up with a feasibility study by 2016 to investigate developing uniform water recycling criteria for DPR. The DPR Initiative has harnessed funding in the neighborhood of \$ 6 million to carry out innovative research, such as public acceptance, critical control points, source water control, and development of an operations plan.

Widespread development of potable reuse could be an important facet of closing the future water supply-demand gap. Additionally, CWCB has funded research into zero liquid discharge over the last few years to assess the technology needed to address the challenges created with alternative water supplies from lower quality water sources. The research will provide solutions and inform decision making related to managing membrane brine concentrate in inland areas at two pilot sites-Brighton and La Junta, Colorado (WERF, 2011).

On the smaller scale of local and site specific reuse of water, HB 13-1044 authorized the Water Quality Control Division (WQCC) to promulgate a regulation (Regulation 86) with standards for the use of graywater. Graywater is defined by the bill as wastewater collected within a building from sources other than toilets and urinals, kitchen sinks, dishwashers, and non-laundry utility sinks. Following the promulgation of Regulation 86, counties and municipalities may adopt local legislation to allow graywater use. Graywater use is limited to applications that are within the uses allowed under the well permit or water right of the original source or sources of the water. As of April 2014, the WQCC is working with the Colorado Plumbing Board to create plumbing design standards for graywater systems before developing treatment and control standards. Graywater could be an important component of new construction in the future that crosses water conservation, reuse and land use topic areas.

- **Explore incentives and funding**

Using WSRA grant funds, future research into various areas of reuse could expand into areas such as zero liquid discharge, indirect and direct potable reuse, regional opportunities for systems and facilitating the ability to share reuse water. The CWCB Loan program could be utilized for developing some regional projects much like it was used for the WISE partnership. Additionally, State Revolving Fund loans, Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Programs and Federal WaterSmart grants could be used to support more reuse development in the future.

- **Education**

Public perception of reuse water can be a barrier to increased implementation of reuse strategies, especially involving potable reuse. Work has been done that explores how people understand drinking water reuse in the context of the urban water cycle and if this would increase acceptance of drinking water reuse projects (Macpherson, et.al, 2012). Stronger education efforts should be carried out as to the benefits of reuse water as an integral part of a water supply system and that this is a source of supply that will most likely need to be fully realized.

- **Marketing and selling of reuse water**

According to the IBCC's No/Low Regrets Action Plan, many water providers are limited in their ability to share reuse water. Incentives that better allow for reuse water to be marketed to water providers outside a service area could make building a reuse project more desirable. This could come in the form of incentivizing larger regional projects that allow for more flexible arrangements between water providers.

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5.6.3 Land Use



As Colorado grows in the future, land use planning and water planning will become more closely connected through integration of principles from both disciplines. This does not mean that local control over these two planning spheres will be diluted. The way a local municipality, county or some other local government chooses to develop will remain intact. Private property rights, 1041 powers and local control will not be diminished by the connections between these planning disciplines. Rather, local growth and water supply planning could be enhanced through the development of best practices, financial incentives and other technical resources.

Higher density development has been shown to save water over traditional developments **along with many other benefits**. The 2009 California Water Plan Update showed that a 20% increase in density could yield a 10% water savings (California Water Plan, 2009). Different land use and development patterns extend beyond just density, bringing in a host of elements that help define what a community looks like such as transportation, open space, community design and walkability. There are also synergies to be gained between density and landscape and irrigation best practices. The landscape and irrigation layers fit within densification to offer more benefits within a denser land use environment than if they were employed within a traditional less dense environment. This does not mean that urban landscapes will disappear with a denser environment. Healthy urban landscapes tremendously enhance the livability of a city or town and are a crucial asset for urban populations.

Another recent concept that is gaining support in Colorado is the idea of “Net Zero Water Developments”. The concept states that there are certain management practices that can be developed for a site that will reduce the water quantity and quality impacts. The concept can span scales from a building site to a more regional scale and has the goal of becoming water neutral. Net Zero Water is being forwarded by the Colorado Water Innovation Cluster and a large stakeholder group where a toolkit and set of guidelines are being developed for Colorado.

Denver Regional Council of Governments Water Conservation Vision, Goal, and Policies

Vision: The Denver metro region will maximize the wise use of limited water resources through efficient land development and other strategies, recognizing that no single strategy will meet the state’s water needs and the region will need to pursue a range of strategies concurrently.

Goal: Reduce regional per capita municipal and industrial water use by working with municipalities, counties, water providers and other stakeholders within the next 6 to 12 months (February 2012) to identify a specific numeric target or measurable benchmark against which to measure progress.

Policies

1. Regional Collaboration. DRCOG will bring together local governments, water providers and other stakeholders to facilitate collaborative efforts to promote water conservation.

2. Best Practices. DRCOG will work to increase understanding of the link between land development and water demand, and to identify best practices for promoting the efficient use of water resources across the region.

3. Efficient Land Development. Compact development, infill and redevelopment consistent with DRCOG’s urban growth boundary/area and urban centers policies will help reduce water demand and related infrastructure costs.

Source: DRCOG MetroVision 2035:34

The manner by which Colorado develops into the future will have a strong bearing on Colorado's future water supply gap and vice versa. The CWCB began preliminary work in this arena in 2009 by hosting the *Water and Land Use Planning for a Sustainable Future* conference and creating an associated report and density memo describing several actions that bridge the land and water topic areas. Recently, urban land use has been a major discussion point at the Interbasin Compact Committee where they incorporated several options into the Water Conservation No and Low Regrets Action Plan. Some of these appear below in the recommendations sections. 

Additionally, a recent collaborative effort involving water planners and land use planners from local jurisdictions showed promise in moving the dialogue forward. The Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) convened land use and water planners along with city managers, city council members, developers, regional government planning groups and CWCB staff for four all day sessions focusing on the land use and water planning nexus. These sessions proved very productive at not only developing strategies for better integration of land and water planning but also assisting in the development of relationships between land and water planners within municipalities and between the different municipalities who were present (LULA, 2013). This could be a model for connecting local planning efforts together within a local government as well as into regional planning efforts.

Finally, the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) has also been exploring the nexus between water use and land use patterns in recent years. The latest Metro Vision 2035 document was adopted in 2011 and for the first time includes a water conservation section that ties into land use planning. DRCOG has a goal of increasing housing density by 10% between year 2000 and year 2035. According to the CWCB density memo *Calculating Per Capita Water Demand Savings from Density Increases to Residential Housing for Portfolios and Trade-Off Tool*, this 10% would equal approximately a 5% decrease in water use in this housing sector (CWCB, 2010).

Recent Legislative Actions

House Bill 08-1141 required that building permit applications for developments of more than 50 single-family equivalents include specific evidence of an adequate water supply. An adequate supply is defined as one that sufficient for the development through buildout in terms of quality, quantity and dependability. The developers must submit proof of adequate supply to the local government through a report from a professional engineer or water supply expert that identifies the water source and what kinds of demand management will take place on the site. An update to House Bill 08-1141 occurred through Senate Bill 13-258. Through House Bill 08-1141, a local government was permitted to make the adequacy determination only once during the development permit approval process. Senate Bill 13-258 modified the definition of the term "development permit" to clarify that each application included in the definition constitutes a stage in the development permit approval process.

Potential Land Use Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE UPDATED BASED ON BIP WORK.

As mentioned previously, in 2010, CWCB produced a report titled Colorado Review: Water Management and Land Use Planning Integration. Several local actions that could be used more broadly stemmed out of that report. These local governmental and utility tools could be very effective in shaping how water is used in the future and are consistent with the IBCC No/Low

Regrets Action Plan that focuses on incentives as much as possible. Some of these potential recommendations for further exploration include: expedited permitting for buildings and developments that incorporate certain water efficiency measures or high levels of density; tax incentives: developments that incorporate certain water efficiency measures or high levels density; structures impact (tap) fees that are designed to promote water-wise developments and in-fill; and water budget rate structures to help maintain initial projected water budgets for each site.



Other recommendations for the Water Management and Land Use Planning Integration report that could be considered include partnerships and funding opportunities. These are described below.

Partnerships: To be successful in land use, it will be necessary to partner with many different agencies and groups. Much like water conservation and other water issues a necessary first step is bringing people together. Possible partnerships:

- Local Municipalities/Local Water Providers- The rubber meets the road at this level. These are the entities that will actually carry out these plans. Without their partnership and support of new ideas, an idea like comprehensive water/land planning will not succeed.
- Department of Local Affairs- DOLA carries out much work in the land use and local government arena. Like the CWCB, they also have grant funding that could be leveraged for water-land use projects.
- Department of Regulatory Agencies- DORA regulates professionals in various industries and works to create a fair marketplace. They could be partnered with regarding the landscape and irrigation industry or the property management industry and their connections to water demand.
- Home Building/Construction (Home Builders Association, LEED, U.S. Greenbuilding Council)
- Non-Governmental (Keystone Center, Alliance for Water Efficiency, Western Resources Advocates, American Planning Association)
- Academia (Colorado State University, CU-Boulder, CU-Denver, One World One Water Center-Metropolitan State)
-  • Land Use Leadership Alliance- This organization brings an innovative training model that could change the way Colorado looks at this subject.
- Council of Governments- These entities are extremely important at making the connection between local and state level. A crucial link between scales.

Funding: As with many other aspects of Colorado's water plan, funding will have to be an integral part of any initiative moving forward.

- Water Efficiency Grant Program and Water Supply Reserve Account grant funds could be used for funding aspects of the land use and water planning nexus. For example, WEGP funds could be used to implement inclusion of demand management strategies in local comprehensive plans. This has been identified as an important step for integration of water demand and land use planning. Additionally, WEGP funds could be used to study land use patterns to ascertain possible demand reductions associated with certain land use patterns. WSRA funds could be used for larger regional efforts as they tie more directly into the Basin Roundtables and larger regional projects.



Lastly, the Land Use Leadership Alliance has suggested further education and training on a longer-term basis to help create a long lasting culture of collaboration between land use and water supply/demand planning. This would be a necessary first step to integrating land use and water supply/demand planning on a broader scale.



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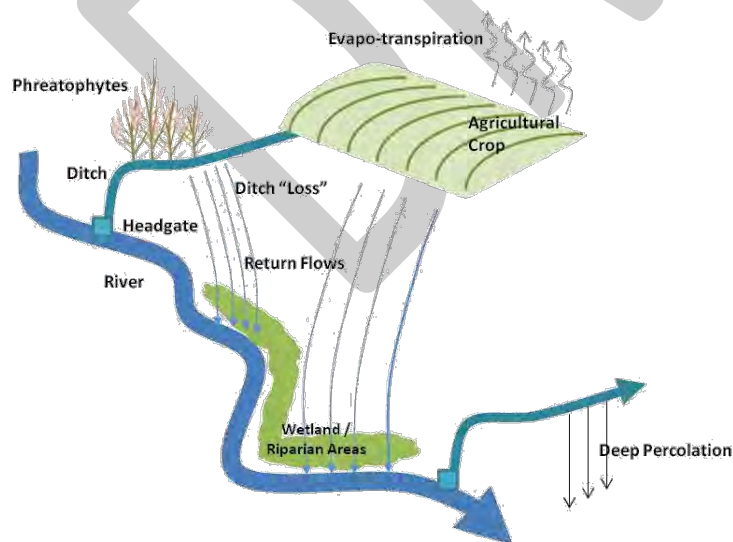
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5.6.4 Agricultural Conservation, Efficiency, and Reuse

Background

Despite the fact that agriculture uses the large majority of water in Colorado, there are only limited opportunities for agricultural conservation, efficiency, and reuse. The primary underlying reason for this is that the majority of agriculture in Colorado operates in a water deficit. If provided more water, most acres in the state would use it, which means that efficiencies often lead to increased use of water rather than a decreased use. In addition, water law in Colorado limits how agricultural conservation, efficiency, and reuse water can be utilized. This subsection will describe the opportunities and limitations.

Agricultural water conservation, efficiency, and reuse are broad topics that encompasses several characteristics that need further clarification, depending on the scale and context agricultural conservation is approached. Some issues need to be approached from the river basin scale; and others from a more site-specific, individual farm scale. The context in which agricultural conservation is examined must also be understood for both the basin and site-specific scales. While there is to some degree a perception that any water “conserved” by agricultural use can be transferred to other uses, it is vital to consider the physical, legal, and institutional context of agricultural conservation in order to determine if any of this water can be used for other purposes. Agricultural producers across Colorado are working to improve efficiencies, and reduce consumptive use for various reasons ranging from needed selenium and salinity water quality improvements to complying with interstate compacts or Supreme Court rulings.. The Rio Grande and Republican River basins are working to maintain a sustainable agricultural community in the face of an imbalance between available water supplies and current levels of water use. The South Platte is grappling with a Supreme Court decision that led to the shutdown of many agricultural producers who relied on tributary groundwater wells. For this and other reasons, many agricultural producers have implemented extensive augmentation plans that allow the South Platte



5.6.4 Figure 1: Agricultural Interactions

to operate very effectively on a basin-wide scale. Similarly, the Arkansas has struggled with a Supreme Court Ruling related to the Arkansas River Compact. Recent work in the Uncompahgre Valley serves as an excellent example of agricultural efficiencies. For instance, a water users association converted portions of its open-ditch delivery system to pipelines. In the Grand Valley near Grand Junction, many of the headgates were modernized to support the endangered fish species in the Colorado River, and many of the

orchards are now on drip irrigation. CWCB and others have provided grants and loans to many agricultural producers across the state to improve agricultural conservation, efficiency, and reuse.

However, agricultural water use is deeply connected throughout each basin. The runoff, also known as return flows, of one farm serves as the water supply for the next, as depicted in the figure below. Changes in the timing and amount of the return flows can mean that that downstream agricultural producer doesn't get enough water when it is needed to have a successful crop. This is called "injury," and is illegal in Colorado. Because changes in how one farm operates can ripple up and down the basin, caution must be taken prior to making too many changes too rapidly.

Furthermore, in many cases, agricultural use benefits late summer flows, as well as riparian and wetland areas, which in turn benefit fish, migratory birds and many other species in Colorado. Photos and anecdotal accounts from the eighteen hundreds on the Yampa River, for instance, indicate that many of Colorado's rivers and streams essentially dried up in the late summer and early fall months. The cottonwood canopy and other riparian plant communities did not exist in abundance prior to irrigated agriculture. When agricultural water is applied to the land, the system operates like a giant sponge, slowly releasing water back into the river system over time. This can take hours, months, or years depending on how far and through what type of substrate the water travels. The effect of this retiming means that many of the rivers and streams now have water during the hottest time of the year, which is the most stressful for fish. It also means that riparian and wetland areas adjacent to the stream get water. For instance, there is a large and critically important wetland complex on the western side of John Martin Reservoir in the Arkansas, that is critical to endangered bird species, the Least Tern and Piping Plover. This wetland complex would not exist to such an extent without agricultural production retiming this water. Balancing river and riparian needs during the time of diversion compared to the benefits of being retimed through return flows requires careful consideration prior to making too many agricultural lands highly efficient.

State of Knowledge on Agricultural Reuse

Typically agricultural water is not "fully consumable" so it cannot be reused on a specific farm. However, within each basin the same water is used over and over again. At this basin scale, repetitive uses of water within a basin are achieved by the occurrence of return flows. Return flows occur as a result of agricultural water diversions, deliveries and irrigation applications. Downstream appropriators depend upon upstream return flows generated by either municipal and industrial uses, or agricultural uses. Each successive diversion generates potential return flows for beneficial use by downstream appropriators, and this system of use and re-use allows for multiple uses of water within basin systems and generates an increase in water supplies for downstream users in the latter part of the irrigation season. It has been estimated that in some basins water may be used as many as seven times before it crosses the state line.

In addition, there are more and more examples of agriculture directly reusing municipal water supplies. For instance, Colorado Springs and Pueblo lease fully consumable reuse water to agricultural producers downstream of their wastewater treatment plants. However, as

municipalities begin to grow into their reusable supplies, it could negatively impact agricultural product 

Reuse is more fully explored in subsection 5.6.2.

State of Knowledge on Agricultural Conservation and Efficiency

As depicted in Figure 1, there are many agricultural interactions and uses, and this is reflected in the types of agricultural conservation and efficiency. Essentially there are two major concepts that need to be clarified. The

first is whether or not a use is “consumptive” or not. If it is consumptive, then reducing the consumption of water may yield useable water that could be used by another user. However, there may be legal limitations to doing this. The other concept is whether the water can be used as a “beneficial use” or not. If it can be used as a “beneficial use” then it can have a water right associated with it.

Figure 2 provides a few examples for how to describe these different types of agricultural conservation and efficiency. Agricultural conservation and efficiency measures have the potential to

alter return flows which in turn have the potential to alter basin hydrology, thus impacting our ability to meet interstate obligations or the needs of downstream users.

The four types of agricultural conservation and efficiency are described below.

Irrigation Efficiency is generally viewed as water that results from more efficient diversion and application methods. These irrigation efficiency measures may include irrigation delivery system improvements and irrigation application methods that reduce ditch seepage and return flows generated by field application of irrigation water. It should be noted that some of these measures have the potential to increase the crop beneficial consumptive use of the agricultural

	Reduces Nonconsumptive Uses	Reduces Consumptive Uses
Is a “Beneficial Use”	Voluntary Flow Agreement Examples: - Headgate Improvements - Dam Reoperations	Agricultural Conservation Examples: - Deficit irrigation - Rotational fallowing - Reduction of Soil Moisture / Evaporative Losses through Mulching, Drip irrigation, and Tillage Practices[†] - Change of Crop Type to Cool Weather Crop or Lower Water Use Crop [†] For some crop types and in some locations
Is Not a “Beneficial Use”	Irrigation Efficiency Examples: - Reduction of Conveyance Seepage through Ditch Lining or Piping - Pivot Sprinkler Systems[‡] [‡] May increase consumptive use	Salvaged Water Examples: - Phreatophyte Control - Reduction of Deep Percolation Not Returned to the Stream through Ditch Lining or Piping

5.6.4 Figure 2: Different types of agricultural conservation and efficiency

activity by improving the application efficiency. Typically, water supply is plentiful early in the irrigation year, hence crop consumptive use (CU) is not limited and is equal to the crop Irrigation Water Requirement (IWR). As the irrigation season continues, the available water supply generally decreases, becoming insufficient to satisfy crops' IWR, therefore CU is limited by supply. Hence as irrigation application efficiency improves, the crops' ability to consumptively use (CU) irrigation water increases.

Salvaged Water is generally viewed as water that results from reducing non-beneficial consumptive use of water, such as by the elimination of phreatophytes or by the reduction of deep percolation of water which does not return to the system as surface or groundwater return flows. Elimination of non-beneficial consumptive use can be accomplished by instituting irrigation efficiency measures.

Conserved Water refers to water that is part of the beneficial consumptive use of a water right that is removed from an irrigated cropping system by reducing the consumptive use of the agricultural activity. Measures that can generate conserved water include: deficit irrigation; rotational fallowing; reduction in irrigated acres; conversion to cool weather crops; conversion to crops with a shorter growing season; reduction in evaporative losses from the field surface by introducing conservation tillage practices, mulching, and drip irrigation. As with water resulting from irrigation efficiency measures, Conserved Water has the potential to alter return flows and must be considered on a system wide basis. The transfer of this water, while possible under Colorado water law, has not yet been tested in water court or codified by the legislature.

Voluntary Flow Agreements can be conceived that involve the re-operation of dam releases and headgate improvements that provide stream flows that benefit nonconsumptive uses. For example, the Arkansas River Voluntary Flow Management Program is a cooperative effort among the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Trout Unlimited, the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District and the Arkansas River Outfitters Association, and is assisted by the United States Bureau of Reclamation. The purpose of the agreement is to provide flows that benefit the mutual goals of divergent groups of water owners, water providers, water users, municipalities and government agencies.

Under current Colorado water law the amount of water that is legally transferable is an irrigator's historical consumptive use, not the amount of water diverted. In addition, with any transfer the historical return flows must be maintained at the same location, timing, quantity and rate of flow in order to avoid injury to downstream appropriators (or any other water rights holder) who are entitled to the stream conditions that existed at the time of their appropriation. The historical consumptive use is determined by the amount of water removed from the river system by crop evapotranspiration as well as deep percolation losses to nontributary groundwater aquifers. Furthermore, consumptive use can be defined as a water use that permanently withdraws water from its source; and water that is no longer available because it has: evaporated, been transpired by plants; incorporated into products or crops; consumed by people or livestock; undergone deep percolation and is not returned to stream; or otherwise removed from the immediate water environment.

As such, water that results from more efficient diversion and application methods can only be used on lands for which the appropriation was originally made. Selling or delivering (transferring) this type of water to other uses or new lands could constitute an improper expansion of use under current Colorado water law.

Moreover, Salvaged Water is water in the river or its tributaries which would normally go to waste, but somehow is made available for beneficial use. However, when salvaged waters are made available, they belong to the river system in general and are subject to call by senior appropriators in order of priority. Put more plainly, an appropriator that salvages water, whether by eliminating phreatophytes or by any other means, does not have a right to use that water outside of the priority system, and therefore does not have the potential to transfer salvaged water to any other use.

The transfer of Conserved Water, generated by a reduction in beneficial consumptive use, while possible under Colorado water law, has not yet been tested in water court or codified by the legislature. Conserved water generated by one of several approaches, such as; deficit irrigation; rotational fallowing; or a transition to cool season crops, is the subject of Alternative Agricultural To-Urban Transfer Methods and will be further explored in Section 5.7 of Colorado's Water Plan.

Increased agricultural conservation could potentially result in a voluntary reduction in the diversion of water to the farm, creating benefits such as improved water quality, and allowing water to remain in the streams that can provide environmental benefits.

Basin Implementation Plans

For 2014, each Basin Roundtable is formulating their own implementation plan, and several include agricultural water conservation and efficiency goals and activities.

***SUMMARY OF BIP WORK TO DATE IS BELOW. THIS WILL BE
UPDATED BASED ON BIP WORK. ALL OF THE WORK BELOW IS IN
DRAFT FROM AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE***

Initial drafts of the Basin Implementation Plan goals for most of the roundtables indicate that they plan on increasing efficiencies and modernizing agricultural infrastructure. Several examples of these are below:

- Arkansas Roundtable: Provide increasing quantities of augmentation water for increased farm efficiencies.
- Colorado Roundtable: Improve agricultural efficiency, preservation, and conservation.
- Gunnison Roundtable: Restore, maintain, and modernize critical water infrastructure, including hydropower.
- North Platte Roundtable: "Continue to restore, maintain, and modernize critical water infrastructure to preserve current uses and increase efficiencies."
- Rio Grande Roundtable: Operate, maintain, rehabilitate, and create necessary infrastructure to the Basin's long-term water needs, including storage.
- Southwest Roundtable: developed a draft goal to "Implement efficiency measures to maximize beneficial use and production.
- Yampa/White/Green Roundtable: Restore, maintain, and modernize water storage and distribution infrastructure.

Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Actions

As part of the IBCC's ongoing work, the IBCC is recommending that "Colorado will continue its commitment to improve conservation and reuse." As part of this draft work, recommendations for agricultural conservation and efficiency improvements for current and future agriculture were developed. This is incorporated into the recommendations below.

Recent and Past Legislative Actions

There are some existing legislative exceptions to the aforementioned limitations which are applicable in narrow instances, such as:

HB 05-133 stated that an owner would not abandon their water right if certain conditions were met. Two conditions refer to "a water conservation program approved by a state agency and a water banking program as provided by law". These don't go as far as allowing sharing but it does state that an owner of a water right won't lose the right if non-use stems from water conservation activities.

HB 13-1130 allows a water right owner with an interruptible water supply agreement (IWSA) to request up to two additional ten-year periods for the IWSA. IWSAs enable water users to transfer a portion of their water right, called the historical consumptive use, to another water user on a temporary basis, without permanently changing the water right.

SB 13-019 restricts a water judge from determining a water user's historical consumptive use based on water use reductions resulting from the enrollment in a federal land conservation program; participation in certain water conservation programs; participation in an approved land fallowing program or to provide water for compact compliance; or participation in a water banking program. Some water users may wish to reduce their water consumption in order to limit the effects of drought on stream flows. However, under current law there is a disincentive that penalizes appropriators who decrease their consumptive use of water.

This section will be updated pending any changes to the law in the future.

Agricultural Conservation, Efficiency, and Reuse Potential Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE UPDATED BASED ON BIP WORK.

The following points related to the implementation of agricultural conservation and efficiency measures are presented as a starting point for further discussion.

1. Incentives for on-farm implementation of agricultural conservation measures could be considered and evaluated at the appropriate scale and within the appropriate physical, legal and institutional context (based on CAWA 2008).
2. Many of the Basin Implementation Plans are looking to find the explicit interconnections between agriculture and nonconsumptive uses. In addition, several are looking to decrease agricultural shortages. As part of this work, each basin should seek to reduce non-beneficial consumptive use by following the guidelines laid out in the CAWA 2008 agricultural conservation paper, which include reducing soil moisture loss where practical through drip irrigation or mulching (CWCB 2014).

3. Lining of high-priority ditches is another important tool in reducing seepage losses, and should be encouraged in appropriate areas (CWCB 2014).
4. Phreatophyte control presents one of the largest opportunities for reducing non-beneficial consumptive use and should be pursued aggressively, although balancing this with nonconsumptive needs can be challenging (CWCB 2014). Incentives for landowner control of phreatophytes, given savaged water limitations, could be developed (CAWA 2008)
5. To create incentives for implementing agricultural conservation measures, the cost of these measures could be borne by the beneficiaries of the re-purposed water. The agricultural user is unlikely and/or unable to bear the costs if benefits only accrue to improved stream flows, water quality, or the basin as a whole (CAWA 2008).
6. Additional incentives should be developed to assist basins in implementing, where appropriate, agricultural efficiency and conservation practices, support the ecosystem services agriculture can provide, and changing crops type to a lower water use crop (CWCB 2014).
7. New agricultural lands (currently identified in the North Platte and Yampa basins) should be designed to wither use best management practices with regard to agricultural conservation and efficiency, or, alternately, be measurably and explicitly multi-purpose by meeting identified nonconsumptive needs (CWCB 2014).
8. The state will need to develop administrative means to track and allocate conserved water and ensure compliance (CAWA 2008).
9. Irrigation water conservation demonstration and pilot projects in each basin should be encouraged (based on CAWA 2008).
10. Projects and Methods that support agricultural efficiency, modernization and conservation presented in Basin Implementation Plan recommendations should be supported.

In summary, while potential opportunities for transferring agricultural water to other uses may exist, they are somewhat limited. The scale and context of agricultural conservation must be account for when considering implementation measures and policy proposals. Although currently available technologies and practices could generate water that could be put to other beneficial uses, our physical, legal and institutional framework place certain constraints on what is currently possible.

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5.6.5 Self Supplied Industrial Conservation and Reuse. STILL IN PROGRESS. OUTLINE INCLUDED BELOW.

Potential Approach

Summarize efforts to partner with industry, including the water savings associated with utilization of natural gas and renewable energy sources. This section could be focused on the energy/water nexus more generally and describe recent energy/water nexus efforts.

Initial Outline

Introduction

- What SSI means: Industrial uses that have developed their own independent waters supplies (e.g., beer, snow making, power plants, mining, etc.)
- Colorado's SSI uses a small proportion of water from the statewide perspective, but is significant in local areas.
- Major water users within the category are for thermal electric power generation and energy extraction.
- In addition, many water uses tap energy resources
- The focus of the section will be on the water energy nexus.

"The water-energy nexus is a term used to describe the interaction and interdependencies between water and energy resources. Understanding the dependencies, synergies, conflicts, and trade-offs between these two critical resources is necessary to identify and implement mutually beneficial strategies for their management and use (AWE, 2013)"

Water footprint of energy development (Primarily Refers to Chapter 3)

- Current Water Demands for extraction and production
 - o Shoshone and Powell as examples of roles that energy plays in water administration.
 - o Xcel uses a total about 30,000 acre feet of consumptive water (Expert Energy Discussion, 2014) and it is estimated that statewide there is between 60-65,000 acre feet of total consumption (WRA, 2013)
 - o Will incorporate aspects of the 2013 State Drought Plan from Annex B Chapter 7 Energy Sector
- Potential Future Water Demands (extraction)
 - o Oil Shale – Could be a large amount of water
 - o Natural Gas – smaller but still significant
 - o Coal – mostly continue at rather low levels of water use
 - o Uranium – minimal
 - o Renewables (minimal)
 - o *Chapter will utilize a figure comparing water use of different energy extraction practices*
- Potential future water demands (production) – This is shifting towards natural gas and various renewable energy sources, which will reduce water on the production side.
 - o Energy demand is likely going to go up, but because of increasing role of renewables and natural gas along with efficiencies, water use may be keeping steady overall. CWCB is

currently interviewing energy utilities about this. Utility plans for the next couple of decades indicate that greenhouse gas emissions are likely going downward because of natural gas and renewable use. Water use may follow this trend. At the State level, government has already moved to support less water dependent power generation with the 30% renewable by 2020 mandate.

- o Add discussion about different cooling techniques. Colorado energy companies use cycle flow techniques, so this is already more efficient than the open flow techniques used in the Midwest and Northeast (Expert Energy Discussion, 2014). In addition, several plants use a hybrid cooled approach, when some of it is cooled by air, until air temperature gets to be about 80%. 100% dry cooling takes significant financial costs and more fuel is needed, so there are increase emissions. Still some new power plants may focus on dry cooling.
- o Xcel is not trying to develop future base water supplies at this time and not have control over issues water use has been flat and will remain flat.

Energy footprint of water development

- Current
- Potential Future (include reuse/advanced treatment, groundwater pumping, potential large pipelines)

Domestic Water/Energy Nexus

According to the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE 2013), half of the water/energy nexus is defined as “E-W or Energy for Water or the half of the water-energy nexus referring to the energy required for water conveyance, water treatment, water distribution, and wastewater treatment.”

The 2009 study, *Water Conservation = Energy Conservation: A Report for the CWCB* stated that, “Energy is embedded in water. Water utilities use energy to pump groundwater, move surface water supplies, treat raw water to potable standards, and distribute it to their customers. Customers use energy to heat, cool, and pressurize water; and wastewater treatment plants use energy to treat wastewater before discharging it (Figure 1).”



Figure 1. Energy is used to pump, treat, distribute, and use potable water, and to treat wastewater. Graphic: Cohen, R., B. Nelson, and G. Wolff, 2004. *Energy Down the Drain: The Hidden Costs of California's Water Supply*. Natural Resources Defense Council and Pacific Institute.

The area where energy and water meet in domestic water is centered around water conservation measures that can be employed to lessen the energy intensity. Water supplies carry vastly different energy intensities depending on where they originate and how they are conveyed. Some water supplies are almost purely conveyed using gravity while other supplies are very energy intensive requiring a large amount of electricity to pump water from deep underground.

Water conservation and energy efficiency can play synergistic roles in lessening the impacts of the other. Through more efficient changes in treatment, distribution and end uses in water use, energy use can be made more efficient and vice versa. This can extend back to saving energy in the Self Supplied Industrial realm of energy production thus saving water that would normally go into the process of producing this energy.

Next Steps:

Potential next steps will draw from the 2013 Water/Energy Nexus Workshops, discussions with energy experts, basin implementation plans, and the Colorado State Drought Plan.

References:

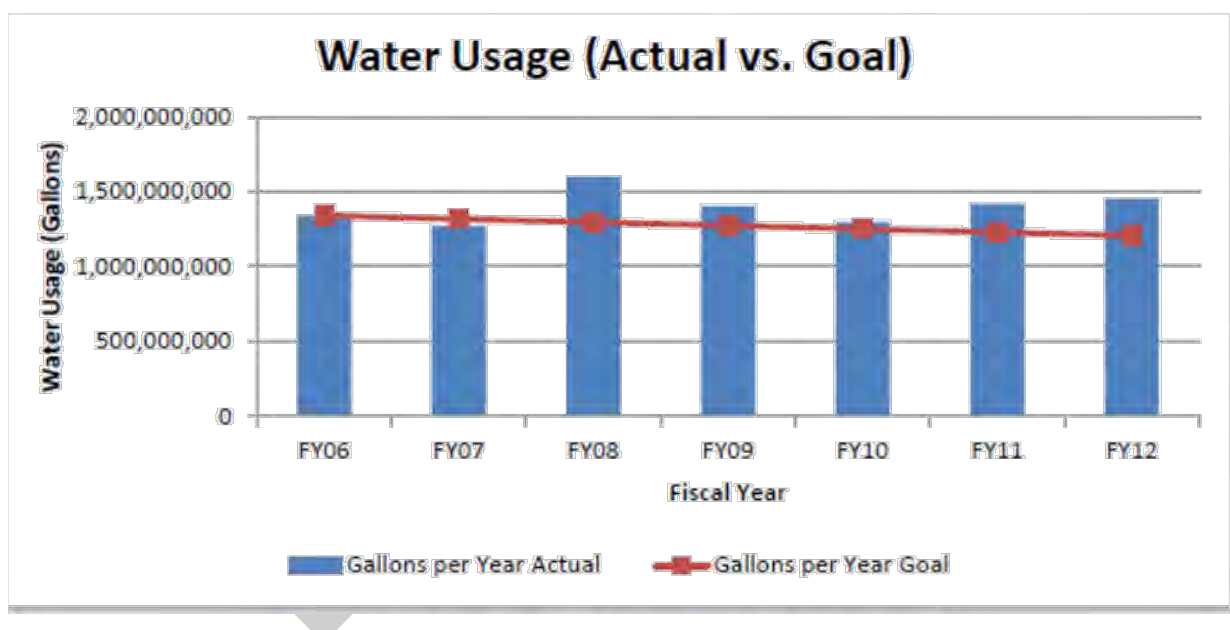
- Alliance for Water Efficiency/American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (AWE 2013).
- Water-Energy Nexus Research: Recommendations for Future Opportunities.
- Western Resource Advocates (WRA 2009). Water Conservation = Energy Conservation
- 2014 discussion with energy experts (Colorado Energy Office, Xcel Energy, Western Resource Advocates)

5.6.6 State Agency Conservation

The Colorado Energy Office has been facilitating a Greening Government initiative since Governor Bill Ritter issued Executive Order D 0012 07. The following is taken from the 2012 Greening Government Annual Report Card (Colorado Energy Office, 2012). The Executive Order mandated State agencies to reduce water consumption by 10% by FY 2012 over the baseline usage of FY 2006(Executive Order D 0012 07). State agencies have reduced their water consumption by various methods such as installation of efficient plumbing fixtures, advanced lawn irrigation controls and taking advantage of re-use water.

The State has **seen an increase of 8.4%** (112.5 million gallons of water) in water use. The following data was provided by each agency individually and reflects their best attempt to record all water purchases between FY'06-FY'12 in EnergyCAP. ***Water usage has not been normalized for the increase in state employees, increasingly hot weather, or new water-intensive industries.***

Of the 14 agencies and departments with owned square footage, six reduced their water use by more than 10%, four reduced their water use by less than 10%, and four increased their water use.



Exemplary State Agency Projects

- Colorado Department of Health and Environment has decreased its water use by 11% since 2005. They replaced 2 acres of bluegrass lawn with xeric grass species which is saving over 2.5 million gallons per year. They also replaced high flushing urinals with .5 gallons per flush urinals and also installed waterless urinals.
- Capitol Complex facilities personnel have conducted some notable efforts over the last few years. They worked with Denver Water to audit all cooling towers for the Capitol Complex and can reduce consumption by almost 500,000 gallons per year. They can also now take

advantage of Denver Water incentives. Another example that is not captured in this annual report is a landscape transformation initiative that is taking place on the Capitol grounds. A collaborative group from the Governor's Office, CWCB, Denver Water, the Denver Botanic Gardens, Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association and Capitol Complex Facilities is working on plans to reduce water consumption and demonstrate the benefits of water wise landscaping on the Capitol building grounds. This high profile project will highlight to the public what can be done with Colorado appropriate landscapes.

Recommendations from Annual Report Card

- Continue requiring water reductions by all state agencies.
- Require agencies to take advantage of free or reduced cost water audits by their water utility, if applicable.
- Look into bulk purchasing of water efficient appliances for state agencies.
- Continue educating Council about the Energy/Water Nexus
- Research and identify alternative ways to provide sufficient funding for water efficiency.
- Continue encouraging agencies to use their water rights.

This water use is an important standard to strive for in that the State should lead by example in its own facility water use. This idea ties back to the philosophy of the SWSI Levels Framework where water providers should prioritize their foundational activities first and then focus on what they have direct control over within their own facilities. While much has been done at state facilities, better tracking and quantification could take place to normalize the data for weather, number of employees and any new intensive uses that have come online.

References:

- Colorado Energy Office.2012. Greening Government Annual Report Card. Retrieved from <http://www.colorado.gov/energy/>
- Executive Order D 0012 07 (2007)

Table B-1
Conservation Levels Analysis Appendix

Community	Goal	Saved by 2017 (AF)	Goal Time Frame (yrs)	Annual Reduction	
Alamosa	30%	1,073	10	3%	32.2
Arapahoe Cnty	5%	214	10	1%	1.1
Aurora	10%	2,507	25	0%	10.0
Boulder	19%	2,240	26	1%	16.4
Brighton	10%	1,051	10	1%	10.5
Castle Pines North	10%	221	9	1%	2.5
Castle Rock	18%	969	25	1%	7.0
Centennial WSD	5%	933	6	1%	7.8
Colo Spgs	8%	8,505	10	1%	64.6
Denver Water	22%	39,400	9	2%	963.1
East Laramier Cnty	7%	572	10	1%	4.1
Erie	17%	960	5	3%	32.6
Evans	13%	493	10	1%	6.4
Ft Collins/Loveland	12%	1,158	10	1%	13.9
Firestone	7%	280	10	1%	2.0
Ft. Lupton	4%	3,992	10	0%	15.6
Ft. Morgan	10%	149	20	1%	0.7
Fountain	3%	181	5	1%	1.1
Greeley	8%	1,155	21	0%	4.5
Left Hand WD	10%	712	10	1%	7.1
Longmont	8%	1,825	10	1%	14.1
N Table Mtn	10%	350	5	2%	7.0
N Weld Cnty	8%	400	10	1%	3.2
Northglenn	6%	382	23	0%	1.1
PAWSD	9%	409	10	1%	3.9
Parker WSD	15%	1,583	10	2%	23.7
Rifle	5%	162	6	1%	1.4
Salida	13%	274	10	1%	3.6
Windsor	12%	276	10	1%	3.2
wt. avg					1.75%



Colorado's Water Plan – Urban Conservation White Paper

The Gap

Colorado faces a challenge in determining how to meet the future urban water demands of a rapidly growing population. Many stakeholders, with assistance from the State, have expended significant time and thought into how to solve this challenge – work remains ongoing and will continue into the future. Meeting our State's urban "gap" will require water providers to decrease demands, increase supply, and use existing supplies more effectively. Our human inability to control the climate, precipitation, or the decisions of all water actors should result in an immediate and long-standing focus on managing demands. Demand management solutions are cost-effective, incremental, and flexible – exactly the type of solutions needed to manage our urban water system in an uncertain future.

A Goal

The Governor can provide critical leadership in this arena by setting a statewide goal of saving 600,000 acre-feet (AF) of water through urban conservation by 2050. This effort will necessitate close coordination and partnership between state agencies, water providers, the conservation community, and the general public. Having a strong goal would change the tone of the conversation from "Can we do this?" or "Should we do this?" to "We must do this, let's figure out how." As the Governor has repeatedly stated, every conversation about water must begin with conservation.

Because urban conservation planning is conducted on a 10-15 year timeline, intermediary goals may be appropriate. A statewide 600,000 AF reduction in demand by 2050 is equivalent to reducing per capita water use at a rate of 1% per year, and is commensurate with CWCB's "high" conservation scenario. Therefore, a 15% reduction in statewide per capita use between 2010 and 2025 may be an appropriate mid-term goal. This level of reduction – 1% per year – is the *status quo*, consistent with the level of success achieved by Colorado's water providers over the past decade, by Colorado River water users across the Interior West over the past two decades, and is the average forecasted demand reduction for Colorado's providers over the next ten years.

How to Achieve the Goal

Colorado's Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) 2010 provides a wealth of information and approaches for how to maintain this level of water conservation savings into the future. Several key SWSI documents, including the *Conservation Levels Analysis* and *Conservation Strategies Report*,¹ are robust, peer-reviewed, and state-of-the-science reports on water conservation. Much of the information below is taken directly from these reports. In addition, many of the strategies described here are ones

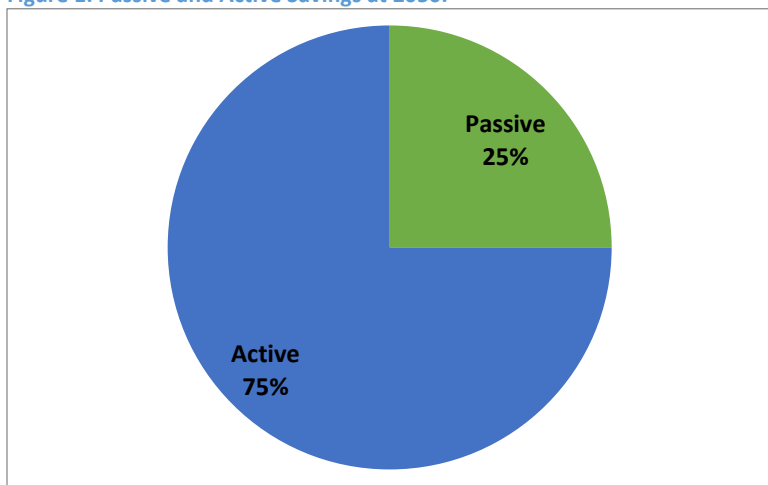
¹ These two reports are SWSI 2010 Appendix K and Appendix L, available at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/water-supply-planning/Pages/SWSI2010.aspx>.

that the IBCC recommended in its *Letter to the Governors* and are detailed in the *No/Low Regrets Strategies*.

Achieving the goal of reducing demand by 600,000 AF requires analyzing the different, major sectors of urban water use and then identifying various options to achieve reductions in each sector, including both passive and active water conservation savings as well as water loss control.

Passive water conservation savings – reductions that will occur without active, or purposeful, conservation efforts on the part of towns, water providers, residents, or industry – will result in more than 150,000 AF of demand reduction by 2050. Said differently, one-quarter of the goal will be met as a result of technological improvements and state and federal policies that are already in effect (Figure 1). These passive savings accrue to both the residential and non-residential sectors described below. Active water conservation savings, on the other hand, will require an increase in purposeful effort by comparison to today's levels to achieve the remaining 450,000 AF. Accordingly, more detail is provided below on the conservation savings achievable in the residential indoor, non-residential indoor, outdoor, and water loss sectors.

Figure 1. Passive and Active Savings at 2050.



Residential Indoor Use

To achieve the overall goal of 600,000 AF of conservation savings, indoor per capita use for both single-family and multi-family housing must be reduced to an average of 30 gallons per capita per day by 2050. Statewide, the current average is approximately 50 gallons, but many families today are already using less than 35. Getting to 30 gallons will require homes in 2050 to have high efficiency fixtures with toilets using 1 gallon per flush, clothes washers at 13.5 gallons per load, showers at 1.5 gallons per minute, lavatory faucets at 0.5 gallons per minute, and dishwashers at 7 gallons per load, on average. These efficient fixtures are already available in today's marketplace, so future actions must focus on getting them installed.

For Colorado's existing housing stock, reductions from passive savings, as old fixtures are replaced gradually over time with higher efficiency varieties, will achieve a significant portion of these savings. Overall however, the reduced level of use desired under this goal will require working with both existing

housing stock and new construction. For existing homes, water provider incentive programs (like rebates or direct install) are a common approach that should be bolstered with State support. Requiring home sellers to retrofit their water using fixtures before selling a home, sometimes called “retrofit on resale,” is an idea suggested by the IBCC conservation subcommittee and is currently in practice in other states. The recent point of sale legislation that limits the sale of some household fixtures at home improvement centers to high-efficiency, WaterSense models, is another option that is currently awaiting signature by Colorado’s governor. Phasing out the sale of inefficient bathroom faucets, showerheads, toilets, and urinals, is projected to save nearly 40,000 AF of water alone by 2050.

Forty percent of the homes that will exist in 2050 have yet to be built. Thus, new city or state ordinances, codes, and regulations that affect new construction present a significant opportunity for reducing water demand. For example, Colorado’s plumbing code should be updated to require that installed fixtures meet or exceed the US Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) WaterSense specifications, an option the IBCC conservation subcommittee recommended. Cities should use their land use approval and permitting authority to prioritize or expedite building permit process for homes that meet or exceed efficiency guidelines, as done in Westminster. Alternatively, water providers should charge a reduced tap fee for homes that meet efficiency guidelines, as done in Broomfield and Aurora.

In combination, these actions can provide 210,000 AF of water, representing 35% of the water conservation goal (see Figure 2 at end).

Non-Residential Indoor Use

To achieve the overall goal of 600,000 AF of conservation savings, non-residential indoor per capita water use must be reduced 30% by 2050. Again, passive savings will help achieve this goal. Such savings will accrue from the natural replacement of urinals, pre-rinse spray valves used in restaurants, and other institutional, commercial, and industrial equipment. Furthermore, as the cost of water rises over the next 40 years, non-residential customers are often concerned about how utility costs affect their bottom line and so have a natural incentive to reduce their use.

Regulations that eliminate single-pass cooling in HVAC towers and the establishment of non-residential efficiency benchmarks are two approaches that the State should lead to reduce water use in this sector. Given the State’s ownership and management of many buildings and properties (e.g., corrections and administrative buildings), direct investment in efficiency improvements is another place the State should take a leadership role. Requiring adherence with WaterSense through a commercial buildings program that specifies water-efficiency targets is another opportunity for both the State and local governments.² Auditing high demand customers (with follow-up efforts), designing water-budget based rates specific to non-residential users, providing rebates and incentives to high demand customers, and basing tap fees on anticipated demand are all important water provider-led options in the non-residential sector.

² Senate Bill 14-103, which phases in the sale of high efficiency WaterSense certified fixtures, applies to both residential and non-residential users.

In combination, these actions can provide 120,000 AF of water, representing 20% of the water conservation goal.

Outdoor Use

To achieve the overall goal of 600,000 AF of conservation savings, outdoor per capita use must be reduced 33% by 2050. Outdoor irrigation uses more than half of the annual urban water supply in Colorado. Fortunately, residents' landscape preferences have evolved over the past decade; recent legislation is supporting this trend, and the ongoing densification of urban areas will continue to further reduce future per capita outdoor water demands.

Similar to indoor use measures, new land use ordinances, codes, and regulations that affect new construction can play a significant role in reducing water demands for the 40% of homes that are yet to be built. Community planning efforts must begin to incorporate the direct connection between the form of new development and its water footprint. Improvements at the local government level must include regulations governing landscape and irrigation system design and installation, as well as the incorporation of greywater systems.

At the State level, the IBCC conservation subcommittee recommended that all new landscapes and major renovations adhere to EPA's WaterSense landscape specifications. Other State-led efforts should include adding rainwater harvesting to urban irrigation supply, assisting local communities in updating their land use codes to be more water-smart, developing best management practices for outdoor landscaping and irrigation, and certifying landscape professionals so that education and field experience – rather than “Chuck and a Truck” – become the norm.

Finally, there are initiatives that local water providers should undertake. These include: targeted irrigation efficiency evaluations (with follow-up), water budget-based water rates with a sharp increase in higher tiers, and incentives to replace existing turf with lower water requirement plantings.

In combination, these actions can provide 200,000 AF of water, representing one-third of the water conservation goal.

Water Loss

To achieve the overall goal of 600,000 AF of conservation savings, physical water losses from all water providers' distribution systems must be reduced to 6% of total system demand by 2050. Water loss control is more than just finding and fixing leaks at the individual homeowner or utility level. It also means system auditing, loss tracking, and infrastructure maintenance. Reducing utility water loss is a significant water savings opportunity for Colorado and will be necessary for more than 90% of Colorado's water providers.

The State can play a leadership role in reducing water loss by providing incentives and promulgating regulations to ensure that providers take the necessary steps to reduce losses in their system. Requiring providers to implement the *American Water Works Association M36 Manual's* approach to water loss, and providing grant assistance for implementing this approach (as suggested by the IBCC conservation subcommittee) are strong options. Over time, water loss audit results could be used to develop

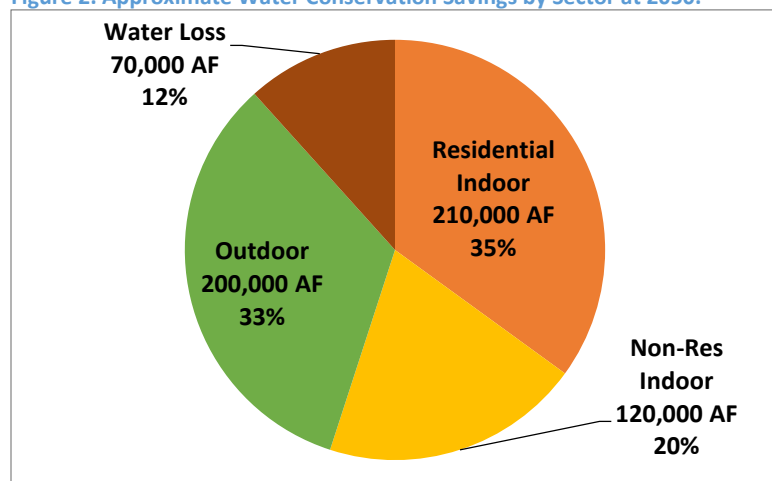
minimum water loss standards. At the water provider level, upgrading meter testing and repair programs, as well as completely funding capital replacement, and leak detection and repair programs are two additional options. It is worth noting that several billion dollars will be needed across the state in the next few decades to replace much of our aging water infrastructure, which presents an immense opportunity to upgrade in a manner that recognizes reductions in per capita demand – pumps can be smaller, pipes can be narrower, which will result in large cost-savings.

In combination, these actions can provide 70,000 AF of water, representing 12% of the water conservation goal.

Closing

Achieving 600,000 AF in conservation success will require simultaneous effort across the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors with a mix of strategies. The conservation portfolio discussed above provides this balance, gaining efficiency improvements across many different sectors (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Approximate Water Conservation Savings by Sector at 2050.



These conservation solutions will also take a balance of effort at the state, regional, and local levels from water providers and government. Beyond essential “foundational” programs (including pricing), water providers should utilize a mix of ongoing programs, regulation, and education to meet conservation goals – tailored to their community’s interests. The State should enable reducing demand by 600,000 AF through leadership and goal-setting, as well as providing funding, technical assistance, and political support. It is essential to set a clear path, and to spell out how we get there, together.



Colorado's Water Plan – Reuse White Paper

The Gap

Colorado faces a challenge in determining how to meet the future water demands of a rapidly growing population. Many stakeholders, with assistance from the State, have expended significant time and thought into how to solve this challenge – work remains ongoing and will continue into the future. Meeting our State's urban "gap" will require water providers to decrease demands, increase supply¹, and use supplies more effectively.

Our inability to control the climate, precipitation, or the decisions of all water actors should result in an immediate and long-term focus on fully optimizing supplies through reuse as allowed under Colorado law. In addition to reuse through exchanges, reuse projects in which water is physically captured and returned to distribution systems are rapidly becoming a preferable and viable option and are representative of the type of solution that is needed to manage our urban water supplies in an uncertain future.

The Colorado State Water Plan should acknowledge reuse as an attractive and viable alternative to be considered by all water users as alternative strategies are compared. Incentives to promote the full and effective utilization of reusable water supplies should be accompanied with regulatory and financial support.

The Goal

The Governor and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) can provide critical leadership in the Colorado Water Plan by setting a **goal of promoting the full and effective reuse of municipal supplies and by initiating a reuse planning process** to determine the most effective way to achieve that goal. Reuse by individual communities is important, but regional and intergovernmental opportunities on a watershed basis are likely to provide the greatest value as partnerships share costs and infrastructure and increase flexibility in making water available when and where it's needed.

Evaluating reuse opportunities will be a complex undertaking. Given the importance of understanding and comparing supply alternatives for their ability to help meet the M&I "gap," developing a Colorado reuse plan should be a priority and targeted for completion by December 2015. This will require the state to quickly prioritize the development of a reuse plan, dedicating sufficient financial and staff resources, and acquiring consultant assistance. At the same time, Basin Implementation Plans should include an evaluation of reuse opportunities associated with all existing and potential supplies and projects (for example, for the IPPs in Table 2).

Other states' planning processes can provide useful examples to aid Colorado in moving forward. As the May 16th draft of Chapter 5.6.2 of the Colorado Water Plan notes, significant headway on reuse is being made in California as a result of statewide reuse goals and legislation. Oklahoma's Water for 2060

¹ Healthy, flowing rivers and streams are integral to sustaining the Colorado we all value. New supplies must be developed in ways that don't harm, and may enhance, streamflows.

legislation sets a goal of no additional fresh water use statewide in 2060 than in 2012 with that goal being achieved through conservation, efficiency and reuse. An Advisory Council is charged with recommending programs and incentives toward meeting those goals to the Governor and Legislature by late 2015. In Arizona the Governor appointed a Blue Ribbon Panel on water sustainability to improve the long term sustainability of Arizona's water supplies through increased conservation and recycling. The Panel initially focused on increasing reuse through detailed examinations of water quality, regulatory, infrastructure and public acceptance challenges

Reusable Supplies and Means of Reuse

Colorado's Appropriation Doctrine allows for specific water sources to be reused, though successive reuse of many return flows by downstream water users occurs regularly. Reusable supplies typically include most transbasin imports, the consumptive use portion of transferred water rights² (usually from agriculture), non-tributary groundwater, and native supplies with reuse decreed (typically newer rights).

Reuse may occur in a variety of ways. The exchange of reusable return flows with downstream water users is common and historically has been an effective means of reuse. However, as streamflows become fully appropriated, the ability to develop new exchanges is greatly limited. Lack of integrated delivery infrastructure also limits exchange opportunities. Direct reuse occurs when utilities capture reusable returns flows and return them to their water system for appropriate treatment and distribution, as in Denver Water's non-potable reclaimed water system³, for example. Indirect reuse occurs when return flows are routed through an "environmental barrier" (a stream or river) before being recaptured, treated appropriately, often blended with other supplies, and distributed. Recycled water can be used for potable uses or non-potable uses, such as irrigation and industrial processes. Colorado has potable indirect reuse projects in place with Aurora's Prairie Waters Project⁴ being perhaps the best known example of this. All direct use projects in the state are currently for non-potable uses only. However, indirect potable reuse is common, with municipalities throughout the state diverting upstream water providers' return flows. With proper treatment and monitoring – especially looking to the future – direct potable reuse is a highly likely approach to addressing the gap.

How to Achieve the Goal

Fully optimizing reuse of municipal supplies will require a reuse plan, with at least three sub-elements that: (1) quantify opportunities; (2) evaluate all reuse options; and (3) chart a path forward. Public education and awareness will be critically important to gaining further support especially when compared to other strategies.

Develop a State Reuse Plan

Our water supplies are an extremely precious resource and we need to ensure we are efficient and effective in our use of them. Maximizing reuse potential will require creative, collaborative approaches that utilize shared infrastructure and foster institutional change. This effort will necessitate close

²Only the portion of a transferred water right that was historically consumed can be reused to ensure that historical return flows are maintained and that other water users are not injured.

³ <http://www.denverwater.org/WaterQuality/RecycledWater/>

⁴ <https://www.auroragov.org/LivingHere/Water/WaterSystem/PrairieWaters/index.htm>

coordination and a transparent partnership between state agencies, water providers, the reuse community, and the general public. The media will play a critical role in delivering appropriate messages and characterizations of all future water projects and programs, especially with the larger scale for reuse potential that will be considered going forward. A state planning process focused on developing a comprehensive understanding of reuse potential, obstacles, as well as the means to overcome those will move us towards our goal. Basin Implementation Plans can begin laying the groundwork by clearly identifying reusable supplies associated with existing and planned and potential supplies and projects.

Reuse opportunities should be evaluated alongside other potential supplies to identify coincident benefits as well as tradeoffs, costs, reliability, public concerns, and other issues. We should also evaluate how the state can facilitate and incentivize progress, for example, exploring various funding sources and regulatory reform to support reuse projects and education and communication necessary to achieve public acceptance.

Evaluate All Reuse Options

All means of reuse need to be considered and potable reuse needs to grow as a viable option, especially looking towards the future. Non-potable reuse is important in stretching supplies but insufficient demand, especially in the non-irrigation season, can constrain the development potential for outdoor water programs. Non-potable uses also require separate delivery infrastructure because water isn't treated to drinking water quality. This can be very expensive and is severely limited for application to existing developments where new infrastructure is required. When water is treated to potable quality, a tremendous benefit is that it can be delivered through one set of delivery infrastructure to all customers in all seasons and managed as one with other supplies. Whether direct or indirect potable reuse, such an approach requires intensive and effective monitoring to ensure public safety of drinking water supplies.

Regional reuse projects may provide the greatest value. Such projects could take many forms. A Colorado Reuse Plan could consider partnerships, such as WISE, or even the feasibility of a regional water supply institution. Shared infrastructure to maximize reuse yields should be evaluated, possibly including, but not limited to gravel pit regulating storage, reservoir peak carryover storage, regional pump back systems, and water treatment and distribution systems.

Accurately Quantify Opportunities

It's critical that reasonable and realistic projections be developed when quantifying the "gap" and potential reuse water supply project yields. A key element is that when water is reused to extinction through successive reuse one acre-foot of reusable supply has the potential to be extended to include an additional acre-foot of reuse.⁵ Additionally a long list of supplies *may* be reusable: new water from growth into existing re-usable supplies, transferred agricultural consumptive use from purchases and dedications of agricultural supplies (including the urbanization of agricultural lands), alternative agriculture transfers (ATMs), new transbasin diversions, non-tributary groundwater, and native supplies with decreed reuse. The CWCB Portfolio Tool, developed as part of the 2010 Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI), identifies a variety of reuse Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs, Table 1). The Portfolio Tool also

⁵ Colorado Springs Utilities and the Pueblo Board of Water Works are examples of water providers that successfully realize one acre-foot of reuse for every acre-foot of reusable supply, doubling the effectiveness of these supplies.

includes numerous others IPPs that would have **additional** reuse potential (Table 2) as each is based at least in part on reusable supplies. When we consider reuse from these and existing supplies, it's clear that significant reuse opportunities exist, especially in the Arkansas and South Platte River Basins.

Utilities' water conservation plans, water master plans, and similar documents often provide useful provider-specific information, but a compilation of regional data is needed. Examining the Front Range Denver Metro region, the *1999 Metropolitan Water Supply Investigation*⁶ (MWSI) estimated future reusable return flows totaling 268,000 AFY, with plans by communities to reuse approximately 186,000 AFY through exchange, direct, and indirect reuse. However, the MWSI report is more than 15 years old so estimates must be updated to reflect current reuse supplies, plans, and potential. A 2012 report by Western Resource Advocates (WRA), Trout Unlimited, and the Colorado Environmental Coalition⁷ estimated municipal reuse in the Arkansas basin could increase to a total of 46,500 AFY and additional projects are currently being evaluated or developed.

Work needs to be done to update reuse IPPs. For example, the WISE (Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency) partnership needs to be clearly identified. This project would utilize Aurora Water's Prairie Waters Project infrastructure to also deliver reusable supplies to Denver and, when excess supplies are available, to ten Douglas County entities to help reduce their reliance on nonrenewable groundwater. WISE is estimated to provide up to 60,000 AFY on average at build out for South Metro entities and about 15,000 AFY of dry year supplies for Denver Water upon project completion.⁸ Similarly, the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement (CRCA), signed in the fall of 2013, states that "Denver Water will fully construct its recycled water system with the capacity to provide 17,500 acre-feet annually..." The CRCA includes 10,000 AFY of additional reuse or conservation by Denver Water and estimates that Denver Water's exchanges will increase by 21,700 AFY on average.

Facilitate Progress

The mention of water reuse often prompts a list of reasons why such projects are difficult to implement, but all new water supplies come with complex challenges. Rather than being deterred by such hurdles, we should instead determine what needs to be done to overcome them. Funding, technical assistance, political support and public acceptance will be essential.

A wealth of resources exists to aid in making progress. In Colorado we have *WateReuse Colorado* and the *RMSAWWA/RMWEA Joint Reuse Committee* (Rocky Mountain Section American Water Works Association/Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association. These include reuse professionals (utilities, consultants, researchers, and others), many of whom already have reuse programs in place. These same organizations also have national associations focused on increasing the viability and acceptability of water reuse. Tremendous resources are being invested in research in treatment technologies (much focused on potable reuse), energy use, cost benefit analyses, social research, and much more.

⁶ Hydrosphere Resource Consultants, 1999. Metropolitan Water Supply Investigation Final Report. To the Colorado Water Conservation Board. January, 1999.

⁷ Western Resource Advocates, et al., 2012. Filling the Gap: Meeting Future Urban Water Needs in the Arkansas Basin, March 2012. <http://westernresourceadvocates.org/water/fillingthegap/FillingTheGapArkansas-Final.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.denverwater.org/SupplyPlanning/WaterSupplyProjects/WISE/> accessed on April 17, 2014.

The State can help incentivize reuse projects by exploring funding options from the Water Supply Reserve Account, other CWCB funds, and/or the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority to incorporate grant/loan combinations or lower interest rates for reuse projects. Bureau of Reclamation Title XVI and other reuse specific funding opportunities should also be investigated.

We can increase education and outreach to water providers, planners, the public, and others about the important role that reuse can and does play in meeting water needs in our state. Educating people about the hydrologic cycle, the strict regulatory environment in which recycled water treatment and use occurs, and the incidental potable reuse that takes place every day, will go a long way towards increasing acceptance of reuse, especially direct potable reuse.

In Conclusion

Strong leadership and state initiated reuse-specific planning is necessary to meet the goal of fully optimizing reuse potential. We must better understand reuse opportunities, develop political support, and pursue collaborative, creating thinking. Reuse is a valuable supply alternative, increasing yields from new and existing supplies, and is one of the most resilient water resources available to us, even under uncertain climate and hydrologic conditions.

It is recommended that more descriptive reuse projects and programs be identified by the Basin Roundtables and stakeholder groups so the concepts introduced in this White Paper can be considered by legislators and the interested public. Those concepts should be developed to a level where the primary infrastructure and operating conditions are represented along with an initial assessment of the environmental, social and economic attributes of the proposal. In that way, the reuse proposals can be more readily compared against other water supply approaches.

Table 1: Reuse IPPs from the CWCB Portfolio Tool

Basin	Project	Yield (acre-feet/year)		
		Low	Medium	High
Arkansas	El Paso County Water Authority Reuse	2,500	2,500	2,500
Arkansas	Pueblo BWW Reuse Plan	21,000	25,000	30,000
Colorado	City of Aspen - Golf course reuse/West Aspen Reclaimed Project	540	540	540
Metro	City of Aurora - Prairie Waters	4,900	6,900	9,700
Metro	City of Thornton - Recapture and exchange with gravel lakes	1,000	1,200	1,500
Metro	City of Brighton - recapture and exchange	2,000	2,200	2,900
Metro	Town of Castle Rock - Reuse of existing firm yield	1,900	1,900	1,900
Metro	ECCV - Northern Project	3,700	3,900	4,500
Metro	City of Northglenn - Existing reuse plan	450	500	650
South Platte	Erie - Reclaimed water	3,700	3,800	4,300
South Platte	City of Longmont - Union pumpback	1,800	2,100	3,000
TOTAL		43,490	50,540	61,490

Table 2: IPPs with Reuse Potential from the CWCB Portfolio Tool

Basin	Project Type	Project	Yield (acre-feet/year)		
			Low	Medium	High
South Platte	Agricultural Transfers	Various Participants – NISP*	34,000	35,000	37,000
Arkansas	Firming Transbasin Rights	Pueblo BWW acquiring shares in Bessemer Ditch.	5,000	6,200	7,200
Arkansas	Agricultural Transfers	Eagle River Joint Use Project	5,500	5,500	5,500
Arkansas	Agricultural Transfers	Arkansas Valley Conduit	1,800	2,500	3,400
Arkansas	Agricultural Transfers	Other Arkansas Ag Transfer Projects - Upper Arkansas	3,600	3,600	3,600
Arkansas	Agricultural Transfers	Other Arkansas Firming Transbasin Projects - Upper Arkansas	3,600	3,600	3,600
Arkansas	Agricultural Transfers	Other Arkansas Ag Transfer Projects -Southwestern Arkansas	620	620	620
Colorado	Agricultural Transfers	Town of Silt - Last Chance Ditch change of use	160	160	160
Colorado	New Transbasin Project	Other Colorado Ag Transfer Projects - Eagle County	2100	3,000	4,600
Colorado	New Transbasin Project	Other Colorado Ag Transfer Projects - Mesa County	690	1,500	3,200
Gunnison	New Transbasin Project	Other Gunnison Ag Transfer Projects -Mesa County	370	430	550
Metro	Firming Transbasin Rights	City of Thornton - Northern Project	7,000	7,800	10,000
Metro	Firming Transbasin Rights	City of Brighton - Ag transfers (well aug), SPlatte & Beebe Draw Project	2,200	2,500	3,200
Metro	Agricultural Transfers	City of Aurora - Eagle River Project	3,200	4,500	6,300
Metro	Agricultural Transfers	Denver Water - Total Share of Moffat Collection System Project	8,700	10,000	14,000
Metro	Agricultural Transfers	City of Arvada - Moffat Collection System Project	1,400	1,800	2,200
Metro	Agricultural Transfers	City and County of Broomfield - Windy Gap Firming Project	3,500	3,800	4,800
Metro	Agricultural Transfers	Other Metro Ag Transfer Projects - Denver Metro	12,000	14,000	19,000
Metro	Agricultural Transfers	Other Metro Ag Transfer Projects - South Metro	5,100	7,100	9,600
Metro	Firming Transbasin Rights	City of Northglenn - Clear Creek ag rights	300	350	450
Metro	Agricultural Transfers	City of Arvada - Clear Creek ag rights	500	600	700
South Platte	Firming Transbasin Rights	City of Longmont - Water rights dedication policy	3,800	3,900	4,200
South Platte	Agricultural Transfers	City of Greeley - Acquisition of Poudre ag rights	9,000	9,000	9,000
South Platte	Firming Transbasin Rights	Various Participants - Windy Gap Firming Project	18,000	19,000	21,000
South Platte	Agricultural Transfers	Other South Platte Ag Transfer Projects - Northern	6,100	6,400	7,300

Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 6/6/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: June 6, 2014

Input provided by: Eric Hecox, South Metro Water Supply Authority

Method of submission: Email to cowaterplan@state.co.us

Related sections of CWP Framework: 5.1

Summary of Input: Summary of attachments: The letter from the South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA) and their represented 14 water providers expressed concerns about the current draft of Section 5.10. SMWSA successions the section should 1) describe the current inefficiencies and problems with the current permitting process; and 2) recommend specific and actionable items on how to make the permitting process more efficient, consistent, and predictable. The SMWSA encourages the CWCB to consider the day-to-day challenges of water supply when developing big picture policy statements.

Documents Submitted for Review: Letter

Staff Response: CWCB appreciates the detailed letter from the South Metro Water Supply Authority and will consider the permitting improvement suggestion during the revision process of Section 5.10.

James Eklund
Director, CWCB
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, Colorado 80203
James.Eklund@state.co.us
cowaterplan@state.co.us

Dear Mr. Eklund:

South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA) is an organization of 14 water providers that work together to plan, source, and develop water for Douglas and Arapahoe Counties. Collectively, SMWSA members currently serve about 300,000 people (80% of Douglas County and 10% of Arapahoe County) and its customers are expected to grow to 500,000 by 2050. The South Metro area is home to 7 of Colorado's 9 Fortune 500 companies and produces 30% of all of Colorado's earned income.

I am writing with respect to Section 5.10 "Creating More Efficient Permitting Processes" of Colorado's Water Plan. I reviewed the initial draft and listened to the discussion at the May 21, 2014 Board meeting.

SMWSA agrees with many of the comments from the Board members that this section is a key deliverable for Colorado's Water Plan and that the initial draft is short on detail and needs significant work. The initial draft contains background on the current regulatory framework with general descriptions that could easily be found with a simple internet search. The short half-page discussion on how to improve the process only contains general statements without any actionable items on how the general platitudes would actually be achieved. We agree with Director Hoppe that this section is not complete and needs to identify the problem specifically, and we agree with Director Smith that the section is missing "how" improvements can be made.

In order to be meaningful, SMWSA believe that this section should be greatly expanded to do the following:

1. Describe the current inefficiencies and problems with the current permitting process; and
2. Recommend specific and actionable items on how to make the permitting process more efficient, consistent, and predictable.

SMWSA's comments on Colorado's Water Plan included a number of specific proposals on how to improve both the state and federal permitting processes (permitting related comments are reattached to this letter for your convenience). These ideas are surely not

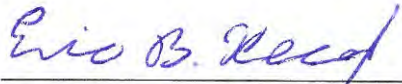
the only ways to improve the process and some of the ideas may not garner broad-based support. SMWSA hopes that other stakeholders will similarly put forth ideas for improving the permitting process. CWCB conducted extensive interviews with water providers, environmental groups, and state and federal agencies and likely gathered a number of ideas that could be included in subsequent drafts and further explored. We also hope that those who disagree with one or more of the ideas proposed will contribute alternative ideas and rather than saying that reforms are too hard and cannot happen.

SMWSA, our 14 member water providers, and water utilities throughout the state face the real challenge of providing a safe and reliable water supply to Colorado's communities. We have to live with not just the big picture policy statements often made about improving the permitting process, but the nuts-and-bolts of how water project permitting plays out day-to-day on the ground.

SMWSA strongly supports the Governor's desire that Colorado's Water Plan helps create an efficient process for permitting important water projects. Unfortunately, as Section 5.10 is now drafted, it lacks both the meaningfulness and substance necessary to live up to the section's title. It is imperative that the section both describes the inefficiencies and problems with the current permitting process as well as recommends specific and actionable items on how to improve the permitting process.

Thank you for your continued work on Colorado's Water Plan. Please let me know if SMWSA can be of assistance or answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Eric Hecox, Executive Director

Attachment 1: Improving Water Project Permitting Processes

CWCB Requested Input

- *Streamlined Permitting Thoughts:* Tell CWCB your thoughts on how this can be done without being pre-decisional or undermining permitting processes.
- The purpose of this work is to fine tune permitting process so that decisions are made more quickly, while not determining whether a water project will be successful or not.
- Input on this item will also inform section 5.8 Streamlined Water Project Permitting Processes in Colorado's Water Plan Draft Annotated Framework.

SMWSA Response

South Metro Water Supply Authority offers the following ideas for streamlining water project permitting processes. These ideas are intended as input to the South Platte/Metro Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) as well as to help inform Section 5.8 of Colorado Water Plan Draft Annotated Framework. SMWSA believes that "fine tune" is not very ambitious and the Colorado Water Plan should encourage a "significant improvement" to a permitting process that is currently an inefficient and time/resources wasting process.

Recommendations Related to the Federal Process

- Conservation as a Demand Reducer: Starting in 2010, the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR including CWCB), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) embarked upon a process called Collaborative Approach to Water Supply Permit Evaluation (CAWS). The major outcome of CAWS was an agreement among the three parties that conservation should be used as a demand reducer in analyzing the purpose and need for a project, rather than as an alternative to be analyzed during the alternative analysis phase of an EIS. COE, EPA, and DNR including CWCB agreed to this approach, but it was never formalized in an agreement that could be cited if/when an agency or the public requests that conservation be analyzed as an alternative to a proposed water supply project. The Metro/South Platte Basin BIP and the Colorado Water Plan should state that in future water supply project EIS analysis conservation should be used as a demand reducer. DNR should also reengage COE and EPA to formalize this agreement in way that it can be cited in a lead agency's response to comments.
- Joint Review Process: DNR and CDPHE should analyze instituting a Joint Review Process for water projects similar to the Colorado Joint Review Process (CJRP) used in the 1970's and 1980's for energy projects.
- EIS Methods or Ranges of Acceptability: This idea is similar to the Programmatic EIS idea described below, but less formal. CWCB should establish methods of analysis or ranges of acceptability for areas that are typically debated during permitting. These include: hydrology modeling (level of detail, time step), System Risk (reliability criteria, critical drought, safety factors, climate modeling vs drought of record), conservation as a demand reducer (see above), etc. By establishing methods of

analysis or acceptable ranges that the state recommends using in an EIS process, CWCB can bring greater consistency and predictability to the permitting process. Lead agencies can point to these standards as justification for the level of analysis they require in an EIS.

- Programmatic EIS: Use the development CO Water Plan as a platform for (or to be done concurrently with) a Programmatic EIS. No specific projects would be approved, but it would create an analysis that future specific approvals can live off of. This can establish efficiency, predictability, and consistency in the permitting process by identifying upfront what the COE will accept and the state/water users can agree to. The programmatic EIS can tackle as many or as few issues¹ as the state would like. But on those issues that are looked at in the programmatic EIS there will be more consistency and predictability for future project specific applicants. COE would be the lead on the programmatic EIS working side-by-side with the state through CWCB.
- Sequencing: Encourage COE and EPA to revise their 1990 MOA on sequencing. Their current MOA says that COE must determine the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) first and then look at compensatory mitigation to authorize the LEDPA. A revision would enable public works projects to use compensatory mitigation in the identification of the LEDPA. This revision could be limited to public works projects to make it more palatable to EPA.
- EPA and Scoping: Encourage COE and EPA Region 8 to enter into a local MOA related to scoping. This local MOA could ensure that EPA identifies their concerns during the scoping process on any water supply 404 permit action that involves a Regulatory-lead EIS in the state of Colorado. This MOA would be an effort to address requirements associated with both the NEPA and 404 statutes. A local MOA would provide efficiency for the COE as the lead agency and consistency and predictability for the applicant, by ensuring that the EPA identify all of their potential issues during scoping. Delays in the permitting process often result when EPA identifies new issues that need analysis late in the process. By ensuring all issues EPA is concerned about are identified at scoping, COE and the applicant can plan time and cost for the analysis and not be forced to do new or additional analysis late in the process.
- Make Scoping Binding: Reform NEPA to make scoping binding. Same arguments as above, but it would ensure that all issues that are analyzed in a permit application are identified during scoping and new areas of analysis are not sprung on an applicant late in the process. This would take a change in federal law. The Colorado Water Plan could encourage our Congressional delegation to work on such a reform.

¹ These could include: hydrology framework/platform (level of detail time step, assumptions, etc.), system risk (reliability criteria, critical drought, safety factors, etc.), use of conservation (conservation as a demand reducer as agreed to by the State, COE, and EPA), use of climate models, use rates (standard crop consumptive use, ditch loss, residential, commercial, industrial, etc.),

Recommendations Related to the State Process

- Complete the state processes (401 Cert and Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plan) earlier so the state can take positions on projects and not be pre-decisional. The State should start their process earlier so the federal and state mitigation analysis and requirements are coordinated. The State should aim to complete these processes in between draft EIS and final EIS/ROD. That way they have the information from the draft EIS to base their decisions on, but they make decisions prior to completion of the Federal processes so the State decisions are meaningful and impactful.
- The State should integrate their permitting processes with the federal permitting processes under a Joint Review Process described above.
- Allow applicants to pay for consultant help to state agencies - 3rd party consultants similar to how COE does it for a federal process.
- Create a process for permitting direct potable reuse - identify what criteria are needed, technical feasibility, safety, etc.
- Revise the 1041 process to give counties the ability to have input on water projects but not veto authority.
- If criteria are developed for the State to support projects, the criteria should facilitate implementation of water supply projects, and NOT impose additional hurdles or burdens on the applicant.

Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 6/16/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: June 16, 2014

Input provided by: Mark Pfiher, Front Range Water Council

Method of submission: Email to Rebecca.Mitchell@state.co.us, forwarded to cowaterplan@state.co.us

Related sections of CWP Framework: 5.10

Summary of Input: Text from email: "Becky, in conjunction with the permitting section of the Water Plan, I previously forwarded to you a copy of E.O. 13604. I had one of our summer interns do some follow-up work regarding actions taken under the E.O. See attachment. There are some concepts referenced that may be useful at the state level. I think that this section of the plan could benefit from some additional concrete proposals/recommendations and FRWC members will be taking a closer look with that in mind. Hope this helps."

Documents Submitted for Review: Memorandum on EO13604 actions

Staff Response: CWCB staff will incorporate a description of the presidential executive order into Section 5.10, and will consider additional concepts that may be helpful when developing revisions to the section.

TO: Mark Pifher, Permitting and Compliance Manager

FROM: Christina Contreras, Engineering Support Tech

DATE: June 11, 2014

SUBJECT: Response to Executive Order 13604

Federal agencies have engaged in an interagency initiative to scale up and institutionalize efforts to modernize and improve the efficiency of the Federal permitting and review process. This effort includes four components for achieving on-time, and more efficient permitting and review decisions: (1) A Federal Plan with subsequent Agency Plans; (2) a set of Nationally or Regionally Significant Projects; (3) an enhanced Federal Infrastructure Permitting Dashboard; and (4) performance metrics and reporting to support accountability and continuous improvement. The Federal Plan describes government-wide actions that will be taken to improve Federal permit decision-making and review processes for infrastructure projects, including best practices to institutionalize across government. The Member Agencies of the Steering Committee are responsible for collaboratively identifying and tracking on the Dashboard Nationally or Regionally Significant infrastructure projects through which to test and demonstrate innovations, improvements, and best practices. The enhanced Dashboard will be a tool for interagency collaboration as well as public transparency. The Federal Chief Performance Officer (CPO) is responsible for setting metrics and reporting annually on agency progress towards meeting the goals set out in both the Federal Plan and the Agency Plans.

Take away: agencies are making additional information readily available to the public with the use of IT tools to increase collaboration, transparency, and reduce the time required to make permitting and review decisions.

Nationally and Regionally Significant Projects: Time Savings and On-Time Completion

A total of 50 infrastructure projects pursuant to EO 13604 have been expedited. These include ports and waterways, large-scale renewable energy developments, oil and gas pipelines, roadways, aviation, and ecosystem restoration. Each project has an expedited schedule with clear project milestones, a designated coordinating agency, and is tracked on the public Federal Infrastructure Permitting Dashboard. As of May 2013, 22 of the 50 projects had completed Federal permitting and review process (21 were approved one was denied). Time savings ranged from several months to several years.

Improving Collaboration through IT Tools

The Federal Infrastructure Permitting Dashboard has been expanded to including an internal IT platform to reach different Federal agencies, with hopes of increased Government-wide collaboration, and transparency. The platform enables agencies to develop collaborative schedules, share project documents, and quickly communicate with each other. DOT hosts, funds, and performs maintenance work on the interagency IT platform. The Dashboard tracks progress, supports accountability, and identifies practices that work well, and improve the review process. Standardizing use of the Dashboard among agencies is in the works.

Agency Plans

Each agency on the Steering Committee submitted a detailed plan identifying how it will implement the Federal Action Plan and improve its internal permitting and review process to reduce the time required to make permitting and review decisions.

Example: The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and CEQ are putting together a handbook that details the integration of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process. The handbook will allow for expedited reviews by avoiding duplication of effort allow for better outcomes by ensuring that the NEPA process included comprehensive consideration of historic properties in the early stages of its planning. The handbook was finalized in 2013.

Best Practices

Expanding the Use of IT Tools

Collaboration using IT tools to make scientific data readily available enables infrastructure project management to be more effective, efficient, and increase transparency.

Example: The EPA has released a web-based GIS application, NEPAAssist, that pulls information from publicly available Federal, state, and local datasets, allowing the public to view information about the environmental conditions within the area of a proposed project quickly and easily.

Example: The Fish and Wildlife Services is developing an Information, Planning, and Conservation IT system that enables individuals to identify species of concern, complete effects analysis, expedite environmental review and approval processes, and aid in coordinating conservation efforts across the landscape.

Assigning a Coordinating Agency

Each project on the Dashboard is assigned a coordinating agency responsible for establishing and managing the schedule for the project permitting and review process.

Example: DOT, as the coordinating agency for the Columbia River Crossing Project, connecting Vancouver, WA to Portland, OR, worked closely with state, local, and Federal agencies in developing the schedule for the project. DOT worked with the Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, and other state agencies to establish a Statement of Protocols, which identifies the main points of contact, defined roles, established review timeframes, and a process for dispute resolution.

Integrated Project Plan

Per the Federal Action Plan, OMB developed the Integrated Project Plan (IPP), which is designed to set out the roles and responsibilities of agencies involved in reviewing proposed projects, so as to identify opportunities of collaboration, concurrent reviews, and more efficient information collection. Invested time up-front allows agencies, and project developers to plan an integrated, concurrent review process, which reduces costs and duplication resulting from incomplete assessments of requirements or consecutive reviews.

Example: The Army Corps of Engineers has launched a new planning process referred to as “SMART Planning,” which produces a decision document coordinated by three levels of the organization (CROPS headquarters, division office, and district office). The plan is an overview of the procedures, tips, techniques and tools to implement feasibility studies; the SMART plan is implemented on two projects – the Central Everglades Planning Project and Charleston Harbor.

Information on SMART Planning can be found at:

<http://planning.usace.army.mil/toolbox/smart.cfm?Section=1&Part=0>

Weekly Tracking Call

OMB and DOT assemble a weekly tracking call on which a representative from every agency with project milestones reports on those milestones. This enables improved coordination at both the headquarters and regional offices, while providing an early warning system that enables agencies to identify and correct delays that may arise.

Creating Application Toolkit

Application Toolkit’s will provide a centralized location to access information about the application process, best practices, tools for outreach and engagement, and general information regarding natural, cultural, and visual resources, including assessment approaches and mitigation policies and practices.

Example: The DOE’s Geothermal Technologies Office developed the Open Energy Information (OpenEI) tool outlines the permitting process, Federal, state, and local regulations, geothermal regulatory road map, and process flowcharts.

OpenEI can be found at: http://en.openei.org/wiki/Main_Page

Measuring Results

Example: The DOD has published a new rule to expedite the review of infrastructure projects for impact to the military mission; this review affects regulatory processes of other agencies, such as FAA and BLM. To resolve these issues, DOD has established four mitigation response teams, opened discussions with developers on potential mitigation opportunities, and established an informal review process where developers can request a preliminary review of mission compatibility issues.

Improving Coordination with State, Municipal, and Tribal Governments

DOI’s California Renewable Energy Policy Group (REPG) demonstrates a successful Federal-state coordination with team representatives from Federal and state agencies responsible for permitting projects, including BLM, Fish and Wildlife Services, California Energy Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Services, California Independent Systems Operator, California Public Utilities Commission, and California State Lands Commission. The group meets regularly to identify and resolve issues early in the process, establish “Best Management Practices” for renewable energy development for project developers, review a common set of project applications, and provide a forum for stakeholders to speak directly to Federal and state policy leaders.

DOI and California also undertook a joint Federal-state long-term planning process to develop the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, which is expected to facilitate the review and approval of renewable energy projects, including solar thermal, wind, and other forms of renewable energy and associated infrastructure such as, electric transmission lines necessary for renewable energy development, within parts of Colorado and the Mojave deserts in California.

Linking Planning with Permitting

Federal agencies are developing innovative, science-based roadmaps designed to form a sound foundation for responsible infrastructure development on public lands. These roadmaps, which help to identify optimal locations for different types of infrastructure project development, as well as landscape and watershed-level mitigation opportunities, enable product developers to make better decisions, enable Federal agencies to make quick decisions, and create the opportunity to engage the appropriate stakeholders to enhance environmental outcomes.

Example: DOI recently completed a Western Solar Plan that provides a blueprint for utility-scale solar energy permitting in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. The plan establishes solar energy zones with access to existing or planned transmission lines, incentives for development within those zones, and a process through which to consider additional zones and solar projects.

Landscape and Watershed-Level Mitigation

Identifying appropriate environmental mitigation requirements upfront using a landscape or watershed level view of where a project is sited can lead to better outcomes for the environment and efficiencies in the mitigation process.

Example: Bureau of Land Management is implementing a Greater Sage-grouse Habitat Conservation Planning Strategy; this framework will allow BLM to incorporate science-based conservation measures for the Greater Sage grouse into agency resource management plans, and in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and state fish and wildlife agencies in the West, to give appropriate considerations to the principal threats to the sage-grouse identified by the FWS.

Going Forward

To strengthen collaboration with States, municipalities, and Tribes an announcement of regional pilot teams focused on specific regional infrastructure will be implemented.

Example: USDA is leading an interagency team to work on projects that will help local communities deal with worsening drought conditions. DOT is working with other regional partners in the Northeast to develop passenger rail service in the Northeast Corridor. DOI is developing a cross-discipline team to facilitate the development of electrical transmission in the West, and will work in North Dakota and Montana to improve oil and gas production. These pilot teams will also serve as laboratories for further innovations.

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Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 6/16/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: June 16, 2014

Input provided by: Stacy Tellinghuisen, Western Resource Advocates

Method of submission: Email to Kevin Reidy, Jacob Bornstein, forwarded to cowaterplan@state.co.us

Related sections of CWP Framework: 5.6.3

Summary of Input: Copy of email: "CWCB Board, Kevin, and Jacob: Please find attached several documents related to the energy-water nexus and the Self-Supplied Industrial subsection of Draft Chapter 5.6 of the Colorado Water Plan. I hope these might be useful resources as you fill out the chapter. Kevin and Jacob, I've included new information on Colorado's emissions trajectory (and likely implications for water resources), and again, I hope it is useful. Please let me know if you have any questions; I look forward to seeing future drafts of the water plan."

Documents Submitted for Review: Comments on draft chapter 5.6, an article on water use in electrical generation, and a NREL Review

Staff Response: CWCB staff appreciates the forwarded resources to assist with development of 5.6.3 and will work to incorporate them into the subsection during drafting.



A Review of Operational Water Consumption and Withdrawal Factors for Electricity Generating Technologies

Jordan Macknick, Robin Newmark,
Garvin Heath, and KC Hallett

NREL is a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.

Technical Report
NREL/TP-6A20-50900
March 2011

Contract No. DE-AC36-08GO28308

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Prepared under Task No. DOCC.1005

NREL is a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.

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Technical Report
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March 2011

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Executive Summary

This report provides estimates of operational water withdrawal and water consumption factors for electricity generating technologies in the United States. Estimates of water factors were collected from published primary literature and were not modified except for unit conversions. The presented water factors may be useful in modeling and policy analyses where reliable power plant level data are not available. Major findings of the report include:

- The power sector withdraws more water than any other sector in the United States and is heavily dependent on available water resources. Changes in water resources may impact the reliability of power generation.
- Water withdrawal and consumption factors vary greatly across and within fuel technologies. Water factors show greater agreement when organized according to cooling technologies as opposed to fuel technologies. Once-through cooling technologies withdraw 10 to 100 times more water per unit of electric generation than recirculating cooling technologies; recirculating cooling technologies consume at least twice as much water as once-through cooling technologies.
- A transition to a less carbon-intensive electricity sector could result in either an increase or decrease in water use, depending on the choice of technologies and cooling systems employed. Concentrating solar power (CSP) technologies and coal facilities with carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) capabilities have the highest water consumption values when using a recirculating cooling system. Non-thermal renewables, such as photovoltaics (PV) and wind, have the lowest water consumption factors.
- Federal datasets on water use in power plants have numerous gaps and methodological inconsistencies. Federal agencies are currently coordinating to improve these data. Water use factors discussed here are good proxies for use in modeling and policy analyses, at least until power plant level data improve.
- Impacts of the power sector on freshwater availability can be reduced by utilizing dry cooling or by using non-freshwater sources for cooling. However, these alternatives are limited by locally available resources and may have cost and performance penalties.

Improved power plant data and further studies into the water requirements of energy technologies in different climatic regions would facilitate greater resolution in analyses of water impacts of future energy and economic scenarios. This report provides the foundation for conducting water use impact assessments of the power sector while also identifying gaps in data that could guide future research.

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1 Introduction

Thermoelectric power use has a significant impact on water resources and the power sector is highly dependent on these water resources; the United States Geological Survey (USGS) estimated on a national level that 41% of all freshwater withdrawals in the United States in 2005 were for thermoelectric power operations, primarily for cooling needs [1]. The power sector is thus highly vulnerable to changes in water resources, especially those that may result from potential climatic changes [2-5]. Increasingly, state agencies in California and New York have taken policy actions to address the impacts of power plants' water use and the environmental impacts of their cooling systems [6, 7]. Furthermore, the 2007 drought in the Southeast exposed many thermal generators, including Brown's Ferry nuclear plant, to water-related shut downs and curtailments due to unlawfully high discharge temperature and shallow or exposed cooling water inlet locations [8]. Effective integrated energy and water policy planning will require identifying the individual and cumulative impacts that power plant configurations have on water resources and the vulnerabilities of specific power plants to changes in water resources. Various studies have attempted to consolidate published estimates of water use impacts of electricity generating technologies, resulting in a wide range of technologies and values based on different primary sources of literature [9-14]. The goal of this work is to consolidate the various primary literature estimates of water use during the generation of electricity by conventional and renewable electricity generating technologies in the United States to more completely convey the variability and uncertainty associated with water use in electricity generating technologies. Individual water use factors, reported in terms of the volume of water used per unit of electrical output (gallons per megawatt-hour), are technology and cooling system specific. These water use factors can be incorporated into energy-economic models to estimate generation-related water use under different projected electricity portfolio scenarios.

2 Scope and Methods

We evaluate two aspects of water usage: withdrawal and consumption. According to the USGS, “withdrawal” is defined as the amount of water removed from the ground or diverted from a water source for use, while “consumption” refers to the amount of water that is evaporated, transpired, incorporated into products or crops, or otherwise removed from the immediate water environment [1]. Both water withdrawal and consumption values are important indicators for water managers determining power plant impacts and vulnerabilities associated with water resources.

We consider water withdrawals and consumption for the operational phase only. Operational water use in this study includes cleaning, cooling, and other process-related needs that occur during electricity generation, such as flue gas desulfurization (FGD) in coal facilities. For the vast majority of power generation technologies, most of the water used in the life cycle of the plant occurs during the operational phase, with the exception of non-thermal renewable energy technologies that do not require cooling systems [9]. In addition, compared to the operational phase, data for the water requirements of other phases (such as the fuel cycle) are scarce, are subject to greater definitional boundary differences, and have more site-specific differences. Also, although the location of the plant is permanent, the locations of the manufacturing or fuel sources are not permanent. Given this and the continuous local impacts of power plant water use on water resources during the operational phase, we limit this study to a detailed review of only the operational water requirements of electricity generating technologies.

The energy technologies addressed here consist of configurations of concentrating solar power (CSP), solar photovoltaic (PV), wind, biopower, geothermal, hydroelectric, nuclear, natural gas, and coal technologies. Cooling system technologies considered include wet recirculating technologies (evaporative cooling towers), once-through cooling systems (open loop cooling), air-cooled condensing (dry cooling), hybrid wet and dry cooling systems (hybrid cooling), and pond cooling systems.

Electricity generating technologies use water for different processes, depending on their configuration. Thermal electricity technologies (e.g., CSP, biopower, coal, nuclear, and natural gas technologies) generally require water as the working fluid (and as the cooling medium to condense steam) as part of the Rankine cycle, the thermodynamic process that drives the steam engine [15]. CSP facilities use water for steam cycle processes, for cleaning mirrors or heliostats, and for cooling if a cooling tower is used. PV systems require occasional panel washing. Wind systems require very little water, if any, for cleaning. Biopower facilities use water for cooling and for steam cycle processing. Upstream water needs for growing energy crops are not included in this analysis but can be quite substantial (approximately 100 times greater than operational cooling system needs) and can vary greatly depending on region, crop, and production methods [16-18]. Geothermal technology configurations (e.g., dry steam, binary, and flash) can differ greatly in their use of water due to differences in reinjection techniques as well as vapor temperature and mass [19]. Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) operate similar to geothermal binary technologies yet also require some additional water for hydraulic stimulation [19]. Water used in geothermal technologies may come from geothermal fluids, with little to no impact on local freshwater sources [20]. Over time, however, some geothermal plant efficiencies may decline and may require outside fresh or brackish water sources, and some technologies

may lower local water tables [19, 21]. Hydroelectric facilities using reservoirs have evaporative losses resulting from the dammed water [22, 23]. Nuclear, natural gas, and coal facilities use water for cooling and for steam cycle processes. Coal facilities may also use water for FGD. Fossil technologies employing carbon capture and storage capabilities will require additional process water requirements [12].

Estimates of water consumption and withdrawal are displayed irrespective of geographic location, as many published data do not specify the location or climatic conditions of the plant. The location of a plant, and its corresponding climatic conditions, can affect its overall efficiency and thus its water use rate [24-27]. Similar fossil plants utilizing cooling towers may have water consumption and withdrawal factors that differ by more than 16%, depending on the location in the United States [28]. Similarly, water consumption factors of CSP plants utilizing cooling towers may differ by as much as 20% [15]. Inter-annual variations in water intensity are also not considered for this review. Withdrawal and consumption factors are often reported in terms of annual averages, yet water intensity of facilities may change by as much as 16% as a result of diurnal and seasonal variations in temperatures, wind speeds, and humidity levels [28]. Other factors that may influence water use intensities of power plants that are not considered here include the age of the plant, the thermal efficiency of the plant, the age of the cooling system, and the water source [26, 27].

Certain aggregations of fuel technology types and cooling system types were made to facilitate analyses. Nuclear technologies include pressurized water reactors and boiling water reactors. Coal technologies make no distinction between wet, dry, and no FGD. For recirculating cooling technologies, no distinction is made between natural draft and mechanical draft cooling tower systems. All pond-cooled systems are treated identically. Pond-cooled systems can be operated in manners that resemble both recirculating systems and once-through systems as well as in hybrids of these technologies [29]. Different configurations and operating practices of pond-cooled systems can lead to widely different reported water withdrawal and consumption values. No distinction is made between water types, which may include freshwater (surface and groundwater), saline water, or municipal waste water. In 2005, 71% of thermoelectric water withdrawals were from freshwater sources [1]. Saline withdrawals are primarily concentrated in California, Florida, and the coastal Northeast, with the rest of the country relying on freshwater.

Data sources include published academic literature, state and federal government agency reports, non-governmental organizations' reports, and industry submissions to government agencies for permitting procedures. Estimates of national average water use intensity for particular technologies, estimates of existing plant operational water use, and estimates derived from laboratory experiments were considered equally. Certain sources report ranges of water consumption and withdrawal factors in place of specific values. If traceable individual case studies form the basis for the range given, the individual values are included as independent estimates within the set of estimates that are statistically analyzed. If a range is given and the underlying data points are not given, then the midpoint of that range is used for calculating an average value, and the high and low extremes are used for determining extreme ranges. This method of addressing ranges may lead to a bias toward data sources reporting explicit cases and may also underestimate actual water use at facilities, as it was observed that the midpoint of the range of extremes are in general less than values reported from individual facilities. This review did not alter (except for unit conversion) or audit for accuracy the estimates of water use

published. Because estimates are used as published, considerable methodological inconsistency is inherent, limiting comparability. We report minimum, maximum, and median values for fuel technology and cooling system combinations in tables and additionally show 25th and 75th percentile data in figures. Due to the wide range of values reported from a small number of sources, median values may differ significantly from mean values. Upon request, raw data are available from the authors.

3 Data Availability and Gaps

Although the power sector is the largest user of water in the nation, national statistics on the consumption and withdrawal rates of individual power plants are characterized by inconsistencies and scarcity [30]. Power sector water use data on a national level are collected by two federal agencies, the USGS and the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA). The USGS reports water withdrawals for thermoelectric power production by county and sector every five years; water consumption values for thermoelectric power production were last reported for 1995 [31]. These data are collected by state agencies that do not always utilize the same methods or definitions in determining water withdrawals [1].

EIA provides official energy statistics on an annual basis, and EIA Form 923 reports, among other data, annual water withdrawal, discharge, and consumption rates in Schedule 8D, providing similar definitions of withdrawal and consumption as the USGS [29]. However, data are not entirely comprehensive and have omitted nuclear facilities and some natural gas combined cycle technologies [32]. Additionally, the quality of data is also of concern with power plants reporting data; many of the power plants report water withdrawal and consumption values that are far below or above detailed engineering studies of water use in power plants considered in this review. The National Energy Technology Laboratory compiled water use data in their *2007 Coal Power Plant DataBase* [33]. However, this database is limited by the data availability and quality of EIA datasets. No similar public database has been developed for natural gas or nuclear generating facilities.

Detailed engineering studies and more general assessments of water use at individual thermoelectric power plants are uneven in their treatment of fuel technologies and cooling systems. For example, water consumption data for coal, natural gas, nuclear, and parabolic trough CSP facilities using a wet recirculating cooling system are relatively abundant. Fewer studies are available addressing water withdrawals for all technologies or water consumption for once-through, pond, and dry-cooling systems. Very little data exist for dedicated biomass, geothermal, and power tower CSP facilities.

Additionally, boundary conditions of water use studies are not always clear or consistent; some sources only report aggregated operational water usage, whereas other reports include water use by individual processes. However, the particular processes included in disaggregated studies may not be equivalent; the inclusion of FGD water requirements in coal facilities is one example where its explicit or implicit consideration is inconsistent across datasets. Geothermal facilities add an additional layer of complexity, as often cooling processes can make use of geothermal fluids rather than freshwater; some sources exclude geothermal fluids from calculations whereas others include geothermal fluids. Estimates of evaporation from hydropower reservoirs are complicated by the multiple uses of reservoirs (e.g., water supply, recreation, and flood control) and the different methods of allocating evaporation to electricity production [22, 23]. Hydropower estimates are reported according to the allocation methods utilized in the published reports, which allocate all reservoir evaporation to power production.

4 Results: Water Consumption and Withdrawal Factors

The cooling system employed is often a greater determinant of water usage than the particular technology generating electricity, both in terms of water consumption (Figures 1 and 2) and water withdrawal (Figures 3 and 4). Once-through cooling technologies withdraw 10 to 100 times more water per unit of electric generation than cooling tower technologies, yet cooling tower technologies consume at least twice as much water as once-through cooling technologies. Water consumption for dry cooling at CSP, biopower, and natural gas combined cycle plants is an order of magnitude less than for recirculating cooling at each of those types of plants.

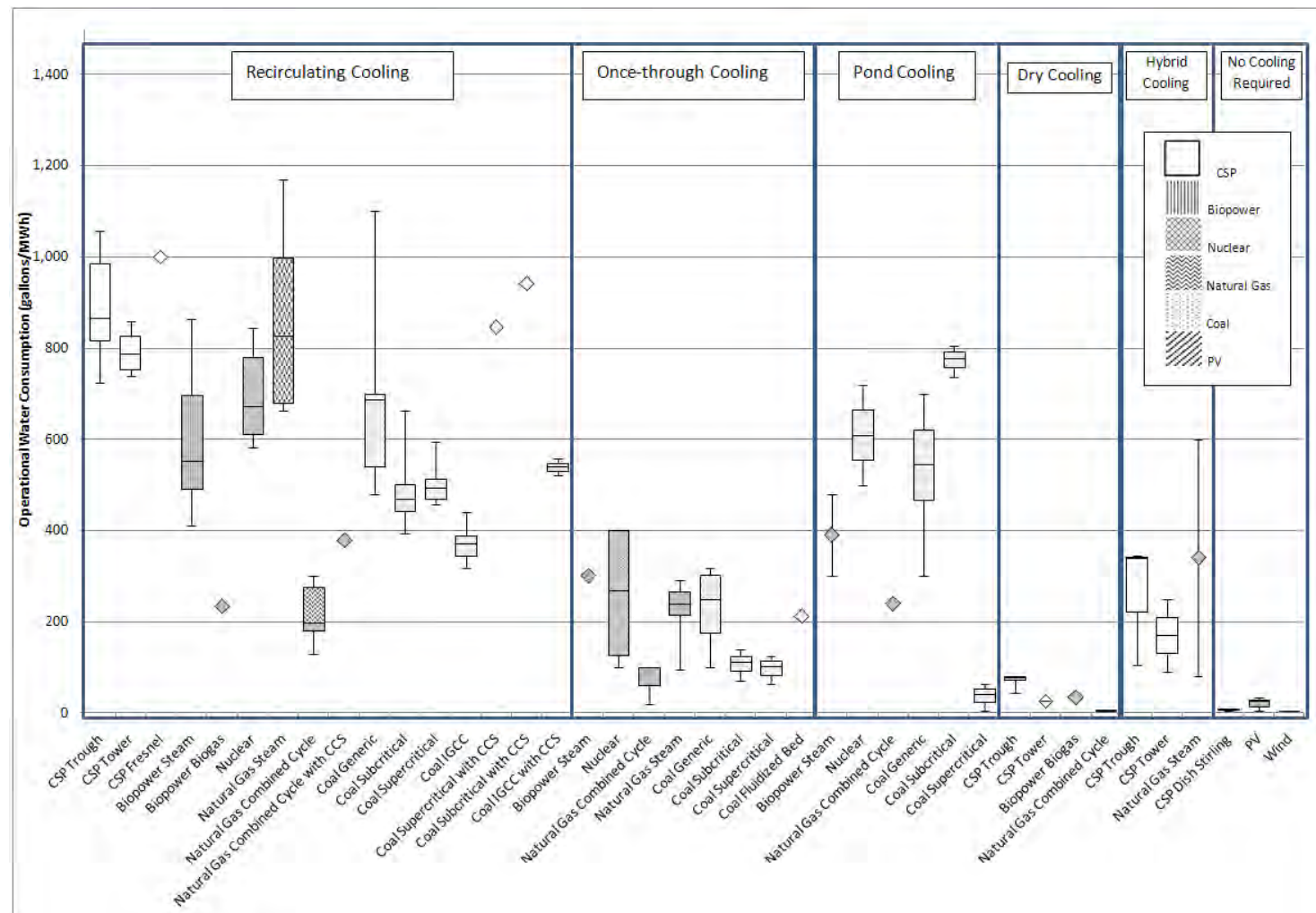


Figure 1. Operational water consumption factors for electricity generating technologies

IGCC: Integrated gasification combined cycle. CCS: Carbon capture and sequestration. CSP: Concentrating solar power. Whisker ends represent maxima and minima. Upper and lower ends of boxes represent 75th and 25th percentile, respectively. Horizontal lines in boxes represent medians.

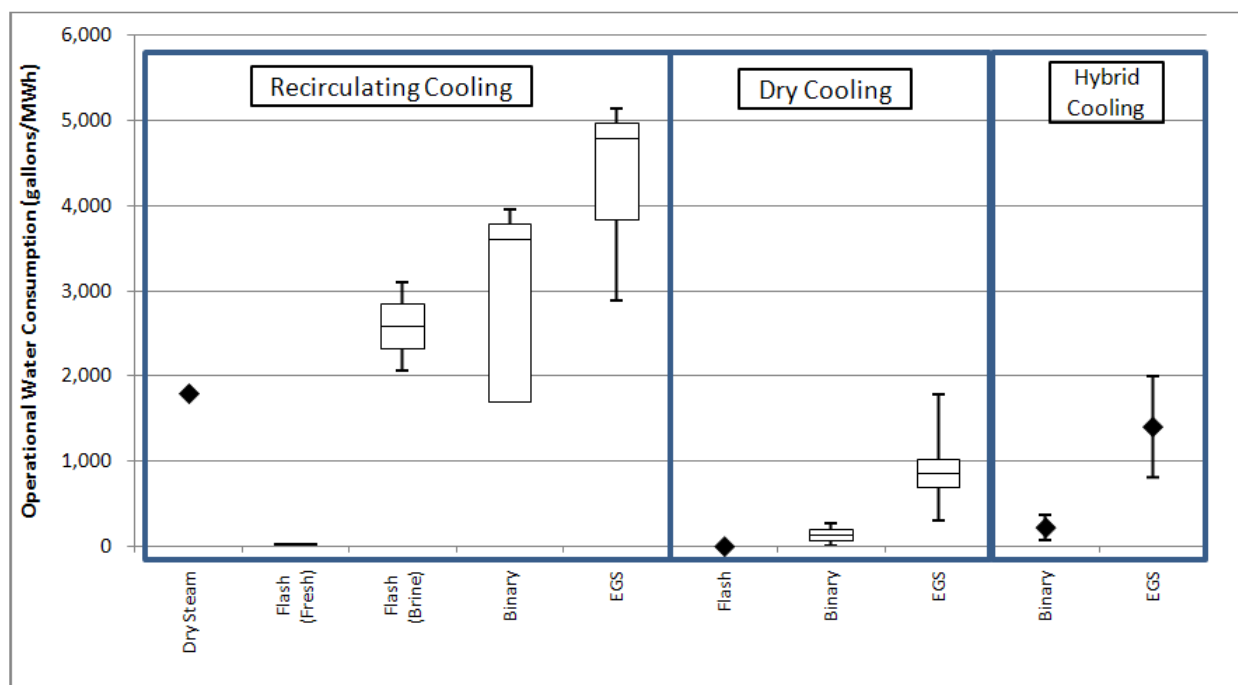


Figure 2. Operational water consumption factors for geothermal technologies

EGS: Enhanced geothermal systems. Whisker ends represent maxima and minima. Upper and lower ends of boxes represent 75th and 25th percentile, respectively. Horizontal lines in boxes represent medians.

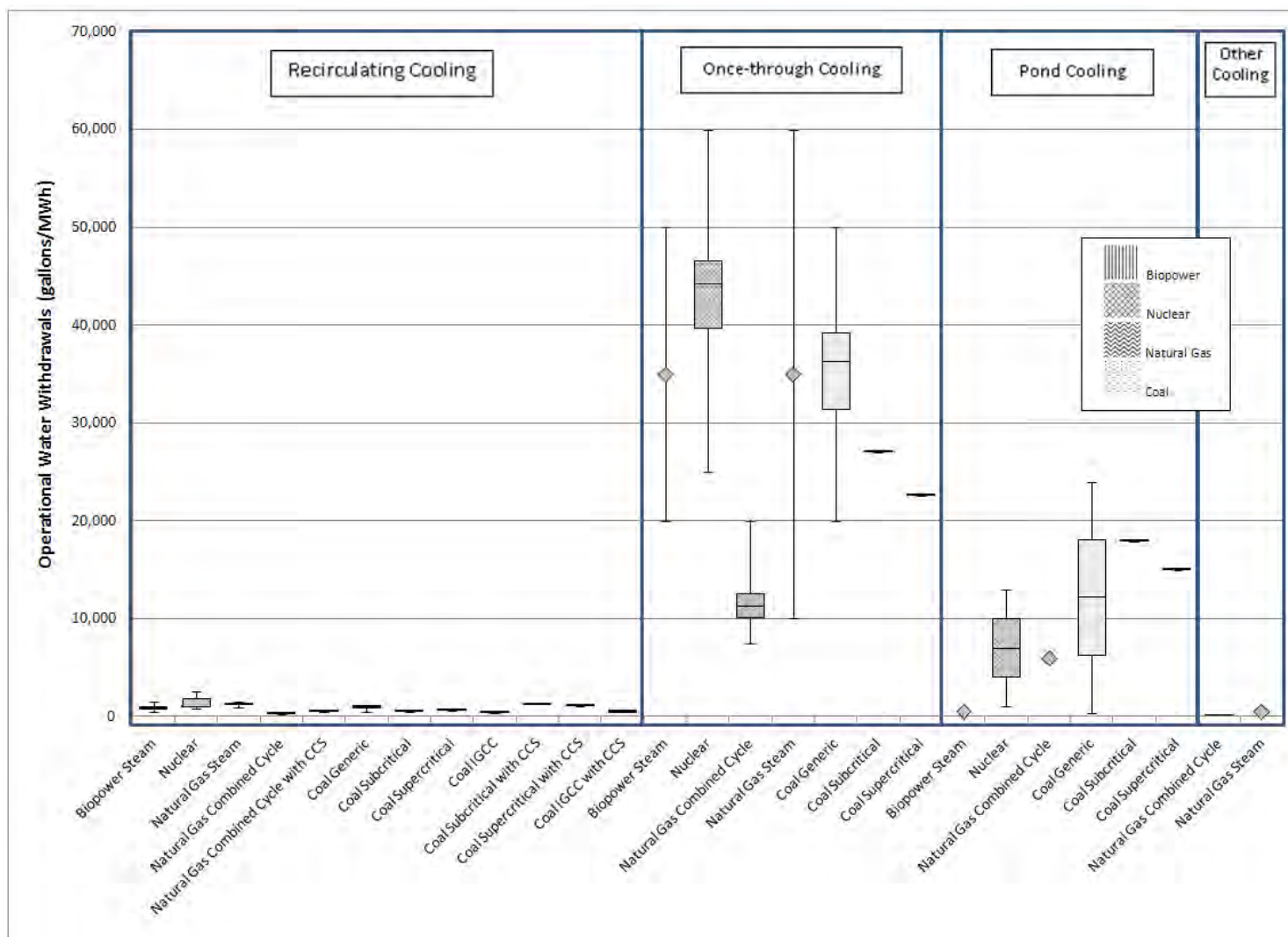


Figure 3. Operational water withdrawals for electricity generating technologies

IGCC: Integrated gasification combined cycle. CCS: carbon capture and storage. Whisker ends represent maxima and minima. Upper and lower ends of boxes represent 75th and 25th percentile, respectively. Horizontal lines in boxes represent medians. Recirculating cooling withdrawal values are also shown in Figure 4.

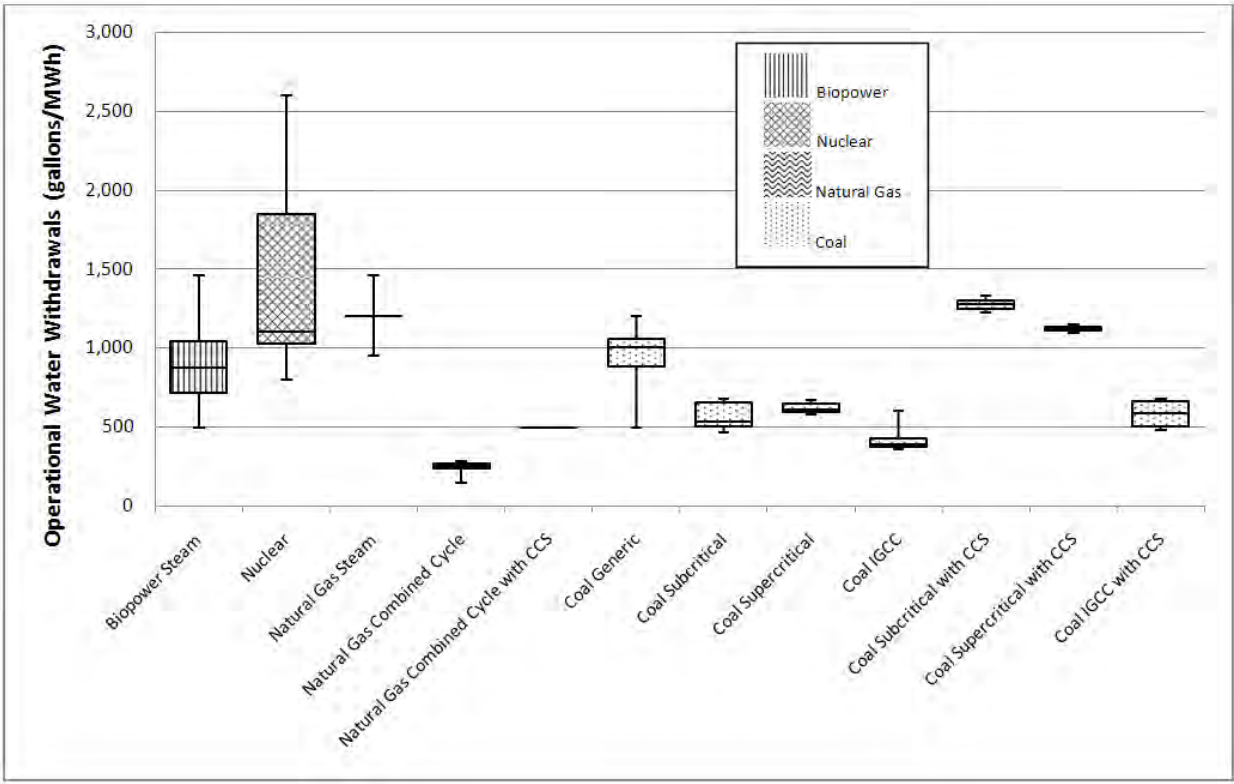


Figure 4. Operational water withdrawal factors for recirculating cooling technologies

IGCC: Integrated gasification combined cycle. CCS: carbon capture and storage. Whisker ends represent maxima and minima. Upper and lower ends of boxes represent 75th and 25th percentile, respectively. Horizontal lines in boxes represent medians.

Water consumption factors for renewable (Table 1) and non-renewable (Table 2) electricity generating technologies vary substantially within and across technology categories. The highest water consumption factors for all technologies result from the use of evaporative cooling towers. With the exception of hydropower, pulverized coal with carbon capture and CSP technologies utilizing a cooling tower represent the upper bound of water consumption, at approximately 1,000 gal/MWh of electricity production. The lowest operational water consumption factors result from wind energy, PV, and CSP Stirling solar technologies and natural gas combined cycle facilities that employ dry cooling technologies. Water withdrawal factors for electricity generating technologies show a similar variability within and across technology categories (Table 3). The highest water withdrawal values result from nuclear technologies, whereas the smallest withdrawal values are for non-thermal renewable technologies. Consistent with literature, withdrawal factors for CSP, wind, geothermal, and PV systems are assumed to be equivalent to consumption factors.

Table 1. Water Consumption Factors for Renewable Technologies (gal/MWh)

Fuel Type	Cooling	Technology	Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i>	Sources
PV	N/A	Utility Scale PV	26	0	33	3	[10, 34, 35]
Wind	N/A	Wind Turbine	0	0	1	2	[11, 36]
CSP	Tower	Trough	865	725	1,057	17	[10, 34, 37-46]
		Power Tower	786	740	860	4	[34, 39-41]
		Fresnel	1,000	1,000	1,000	1	[47]
	Dry	Trough	78	43	79	10	[38, 42-44]
		Power Tower	26	26	26	1	[48]
	Hybrid	Trough	338	105	345	3	[42, 47]
		Power Tower	170	90	250	2	[47]
	N/A	Stirling	5	4	6	2	[34, 49]
Biopower	Tower	Steam	553	480	965	4	[49-51]
		Biogas	235	235	235	1	[52]
	Once-through	Steam	300	300	300	1	[50]
	Pond	Steam	390	300	480	1	[50]
	Dry	Biogas	35	35	35	1	[51]
Geothermal ¹	Tower	Dry Steam	1,796	1,796	1,796	1	[10]
		Flash (freshwater)	10	5	19	3	[19, 20, 49]
		Flash (geothermal fluid)	2,583	2,067	3,100	2	[53]
		Binary	3,600	1,700	3,963	3	[10, 54, 55]
		EGS	4,784	2,885	5,147	4	[10, 51, 54, 55]
	Dry	Flash	0	0	0	1	[51]
		Binary	135	0	270	2	[19, 51]
		EGS	850	300	1,778	2	[19, 51]
	Hybrid	Binary	221	74	368	1	[56]
		EGS	1,406	813	1,999	2	[51, 56]
Hydropower	N/A	Aggregated in-stream and reservoir	4,491	1,425	18,000	3	[22, 23]

¹ Most geothermal facilities can use geothermal fluids or freshwater for cooling.

Table 2. Water Consumption Factors for Non-renewable Technologies (gal/MWh)

Fuel Type	Cooling	Technology	Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i>	Sources
Nuclear	Tower	Generic	672	581	845	6	[10, 14, 27, 50, 57]
	Once-through	Generic	269	100	400	4	[27, 50, 57, 58]
	Pond	Generic	610	560	720	2	[27, 50]
Natural Gas	Tower	Combined Cycle	198	130	300	5	[13, 34, 50, 57, 59]
		Steam	826	662	1,170	4	[10, 14, 49, 60]
		Combined Cycle with CCS	378	378	378	1	[59]
	Once-through	Combined Cycle	100	20	100	3	[50, 57, 60]
		Steam	240	95	291	2	[10, 49]
	Pond	Combined Cycle	240	240	240	1	[57]
	Dry	Combined Cycle	2	0	4	2	[50, 57]
	Inlet	Steam	340	80	600	1	[49]
Coal	Tower	Generic	687	480	1,100	5	[10, 14, 27, 50, 58]
		Subcritical	471	394	664	6	[13, 57, 59, 61]
		Supercritical	493	458	594	6	[13, 57, 59, 61]
		IGCC	372	318	439	7	[13, 59]
		Subcritical with CCS	942	942	942	1	[59]
		Supercritical with CCS	846	846	846	1	[59]
		IGCC with CCS	540	522	558	3	[59]
	Once-through	Generic	250	100	317	4	[10, 27, 50, 58]
		Subcritical	113	71	138	3	[57]
		Supercritical	103	64	124	3	[57]
	Pond	Generic	545	300	700	2	[27, 50]
		Subcritical	779	737	804	3	[57]
		Supercritical	42	4	64	3	[57]

Table 3. Water Withdrawal Factors for Electricity Generating Technologies (gal/MWh)

Fuel Type	Cooling	Technology	Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i>	Sources
Nuclear	Tower	Generic	1,101	800	2,600	3	[27, 50, 57]
	Once-through	Generic	44,350	25,000	60,000	4	[27, 50, 57, 58]
	Pond	Generic	7,050	500	13,000	2	[27, 50]
Natural Gas	Tower	Combined Cycle	253	150	283	6	[12, 13, 50, 57, 59]
		Steam	1,203	950	1,460	2	[49, 60]
		Combined Cycle with CCS	496	487	506	2	[12, 59]
	Once-through	Combined Cycle	11,380	7,500	20,000	2	[50, 57]
		Steam	35,000	10,000	60,000	1	[49]
	Pond	Combined Cycle	5,950	5,950	5,950	1	[57]
	Dry	Combined Cycle	2	0	4	2	[50, 57]
	Inlet	Steam	425	100	750	1	[49]
Coal	Tower	Generic	1,005	500	1,200	4	[27, 35, 50, 58]
		Subcritical	531	463	678	7	[12, 13, 57, 59, 61]
		Supercritical	609	582	669	7	[12, 13, 57, 59, 61]
		IGCC	390	358	605	11	[12, 13, 35, 59]
		Subcritical with CCS	1,277	1,224	1,329	2	[12, 59]
		Supercritical with CCS	1,123	1,098	1,148	2	[12, 59]
		IGCC with CCS	586	479	678	6	[12, 59]
	Once-through	Generic	36,350	20,000	50,000	4	[11, 27, 50, 58]
		Subcritical	27,088	27,046	27,113	3	[57]
		Supercritical	22,590	22,551	22,611	3	[57]
	Pond	Generic	12,225	300	24,000	2	[27, 50]
		Subcritical	17,914	17,859	17,927	3	[57]
		Supercritical	15,046	14,996	15,057	3	[57]
Biopower	Tower	Steam	878	500	1,460	2	[49]
	Once-through	Steam	35,000	20,000	50,000	1	[50]
	Pond	Steam	450	300	600	1	[50]

5 Discussion

Despite methodological differences in data, general trends can be observed and broad conclusions can be drawn from the breadth of data collected. A transition to a less carbon-intensive electricity sector could result in either an increase or decrease in water consumption per unit of electricity generated, depending on the choice of technologies and cooling systems employed. Non-thermal renewable technologies, such as wind and PV systems, consume minimal amounts of water per unit of generation. However, the highest water consumption factors considered in this study, excluding geothermal and hydroelectric facilities, which can have high water intensities but also have important caveats, are low-carbon emitting technologies that utilize cooling towers: pulverized coal with carbon capture technologies and CSP systems. Decisions affecting the power sector's impact on the climate may need to include water considerations to avoid negative unintended environmental consequences on water resources. This can be addressed by integrated energy and water policy planning, as the availability of water in certain jurisdictions may limit the penetration of these technologies and cooling system configurations.

Freshwater use impacts can be reduced by utilizing dry cooling or by using non-freshwater sources as a cooling medium. Initial work suggests that the performance penalty for CSP facilities switching from wet cooling to dry cooling results in an annual reduction in output of 2%–5% and an increase in the levelized cost of producing energy of 3%–8%, depending on local climatic conditions [15]. Using national averages, the annual performance penalty for switching from wet cooling to dry cooling for nuclear plants is 6.8%, combined cycle plants 1.7%, and other fossil plants (including coal and natural gas steam plants) 6.9% [62]. Further efforts are needed to evaluate performance and cost penalties associated with utilizing dry or hybrid cooling systems for fossil fuel facilities using carbon capture technologies. Utilizing reclaimed water, such as municipal wastewater, is another approach that could lessen the impact of the power sector on freshwater resources and wastewater treatment facilities. The legal and physical availability of municipal wastewater, especially in rural areas, may be a limiting factor to its widespread usage, and the cost and performance penalties of utilizing such sources must be investigated further [63].

The choice of cooling system may play an important role in the development of our future electricity mix. Differences between cooling systems can have substantial environmental impacts on local water resources [64–66]. Employing wet cooling technologies (i.e., once-through and cooling tower technologies) imposes an inherent tradeoff between relatively high water consumption and relatively high water withdrawals, which has important implications for regional cooling system policies and regulations. A reduction in withdrawals (but a corresponding increase in consumption) may benefit a watershed that has an abundance of water but may lead to concerns in an area that is already lacking water. A shift away from, for example, once-through cooling systems in coastal areas that withdraw saline water, to inland recirculating systems such as cooling towers that primarily consume freshwater, will impact watersheds and water availability differently depending on local conditions. The use of alternative cooling technologies may serve as an energy security benefit for utilities and communities, given uncertainties in future scenarios of water availability and expected vulnerabilities for power plants [4, 5]. Reduced levels in bodies of water, or substantial increases in the temperature of these bodies of water, may require thermal power plants to run at lower

capacities or to shut down completely, as was seen in France in 2003 [67]. Utilizing dry cooling or non-freshwater sources avoids some of the risks associated with these drought and climate change scenarios.

Accurate estimates of water use in individual power plants, and the effect of this water use on a regional scale, will be elusive until more studies are conducted for the variety of technologies and cooling systems currently in operation along with those expected to be developed and deployed. Furthermore, calibration of these values on national and regional scales will remain challenging until methods for collecting and evaluating data by federal agencies has improved. Nonetheless, certain conclusions regarding the overall impact power plants have on water resources can be drawn on regional levels from existing water use data.

Further studies with consistent boundary conditions and methods are necessary to develop water consumption and withdrawal estimates for certain technologies and cooling systems to fully understand reasons for variations in data that are not attributable to climatic factors or technology vintages. To better understand how cooling system and technology system decisions will be made in the future, analyses using energy-economic models will require improved data on water availability and regional water use factors. Existing data collected from federal agencies are currently inconsistent and incomplete [30]. However, in 2009, the U.S. Government Accountability Office released a report calling for improvements in federal agency water data collection in power plants; EIA is currently working with the USGS and other federal agencies to improve the scope and quality of its data collection [30]. Such efforts should improve the availability of power plant specific data and the ability to calibrate model estimates.

6 Summary

We reviewed primary literature for data on water withdrawal and consumption factors for electricity generation in the United States and have consolidated them in this study. These detailed water consumption and withdrawal factors can be utilized in energy-economic and transmission planning models to better understand the regional and national impacts on water resources for various electricity future scenarios and can inform policy analysis at a national and local level. Improved power plant data gathered on a regional level and further studies into the water requirements of existing and emerging technologies (such as carbon capture technologies) are necessary to assess the water impacts of a developing decarbonizing economy in more detail.

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Life cycle water use for electricity generation: a review and harmonization of literature estimates

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Abstract

This article provides consolidated estimates of water withdrawal and water consumption for the full life cycle of selected electricity generating technologies, which includes component manufacturing, fuel acquisition, processing, and transport, and power plant operation and decommissioning. Estimates were gathered through a broad search of publicly available sources, screened for quality and relevance, and harmonized for methodological differences. Published estimates vary substantially, due in part to differences in production pathways, in defined boundaries, and in performance parameters. Despite limitations to available data, we find that: water used for cooling of thermoelectric power plants dominates the life cycle water use in most cases; the coal, natural gas, and nuclear fuel cycles require substantial water per megawatt-hour in most cases; and, a substantial proportion of life cycle water use per megawatt-hour is required for the manufacturing and construction of concentrating solar, geothermal, photovoltaic, and wind power facilities. On the basis of the best available evidence for the evaluated technologies, total life cycle water use appears lowest for electricity generated by photovoltaics and wind, and highest for thermoelectric generation technologies. This report provides the foundation for conducting water use impact assessments of the power sector while also identifying gaps in data that could guide future research.

Keywords: life cycle assessment, consumption, withdrawal, power, meta-analysis

 Online supplementary data available from stacks.iop.org/ERL/8/015031/mmedia

1. Introduction

Water requirements throughout the electricity generation life cycle have important implications for the electricity sector. Although the operations of thermoelectric power plants require substantial water withdrawals (Kenny *et al* 2009, Macknick *et al* 2012), all electricity generation technologies, including those that do not require cooling for steam cycle processes, utilize water throughout their life cycles. This means that the power sector can be vulnerable to constraints caused by drought conditions and other changes

in water resources not only directly, due to water required for operations (e.g., Huertas 2007, NETL 2009b), but also indirectly, due to water required throughout fuel supply chains and power plant equipment life cycles. For example, the 2011 drought in Texas not only impacted actual and expected statewide generation (Saathoff 2011) but also led to temporary shutdowns of hydraulic fracturing and other natural gas extraction operations (Carroll 2011, Passwaters 2011). Despite relatively low operational water demands compared to other generation technologies, photovoltaic and wind generation technologies also require water during manufacturing and construction.

The water requirements associated with choices along the life cycle of electricity generation, such as the selection of fuel type or cooling technology, are not well understood.



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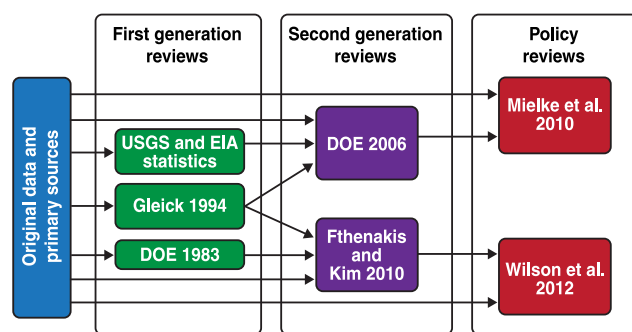


Figure 1. This schematic depicts the main provenance of data for some of the key references addressing the water use of electricity generation technologies. As shown, the sources for most data in even contemporary references are many decades old.

Previous studies address water use across this life cycle to varying degrees (e.g., Gleick 1994, DOE 2006, Fthenakis and Kim 2010, Mielke *et al* 2010, McMahon and Price 2011), but these studies do not provide sufficient information for water and energy managers to quantify the magnitude and duration of expected impacts. Some reviews focus on water consumption and omit withdrawals for many or all processes (e.g., Gleick 1994, Mielke *et al* 2010, McMahon and Price 2011, Grubert *et al* 2012). Most reviews rely on a subset of available data. For example, two representative policy reviews (Mielke *et al* 2010, Wilson *et al* 2012) incorporate small amounts of new data but pull primarily from a few key, decades-old compilations (DOE 1983, Gleick 1994), as reflected in figure 1's schematic of the data provenance. Other reviews cover only specific life cycle stages (e.g., Macknick *et al* (2012) focus only on operations) or geographic contexts (e.g. Grubert *et al* (2012) evaluate life cycle water impacts from switching from coal- to natural gas-fired electricity generation in Texas). In addition, recent research (GAO 2009, Averyt *et al* 2013) questions the reliability of some data in commonly referenced statistics on thermoelectric power plant water use from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) (e.g., Solley *et al* 1998, Hutson *et al* 2004, Kenny *et al* 2009) and from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) (e.g., EIA 2011a, 2011b).

This paper assesses the life cycle water withdrawals and consumptive uses for renewable and non-renewable electricity generation technologies, hereafter referred to as *generation technologies*. It provides concise estimates of water use throughout the life cycle of electricity generation in the United States that are supported by a thorough review of available literature. Where available data differentiate water use among generation technology sub-categories, cooling technologies, or fuel cycle characteristics, we define each collective combination as a *production pathway* and present separate estimates for each. We collect estimates from a broad review of literature across multiple disciplines, publication types, and stages of the life cycle, applying consistent quality and relevance screens and harmonizing methodological differences. This review is intended to support more informed decisions on technological choice, research and development, and water resources management and to identify gaps where

further research could significantly improve understanding of the water requirements for electricity generation.

2. Scope and methods

Following the USGS (Kenny *et al* 2009), this paper classifies water use into water *withdrawals*, referring to 'water removed from the ground or diverted from a surface-water source for use' (p 49), and water *consumption*, referring to the portion of withdrawn water not returned to the 'immediate water environment' (p 47). The generic term *water use* is employed only where both metrics are discussed concurrently. Consistent with these definitions, we only address externally sourced water; therefore, we omit estimates addressing geologically produced and storm water that requires treatment. We focus only on water quantity requirements, although the life cycle of electricity generation may be associated with water quality issues as well (e.g., Lustgarten 2009, Ward 2010, EPA 2011).

This paper reviews the water use throughout the life cycle of each of seven categories of electricity generation technologies: coal, natural gas, nuclear, concentrating solar power (CSP), geothermal, photovoltaics (PV), and wind. It does not address other technologies due to data complexities and uncertainties. For example, a separate literature addresses biopower's water requirements (e.g., Berndes 2008, Gerbens-Leenes *et al* 2009, Stone *et al* 2010), but estimates vary by multiple orders of magnitude across regions, crops, and production methods. Reservoir evaporation complicates hydropower's accounting, leading to estimates ranging from zero to 18 000 gal MWh⁻¹ (Gleick 1994, Torcellini *et al* 2003). Co-generation leads to challenges in allocating water use across co-products, and other generation technologies, such as ocean power, lack usable data.

Our broad literature review starts with the more than 2000 references amassed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Harmonization project (www.nrel.gov/harmonization). Using keyword database searches, works cited lists, and known reference repositories, we expand this review to also include other peer-reviewed scientific literature, government reports and statistics, and corporate sustainability reports pertaining to life cycle water use or water use in any specific phase of the life cycle of electricity generation for the selected technologies.

We perform a series of three screens, described in more detail in the supplementary data (available at stacks.iop.org/ERL/8/015031/mmedia): two at the reference level and a third at the level of individual estimates. First, we screen this complete body of literature for any written quantification of water use within any electricity generation life cycle stage. Passing references receive a second screen, analogous to the screens for systematic review developed by the LCA Harmonization project (Moomaw *et al* 2011, Heath and Mann 2012), based on methods quality, completeness of reporting, and current technological relevance; this requires sufficient documentation by which the methods for developing results could be trusted and traced. With the exception of

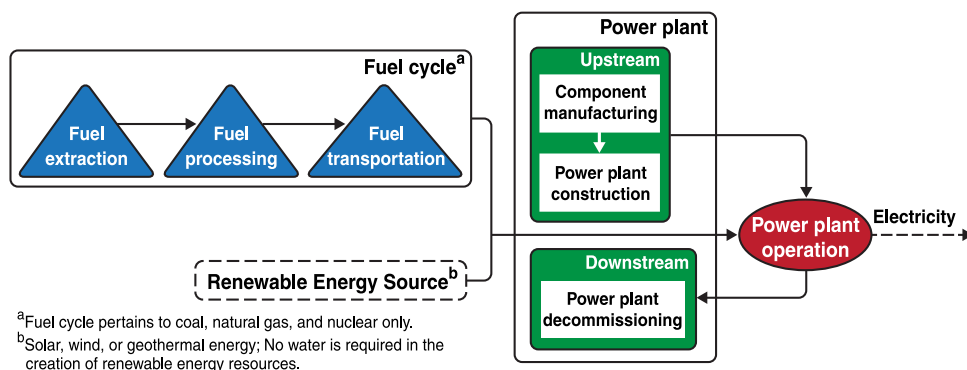


Figure 2. A schematic of the significant life cycle stages for each electricity generation technology demonstrates the additional role of fuel cycle water use in contributing to the life cycle water use for coal, natural gas, and nuclear generation technologies. The power plant life cycle stage consists of an upstream component manufacturing and plant construction phase and a downstream phase when the power plant is decommissioned.

a few frequently cited, older sources (DOE 1983, Tolba 1985, Gleick 1994), which are retained because of both their importance to other literature and difficulties in tracking down many of their sources, we also eliminate references that did not provide primary data.

We gather data from all references passing the first two screens and present all non-duplicate estimates in the supplementary data (available at stacks.iop.org/ERL/8/015031/mmedia). In addition to removing duplicates, the third screen focuses on the reasonableness of individual estimates, considering both engineering principles and the preponderance of evidence. With a bias toward retaining estimates, we subject questionable estimates to further scrutiny, considering the thoroughness of documentation and the age of both the questionable reference and of alternative estimates' sources. We also omit otherwise reasonable estimates that lack sufficient disaggregation along the production pathway. In the results below, we discuss any unique estimates omitted in this third screen and otherwise focus presentation and analysis on data that pass all screens. Of the 138 sources passing the reference-level screens, one (Inhaber 2004) provides quantified water use data for all seven technologies we address, one more (Gleick 1994) addresses all but wind (for which water use is listed as 'negligible'), but the majority cover only one or two technologies each with primary data. A given reference can have multiple estimates, even for the same generation technology.

We categorize gathered data by generation technology and life cycle stage. As shown in figure 2, we separate the life cycle into three main stages: *fuel cycle*, which pertains only to coal, natural gas, and nuclear generation technologies; *power plant*, which represents the life cycle of the physical power plant equipment; and *operations*, which includes cooling for thermal technologies and all other plant operation and maintenance functions. Careful tracking of stage definitions and boundaries, which vary by study, is required to avoid double counting as much as possible when adding estimates across stages. This analysis does not account for electricity transmission, distribution, or end use, neither in terms of resource uses nor electricity losses.

Reflecting the spatial and temporal impacts of water use, most of this analysis focuses on water use disaggregated

across life cycle stages. In addition, although the distinction between withdrawal and consumption is essential for understanding these impacts, many references do not specify which type of water use they report. Therefore, we infer this distinction from context and other information where possible and, where not, omit estimates because of insufficient reporting quality. In some cases of insufficient information, noted below, we assume withdrawals equal consumption, seeking balance between underestimating withdrawals when estimates actually report consumption and overestimating consumption when estimates actually report withdrawals.

We define life cycle water use factors (water_{LC}) as ratios of life cycle (LC) water use per unit of generated electricity, expressed as gallons per megawatt-hour (gal MWh^{-1}). We calculate factors for the life cycle water consumption and withdrawal associated with each generation technology. These factors represent weighted sums of the water use factors for each of the three major life cycle stages defined in figure 2:

$$\text{water}_{\text{LC}} = \text{water}_{\text{FC}} * \left(\frac{\text{fuel}_{\text{lifetime}}}{e_{\text{lifetime}}} \right) + \text{water}_{\text{PP}} * \left(\frac{1}{e_{\text{lifetime}}} \right) + \text{water}_{\text{OP}} \quad (1)$$

where water_{FC} is the amount of water used in the fuel cycle (FC) per unit of fuel (expressed as gal ton^{-1} for coal, gal MMscf^{-1} for natural gas, and gal kg^{-1} converted, enriched, and fabricated uranium fuel (i.e., UO_2) for nuclear); e_{lifetime} is the amount of electricity generated by a power plant over its lifetime (MWh/lifetime); $\text{fuel}_{\text{lifetime}}$ is the amount of fuel used by a power plant over its lifetime (ton/lifetime , MMscf/lifetime , or kg/lifetime , as appropriate); water_{PP} is the amount of water used for component manufacturing, power plant construction, and power plant decommissioning (i.e. the power plant equipment life cycle (PP) as defined in figure 2) (gal/lifetime); and water_{OP} is the amount of water used in the operations (OP) of the power plant per unit of generated electricity (gal MWh^{-1}).

In addition to water use estimates, we record parameters relevant to fuel attributes, fuel cycle characteristics, and power plant performance, which can influence the amount of water used in life cycle stages. Where possible with available data,

Table 1. Performance parameters used for harmonization and the life cycle stage in which each is applied.

Parameter ^a	Value ^b	Stages for which parameter applies		
		Fuel cycle	Power plant	Operations
Thermal efficiency				
Coal: PC	35.4% (LHV), 34.3% (HHV)	× ^c	× ^c	× ^c
Coal: SC	39.9% (LHV), 38.4% (HHV)	× ^c	× ^c	× ^c
Coal: IGCC	39.8% (LHV), 38.5% (HHV)	× ^c	× ^c	× ^c
Coal: CFB	38.3% (LHV), 34.8% (HHV)	× ^c	× ^c	× ^c
Natural gas: CC	51.0% (HHV)	×	×	×
Natural gas: CT	33.0% (HHV)	×	×	×
Nuclear: fuel conversion	2.81 kg U ₃ O ₈ /kg UF _{6(natural)}	×		
Nuclear: fuel enrichment (diffusion)	10.4 kg UF _{6(natural)} /kg UF _{6(enriched)}	×		
Nuclear: fuel enrichment (centrifugal)	10.8 kg UF _{6(natural)} /kg UF _{6(enriched)}	×		
Nuclear: fuel fabrication	3.42 kg UF _{6(enriched)} /kg UO ₂	×		
Nuclear: fuel use	0.004 33 kg UO ₂ MWh ^{−1}	×		
Fuel heat content				
Coal	21.01 MMBtu/ton (LHV)	×		
Natural gas	1031 Btu/scf (HHV)	×		
Solar-to-electric efficiency				
CSP: trough	15.0%		×	×
CSP: power tower	20.0%		×	×
PV: performance ratio	80%		×	×
PV: m-Si	13.0%		×	×
PV: p-Si	12.3%		×	×
PV: a-Si	6.3%		×	×
PV: CdTe	10.9%		×	×
PV: CIGS	11.5%		×	×
Solar resource				
CSP	2400 kWh m ^{−2} yr ^{−1}		×	×
PV	1700 kWh m ^{−2} yr ^{−1}		×	×
Capacity factor				
Coal	85%		×	
Natural gas	85%		×	
Nuclear	92%		×	
Wind: onshore	30%		×	
Wind: offshore	40%		×	
Power plant lifetime				
Coal	30 yr		×	
Geothermal	30 yr		×	
Natural gas	30 yr		×	
Nuclear	40 yr		×	
CSP	30 yr		×	
PV	30 yr		×	
Wind	20 yr		×	

^a PC = pulverized coal, sub-critical; SC = pulverized coal, super-critical; CFB = circulated fluidized bed; IGCC = integrated gasification combined cycle; CC = combined cycle; CT = combustion turbine; m-Si = mono-crystalline silicon; p-Si = poly-crystalline silicon; a-Si = amorphous silicon; CdTe = cadmium telluride; CIGS = copper indium gallium selenide.

^b Parameters match those published in LCA harmonization and other benchmark studies on electricity generated by coal (MIT 2007, Whitaker *et al* 2012), natural gas (EIA 2011c, O'Donoghue *et al* 2012), nuclear power (NETL 2012a, Warner and Heath 2012), CSP (Burkhardt *et al* 2012), PV (Hsu *et al* 2012, Kim *et al* 2012), and wind (Dolan and Heath 2012). We base the lifetime of geothermal on the lifetime used for other technologies.

^c Although LHV is the preferred measure for all life cycle stages of electricity generation by coal, data limitations require the use of HHV for the operations stage.

we harmonize all estimates to the common performance parameters shown in table 1; the goal of harmonization is to reduce analytical variability by adjusting previously published

estimates to ones based on a more consistent set of methods and assumptions (Heath and Mann 2012). These parameters are selected to match those published in LCA harmonization

and other benchmark studies on electricity generated by coal (MIT 2007, Whitaker *et al* 2012), natural gas (EIA 2011c, O'Donoghue *et al* 2012), nuclear power (NETL 2012a, Warner and Heath 2012), CSP (Burkhardt *et al* 2012), PV (Hsu *et al* 2012, Kim *et al* 2012), and wind (Dolan and Heath 2012). We assume that, on first order and holding all other aspects of equation (1) constant, each performance parameter affects e_{lifetime} or water_{OP} (as physically appropriate) as:

$$e_{\text{lifetime},h} = e_{\text{lifetime},o} * \frac{p_h}{p_o} \quad (2)$$

or

$$\text{water}_{\text{OP},h} = \text{water}_{\text{OP},o} * \frac{p_o}{p_h} \quad (3)$$

where p is the relevant parameter, the subscript o signifies an original value, and the subscript h signifies a harmonized value. Because e_{lifetime} is increasing in each parameter p , the ratio $(\frac{p_h}{p_o})$ scales $e_{\text{lifetime},o}$ to the proportional change in parameter value. In contrast, generated electricity is in the implicit denominator of water_{OP} , so the inverse ratio $(\frac{p_o}{p_h})$ scales $\text{water}_{\text{OP},o}$ to the proportional change in parameter value. The supplementary data (available at stacks.iop.org/ERL/8/015031/mmedia) presents all collected estimates as well as statistics on the availability of information for harmonization; the majority of estimates did not have relevant information and cannot be harmonized.

We develop estimates for each major life cycle stage for each generation technology (where coal, natural gas, and nuclear power have three major stages and all other generation technologies have two, as shown in figure 2). In many cases, such as different fuel extraction methods, cooling technologies, and generation prime movers, distinct production pathways have differentiated water use characteristics. We analyze such choices separately where data provide sufficient detail and aggregate such choices where data are more limited. For each production pathway option, we select the median estimate as reflecting the central tendency of the distribution of available data. Although gathered estimates are not a random sample of actual water use factors from the existing stock of generation facilities, we consider the median to be a reasonable representation across multiple references and technological variability within a category. Finally, we aggregate our selected, harmonized estimates into full life cycle water use estimates and investigate the sensitivity of life cycle water use to different values of the performance parameters shown in table 1.

The broad scope of this analysis necessitates important caveats and assumptions. Studies demonstrate considerable methodological inconsistency, and our attempts to address these through harmonization are limited by available information in the source literature. For example, the majority of thermoelectric operational water use estimates are not accompanied by thermal efficiency data so cannot be harmonized on this parameter. Reported boundaries around life cycle stages, including whether estimates include indirect water use, differ across references, but some references lack clear descriptions of the boundaries applied. As a result, we may overestimate life cycle water use in some cases

where overlap leads to double counting and underestimate it in other cases where gaps in our estimate arise from processes being excluded from source data. Because available information suggests that most, but not all, reported estimates exclude indirect water use, we likely underestimate total attributable water use but overestimate on-site water use throughout the life cycle stages of electricity generation technologies. Although the magnitude of these errors is unknown, one expects it to correlate with an electricity generation technology's energy return on energy invested. In addition, although recycling and the use of degraded water both can dramatically reduce the amount of water used in multiple life cycle stages, particularly for withdrawals, we do not explicitly address these technological advances. Water use can vary substantially owing to site-specific differences such as local climate conditions, the age of equipment, and characteristics of the water source (Yang and Dziegielewski 2007) and the application of different environmental compliance technologies; the gross level of analysis presented here necessarily neglects such considerations. The assumption that performance parameters act proportionally upon water use factors does not account for non-linear effects; for example, higher irradiation increases CSP output directly but also may reduce the efficiency if operating temperatures are also raised (Turchi *et al* 2010). Finally, the estimates provided are neither predictions nor meant to exactly characterize all potential examples of deployment of a certain technology.

3. Results: water use across individual life cycle stages

Tables 2–12 present summary statistics of harmonized estimates of water consumption and withdrawal for major life cycle stages and production pathways for each generation technology, using the performance parameters shown in table 1. The full data these statistics summarize are available in the supplementary data (available at stacks.iop.org/ERL/8/015031/mmedia). Although median estimates are selected to represent each category, ranges reflect not only variability in the analytical reliability of collected estimates but also the aggregation of many potential sub-categories within technologies and life cycle stages. However, the minimum and maximum in the available literature may not represent the true minimum or maximum considering all deployment conditions, technological permutations, etc. Reflecting both the variability and uncertainty in the estimates for broad technology categories, reported results are limited to two significant digits.

3.1. Coal

Coal fuel cycle water factors, shown in table 2, are differentiated between surface and underground mining. Based on available data, we estimate that the fuel cycle uses approximately 22 gal MWh⁻¹ with surface mining or 56 gal MWh⁻¹ with underground mining, based primarily on US mining data and with estimates constructed from the individual process stages shown in table 3. Most water during

Table 2. Summary statistics of selected, harmonized estimates of water consumption and withdrawal for major life cycle stages and production pathways for coal-fired electricity generation.

Sub-category ^a		Consumption (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^b				Withdrawal (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^b			
		Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^c	Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^c
Fuel cycle ^{d,e,f}	Surface mining	22	6	58	7	22	6	60	7
	Underground mining	56	17	230	7	57	17	230	7
Power plant ^f Operations	Upstream and downstream ^g	1	<1 ^h	25	8	1	<1 ^h	12	8
	PC: cooling tower	530	200	1300	20	660	460	1 200	21
	PC: open loop cooling	140	71	350	11	35 000	15 000	57 000	16
	PC: pond cooling	740	300	1000	11	10 000	300	26 000	10
	PC + CCS: cooling tower	940	900	940	3	1 300	1 200	1 400	3
	SC: cooling tower	500	460	590	7	600	580	670	7
	SC: open loop cooling	100	64	120	3	23 000	23 000	23 000	3
	SC: pond cooling	42	4	64	3	15 000	15 000	15 000	3
	SC + CCS: cooling tower	880	850	910	2	1 100	1 100	1 100	3
	CFB: cooling tower	560	560	560	1	1 000	1 000	1 000	1
	CFB: open loop cooling	210	210	210	1	20 000	20 000	20 000	1
	IGCC: cooling tower	320	35	440	14	390	160	6 700	16
	IGCC + CCS: cooling tower	550	520	600	4	640	480	740	7

^a PC = pulverized coal, sub-critical; SC = pulverized coal, super-critical; CFB = circulated fluidized bed; IGCC = integrated gasification combined cycle; CCS = carbon capture and sequestration.

^b Statistics based on harmonized estimates, with respect to life cycle stage boundaries as well as relevant parameters shown in table 1.

^c For estimates constructed from multiple disaggregated stages or processes (reported in table 3), '*n*' reports the average number of estimates over each of the stages, plus any included estimates that are not disaggregated. For categories with exactly 2 estimates, the median is defined as the arithmetic mean.

^d Fuel cycle estimates include estimates constructed from estimates for individual stages reported in table 3 in addition to estimates only for aggregated fuel cycle water use.

^e All fuel cycle estimates assume train transportation; mine-mouth conversion to electricity would decrease estimates negligibly and slurry pipeline transport would increase estimates substantially.

^f Fuel cycle and power plant estimates are harmonized to the thermal efficiency of a sub-critical pulverized coal power plant.

^g Power plant includes both upstream water use estimates (primarily for dust suppression during plant construction but also for manufacturing power plant raw materials) and downstream water use estimates (for decommissioning power plants). The latter contributes negligibly to the total for this life cycle stage.

^h <1 designates a value between 0.1 and 0.5 (due to rounding), and <<1 designates a value less than 0.1.

Table 3. Summary statistics of selected, harmonized estimates of water consumption and withdrawal for major production pathways in the coal fuel cycle.

	Consumption (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^a				Withdrawal (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^a			
	Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i>	Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i>
Extraction (surface) ^b	3	<1 ^c	13	9	3	<1 ^c	13	9
Extraction (underground) ^b	27	8	180	8	27	8	180	8
Extraction (type not specified) ^b	45	12	120	4	45	12	120	4
Processing ^b	18	9	1000	8	18	9	1000	8
Transport (train)	<1 ^c	<<1 ^c	1	3	1	<1 ^c	2	3
Transport (slurry) ^b	110	100	410	6	110	100	410	6

^a Statistics based on harmonized estimates, with respect to life cycle stage boundaries as well as relevant parameters shown on table 1; estimates are harmonized to the thermal efficiency of a sub-critical pulverized coal power plant. This table does not include estimates that are reported only for the entire fuel cycle.

^b Reflecting data limitations and the nature of water use, we assume withdrawal and consumption are equal for all estimates in this category.

^c <1 designates a value between 0.1 and 0.5 (due to rounding), and <<1 designates a value less than 0.1.

extraction is used for dust suppression in mines and on roads, and higher surface mining estimates include water used for land reclamation whereas lower ones do not. We assume consumption equals withdrawals because consumption is often difficult to measure for mines; for example, NETL (2010a) reports that 'no specific data were located on the wa-

ter consumed during mine operations... (consumption data) could not be separated from the storm water output' (p 33).

We omit older estimates of withdrawals up to 17 000 gal MWh⁻¹ for coal cleaning (Tolba 1985) in favor of newer, better documented estimates and therefore estimate that processing, which may or may not occur at the mine,

Table 4. Estimated effect of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) on life cycle water use for coal- and natural gas-fired electricity generation.

		Pulverized coal (sub-critical)	Pulverized coal (super-critical)	Circulating fluidized bed	Integrated gasification combined cycle	Natural gas combined cycle
Thermal efficiency (HHV) ^a	w/o CCS	34.3%	38.5%	34.8%	38.4%	51.0%
	w/ CCS	25.1%	29.3%	25.5%	31.2%	43.9%
	Change	−27%	−24%	−27%	−19%	−14%
Power plant, consumption (gal MWh ^{−1}) ^b	w/o CCS	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.4
	w/ CCS	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8
	Change	37%	31%	36%	23%	100%
Power plant, withdrawal (gal MWh ^{−1}) ^b	w/o CCS	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.6
	w/ CCS	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.0
	Change	37%	31%	36%	23%	67%
Fuel cycle, consumption (gal MWh ^{−1}) ^c	w/o CCS	22	19	20	20	4
	w/ CCS	30	25	27	24	5
	Change	37%	31%	36%	23%	16%
Fuel cycle, withdrawal (gal MWh ^{−1}) ^c	w/o CCS	22	19	20	20	5
	w/ CCS	31	25	27	24	6
	Change	37%	31%	36%	23%	16%
Operations, consumption (gal MWh ^{−1}) ^d	w/o CCS	530	500	560	320	210
	w/ CCS	940	880	980 ^f	550	380
	Change	77%	76%	75% ^f	72%	81%
	<i>n</i> ^e	3	2	0 ^f	4	2
Operations, withdrawal (gal MWh ^{−1}) ^d	w/o CCS	660	600	1000	390	250
	w/ CCS	1300	1100	1800 ^f	640	510
	Change	97%	83%	81% ^f	64%	104%
	<i>n</i> ^e	3	3	0 ^f	7	3

^a As reported in MIT (2007) for coal technologies and NETL (2010b) for natural gas technology.

^b We estimate power plant water use for different coal-fired generation technologies with and without CCS by adjusting the parameter for thermal efficiency from our base case (for sub-critical pulverized coal without CCS) to the reported thermal efficiencies. For natural gas-fired generation with CCS, we use the estimate reported by NETL (2010b).

^c We estimate fuel cycle water use for different generation technologies with and without CCS by adjusting the parameter for thermal efficiency from our base cases for coal- and natural gas-fired generation to the reported thermal efficiencies.

^d Estimated using median reported values as reported in tables 2 and 5.

^e '*n*' reports the number of operations water use estimates for each prime mover technology with CCS, as reported in tables 2 and 5.

^f We estimate water use during operations of a circulated fluidized bed power plant equipped with CCS based on the weighted average of the other generation technology's estimates, due to a lack of reported estimates.

contributes a median of 18 gal MWh^{−1} to the fuel cycle total. In the final fuel cycle stage of coal transportation, although slurry pipelines consume 110 gal MWh^{−1} of water, train transport is more common currently, with the median water use reported in table 2 corresponding to a 205 mile transport distance (NETL 2010c).

When amortized to the power plant's lifetime generation, upstream and downstream water use for the coal power plant's equipment is negligible. In contrast, coal power plant cooling requires hundreds to thousands of gallons withdrawn and consumed per MWh. Water use factors vary substantially by cooling technology, with open loop cooling (also known as once-through cooling) requiring much greater withdrawals and recirculating cooling towers consuming relatively more water, as shown in table 2 and described in more detail elsewhere (Macknick *et al* 2012). Estimates for pond-cooled systems vary widely, because they can be operated similarly to either once-through or recirculating tower systems.

Generally, more efficient combustion technologies (e.g., integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC)) require less water per unit generation for cooling than less efficient ones (e.g., sub-critical pulverized coal). Variation in reported estimates arises from variation in specific operating conditions as well as whether estimates include non-cooling water uses. For example, additional operational needs, such as pollution controls specific to coal, can be substantial; one study reports 155 gal MWh^{−1} for coal-ash handling, 12 gal MWh^{−1} for NO_x control, and 60 gal MWh^{−1} for SO_x scrubbing (TWDB 2003). Flue gas desulfurization increases water use by about 40 gal MWh^{−1} using dry technology and about 70 gal MWh^{−1} using wet technology (NETL 2009a).

As shown in table 4, collected data suggest that carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) can increase operations water consumption by about 75% and water withdrawal by between 64% and 97%, due to a combination of lower efficiencies

Table 5. Summary statistics of selected, harmonized estimates of water consumption and withdrawal for major life cycle stages and production pathways for natural gas-fired electricity generation.

	Sub-category ^a	Consumption (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^b				Withdrawal (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^b			
		Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^c	Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^c
Fuel cycle ^{d,e}	Conventional natural gas ^f	4	1	26	9	5	4	34	8
	Shale gas	16	3	210	20	17	5	220	18
Power plant ^e Operations	Upstream and downstream ^g	1	<1 ^h	1	2	<1 ^h	<1 ^h	1	3
	CC: cooling tower	210	47	300	19	250	150	760	16
	CC: dry cooling	4	4	120	4	4	≪1 ^h	4	2
	CC: open loop cooling	100	20	230	8	9 000	7 200	21 000	7
	CC: pond cooling	240	240	240	2	6 000	6 000	6 000	2
	CC + CCS: cooling tower	380	380	380	2	510	490	510	3
	CT	50	50	340	3	430	430	430	1
	Steam: cooling tower	730	560	1100	8	1 200	1 200	1 200	2
	Steam: open loop cooling	290	190	410	6	36 000	35 000	37 000	2
	Steam: pond cooling ⁱ	270	270	270	1	270	270	270	1

^a CC = combined cycle; CT = combustion turbine; CCS = carbon capture and sequestration.

^b Statistics based on harmonized estimates, with respect to life cycle stage boundaries as well as relevant parameters shown in table 1.

^c For estimates constructed from multiple disaggregated stages or processes (reported in table 6), '*n*' reports the average number of estimates over each of the stages. For categories with exactly 2 estimates, the median is defined as the arithmetic mean.

^d Fuel cycle estimates consists of estimates constructed from estimates for the individual stages within the fuel cycle (reported in table 6). All fuel cycle estimates assume pipeline transportation; estimates for water use in the fuel cycle of liquid natural gas (LNG) range widely and could potentially increase estimates substantially.

^e Fuel cycle and power plant estimates are harmonized to the thermal efficiency of a combined cycle plant.

^f We define conventional natural gas as that not requiring fracture stimulation.

^g Power plant includes both upstream water use estimates (primarily for dust suppression during construction but also for the water use for manufacturing power plant raw materials) and downstream water use estimates (for water used in decommissioning power plants). The latter contributes negligibly to the total for this life cycle stage.

^h <1 designates a value between 0.1 and 0.5 (due to rounding), and ≪1 designates a value less than 0.1.

ⁱ Reflecting data limitations and the nature of water use, we assume withdrawal and consumption are equal for all estimates in this category.

and additional process demands for certain CCS technologies. Efficiency penalties also increase the fuel cycle and power plant equipment life cycle water use per generated MWh. However, the water use of all CCS technologies has not been characterized in the literature, and technologies with different efficiency and operational characteristics would lead to different relative water impacts.

3.2. Natural gas

The natural gas-fired electricity life cycle also includes a fuel cycle, with the key water-relevant fuel cycle distinction being the use of hydraulic fracturing for shale gas extraction versus other conventional methods of extracting gas sources, as shown in tables 5 and 6. For hydraulic fracturing in shale, reported water use ranges from 300 000 gallons per well (Noble Energy Inc. and CSU 2012) to nearly 9 million gallons per well (TWDB 2012), with 50% of collected data reporting between 2 and 5 million gallons per well. Amortized by play-specific estimated ultimate recovery (EUR) of a well as reported in EIA (2011c), this corresponds to a median of 16 gal MWh⁻¹ for shale gas hydraulic fracturing. Reflecting recent interest on the topic (e.g., GAO 2012, JISEA 2012, TWDB 2012), we found many estimates for water use in shale gas hydraulic fracturing and display these in figure 3. The variation in estimates corresponds to the range

of water volumes associated with technological differences; to variations in EUR, which can vary by as much as a factor of 10 across wells even within the same formation (GAO 2012); and to variation in other factors such as well length.

After extraction, natural gas is processed to bring it to pipeline quality. Although three older references (DOE 1983, Tolba 1985, Gleick 1994) agree upon a relatively high water usage of 11 gal MWh⁻¹ for this processing, we defer to the more recent NETL (2010d) assessment that processing requires an equivalent of only 0.1 gal MWh⁻¹. Although this estimate is only for natural gas sweetening, it is unclear that any other stages of the natural gas processing stage use water; note that Grubert *et al* (2012) estimate no water use for natural gas processing. In all, our analysis suggests 4 gal MWh⁻¹ consumed and 5 gal MWh⁻¹ withdrawn in the fuel cycle of conventional natural gas, and 16 gal MWh⁻¹ and 17 gal MWh⁻¹ in that of shale gas.

As with most other thermoelectric technologies, we estimate water use in the power plant equipment's life cycle as negligible (1 gal MWh⁻¹ or less), and operational water use far exceeds that for other life cycle stages in most cases, with important differences among cooling technologies. Reflecting the high thermal efficiencies of combined cycle natural gas plants relative to coal combustion, water used in natural gas operations is approximately one-half to one-third that for coal for a given cooling technology. Less efficient gas combustion

Table 6. Summary statistics of selected, harmonized estimates of water consumption and withdrawal for major production pathways in the natural gas fuel cycle.

	Consumption (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^a				Withdrawal (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^a			
	Median	Min	Max	n ^b	Median	Min	Max	n
Drilling ^c	1	<<1 ^e	19	29	1	<<1 ^e	19	29
Fracturing (other fracture stimulated gas) ^{c,d}	<1 ^e	<<1 ^e	2	4	<1 ^e	<<1 ^e	2	4
Fracturing (shale gas) ^c	12	1	186	49	12	1	186	49
Processing ^c	<1 ^e	<1 ^e	<1 ^e	1	<1 ^e	<1 ^e	<1 ^e	1
Transport (pipeline)	3	1	6	2	4	4	13	3
Transport (liquefied natural gas)	1	1	1	1	8	8	8	1

^a Statistics based on harmonized estimates, with respect to life cycle stage boundaries as well as relevant parameters shown in table 1; estimates are harmonized to the thermal efficiency of a combined cycle natural gas power plant.

^b For categories with exactly 2 estimates, the median is defined as the arithmetic mean.

^c Reflecting data limitations and the nature of water use, we assume withdrawal and consumption are equal for all estimates in this category.

^d The 'other fracture stimulated gas' category includes two estimates for tight gas and two reported for 'conventional gas with fracture stimulation' (all from IEA (2012)).

^e <1 designates a value between 0.1 and 0.5 (due to rounding), and <<1 designates a value less than 0.1.

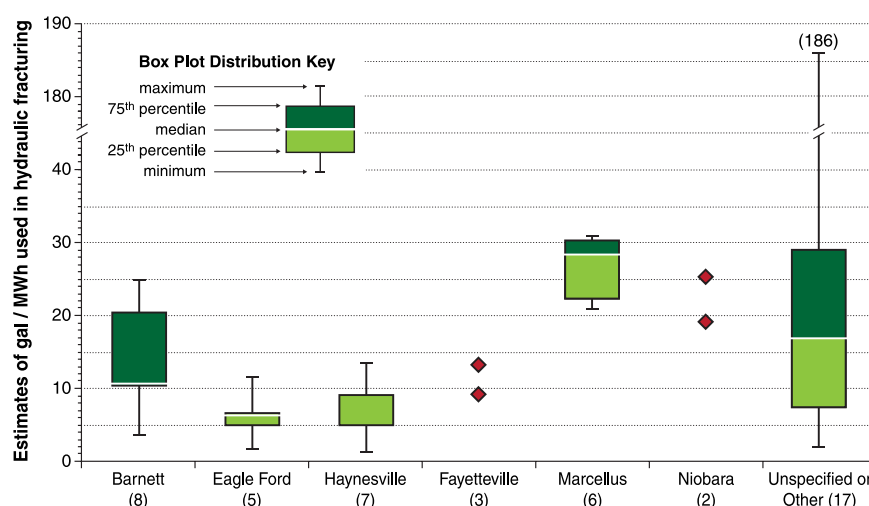


Figure 3. Distributions of estimates of water use for hydraulic fracture stimulation for shale gas extraction, expressed as a function of generated electricity, demonstrate variability both within and across different shale plays. Estimates do not include water used for drilling. The number of estimates for each play is presented in parentheses. The broken y-axis accommodates one outlier estimate reported as the upper limit of water use by IEA (2012). This figure is based on author analysis of collected estimates from 17 references; all fracturing (shale) estimates provided in the Natural Gas–Fuel Cycle–consumption table in the supplemental data (available at stacks.iop.org/ERL/8/015031/mmedia) are represented in this figure.

technologies have higher operational water use estimates, and as shown in table 4, CCS technology can increase operational water use by as much as a factor of two.

3.3. Nuclear

The uranium fuel cycle includes extraction, numerous processing steps, and greater end-of-life considerations than other fuels. As shown in table 7, our analysis suggests that the nuclear power fuel cycle typically withdraws 56 gal MWh⁻¹ water with centrifugal enrichment and 140 gal MWh⁻¹ (87 gal MWh⁻¹ of which is consumed) for gaseous diffusion enrichment. Due to data limitations, including consumption estimates that often exceed estimates reported for withdrawal, we assume that withdrawal equals consumption for all fuel cycle stages except gaseous diffusion enrichment. Consistent

with other technologies, we consider only externally sourced water; estimates including produced water for *in situ* leaching exceed those shown here by approximately 70 times (e.g., Mudd and Diesendorf 2009). We do not distinguish between extraction methods; as table 8 shows, external water use estimates are not significantly differentiated by extraction method. End-of-life water use for nuclear power is uncertain; currently implemented fuel management options are at the low end of estimates (e.g., 1 gal MWh⁻¹ withdrawal (Schneider *et al* 2010)), whereas potential fuel recycling is estimated at 720 gal MWh⁻¹ withdrawal (NETL 2012a).

The large lifetime output of nuclear power plants leads to negligible estimates for the power plant equipment life cycle. Estimated operational water requirements, however, are around one or more orders of magnitude higher than fuel cycle

Table 7. Summary statistics of selected, harmonized estimates of water consumption and withdrawal for major life cycle stages and production pathways for nuclear power.

Sub-category		Consumption (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^a				Withdrawal (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^a			
		Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^b	Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^b
Fuel cycle ^c	Centrifugal enrichment	56	13	300	5	56	13	300	5
	Diffusion enrichment	87	42	330	5	140	62	410	5
Power plant Operations	Upstream and downstream ^d	<1 ^e	<1 ^e	<1 ^e	2	<1 ^e	<1 ^e	<1 ^e	2
	Cooling tower	720	580	890	9	1 100	800	2 600	7
	Open loop cooling	400	100	400	5	47 000	23 000	60 000	12
	Pond cooling	610	400	720	4	1 100	500	13 000	4

^a Statistics based on harmonized estimates, with respect to life cycle stage boundaries as well as relevant parameters shown in table 1.

^b For estimates constructed from multiple disaggregated stages or processes (reported in table 8), '*n*' reports the average number of estimates over each of the stages. For categories with exactly 2 estimates, the median is defined as the arithmetic mean.

^c Fuel cycle estimates consists of estimates constructed from the individual stage estimates. All fuel cycle estimates represent a combined estimate for different extraction types and storage and disposal for spent fuel; reprocessing and recycling of spent fuel is not currently practiced in the United States but would increase estimates substantially.

^d Due to limited information, upstream water use includes estimates only for manufacturing power plant raw materials. In addition, although the stage is expected to be negligible, no estimates for downstream water use were found.

^e <1 designates a value between 0.1 and 0.5 (due to rounding), and <<1 designates a value less than 0.1.

Table 8. Summary statistics of selected, harmonized estimates of water consumption and withdrawal for major production pathways in the nuclear fuel cycle.

	Consumption (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^a				Withdrawal (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^a			
	Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^b	Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^b
Extraction (<i>in situ</i> leaching) ^{c,d}	18	13	23	2	18	13	23	2
Extraction (surface) ^c	32	4	92	6	32	5	92	6
Extraction (underground) ^c	30	<1 ^g	240	4	30	<1 ^g	240	4
Extraction (type not specified) ^c	15	15	15	1	15	15	15	1
Processing (milling) ^c	11	3	29	6	11	3	29	6
Processing (conversion) ^c	10	4	13	3	10	4	13	3
Processing (centrifugal enrichment) ^c	4	3	6	3	4	3	6	3
Processing (diffusion enrichment) ^c	35	32	37	2	83	51	120	2
Processing (fuel fabrication) ^c	1	1	3	4	1	1	3	4
End-of-life (storage and disposal) ^{c,e}	3	1	5	3	3	1	5	3
End-of-life (reprocessing spent fuel) ^f	7	7	7	1	720	720	720	1

^a Statistics based on harmonized estimates, with respect to life cycle stage boundaries as well as relevant parameters shown in table 1.

^b For categories with exactly 2 estimates, the median is defined as the arithmetic mean.

^c Reflecting data limitations and the nature of water use, we assume withdrawal and consumption are equal for all estimates in this category.

^d For *in situ* leaching, only external water use is considered. The inclusion of produced water can lead to estimates on the order of 70 times higher.

^e Storage and disposal includes estimates both of 'temporary' storage on site and also the hypothetical Yucca Mountain storage facility.

^f Reprocessing of fuel is based on a hypothetical facility (NETL 2012a).

^g <1 designates a value between 0.1 and 0.5 (due to rounding), and <<1 designates a value less than 0.1.

estimates. As for other generation technologies, we estimate that the proportion of withdrawn water that is consumed is higher for cooling towers than it is for open loop cooling, and the proportion of consumption for pond cooling is in between the two.

3.4. Concentrating solar power (CSP)

CSP has no fuel cycle, but CSP power plant life cycle estimates (in gal MWh⁻¹) are higher than for the non-renewable thermoelectric technologies. This likely reflects the lower lifetime output over which upstream use is amortized

and the use of specialty chemicals requiring more water than commodities used in typical thermoelectric technologies. Although Inhaber (2004) estimates about 1 gal MWh⁻¹ for the power plant equipment life cycle based on material volumes, other references estimate water consumption just for construction between 1 and 80 gal MWh⁻¹. We omit these estimates and instead base our median water use estimate of 160 gal MWh⁻¹ only on references reporting more comprehensively for the power plant life cycle (Burkhardt *et al* 2011, NETL 2012b). As a thermoelectric generation technology, CSP withdraws similar amounts of operational water to pulverized coal technology, with

Table 9. Summary statistics of selected, harmonized estimates of water consumption and withdrawal for major life cycle stages and production pathways for CSP-generated electricity.

	Sub-category	Consumption (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^a				Withdrawal (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^a			
		Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^b	Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^b
Power plant	Upstream and downstream ^c	160	80	170	3	160	99	170	3
Operations	Dish stirling ^d	5	5	5	2	5	5	5	2
	Fresnel ^d	1000	1000	1000	1	1000	1000	1000	1
	Power tower: cooling tower	810	740	860	5	740	740	740	1
	Power tower: dry cooling ^d	26	26	26	1	26	26	26	1
	Power tower: hybrid cooling ^d	170	90	250	2	170	90	250	2
	Trough: cooling tower	890	560	1900	26	960	870	1100	2
	Trough: dry cooling	78	32	140	20	78	33	79	11
	Trough: hybrid cooling	340	110	350	3	340	340	340	1

^a Statistics based on harmonized estimates, with respect to life cycle stage boundaries as well as relevant parameters shown in table 1.

^b For estimates constructed from multiple disaggregated stages or processes, ‘*n*’ reports the average number of estimates over each of the stages. For categories with exactly 2 estimates, the median is defined as the arithmetic mean.

^c Power plant includes both upstream water use estimates (using only those that include manufacturing in addition to construction) and downstream water use estimates (for water used in dismantling and disposal of power plants). The latter contributes negligibly to the total for this life cycle stage. Estimates are harmonized to the solar-to-electric efficiency of a trough power plant. We include consumption estimates from Burkhardt *et al* (2011) in the withdrawal category due to lack of available data on withdrawals; therefore, withdrawals might be underestimated.

^d Reflecting data limitations and the nature of water use, we assume withdrawal and consumption are equal for all estimates in this category.

important differences by cooling technology. However, because CSP systems commonly are located in remote areas and use evaporation ponds for water disposal, consumption volumes typically equal withdrawals regardless of technology (Solar Millennium LLC 2008).

3.5. Geothermal

Usable data on geothermal power’s water use are limited, as shown in table 10. From available data, we estimate that 3 gal MWh⁻¹ of water are withdrawn and 2 gal MWh⁻¹ are consumed in the power plant equipment life cycle, with water use dominated by drilling and cementation in plant construction. As described in more detail elsewhere (Clark *et al* 2011, Macknick *et al* 2012), operational water use varies by more than an order of magnitude corresponding both to technology configurations (e.g., dry steam, binary, and flash) and to local contexts. Consistent with Macknick *et al* (2012) and our treatment of other technologies, we screened out many published estimates of geothermal operations water use that included geothermal fluids in operational water requirements and focus only on estimates of external water required for operations. Estimates of water use that include geothermal fluids in operational water requirements report water consumption values between roughly 2000 gal MWh⁻¹ to 4000 gal MWh⁻¹, with estimates of EGS even higher (Macknick *et al* 2011). In addition, because the limited data led to results conflicting with physical laws, we include an estimate for a tower-cooled binary power plant that normally would be excluded by our screens because the value (700 gal MWh⁻¹) is estimated from a graphic in the original source (Kozubal and Kustcher 2003).

3.6. Photovoltaics (PV)

As shown in table 11, estimates of water withdrawal for PV’s power plant equipment life cycle vary widely, from 1 to 1600 gal MWh⁻¹, with the majority near the median estimate of 94 gal MWh⁻¹ for crystalline silicone (C-Si). Of the few consumption estimates available, those matched to withdrawal estimates suggest approximately 30% of withdrawn water is consumed (Genesee County Economic Development Center 2011). Because the water use for the PV power plant potentially dominates that for other PV life cycle stages, this variation argues for further study; processing silicon into PV equipment involves numerous stages with rapidly developing techniques that are much less established than manufacturing processes used for other generation technologies, such as the fabrication of steel components. Given this uncertainty, we combine a variety of individual PV technologies, mostly thin-films, into a single ‘other’ category.

Water use for operations is minimal. Experimental evidence demonstrates that although frequent washing increases output, it likely leads to economic losses (Sahm *et al* 2005). DOE (2012) reports that few operators wash PV panels in actual practice. The higher water use of concentrated PV likely reflects certain shared operational characteristics with CSP, such as a need for mirror washing.

3.7. Wind

Although wind data come from few references, these estimates appear of high quality due to thorough information, including paired reporting of withdrawal and consumption,

Table 10. Summary statistics of selected, harmonized estimates of water consumption and withdrawal for major life cycle stages and production pathways for geothermal power-generated electricity.

Sub-category ^a		Consumption (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^b				Withdrawal (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^b			
		Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^c	Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^c
Power plant	Upstream and downstream ^d	2	2	2	1	3	<1 ^g	10	11
Operations ^e	Binary: hybrid cooling ^f	460	220	700	2	460	220	700	2
	Binary: dry cooling ^f	290	270	630	3	290	270	630	3
	Flash	11	5	360	5	18	11	25	2
	EGS: dry cooling ^f	510	290	720	2	510	290	720	2

^a EGS = enhanced geothermal system.^b Statistics based on harmonized estimates, with respect to life cycle stage boundaries as well as relevant parameters shown in table 1.^c For categories with exactly 2 estimates, the median is defined as the arithmetic mean.^d Due to limited information, upstream water use includes estimates only for manufacturing power plant raw materials and construction. In addition, although the stage is expected to be negligible, no estimates for power plant downstream water use were found.^e We omit many collected estimates, which conflate produced water with external water; only external water use is reported in the table.^f Reflecting data limitations and the nature of water use, we assume withdrawal and consumption are equal for all estimates in this category.^g <1 designates a value between 0.1 and 0.5 (due to rounding), and <<1 designates a value less than 0.1.**Table 11.** Summary statistics of selected, harmonized estimates of water consumption and withdrawal for major life cycle stages and production pathways for PV-generated electricity.

Sub-category		Consumption (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^a				Withdrawal (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^a			
		Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^b	Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i>
Power plant ^c	C-Si (crystalline silicone)	81	10	210	3	94	1	1600	24
	Other (primarily thin-film)	6	5	7	2	18	<1 ^d	1400	19
Operations	Flat panel ^e	6	1	26	9	6	1	26	9
	Concentrated PV ^e	30	24	78	4	30	24	78	4

^a Statistics based on harmonized estimates, with respect to life cycle stage boundaries as well as relevant parameters shown in table 1.^b For categories with exactly 2 estimates, the median is defined as the arithmetic mean.^c Power plant estimates include both upstream (i.e., raw materials, manufacturing, construction, and transportation) and downstream (decommissioning) water use. Due to a lack of data, we assume for downstream processes that consumption is negligible and withdrawal is equivalent across sub-categories.^d <1 designates a value between 0.1 and 0.5 (due to rounding), and <<1 designates a value less than 0.1.^e Reflecting data limitations and the nature of water use, we assume withdrawal and consumption are equal for all estimates in this category.

relatively close agreement on withdrawals across sources, and relatively common reporting for power plant downstream water use. We omit older estimates of manufacturing water use that are based on standard manufacturing practices and the bulk volume of materials (Inhaber 2004) in favor of detailed data from manufacturers and a national laboratory, resulting in a median withdrawal of 26 gal MWh⁻¹ and consumption of 1 gal MWh⁻¹. Wind turbines require no fuel and little, if any, washing and maintenance, so operational water use is very low.

4. Results: water use across the full life cycle

Figures 4 and 5 depict estimated total life cycle water consumption and water withdrawal, respectively, for selected production pathways for each generation technology, lever-

aging the best available evidence collected and screened herein. We construct life cycle water use by summing water use factors for relevant stages presented above using the consistent performance parameters presented in table 1 and using consistent definitions for each life cycle stage. These estimates are based on median values and thus ignore the important variation within estimates for each stage. More generally, life cycle water use estimates are a limited indicator of aggregate impact on water resources, given the critical spatial and temporal characteristics of resource demands and availability.

Operations dominate the life cycle water use for most electricity production pathways, with the exceptions of dry-cooled thermoelectric technologies, PV, and wind. Accordingly, relative rankings of life cycle water use mirror those for the operations stage presented in Macknick *et al*

Table 12. Summary statistics of selected, harmonized estimates of water consumption and withdrawal for major life cycle stages and production pathways for wind-generated electricity.

Sub-category		Consumption (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^a				Withdrawal (gal MWh ⁻¹) ^a			
		Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^b	Median	Min	Max	<i>n</i> ^b
Power plant	Upstream and downstream ^c	1	≪1 ^d	9	12	26	13	83	19
Operations	Onshore	<1 ^d	≪1 ^d	2	10	1	1	1	2
	Offshore	≪1 ^d	≪1 ^d	1	4	2	≪1 ^d	3	9

^a Statistics based on harmonized estimates, with respect to life cycle stage boundaries as well as relevant parameters shown in table 1.

^b For estimates constructed from multiple disaggregated stages or processes, '*n*' reports the average number of estimates over each of the stages. For categories with exactly 2 estimates, the median is defined as the arithmetic mean.

^c Power plant includes both upstream water use estimates (pertaining to manufacturing, materials, and construction) and downstream water use estimates (for water used in dismantling and disposal of power plants). The latter contributes negligibly to the total for this life cycle stage.

^d <1 designates a value between 0.1 and 0.5 (due to rounding), and ≪1 designates a value less than 0.1.

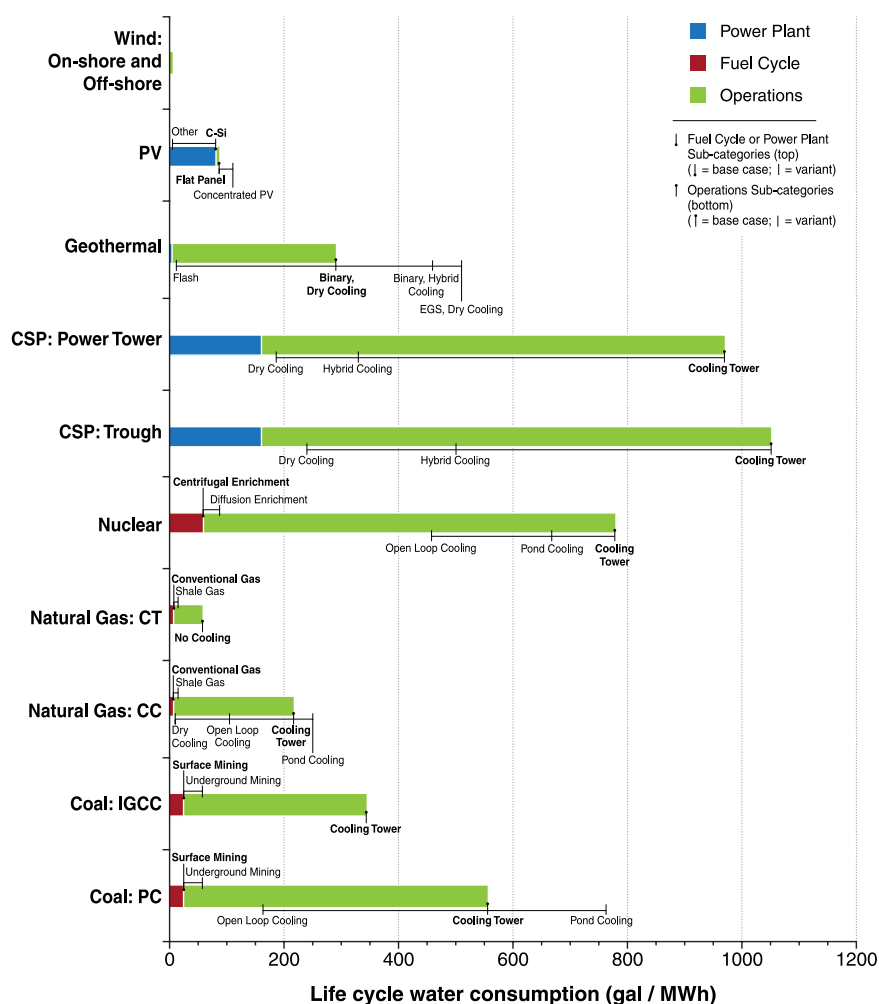


Figure 4. Estimated life cycle water consumption factors for selected electricity generation technologies, based on median harmonized estimates, demonstrate significant variability with respect to technology choices. Base case estimates for each life cycle stage, presented in bold font, are held constant for estimating life cycle water consumption factors for other life cycle stages. Estimates for production pathway variants in fuel cycle or power plant (labeled on top of the bars) or operations (bottom) are labeled at points connected to the base case estimate with horizontal lines. Note: PV = photovoltaics; C-Si = crystalline silicone; EGS = enhanced geothermal system; CSP = concentrating solar power; CT = combustion turbine; CC = combined cycle; IGCC = integrated gasification combined cycle; and PC = pulverized coal, sub-critical.

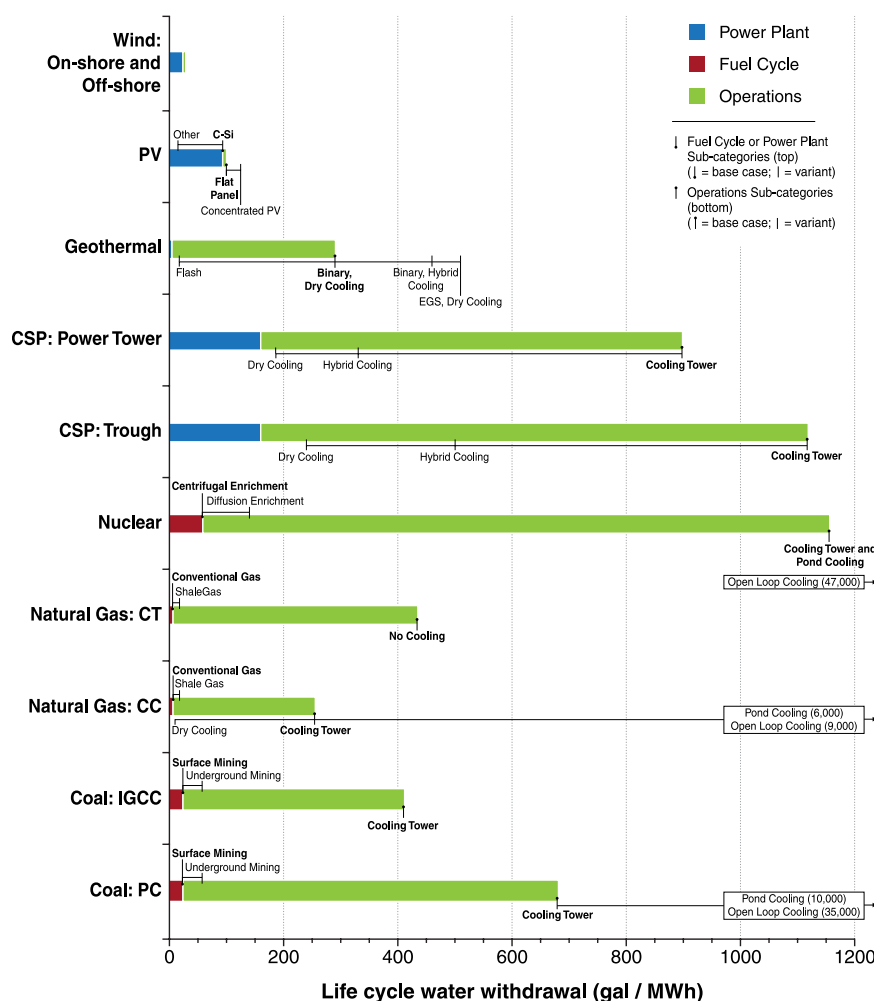


Figure 5. Estimated life cycle water withdrawal factors for selected electricity generation technologies, based on median harmonized estimates, demonstrate significant variability with respect to technology choices. Base case estimates for each life cycle stage, presented in bold font, are held constant for estimating life cycle water consumption factors for other life cycle stages. Estimates for production pathway variants in fuel cycle or power plant (labeled on top of the bars) or operations (bottom) are labeled at points connected to the base case estimate with horizontal lines. Note: PV = photovoltaics; C-Si = crystalline silicone; EGS = enhanced geothermal system; CSP = concentrating solar power; CT = combustion turbine; CC = combined cycle; IGCC = integrated gasification combined cycle; and PC = pulverized coal, sub-critical.

(2012). For coal, natural gas, and nuclear, the fuel cycle contributes a small but non-negligible amount to total life cycle water use. For these technologies, power plant equipment life cycle water demands are negligible in relation to the life cycle total. In contrast, the power plant contributes a large portion of the total water use for the thermoelectric renewable technology of CSP, and represent the majority of life cycle water use for non-thermoelectric renewables (PV and wind). With the exception of prominent distinctions between withdrawal and consumption requirements for different cooling technologies, most estimates of water consumption and withdrawal across the life cycle of a given production pathway follow similar relative patterns to each other. In both figures 4 and 5, the relative rankings of water use across major generation technology categories switch according to production pathways.

Figure 6 demonstrates the sensitivity of the life cycle water consumption estimates shown in figure 4 to the selection of performance parameters for harmonization. The range of

parameters used match the extremes found in the published literature or reported in reviews on electricity generated by coal (Whitaker *et al* 2012), natural gas (O'Donoghue *et al* 2012), nuclear power (NETL 2012a, Warner and Heath 2012), CSP (Burkhardt *et al* 2012, DOE 2012), PV (Hsu *et al* 2012), and wind (Dolan and Heath 2012). We base the range for geothermal on the ranges used for other technologies.

Parameter values can alter the relative rankings of water consumption across major generation technology categories (e.g., coal versus nuclear). The relative sensitivity of the life cycle total consumption to performance parameter values corresponds to the relative contribution of the major life cycle stages to which they pertain. In addition to demonstrating a source of variation in published estimates, this figure reflects how operations characteristics interact with relative water use in other life cycle stages to influence water use per unit of electricity output. For example, variation in thermal efficiency corresponds with substantial variation in life cycle water use because the factor affects the amount of cooling water

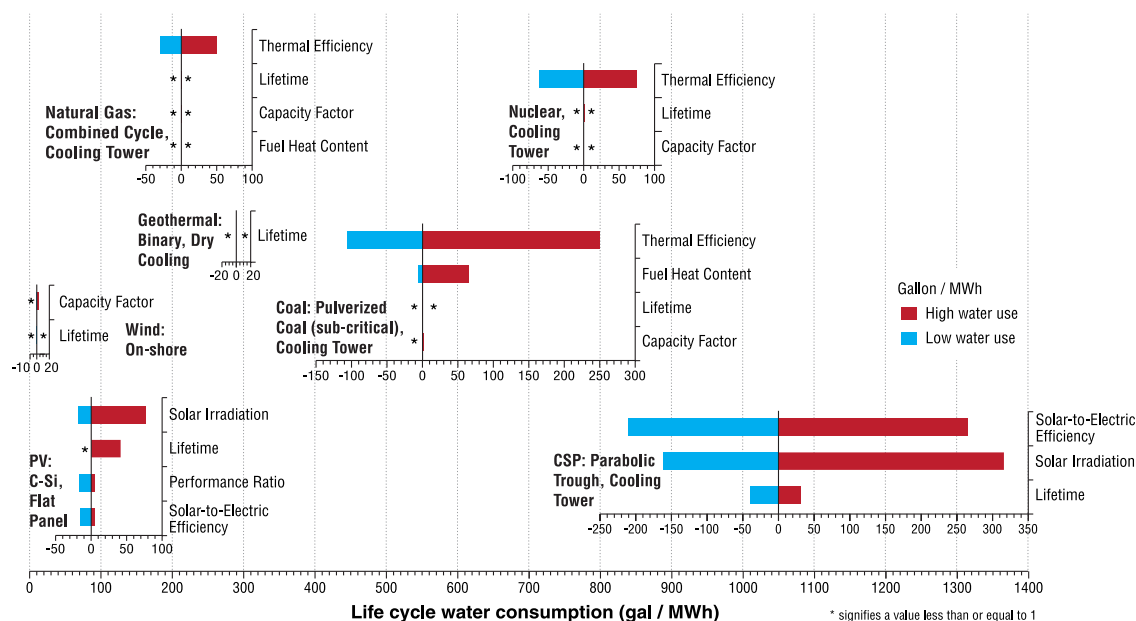


Figure 6. Sensitivity analysis reveals differing influence of certain performance parameters on the median estimate of life cycle water consumption factors for selected electricity generation technology pathways. The figure depicts the variation of median life cycle stage estimates across a range of reasonable performance parameters. See text and section A.4 of the supplemental data (available at stacks.iop.org/ERL/8/015031/mmedia) for further details. Note: PV = photovoltaics; C-Si = crystalline silicone; and CSP = concentrating solar power.

required in operations, but also how much fuel is required and therefore how much water is required for fuel extraction (which is measured in terms of water use per unit of fuel). Furthermore, factors affecting only the amortization of power plant equipment, such as lifetime or capacity factor, have little influence on life cycle water factors when the power plant equipment contributes only negligibly to the life cycle total.

5. Conclusion

In a water-constrained world, it is critical to understand how water is used throughout the entire life cycle of electricity generation. From a wide array of sources, we gathered available evidence for water use in any stage of the electricity generation life cycle for selected technologies. We screened and harmonized estimates to common performance parameters and boundaries and consolidated them into water consumption and withdrawal factors for major life cycle stages for each electricity generation technology considered.

This concise presentation of life cycle water use factors, built from a thorough review of the available literature, offers a unique and comprehensive look at the water requirements of different electricity generation and fuel supply choices. In many cases, operations dominate life cycle water use in absolute magnitude. However, the water implications of choices about electricity generation technologies clearly do not end at those due to the cooling water demands for thermoelectric generation. The fuel cycles of coal, natural gas, and nuclear power all require significant water volumes, and renewable generation technologies require significant water for manufacturing and construction. Such considerations may be important to the development both of local fuel resources

and of local electricity generation capacity in regions with current or potential constraints on water resources. In general, based on review and harmonization of the available evidence, total life cycle water use across the generation technologies considered here appears lowest for electricity generated by photovoltaics and wind, and highest for nuclear and conventional coal technologies. Depending on cooling and prime mover technologies, natural gas and CSP technologies can be ranked either among the highest or lowest water users. For a given generation technology and cooling type, evaluated CCS technologies can increase operational water use by a factor of two and upstream water use by an amount proportional to the associated loss in efficiency.

Despite extensive collection, screening, and harmonization efforts, gathered estimates for most generation technologies and life cycle stages remain few in number, wide in range, and many are of questionable original quality. These constraints should be considered for proper interpretation and use of the results reported here in future analyses. For example, reflecting a general lack of rigorously tracked and recorded comparisons of consumption to withdrawal, median estimates of consumption in some cases exceed the corresponding median estimate for withdrawal and were thus adjusted in the results reported herein to conform to physical laws. Estimates for nearly all processes and life cycle stages vary significantly, reflecting a combination of issues including methodological inconsistency, sub-category heterogeneity, and the effect of local conditions on water use. Data limitations highlight the need for new sources of primary data for many life cycle stages of many generation technologies. Although most categories would benefit from new sources of more recent, well-documented primary data,

the limitations suggest particular value from further research into areas with relatively large variation in estimates, such as the PV power plant equipment life cycle, or with few available estimates, such as the nuclear fuel cycle or the full life cycle of geothermal electricity generation.

This analysis establishes a foundation for estimating water requirements of different electricity generation choices. Estimation of water use for actual projects should use the most specific data possible, in light of the finding that the ranking of water use across generation technologies is not fixed but varies with production pathway and by specific performance parameters. However, this paper provides insight by consolidating and screening the wide breadth of available information into robust first order estimates of water used by archetypal production pathways across the life cycle. Improved understanding of water use can inform management of risks associated with water resource variability, within each part of the production pathway.

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Overview: Energy and Water in Colorado

Stacy Tellinghuisen, Western Resource Advocates

June 13, 2014

Energy and water are inextricably linked: energy is used to pump, treat, and distribute water to customers, to heat water, and to treat and discharge wastewater; and water is required to develop energy supplies and generate electricity.

Researchers at the University of Texas estimated that 13% of our nation's energy use is embedded in water use. That figure may be even higher in some western states, where long-distance water transfers consume large amounts of energy. The amount of energy embedded in water use depends on the source and quality of water and its use – groundwater pumped from deep aquifers, surface water pumped over long distances, and lower-quality water (requiring more treatment) all require more significant amounts of energy than local, high quality surface water. On the customer's end, heating water generally requires the most significant amounts of energy.

In Colorado, power plants consume approximately 65,000 AF today. The water embedded in electricity generation varies considerably, depending on the fuel source, generation technology, and cooling technology employed at a thermoelectric power plant. Most of the water consumed to generate electricity is used to cool and condense steam in a thermoelectric power plant. Typical western steam plants (such as coal and nuclear plants) employ wet-recirculating cooling systems. These systems recirculate water in a cooling tower, usually until it is fully consumed. A combined cycle gas plant often has two gas turbines and one steam turbine; the water intensity of electricity produced at a combined cycle gas plant is, on average, one third as much as the water intensity of a conventional coal or nuclear plant. Newer thermal plants may use alternative cooling technologies; in recent years, combined cycle gas plants in the region have adopted dry cooling, which consumes 10% as much water as conventional wet cooling. The Comanche Unit 3 adopted a hybrid wet-dry cooling system, which reduces water use at the unit by approximately 50%.

Water use for renewable technologies also varies. Wind and solar photovoltaic facilities use no water; concentrating solar power plants have variable levels of water use, depending on the generation technology and cooling technology. Figure 2 (Meldrum et al.) illustrates comparative levels of water use for different technologies on a *life cycle basis* – that is, the water embedded in construction of the facility, fuel mining (if applicable), and electricity generation.

The interdependency of energy and water highlights opportunities for key policies that can reduce future water and energy needs in Colorado. Several recent policies and trends in the energy sector are important to consider:

- The Clean Air-Clean Jobs Act, passed by the Colorado Legislature in 2010, established a path for Xcel Energy to retire several of its older coal-fired units and replace them with natural gas capacity and other cleaner resources. Because combined cycle gas plants are more water efficient than the coal-fired steam plants, this shift will reduce total annual water needs for power plants in the state, by over 5,000 AF.
- More broadly, Xcel Energy and Colorado's other major electricity utilities have no plans to develop new, water-intensive coal- or nuclear- steam plants, according to the integrated

resource plans utilities file with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission and other entities (such as the Western Area Power Authority). Xcel Energy provides approximately 70% of the state's electricity; the utility's future resource plans focus on increasing generation from renewable energy sources (primarily wind) and new combined cycle gas plants. This is driven by numerous factors, including the price of natural gas and the price of renewables, among others. ***Given this, the state-wide trend for water demands for electricity generation in Colorado will remain flat or decline in the future.*** Figure 1 illustrates the estimated emission trajectory for Colorado's five largest utilities (Xcel Energy, Tri-State Generation & Transmission, Black Hills Electric, Colorado Springs Utilities, and Platte River Power Authority), under the utilities' "baseline" or "reference case" energy scenarios reported in the most recent publicly-available resource plans.

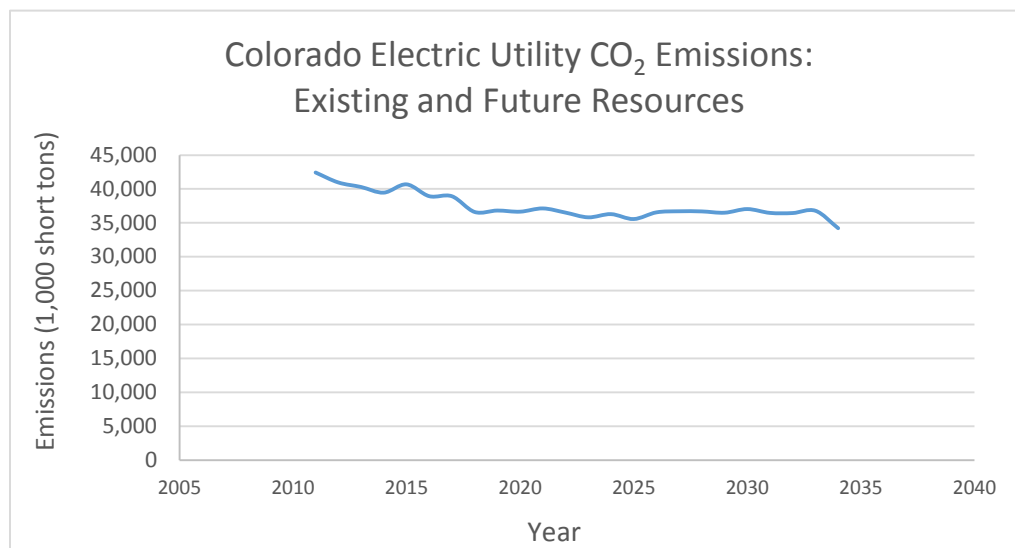


Figure 1. Emissions under a reference or "baseline" case for Colorado's five major utilities are projected to decline. Emissions data was compiled from the most recent publicly-available resource plans for Xcel Energy, Tri-State Generation & Transmission, Black Hills Electric, Colorado Springs Utilities, and Platte River Power Authority. Where possible, WRA used reported data; in certain cases, we estimated emissions based on generation data and average emission rates.

- Federal regulations may further reduce the amount of water used by the energy sector in the future. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency released draft regulations for greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants on June 2, 2014. These regulations will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the existing fleet of power plants (primarily coal units), and will likely reduce future electricity generation at those plants. Reducing electricity generation at a power plant would reduce water used at a plant, further reducing the state's future water-energy needs.

Future policies may further reduce energy-related water demands and water-related energy demands:

- ✓ Advancing energy efficiency (which uses no water), renewable energy (which, in Colorado, is primarily wind and solar photovoltaics, and uses no water), and other clean energy policies can reduce future water needs for energy beyond the reductions already likely to occur.

- ✓ Small and distributed generation such as in-conduit hydropower (which can be installed in municipal water supply systems and agricultural ditch systems) can meet a portion of future energy needs, and does not consume water supplies.
- ✓ Adopting new efficient standards for indoor appliances and landscaping ordinances for new developments can reduce the water and energy used by the customer, as well as the energy used “upstream” of the customer, to pump, treat, and distribute potable supplies.
- ✓ Other programs that increase water efficiency, such as leak detection, innovative financing mechanisms for water conservation (similar to Energy Performance Contracting and ClimateSmart loan programs), and agricultural efficiency programs may provide even greater energy and water savings.

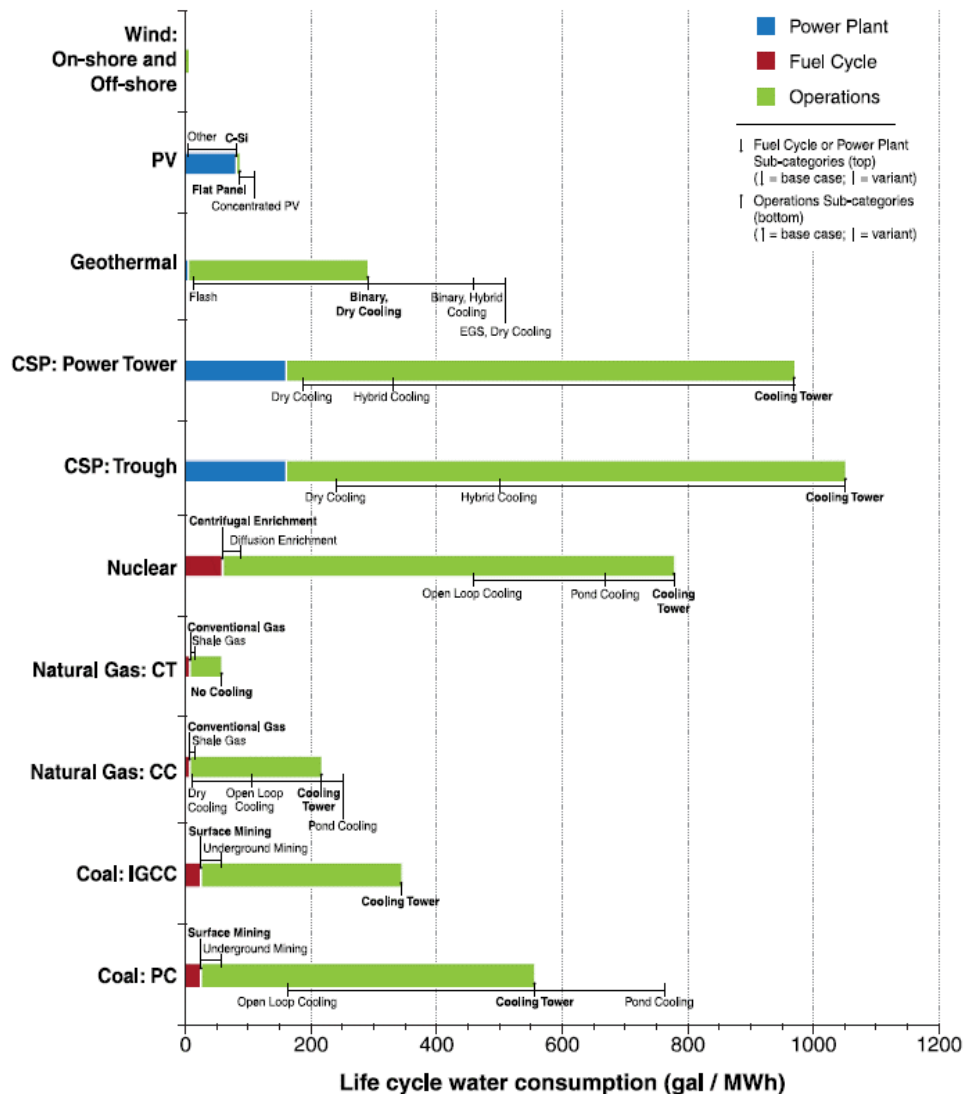


Figure 2. Life cycle water use of different forms of energy generation. From Meldrum et al, 2013 (Figure 4)

Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 6/18/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: June 18, 2014

Input provided by: Sean Saville, Audobon

Method of submission: Email to cowaterplan@state.co.us

Related sections of CWP Framework: 5.9

Summary of Input: Summary of attachments: A cover letter and 671 copies of public comment are attached. The Audubon highlighted a number of comments in full that highlight the values and concerns on their commenters.

Documents Submitted for Review: Excel spreadsheet of 671 comments, highlighted comments and a cover letter

Staff Response: CWCB staff appreciates the Audubon Society's efforts to work with staff to provide a summary of the comments and to discuss Audubon Society's plans to undergo a letter campaign. CWCB provided guidance to Basin Roundtables regarding the need to determine environmental reaches that need additional projects and methods to meet environmental needs, whether flow or habitat related. CWCB has committed its' contractors, CDM Smith and The Nature Conservancy, to assist roundtables to better determine where there is a projects and methods gap for nonconsumptive needs. Several BRTs have decided to work closely with them, such as the Arkansas. In addition, others have proceeded with a "Flow Evaluation Tool, and still others are looking at the benefits of agriculture to the environment, which are particularly relevant to migratory birds. Common metrics to assess flows statewide are difficult. CWCB paid for a pilot of the Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool in the Colorado and the Arkansas. It was successful in the Colorado largely because the Colorado Decision Support system was available. Unfortunately, such a model is not yet available for the East Slope basins. As these models become available CWCB will work with partners and continue to assess how flow, one critical factor in the health of native species, can be better assessed on a broader statewide scale. In the mean-time, staff expects the first version of the Basin Implementation Plans will yield valuable information regarding environmental needs, projects, and methods. Staff hopes the Audubon



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Direct 303-866-3441

Society will support future efforts to complete or develop basin models that can help determine natural flows and potential benefits or impacts of future projects.



June 18, 2014

Kate McIntire
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Outreach, Education and Public Engagement
Water Supply Planning Section
1580 Logan St., Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Audubon member's comments on Colorado Water Plan from February 2014

Dear Ms.McIntire,

Thank you for accepting our Colorado members' comments on the Colorado Water Plan that were collected in response to an action alert we sent out on February 19th of this year. The development of the water plan and the water conservation implications for Colorado are very important to our members and supporters in the state and beyond. We compiled the 671 comments for submission to the Colorado Water Conservation Board and also copied Governor Hickenlooper's office on the original comments. You will find attached here, a collection of the comments we thought were the most thoughtful and representative of our members' recommendations and concerns. I have also attached the spreadsheet including all of the member responses to our action alert from February. Please include these in the official record of public comments on the Colorado Water Plan and in the board packet of materials being considered by the CWCB at the upcoming meeting in July.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions about the information attached.

Sincerely,

Sean Saville
National Field Director
Audubon
1200 18th St. NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036
202-600-7968
ssaville@audubon.org

Last_Name	First_Name	City	State	E-Mail	Response_Date	Response_Text
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munday sherrie Boulder CO jademermaid17@netzero.net

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Widdowfield Hollace Nederland CO hollacep@hughes.net

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Bloomfield Lynn Norwood CO lbloomfield@centurytel.net

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Schreuder Carol Colorado Springs CO carol.schreuder@gmail.com

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Owen	Linda	Loveland	CO	lindajillyan@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 13:25
O'Rourke	Margaret	Arvada	CO	oroconliz@gmail.com	2/19/2014 13:26
May	Mark	Aurora	CO	maymj@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 13:26
glasser	joan	Boulder	CO	glasserjoan@gmail.com	2/19/2014 13:27
Markevich	Christel	Nederland	CO	christelmarkevich@gmail.com	2/19/2014 13:27

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Westlake	Kim	Denver	CO	kawestlake13@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 13:28
Nichols	Ambrey	Lakewood	CO	abnichols3@gmail.com	2/19/2014 13:28
St John	Georalaine	Fort Collins	CO	presswks@aol.com	2/19/2014 13:29
Lovelace	Lanelle	Crestone	CO	ellel7@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 13:29
Speicher	Sandra	Weston	CO	sandyspeicher@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 13:29

Beecken	Tim	Fort Collins	CO	beeckentim@comcast.net	2/19/2014 13:30	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Ellenberger	David	Wheat Ridge	CO	davidellenberger@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 13:30	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Hillesland	Lisa	Longmont	CO	lhillesland@comcast.net	2/19/2014 13:31	resource we have taken for granted. If we all do our part, we can make this less painful. As an Audubon supporter and a Colorado resident, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Ainsworth	Aimee	Conifer	CO	aainsworth33@gmail.com	2/19/2014 13:31	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Brown	Ronald	Longmont	CO	conbro.32578@comcast.net	2/19/2014 13:31	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cemeteries. The Front Range is high desert! Same goes on the western slope where I live: No more watering golf course fairways, no watering cemeteries and ball fields, road and highway medians, residential lawns should be limited in size to about nothing! This area is a desert! #2 Quite growing crops in AZ Phoenix area like flowers, acres of them that require flood irrigation! Quit leaving crop fields baron in winter! As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

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Miller	Brenda	Olathe	CO	rrwildliferehab@gmail.com	2/19/2014 13:35
iedike	Robert	Arvada	CO	liedike0250@msn.com	2/19/2014 13:35
Lemmon	John	Nederland	CO	jlemmon@its.bldrdoc.gov	2/19/2014 13:36
Lindh	Jeff	Longmont	CO	jefflinlh@mac.com	2/19/2014 13:36
Coebergh	Philip	Grand Junction	CO	pjcoebergh@gmail.com	2/19/2014 13:36

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enjoy the wildlife living in the river drainage area. That beginning raised strong compassionate adults who value our wilderness and wild life. We all strongly support wise and adequate water planning in Colorado. Not planning to extort rural water for wasteful urban use, but WISE planning that will leave our streams and rivers healthy and supportive of wild life. As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

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Jackson	Tom	Denver	CO	tomj65@comcast.net	2/19/2014 13:37
McNeill	Amanda	Cortez	CO	amcneill@dinecollege.edu	2/19/2014 13:37
Laurson	Ed	Denver	CO	gglaurson@msn.com	2/19/2014 13:37
Stehlik	Richard	Boulder	CO	richaras@colorado.edu	2/19/2014 13:37
Chaney	Melissa	Denver	CO	melissajchaney@gmail.com	2/19/2014 13:40

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planet upon which we are fortunate to live. We need to keep the sacred life of this earth in mind at all times and especially when we are planning changes that will leave a legacy as to our respect for the natural life that surrounds us and shares the air, earth and water with us. As a supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

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Johnson	Stephanie	Durango	CO	twilightgeo@frontier.net	2/19/2014 13:41
Warwick	Cynthia	Fort Collins	CO	ckwarwick@msn.com	2/19/2014 13:42
Jennings	K	Louisville	CO	kajenngirl@aol.com	2/19/2014 13:44
butler	Stephanie	Englewood	CO	butler_2000@comcast.net	2/19/2014 13:44
Rutigliano	Janet	Basalt	CO	jrutiglia@earthlink.net	2/19/2014 13:44

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2/19/2014 13:45

Brohman Michael Denver CO mbrohman43@gmail.com

2/19/2014 13:46

Cowan Edward Centennial CO edward@sportea.com

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McVey Earl Arvada CO nihillatchi@q.com

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raine Chaya Loveland CO leightonfamily@frii.com

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Piskadlo	Mark	Evergreen	CO	mark.piskadlo@inin.com	2/19/2014 13:48
Kautz	Katherine	Northglenn	CO	kmkautz@comcast.net	2/19/2014 13:49
Scheurer	Linda	Longmont	CO	susan363@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 13:49
Royer	Carol	Larkspur	CO	cmrinkspot@gmail.com	2/19/2014 13:50
Bengston	Kay	Aurora	CO	jkbengston@msn.com	2/19/2014 13:51

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Little	W.	Denver	CO	littleor0@earthlink.net	2/19/2014 13:51
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Schockner	Jan	Loveland	CO	rosetta@rosettasculpture.com	2/19/2014 13:55
Bowling	Keri	Northglenn	CO	keribowling@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 13:55
Pucak	Carol	Carbondale	CO	pucak@sopris.net	2/19/2014 13:57
Osborne	Tena	Greeley	CO	marie.marie0523@gmail.com	2/19/2014 13:57

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treves	ursula	Golden	CO	treves.u@gmail.com	2/19/2014 14:19

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

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Hoverstock	Rol	Tabernash	CO	rol.hoverstock@gmail.com	2/19/2014 14:31
Holtz	Sue	Boulder	CO	creamcheese1@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 14:33
Rutledge	Brian	Livermore	CO	barzoo@aol.com	2/19/2014 14:33

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2/19/2014 15:00

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2/19/2014 15:07

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R	Joe	Denver	CO	jaggabean@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 15:11
Lohr	Margaret	Commerce City	CO	sweezyzero@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 15:12
eaton	pat	Rollinsville	CO	etpuja@aol.com	2/19/2014 15:13
Robertson	Lynne	Denver	CO	chezrobertson@gmail.com	2/19/2014 15:15

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Meeks	Mark	Bailey	CO	mkenosha@aol.com	2/19/2014 15:15
McMath	Stephen	Laporte	CO	smcmath@frie.com	2/19/2014 15:15
Drescher	Linda	Golden	CO	lwdrescher@comcast.net	2/19/2014 15:16
Irby	John	Colorado Springs	CO	jonnyooh@gmail.com	2/19/2014 15:18
Wagner	Jeffrey	Westcliffe	CO	jeffrey.david.wagner@gmail.com	2/19/2014 15:18

Chandranatha	Rakesh	Golden	CO	rchandranatha@geosociety.org	2/19/2014 15:21	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Richards	Kenneth	Evergreen	CO	kerj@comcast.net	2/19/2014 15:23	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Rowell	Steven	Highlands Ranch CO		steven.rowell@zoho.com	2/19/2014 15:23	protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. natural reservoir reserve of clean water, is to become a staunch advocate to implore the Federal EPA to tighten restrictions that would limit gas and oil industry's exploitive use of 'fracking' shale tar-sand oil underground deposits that not only consume hundreds of thousands of gallons of our limited clean water reserve, but in the process of fracking, renders the water so toxically contaminated that the health and well-being of we Coloradans is threatened by disease that would be an added costly burden to our already over-taxed health care system for medical treatment. This has the potential to be a 'two-fold' benefit of good steward-ship for Colorado and the Nation. As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Hodges	Frederick	Castle Rock	CO	hodges.fred@gmail.com	2/19/2014 15:23	ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Baksa	Virginia	Lafayette	CO	vbaksa5@gmail.com	2/19/2014 15:23	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

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2/19/2014 15:24

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Scarlata Rachel Divide CO rachel.scarlata@gmail.com

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schmelzer robbie Eldorado Springs CO callrob@gmail.com

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2/19/2014 15:31

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Kushner	Sharon	Colorado Springs CO	sharon@bobkush.com	2/19/2014 15:31
Riley	Mari	Broomfield CO	magriley@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 15:33
Anderson	Christina	Boulder CO	ceeandy@comcast.net	2/19/2014 15:34
phillips	weslie	Golden CO	wwpsan@msn.com	2/19/2014 15:35
DeStefanis	Carol	Denver CO	carmdstf@aol.com	2/19/2014 15:36

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Paul	Gabriele	Lafayette	CO	gxixd@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 15:38
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Hansen	Karen	Littleton	CO	hansenkk007@gmail.com	2/19/2014 15:39
Guevara	Marlene	Colorado Springs	CO	marlene.guevara47@gmail.com	2/19/2014 15:40

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Kay	Luanne	Loveland	CO	moon_glow9@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 15:43
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Dempsey	Brenda	Aurora	CO	bdempsey2658@msn.com	2/19/2014 15:45
Boyer	Byron	Colorado Springs	CO	boyerbyr@gmail.com	2/19/2014 15:46

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Burrows	Aubrey	Boulder	CO	aubrey.burrows@gmail.com	2/19/2014 16:32
Fenster	Dustin	Denver	CO	dustin.fenster@gmail.com	2/19/2014 16:32

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Schweitzberger	Gale	Denver	CO	happyheart2sad@gmail.com	2/19/2014 16:45
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Powderly	Johnny	Golden	CO	motoboyxxx@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 16:53

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Huber	Diane	Centennial	CO	dianemhuber@msn.com	2/19/2014 16:54
schriener	leslie	Golden	CO	lesliewhitehorse@msn.com	2/19/2014 16:55
Hall	Kappy	Lafayette	CO	kappy.hall@gmail.com	2/19/2014 16:55
Millette	Robert	Glenwood Spring	CO	peregrine@rof.net	2/19/2014 16:57
Duffy	Geraldine	Bayfield	CO	duffy@mydurango.net	2/19/2014 16:58

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Hipszky	Ginger	Colorado Springs CO		ghipszky@gmail.com	2/19/2014 16:58
Rogers	Forest	Boulder	CO	forestrogers@gmail.com	2/19/2014 16:59
Somsky	Don	Castle Rock	CO	dsomsky@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 16:59
Suskiewich	Susan	Lyons	CO	sps.us.nz@gmail.com	2/19/2014 17:01
Spady	William	Dillon	CO	billspady@earthlink.net	2/19/2014 17:02

Trumbull	Mark	Boulder	CO	mntnsalto@gmail.com	2/19/2014 17:02	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Corwin	Kevin	Centennial	CO	kevvgudguy@aol.com	2/19/2014 17:02	Water is not only needed for humans, but for the entire ecosystem. Please do not be short-sighted in your water plans. Take into account our rivers and the birds and animals that depend on that water. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Abell	Tracy	Lakewood	CO	tracyabell@comcast.net	2/19/2014 17:03	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Buster	Katey	Aspen	CO	kateynaturelady@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 17:04	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Ravnik	Maureen	Littleton	CO	maravnik@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 17:05	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

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As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. Unfortunately, many people will not do this unless water rates are increased. GRAY water usage for properties should be encouraged. Too much green grass in our area is a major waste and encourages much chemical weed killer. Encouraging and even requiring Xerascaped landscape should be in all developments. As a people, we seem to have no conscience regarding the people downstream who also depend on these waters. It is our duty to conserve, and not pollute, river waters.

Davis Rachael Fort Collins CO rachaeldavislyn@gmail.com

2/19/2014 17:05

Hardie Eldridge Denver CO ehardie@mho.com

2/19/2014 17:08

Bruns Timothy Frisco CO brunsytb@hotmail.com

2/19/2014 17:08

Palius Stephen Lafayette CO paliusfamily@gmail.com

2/19/2014 17:10

Worth Meg Erie CO worthmeg@comcast.net

2/19/2014 17:12

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Bushnell	Martha W D	Boulder	CO	marthawdb@comcast.net	2/19/2014 17:12
Kennedy	Katya	Evergreen	CO	katyakennedy@aol.com	2/19/2014 17:13
Nissen	Jerry	Fraser	CO	jerryニス@gmail.com	2/19/2014 17:13
Brown	Joanna	Telluride	CO	jwb1989@gmail.com	2/19/2014 17:13
Starace	Carl	Longmont	CO	castarace@gmail.com	2/19/2014 17:16

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Snyder	Mary	Lakewood	CO	sewmary28@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 17:17
Beauchamp	Catherine	Loveland	CO	clhediting@gmail.com	2/19/2014 17:18
sisk	sidney	Broomfield	CO	evilkitty0@gmail.com	2/19/2014 17:20
Duffy	Ellene	Golden	CO	ellene.duffy@pb.com	2/19/2014 17:21
Chambers	Bill	Montrose	CO	ace1942us@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 17:22

Schweitzer	Marjorie	Boulder	CO	marjoriemgs@gmail.com	2/19/2014 17:24	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Sabol	Thomas	Longmont	CO	tdsabol@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 17:24	protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Traum	Norman	Louisville	CO	dougiemacd67@gmail.com	2/19/2014 17:25	Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Martin	Paul	Alamosa	CO	stang7088@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 17:25	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Brooks	Kim	Oak Creek	CO	kannebrooks@gmail.com	2/19/2014 17:26	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Enser	Mark	Lakewood	CO	enser73@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 17:26	protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

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Stewart	Dorothy	Greeley	CO	dorothyherself@greeley.net	2/19/2014 17:27
Baldwin	John	Aurora	CO	baldwin_john@comcast.net	2/19/2014 17:29
Sees	Catherine	Denver	CO	angel196596@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 17:30
Noland	Molly	Penrose	CO	manodaland@gmail.com	2/19/2014 17:30
McKee	Richard	Longmont	CO	jimmckee3@comcast.net	2/19/2014 17:30

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van der Harten	Arthur	Mancos	CO	Shearts@q.com	2/19/2014 17:30
Blount	Delilah	Thornton	CO	deebuff66@aol.com	2/19/2014 17:35
Wilson	Robert	Grand Junction	CO	bluebirdbob@gmail.com	2/19/2014 17:35
mccune	sylvia	Loveland	CO	sylvia.mccune@skybeam.com	2/19/2014 17:35
Freestone	Mack	Loveland	CO	mack_freestone@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 17:36

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Benkert	Judith	Bayfield	CO	jbenkert@aol.com	2/19/2014 17:36
Grayson	John	Durango	CO	johngrayson@live.com	2/19/2014 17:37
Doucet	Lisha	Wellington	CO	lisha_doucet@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 17:37
Segrest	Jessica	Grand Junction	CO	segrjess1@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 17:38
Allen	Roberta	Westminster	CO	wildflower464@gmail.com	2/19/2014 17:39

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Hollomon	Carol	Denver	CO	chollo233@aol.com	2/19/2014 17:40
Sanchez	Desiree	Lafayette	CO	desireedsanchez@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 17:41
Quinlan	Lola	Fort Collins	CO	lfquinlan@earthlink.net	2/19/2014 17:41
Sandoval	Eric	Aspen	CO	eric.sandoval50@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 17:43
Friend	David	Denver	CO	daviddfriend@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 17:43

Schaub	John	Ignacio	CO	jschaub27@gmail.com	2/19/2014 17:45	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Hvoslef	Erik	Salida	CO	rep2serv@msn.com	2/19/2014 17:47	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Hosman	Kim	Longmont	CO	ktracy111@msn.com	2/19/2014 17:47	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Kruse	Tina	Broomfield	CO	tmkruise68@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 17:48	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
QUINN	SHERRY	Colorado Springs CO		sherry_quinn@irco.com	2/19/2014 17:48	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

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Zebarth	Ruth	Breckenridge	CO	ruthzebarth@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 17:51
Swinney	Davis	Fort Collins	CO	jedi936@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 17:52
Gerlitz	Lucinda	Bailey	CO	gerlitzl@q.com	2/19/2014 17:53
Stewart	Terri	Lakewood	CO	stewartmgmt@earthlink.net	2/19/2014 17:54
Kinser	Trudi	Pinecliffe	CO	trudi@ionsky.com	2/19/2014 17:58

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Shaffer	Nicole	Colorado Springs CO	camarofox24@msn.com	2/19/2014 17:58
Friend	Judith	Fort Collins CO	friend.j@comcast.net	2/19/2014 17:59
Peters	Margaret	Fort Collins CO	margpet59@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 18:00
Moss	James	Golden CO	jim@jim-moss.com	2/19/2014 18:02
Hayes	Tom	Englewood CO	daydreamfarmer55@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 18:03

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Management is even more important than oil and gas. The Protection of Clean Fresh water both in the rivers and underground must of Prime Importance to the Colorado Water Board. Not only for the people but for the environment, wildlife, birds and fish. Do not let industry pollute the water supply, underground (like fracking) or put pollutants into the rivers. The water supply can never recover and we will all suffer, particularly our children. The population is growing and the Water Board must act wisely in making decisions for the future water management. It is a finite supply from rain and snow, so the use must be managed correctly and not given away downstream for others to waste. We are all depending on you to make good decisions for the Water Use for the People of Colorado and our children. Thank you for Listening. Roy H. Krumwiede We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

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Field	Brian	Thornton	CO	field37@comcast.net	2/19/2014 18:03
Krumwiede	Roy	Denver	CO	roykrumwie@aol.com	2/19/2014 18:10
Spielman	Emily	Boulder	CO	emilymx@aol.com	2/19/2014 18:10
Bice	Lola	Boulder	CO	lbonly@msn.com	2/19/2014 18:11
Fox	Randal	Arboles	CO	freeheelfox@centurytel.net	2/19/2014 18:15

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Martin	Pat	Fort Collins	CO	phm3martin@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 18:22
Yeomans	Gary	Denver	CO	geyeo@msn.com	2/19/2014 18:23

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Colorado. The proposed state water plan identifies and details crucial needs for sustainable drinking water for our communities. While this is important, these needs are only half of the picture. Colorado also must consider our environment. A huge volume of water is already being taken from our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. Rivers remain the life blood of Colorado's ecosystems and a significant contributor to the quality of life we enjoy. Consequently, Colorado needs to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state needs to incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, riparian habitats, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to clearly and specifically acknowledge the critical role of riparian habitats--not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers in Colorado and down stream. these activities are part of who we are and how we proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

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Turner	Lisa	Clifton	CO	catlady1929@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 18:44	protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to
Wesley	Immaculate	Alamosa	CO	mackiewesley@gmail.com	2/19/2014 18:48	protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to
Poteet	Earl	Pueblo	CO	wallacecotton@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 18:52	protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to
Gould	Raleigh	Windsor	CO	raleighgould@comcast.net	2/19/2014 18:54	protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to
Olson	Renie	Timnath	CO	renie.olson@colostate.edu	2/19/2014 18:57	protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

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Mueller	Kari	Colorado Springs CO		karimueller@elpasoco.com	2/19/2014 18:57
Ode	Rose	Golden	CO	rosetheaode@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 18:58
Babbitt	Sarah	Fort Collins	CO	smbmfa@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 18:59
Ribelin	Rosine	Lakewood	CO	rsnribelin@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 19:04
MRKVICKA	EDWARD	Arvada	CO	beachcomer67@aol.com	2/19/2014 19:04

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Eeds	Becky	Louisville	CO	birders.eeds@gmail.com	2/19/2014 19:05
Biggs	Diana	Canon City	CO	bearblanca@aol.com	2/19/2014 19:08
Preston	Kathryn	Colorado Springs CO		kpdragon@aol.com	2/19/2014 19:09
Keefe	Chris	Denver	CO	cdkceltic@gmail.com	2/19/2014 19:09
mckenzie	bruce	Boulder	CO	bmckenzie46@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 19:11

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grew out of the flooding recently in Boulder County. I have friends in the hard-hit city of Lyons, north of Boulder, where the North and South St Vrain creeks created a naturally better path through town and to the east, a path which is lower and more able to carry high volumes of water in future floods. Here is the problem: instead of letting nature take its course and preventing future disasters, authorities want to put the stream back into its old channel. The reason is mostly to adhere to water law, but in the most uncreative way. Sure, raising the water flow to the old channel will make it easier for the farmers to get water from existing sites, but it would be much better to leave the stream in its now channel and provide in some other way for the farmers, such as by digging new ditches from farther up stream. As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams.

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Denissen Paula Wolcott CO fishden0117@yahoo.com

2/19/2014 19:16

Smith/Hill Lynn/Edward Red Feather Lake CO smithlynn@gmail.com

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Shultz Steve Denver CO skeletorsteve@yahoo.com

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Albert Harrison B Boulder CO h.b.albert@mindspring.com

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Chippi Kathleen Nederland CO oshalee1969@yahoo.com

2/19/2014 19:23

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Cumming	Cheyne	Denver	CO	cheynec@yahoo.com
Miller	Betty	Elizabeth	CO	betty@yuccaranch.com
Bernhardt	Barbara	Montrose	CO	solituderd@sanjuanlive.net

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Noia	Beverley	Denver	CO	jananimolbevnoia@gmail.com	2/19/2014 20:40
Thrower	Michelle	Colorado Springs	CO	throwermr@hotmail.com	2/19/2014 20:41

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Douglas	Marci	Grand Junction	CO	aronatia@gmail.com	2/19/2014 20:50
Carey	Patricia	Bellvue	CO	pecarey@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 20:56
poire	norman	Lone Tree	CO	impeach@market-innovations.com	2/19/2014 20:59
Wathen	Wayne	Highlands Ranch	CO	wwathen@msn.com	2/19/2014 21:03
Unruh	Angie	Aurora	CO	angie.unruh@comcast.net	2/19/2014 21:03

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Rautus	Toni	Arvada	CO	trautus@q.com	2/19/2014 21:04
Puckett	Jim	Castle Rock	CO	jkpuckett@att.net	2/19/2014 21:09
Larson	Tanya	Arvada	CO	larsonfamily2117@gmail.com	2/19/2014 21:10
Hilty	Opal	Arvada	CO	veromama13@yahoo.com	2/19/2014 21:11
Black	Karina	Boulder	CO	kblack.ot@gmail.com	2/19/2014 21:13

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Selch	Ruthie	Erie	CO	rwselch@gmail.com	2/19/2014 21:13	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Stone	Jeff	Thornton	CO	jeff_stone_77@msn.com	2/19/2014 21:16	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Steele	L.	Olathe	CO	wentwest@peoplepc.com	2/19/2014 21:17	Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Matwichuk	Gail	Cultus Lake	CO	gailspoodles@shaw.ca	2/19/2014 21:17	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Schultz	Joseph	Louisville	CO	jschultz54@comcast.net	2/19/2014 21:19	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

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Smith	Mary	Hotchkiss	CO	msmith1932@paonia.com	2/19/2014 21:20
Shinneman	Bonnie	Westminster	CO	bjg1232@aol.com	2/19/2014 21:21
Ackerman	Lynn	Fort Collins	CO	lynnack@gmail.com	2/19/2014 21:34
Jackson	Jared	Fort Collins	CO	kitchenhaze@gmail.com	2/19/2014 21:35
Tash	Sadira	Highlands Ranch	CO	stash@mindfull1.com	2/19/2014 21:37

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Brister Marna Lafayette CO essania48@yahoo.com

2/19/2014 21:39

Brown Mike Montrose CO coachb49@gmail.com

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Cooper Alex Wheat Ridge CO acooper789@hotmail.com

2/19/2014 21:44

Sloan Adam Denver CO asloan7@gmail.com

2/19/2014 21:44

Little Randal Thornton CO rttlgl@msn.com

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Brown Judy Denver CO jbdnvr@q.com

2/20/2014 6:13

keep the water where it belongs. As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

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Brown	Kate	Colorado Springs CO		ktpajak@yahoo.com	2/20/2014 7:02
Long	Robin	Greeley	CO	speaqueus@yahoo.com	2/20/2014 7:20

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Sartori	Pamela	Timnath	CO	teacheco@aol.com	2/20/2014 9:05
Debrunner	Peter	Morrison	CO	petsig@idcomm.com	2/20/2014 9:11
McClellan	Keith	Thornton	CO	keith_mcclellan@comcast.net	2/20/2014 9:17

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Woodbury	Ellen	Loveland	CO	ellenwoodbury@aol.com	2/20/2014 9:29
Smith	Linda	Aspen	CO	lastminutelinda@yahoo.com	2/20/2014 9:31
Grau	Anne	Denver	CO	anne@grau.com	2/20/2014 9:33
eamon	gail	Colorado Springs CO		gaileamon@q.com	2/20/2014 9:34
Olmsted	Charles	Greeley	CO	charles.olmsted@bears.unco.edu	2/20/2014 9:36

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2/20/2014 9:46

Pfluger Brandi Aurora CO autumnwine39@aol.com

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Hollin Elizabeth Aurora CO eh4002@yahoo.com

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homze heidi Elizabeth CO talos88@hotmail.com

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Waraich Qaiser Vail CO waraich57@hotmail.com

2/20/2014 9:51

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is important but only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and here in

Sage	Felice	Littleton	CO	fesage1@aol.com	2/20/2014 9:51	Colorado. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Pierce	Nancy	Englewood	CO	nancy.a.pierce@jpmchase.com	2/20/2014 9:55	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Burdis	Mary	Colorado Springs	CO	mary@sbminnovations.com	2/20/2014 9:55	As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. If the water plan fails to protect healthy flow for our waterways, it fails.
Zager	Bill	Golden	CO	wfzager@gmail.com	2/20/2014 9:59	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Kothe	Edward	Nathrop	CO	ekothe07@aol.com	2/20/2014 9:59	

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Schiltz	Colin	Denver	CO	colinschiltz@gmail.com	2/20/2014 10:01
Dinkmeyer	John	Grand Lake	CO	mdscinema@aol.com	2/20/2014 10:05
Schwind	Christina	Longmont	CO	ahlohem@hotmail.com	2/20/2014 10:07
Streid Noe	Kathleen	Boulder	CO	mikan1972@msn.com	2/20/2014 10:12
Robertson	Destine	Conifer	CO	destine.robertson@gmail.com	2/20/2014 10:16

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Jahn Beverly Denver CO bevjahn@yahoo.com

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d t coloradosprings CO tsodog@gmail.com

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Barnes Kallie Jamestown CO envsgirl22@gmail.com

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Waugh Kym Denver CO lilly1875@comcast.net

2/20/2014 10:25

Dougherty Bert Boulder CO doughertybertr@aol.com

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Putnam	Carol	La Veta	CO	crayola@centurytel.net	2/20/2014 10:56
Schultz	Andrea	Divide	CO	ander46522@gmail.com	2/20/2014 10:58
Mosiman	Scott	Evergreen	CO	boatmanscott@yahoo.com	2/20/2014 11:02

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Baker	Sharon	Palmer Lake	CO	skb38goshen@gmail.com	2/20/2014 11:04
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Argenzio	Diane	Carbondale	CO	ddolphin@sopris.net	2/20/2014 11:13

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Pray	Rose	Frisco	CO	rwpray@gmail.com	2/20/2014 12:05
Plagmann	James	Boulder	CO	junglejamz@msn.com	2/20/2014 12:13
Wallace	Donald	Littleton	CO	donaldjwallace@yahoo.com	2/20/2014 12:52
Bronner	Dennis	Woodland Park	CO	dennbrnn@q.com	2/20/2014 12:53

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As a lifelong Colorado resident, a grandmother, a retired teacher and an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. While the proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, it must also consider water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

lomax erin northglen CO emlomax76@yahoo.com 2/20/2014 15:48

Fox Patricia Colorado Springs CO foxpj@comcast.net 2/20/2014 16:01

Wood Jennifer Colorado Springs CO jesseandjenny1@comcast.net 2/20/2014 16:11

Holiday Brigitte Durango CO 1024holiday@gmail.com 2/20/2014 16:16

Fearon Robbie Burlington CO robbiefearon@hotmail.com 2/20/2014 16:19

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Huff-Sandstrom	Athena	Arvada	CO	athenah2so4@hotmail.com	2/20/2014 16:21
Gamble	John	Brighton	CO	john_nelda@comcast.net	2/20/2014 16:33
Doan	Trang	Englewood	CO	trangthree@hotmail.com	2/20/2014 16:48
Kilbon	Shelley	Loveland	CO	gwyddon33@hotmail.com	2/20/2014 17:05
vanAtten	Robin	Denver	CO	rvanatten@gmail.com	2/20/2014 17:17

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Daenen	Grace	Fort Collins	CO	geedaenen@gmail.com	2/20/2014 18:01
Rochester	Ingrid	Elbert	CO	bobandingrid@peoplepc.com	2/20/2014 18:26
Borri	Patricia	Wheat Ridge	CO	patriciaaborri@hotmail.com	2/20/2014 18:34
Wood-Brown	Lana	Westminster	CO	lanawoodb@aol.com	2/20/2014 18:38
Ross	Ruth	Carbondale	CO	beachruth@aol.com	2/20/2014 18:46

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Robison	Dawn	Silt	CO	dawnrob890@yahoo.com	2/20/2014 19:27
Redmond	Mary	Montrose	CO	marycredmond@gmail.com	2/20/2014 19:31
Davidson	Mary	Fort Collins	CO	fcdancr@aol.com	2/20/2014 19:35
Nowicki	Ann	Pueblo	CO	tazzannie@q.com	2/20/2014 19:51
Esparza	Gaime	Denver	CO	esparzadenver@hotmail.com	2/20/2014 20:15

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Kaplowitz	Rena	La Veta	CO	flowersalve@gmail.com	2/20/2014 20:28
Shotwell	Andreia	Wheat Ridge	CO	andreia_shotwell@hotmail.com	2/20/2014 20:32
Day	Judy	Frisco	CO	junday48@comcast.net	2/20/2014 20:36
Katz	David	Westminster	CO	deekatz@yahoo.com	2/20/2014 20:52
Creswell	Richard	Lakewood	CO	rickcreswell@yahoo.com	2/20/2014 21:00

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2/20/2014 23:11

Paustian Astrid Boulder CO astridpaustian@hotmail.com

2/20/2014 23:15

proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

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Satter	John	Boulder CO	peaceman@purecode.com	2/20/2014 23:54
Hill	Kelley	Snowmass Villag CO	kelleyjhil@yahoo.com	2/20/2014 23:59
Kurtz	Maya	Glenwood Spring CO	mayachristine@ymail.com	2/21/2014 0:14
Ingham	Lula Kay (Katie	Basalt CO	katieingham@comcast.net	2/21/2014 0:43

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kuehler	thomas	Silverthorne	CO	tomkuehler@gmail.com	2/21/2014 0:51
Lindberg	Jody	Fort Collins	CO	brandy1116@msn.com	2/21/2014 2:21
Dimartini	Melanie	Denver	CO	yourdiamondgurl@yahoo.com	2/21/2014 5:26
everett	nicole	Denver	CO	everettschoeder@gmail.com	2/21/2014 7:35
Lysek	Nicholas	Littleton	CO	nick_lysek@yahoo.com	2/21/2014 8:00

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2/21/2014 8:34

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Briggs Shara Salida CO sharabriggs@yahoo.com

2/21/2014 10:55

JARAMILLO	PAUL	Aurora	CO	pauljaramillo69@yahoo.com	2/21/2014 11:27	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Holland	Willie	Crestone	CO	letbeautynowbe@yahoo.com	2/21/2014 12:18	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Brown	Beth	Lakewood	CO	bbrown623@comcast.net	2/21/2014 12:30	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Buckstein	Caryl	Denver	CO	cbuckstein@comcast.net	2/21/2014 12:35	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.
Melendrez	George	Palisade	CO	georgemelendrez@gmail.com	2/21/2014 12:35	proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

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Pals	Ken	Fort Collins	CO	mtnpals@gmail.com	2/21/2014 16:08
wade	lyn	Boulder	CO	lynwade@gmail.com	2/21/2014 16:29
Franklin	Audrey	Brighton	CO	acab38@gmail.com	2/21/2014 16:45
McMannis	Sandra	Boulder	CO	fengshuigarden@gmail.com	2/21/2014 16:46
griffin	mildred	Thornton	CO	griffin11501@comcast.net	2/21/2014 16:58

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Dimand Mary Ann Arvada CO maryanddimand@hotmail.com

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Gloisten	Kathy	Parker	CO	kgloisten@gmail.com	2/21/2014 19:47
Gilchrist	Amber	Elbert	CO	amber.gilchrist@yahoo.com	2/21/2014 20:33
Stuart	Wendy	Boulder	CO	stuartwendy@comcast.net	2/21/2014 20:40
Mannsfeld	Bjoern	Denver	CO	bamannsfeld@hotmail.com	2/21/2014 20:57

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Colorado habitats for birds, wildlife and ecosystems functioning. Please do everything possible to accomplish this as it helps to maintain our quality of life in this state and elsewhere. (No system operates in isolation. What we do in Colorado affects adjoining states). As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users:

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Hardesty	Amanda	Morrison	CO	manda@evcohs.com	2/22/2014 0:48
Watson	Patrick	Denver	CO	pw1960@hotmail.com	2/22/2014 4:33
Beck	Rosemary	Lakewood	CO	beckrcmscd@mac.com	2/22/2014 9:15
goldberg	alan	Grand Junction	CO	alangoldberg59@gmail.com	2/22/2014 9:46

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McAdoo	Sheri	Franktown	CO	samcadoo@yahoo.com	2/22/2014 15:44
Guy	Jeff	Salida	CO	sawwhetowl@hotmail.com	2/22/2014 16:33

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Swatek Cynthia Fort Collins CO zlataswatek@msn.com

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Heath	Ellen	Fort Collins	CO	ellen.m.heath@gmail.com	2/23/2014 13:12
ladarola	Carmine	Littleton	CO	ciadarol@yahoo.com	2/23/2014 13:43
Steadman	Carrie	Pagosa Springs	CO	green.zorak@gmail.com	2/23/2014 13:49
Bumgartner	Allan	Littleton	CO	montereypurple@yahoo.com	2/23/2014 13:56
Silvano	Liliana	Grand Junction	CO	lillys999@hotmail.com	2/23/2014 18:11

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2/23/2014 23:13

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2/24/2014 5:41

Ohlheiser Richard Hotchkiss CO 79dicko@skybeam.com

2/24/2014 8:11

Kaiser Christina Colorado Springs CO christinakaiser94@gmail.com

2/24/2014 10:15

McNew Sandra Colorado Springs CO sandramcnew@aol.com

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Gould Doug Colorado Springs CO dgould@yahoo.com

2/24/2014 11:54

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POLCZYNSKI	ERIC	Pagosa Springs	CO	ericski75@yahoo.com	2/24/2014 15:09
Shwayder	Rachel	Sterling	CO	shwayder1@gmail.com	2/24/2014 22:05
Challinor	Suzanne	Denver	CO	schallfa@hotmail.com	2/25/2014 0:09
Chenoweth	Karen	Broomfield	CO	aboutgod@q.com	2/25/2014 18:11
Sarver	Tracy	Golden	CO	tracysarver7@gmail.com	2/25/2014 18:13

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Schaffer	john	Lakewood	CO	jp_jp@earthlink.net	2/25/2014 18:16	protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to
Nading	Toni	Highlands Ranch	CO	tnading@comcast.net	2/25/2014 18:24	protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to
Stocking	Judith	Woodland Park	CO	jstocking5@aol.com	2/26/2014 9:48	protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to
Carver	Mary	Aurora	CO	mcarver@du.edu	2/26/2014 11:50	protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. them deteriorate due to low water. As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation. We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions. Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to
Metzger	Jeffrey	Boulder	CO	jrmetzger@prodigy.net	2/26/2014 12:20	and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how

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Korte Nic Grand Jct CO nkorte1@hotmail.com 2/26/2014 15:23

Matlock Stephanie Grand Junction CO dear_mice@yahoo.com 2/26/2014 17:55

Coons Frank Grand Jct CO drcoons@aol.com 2/26/2014 18:09

Rogers Ruth Fort Collins CO sandstar578@yahoo.com 2/26/2014 23:59

Matlock Deb Lafayette CO debmatlock@earthlink.net 2/27/2014 11:18

Ms. Aimee Ainsworth
28775 Memorial Park Way
Conifer, CO 80433-5308

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

I truly believe that there will be a war over water in the near future and there will be a crisis caused by a shortage of a resource we have taken for granted. If we all do our part, we can make this less painful.

As an Audubon supporter and a Colorado resident, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Aimee Ainsworth

Ms. Brenda Miller
PO Box 750
Olathe, CO 81425-0750

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

Flow Solution #1: Denver and all front range communities must quite watering lawns, road medians, golf courses, cemeteries. The Front Range is high desert! Same goes on the western slope where I live: No more watering golf course fairways, no watering cemeteries and ball fields, road and highway medians, residential lawns should be limited in size to about nothing! This area is a desert!

#2 Quite growing crops in AZ Phoenix area like flowers, acres of them that require flood irrigation! Quit leaving crop fields barren in winter!

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Brenda Miller

Ms. Amanda McNeill
312 E Montezuma Ave
Cortez, CO 81321-3223

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

I raised my children here in southwest Colorado near the Dolores River. They learned to fish, ride horses long distances and enjoy the wildlife living in the river drainage area. That beginning raised strong compassionate adults who value our wilderness and wild life. We all strongly support wise and adequate water planning in Colorado. Not planning to extort rural water for wasteful urban use, but WISE planning that will leave our streams and rivers healthy and supportive of wild life.

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. It's your job.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Amanda McNeill

Cynthia Warwick
4433 E County Road 34 E
Fort Collins, CO 80528-9411

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

Our rivers, our streams, our wildlife, our precious birds, are not ours; they belong to the Great Mystery who created this planet upon which we are fortunate to live. We need to keep the sacred life of this earth in mind at all times and especially when we are planning changes that will leave a legacy as to our respect for the natural life that surrounds us and shares the air, earth and water with us.

As a supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Cynthia Warwick

Dr. V.E. Perkins
11151 E Grant Rd
Franktown, CO 80116-9221

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and make conservation a priority.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should demand water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Dr. V.E. Perkins

Ms. Jaclyn schaffner
790 Washington St Apt 1003
Denver, CO 80203-3750

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Jaclyn schaffner

Mr. Gordon Burt
1975 Glen Garry Dr
Lakewood, CO 80215-3030

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporters, my wife and I are writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

We also recognize that the health of our watershed corridors may be one of the important barometers of the health of our air, water, natural places of beauty in our state, the nation and the world--especially our immediately accessible places for R and R. Thanks for all that can be done in our contentious political environment, for our quality of life.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. Gordon Burt

Dr. Ronald Harden
3125 Elevado Ct
Loveland, CO 80538-9482

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

Thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. Short term planning and narrow interests obliging are no longer appropriate. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. For instance water usage rates that decrease for the more one uses are inappropriate. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Dr. Ronald Harden

Mr. Frederick Hodges
1230 Silver Dollar Ct
Castle Rock, CO 80104-7842

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

One big way that the Colorado Water Conservation Board can insure the future sustainability of our river waterways and natural reservoir reserve of clean water, is to become a staunch advocate to implore the Federal EPA to tighten restrictions that would limit gas and oil industry's exploitive use of 'fracking' shale tar-sand oil underground deposits that not only consume hundreds of thousands of gallons of our limited clean water reserve, but in the process of fracking, renders the water so toxically contaminated that the health and well-being of we Coloradans is threatened by disease that would be an added costly burden to our already over-taxed health care system for medical treatment. This has the potential to be a 'two-fold' benefit of good steward-ship for Colorado and the Nation.

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. Frederick Hodges

Ms. Christina Anderson
2160 James Canyon Dr
Boulder, CO 80302-9306

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

The last thing we need in the West is another damn dam. Lake "Foul" is one of the worst things ever foisted off on this country.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Christina Anderson

Ms. weslie phillips
738chimneycreekdr
Golden, CO 80401

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

NO WATER, NO LIFE!!!! Pretty simple...

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. weslie phillips

Ms. Paula Bourgeois
108 Cedar Trl
Woodland Park, CO 80863-8600

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

I agree with all the above

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Paula Bourgeois

Ms. Ann Luke
1664 Saint Paul St
Denver, CO 80206-1615

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Ann Luke

Ms. Anne Esson
1881 Lions Ridge Loop Apt 9
Vail, CO 81657-4941

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, and long-time advocate for our Eagle County watershed, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Anne Esson

Ms. Alexandra Sale
1809 Sumner St
Longmont, CO 80501-7108

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture.

We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. I urge you to continue to work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Alexandra Sale

Mr. Benjamin Schrader
308 E Oak St Apt 405
Fort Collins, CO 80524-2960

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live.

On a more personal note, I used to be a river raft guide and I know the beauty and importance of Colorado's rivers! Please protect them for us and the generations to come! Oh yeah, and stop supporting Fracking!

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. Benjamin Schrader

Ms. Tracy Abell
13640 W Center Dr
Lakewood, CO 80228-2308

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

Water is not only needed for humans, but for the entire ecosystem. Please do not be short-sighted in your water plans. Take into account our rivers and the birds and animals that depend on that water.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Tracy Abell

Meg Worth
145 Cessna Dr
Erie, CO 80516-8111

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. Unfortunately, many people will not do this unless water rates are increased. GRAY water usage for properties should be encouraged.

Too much green grass in our area is a major waste and encourages much chemical weed killer. Encouraging and even requiring Xeriscaped landscape should be in all developments.

As a people, we seem to have no conscience regarding the people downstream who also depend on these waters. It is our duty to conserve, and not pollute, river waters.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Meg Worth

Dr. Martha W D Bushnell
502 Ord Dr
Boulder, CO 80303-4732

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Dr. Martha W D Bushnell

Mr. Norman Traum
1478 N Franklin Ct
Louisville, CO 80027-1654

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life
for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. Norman Traum

Mr. Roy Krumwiede
1530 S Quebec Way Apt 30
Denver, CO 80231-5693

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

Water and Water Management is probably the most important issue concerning the People of Colorado. Water Management is even more important than oil and gas. The Protection of Clean Fresh water both in the rivers and underground must of Prime Importance to the Colorado Water Board. Not only for the people but for the environment, wildlife, birds and fish. Do not let industry pollute the water supply, underground (like fracking) or put pollutants into the rivers. The water supply can never recover and we will all suffer, particularly our children. The population is growing and the Water Board must act wisely in making decisions for the future water management. It is a finite supply from rain and snow, so the use must be managed correctly and not given away downstream for others to waste. We are all depending on you to make good decisions for the Water Use for the People of Colorado and our children.

Thank you for Listening. Roy H. Krumwiede

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. Roy Krumwiede

Dr. Craig A. and Carol M Piernot
3307 W 113th Ave
Westminster, CO 80031-7190

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As Audubon supporters with family roots in Wisconsin, we thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in Colorado. The proposed state water plan identifies and details crucial needs for sustainable drinking water for our communities. While this is important, these needs are only half of the picture.

Colorado also must consider our environment. A huge volume of water is already being taken from our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. Rivers remain the life blood of Colorado's ecosystems and a significant contributor to the quality of life we enjoy. Consequently, Colorado needs to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state needs to incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, riparian habitats, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to clearly and specifically acknowledge the critical role of riparian habitats--not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers in Colorado and down stream. these activities are part of who we are and how we choose to live.

As Colorado's water management directors, we strongly urge you to protect the health of all Colorado rivers and Colorado's quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Dr. Craig A. and Carol M Piernot

Ms. Carol Bylsma
615 Alameda Dr
Cortez, CO 81321-4004

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

One important water saving initiative should be an incentive to decrease areas of water hungry blue grass lawns throughout all Front Range cities, towns and communities.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Carol Bylsma

Dr. Harrison B Albert
2380 Hillsdale Way
Boulder, CO 80305-5624

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

This is to encourage general approaches to water policy in Colorado, and more specifically, to address a problem which grew out of the flooding recently in Boulder County.

I have friends in the hard-hit city of Lyons, north of Boulder, where the North and South St Vrain creeks created a naturally better path through town and to the east, a path which is lower and more able to carry high volumes of water in future floods. Here is the problem: instead of letting nature take its course and preventing future disasters, authorities want to put the stream back into its old channel. The reason is mostly to adhere to water law, but in the most uncreative way. Sure, raising the water flow to the old channel will make it easier for the farmers to get water from existing sites, but it would be much better to leave the stream in its now channel and provide in some other way for the farmers, such as by digging new ditches from farther up stream.

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Dr. Harrison B Albert

Mr. M Turek
6625 Leetsdale Dr
Denver, CO 80224-3709

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

Water planning & preserving in Colorado is important !
As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. M Turek

Mr. Christopher Robin Donaldson
2658 S Roslyn St
Denver, CO 80231-3735

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. Christopher Robin Donaldson

Ms. Barbara Hibner
2600 9th St Apt C15
Boulder, CO 80304-3379

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. Please !!! Water is LIFE !

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Barbara Hibner

Dr. L. Steele

Olathe, CO 81425

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state.

The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture.

We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams.

The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them.

After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets.

The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic.

The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally, and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live.

Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Dr. L. Steele

Mr. Christopher Michaud
10219 W Idaho Ave
Lakewood, CO 80232-5016

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

Colorado's rivers and the wildlife they support are the life-blood of this state.

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. Christopher Michaud

Mr. Thomas Phillips
PO Box 146
Palisade, CO 81526-0146

Feb 19, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

Rivers are not just pipes that move water. They are ecosystems supporting hundreds of different species. We must keep them healthy. We must be pro river life.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. Thomas Phillips

Ms. Dale Ball
4595 Whitney Pl
Boulder, CO 80305-6716

Feb 20, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Please Support Healthy River Flow

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

The species and ecosystems that depend on a healthy flow of water in the rivers and streams are depending on us to help keep the water where it belongs.

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Dale Ball

Mr. Michael Shimniok
6557 S Dexter St
Centennial, CO 80121-3220

Feb 20, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter and fisherman, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. Michael Shimniok

Mrs. Felice Sage
265 W Davies Ave S
Littleton, CO 80120-4209

Feb 20, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is important but only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and here in Colorado. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mrs. Felice Sage

Mr. Bill Zager
23516 Pondview Pl
Golden, CO 80401-9353

Feb 20, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

If the water plan fails to protect healthy flow for our waterways, it fails.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. Bill Zager

Mr. Colin Schiltz
7100 E Mississippi Ave Apt 18-208
Denver, CO 80224-3186

Feb 20, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

The wild fires have caused too much damage already and now we need to protect our rivers as well.

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. Colin Schiltz

Mr. John Dinkmeyer
PO Box 1274
Grand Lake, CO 80447-1274

Feb 20, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

The Colorado River, one of the most overused rivers in the world.

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. John Dinkmeyer

Ms. Kathleen Streid Noe
2606 Tumwater Ln
Boulder, CO 80304-2491

Feb 20, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: PLEASE support healthy stream and river flows in the CWP for the long term

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As a grandmother, and an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state for both the near and distant future. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, as my grandmother taught me decades ago, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations of children and wildlife to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Kathleen Streid Noe

t d
w. bijou
coloradosprings, CO 80905

Feb 20, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an avid rafter and 3rd generation Colorado resident I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
t d

Ms. Chris macwaters
211 N Sherwood St
Fort Collins, CO 80521-2027

Feb 20, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

Stream flows, the wildlife and green corridors the support, the recreational opportunities they provide are a valued and rare part of Colorado. There are not that many of them, they are many miles apart, and they are disappearing to consumptive use. We need to protect our water, use it increasingly more efficiently, use it appropriately for our climate, and not turn the irrigated lands and blue grass subdivisions into the only green we see.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Chris macwaters

Mr. Donald Wallace
8819 S Murphy Gulch Rd
Littleton, CO 80127-9434

Feb 20, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

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Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are and how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

As a travel around our state, I enjoy the beauty of our rivers and their basins. It's a priceless heritage. Next month, our first granddaughter will be born in Fort Collins. I hope that she will be able to enjoy the same heritage environmentally and aesthetically undiminished through out her lifetime.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. Donald Wallace

Ms. Katherine Delanoy
PO Box 144
Eagle, CO 81631-0144

Feb 20, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

Since our rivers are the life blood of our ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado, the state water plan should recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them.

The state should make incentives for water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic.

The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and here in Colorado.

Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Ms. Katherine Delanoy

Mrs. Robbie Fearon
614 Webster Ave
Burlington, CO 80807-1928

Feb 20, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As a lifelong Colorado resident, a grandmother, a retired teacher and an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. While the proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, it must also consider water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mrs. Robbie Fearon

Mr. Paul Reinhart
7035 Pike Ct
Arvada, CO 80007-7096

Feb 20, 2014

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Subject: Support healthy Colorado rivers - include improved stream and river flows in the CWP

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

As an Audubon supporter, I am writing to thank you for recognizing the importance of water planning in our state. The proposed state water plan identifies and details a needs list for more water for our communities, which is certainly important, but is only half of the picture. We also must consider our environment: we are already taking a great deal of water out of our streams. The state water plan must recognize, specify, and quantify water needed to restore and maintain our rivers, riparian areas, and the birds, wildlife and ecosystems that depend on them. After all, rivers are the life blood of entire ecosystems and a huge part of the quality of life we enjoy in Colorado. We need to address healthy flow solutions for our rivers and incentivize conservation.

We all must significantly reduce the river water already pouring from our faucets. The state should incentivize water savings and more efficiency by all users: agriculture, municipal, industrial, and domestic. The water plan needs to recognize the critical role of riparian habitats, not simply pave the way for new dams and trans-basin diversions.

Wildlife watching, skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting, hiking and camping are major economic drivers nationally and especially here in Colorado, they are a part of who we are any how we want to live. Please work to protect the health of our rivers and our quality of life for generations to come. Encourage every user no matter where they are in our state that the a conservative, judicious use of water is an important part of trying to get a better ecological practices so we can all have access to clean, safe, reliable water supplies now and in the future.

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper

Sincerely,
Mr. Paul Reinhart

Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 6/19/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: June 19, 2014

Input provided by: Laura Belanger, Colorado Section of the WaterReuse Association

Method of submission: Webform submission on coloradowaterplan.com

Related sections of CWP Framework: 5.6.2

Summary of Input: Summary of attachment: Redline of Section 5.6.2

Documents Submitted for Review: Redlined section

Staff Response: CWCB appreciates Ms. Belanger's comments and will work to incorporate them into the section when making revisions. As the Basin Implementation Plans are completed, CWCB staff will incorporate the ideas generated out of these to further describe possible future actions.

5.6.2 Reuse

According to SWSI 2010, the reuse of existing supplies has been projected to provide 43,000 to 61,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water, which accounts for about 10 percent of the total Identified Projects and Processes (IPP) projected yield. The full use of reusable water supplies will play an integral role in closing the supply gap while extending the resource through efficient reuse of water.

~~The Nonpotable~~ uses of reclaimed water ~~is are~~ controlled by Regulation 84, which was ~~developed first adopted~~ by the Colorado ~~Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)~~ Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) ~~in 2000 and has been amended over time to authorize additional nonpotable uses of reclaimed water~~. This regulation currently authorizes the use of reclaimed water for landscape irrigation, ~~limited agricultural uses, (including single-family residential irrigation)~~ and various commercial and industrial uses such as cooling tower use, dust control, soil compaction, mechanized street cleaning, fire protection, and zoo operations. To ~~achieve the goal of the protection of protect~~ public health and the environment, the ~~current~~ Regulation specifies ~~various approved uses, treatment and water quality requirements, for specific reuse categories,~~ conditions for use, ~~and~~ monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting ~~for each approved use~~ (RMWEA/RMSAWWA Water Reuse Committee).

Colorado water law defines what water supplies can be reused, and to the extent each source can be reused. ~~Currently there are a limited number of~~ With limited exceptions, these sources ~~that~~ can legally be reused in Colorado:

- **Nonnative water:** Water imported into a basin through a transbasin diversion can usually be reused to extinction. Transbasin diversions account for a substantial quantity of the total reusable supply in Colorado.
- **Agricultural-Municipal Water Transfers:** Agricultural transfers are generally available for reuse; however, reuse is limited to the historic consumptive use of the original agricultural water right decree. ~~Reuse is applicable for w~~This includes water from traditional purchase of agricultural water rights and alternative transfer methods (ATMs).
- **Nontributary groundwater:** Reuse of nontributary groundwater is allowedable.
- **Other Diverted Water:** Any water right with a decreed reuse right may be reused to the extent described in the decreed reuse right.

~~These sources can be reused directly, by piping the recycled water from the water reclamation facility to beneficial uses such as nonpotable irrigation sites or industrial uses, or indirectly, by augmenting a surface water or groundwater body with recycled water and diverting an equal amount of flow from a different point of diversion.~~

There are two ways in which these different source types can be reclaimed for reuse:

- **Direct Reuse:** ~~This is the process in which the return flows from the various supplies are physically reclaimed either for potable or nonpotable uses. An example of this can be found in Aurora's Sand Creek Water Reclamation Facility for potable water or Colorado Springs Utility's non-potable water system.~~
- **Indirect Reuse:** ~~This process entails the exchange or substitution of the return flows from a reusable source. The most common form of Indirect Reuse is through river exchanges,~~

Comment [JR1]: SUGGESTED REPLACEMENT TEXT TO SIMPLIFY

Comment [JR2]: In the reuse industry, indirect reuse is water that involves an "environmental buffer" – discharges to a water body in one place and diversions in another place. In contrast, direct reuse means it is piped directly from the water reclamation facility to its beneficial use, without first being discharged to a body of water.

Indirect could mean exchanges upstream, but it can also be downstream diversions of the same water (e.g., Prairie Waters).

~~where a utility lets the reusable water flow downstream, and diverts an equal amount of water from an upstream source.~~

Exemplary Examples of Reuse

~~There are 25 providers of direct nonpotable recycled water in Colorado, referred to as “treaters” in Regulation No. 84. Most of these treaters are on the East Slope along the Front Range. In addition, there are numerous examples of indirect reuse through exchange occurring around the state. Currently there are 25 treaters of reuse water in Colorado. Most of these treaters are on the East slope along the Front Range.~~

According to the IBCC's No/Low Regrets Action Plan, a few notable examples of direct and indirect reuse projects are:

Colorado Springs Utilities: Colorado Springs Utilities has produced reuse water for over 50 years in the form of direct reuse for irrigation and cooling. Irrigation consists of water to golf courses, parks, campuses, and other properties while cooling water is used for the cooling towers ~~in at~~ the Drake Power Plant. According to CSU, this has yielded a savings of 1 billion gallons of drinking water per year.

Aurora Water's Prairie Waters Project: ~~The~~ Prairie Waters Project allows Aurora Water to recapture and reuse its reusable water rights from the South Platte River. The water is diverted through aquifer recharge and recovery basins several miles downstream of where it is discharged to the river, pumped back 34 miles to Aurora for advanced potable water treatment at the Peter Binney Water Purification Facility, and blended with treated water from mountain supplies for distribution to Aurora's customers. This project is an indirect potable reuse where water is pumped back 34 miles to Aurora from aquifer recharge and recovery basins in the Brighton area. Aurora picks up water from the South Platte River that it has rights to and pumps it back to the Peter Binney purification plant where it is mixed with existing water resources after treatment. The purification plant can treat up to 50 MGD.

Comment [JR3]: SUGGESTED REPLACEMENT TO BETTER MATCH AURORA'S DESIGNATION OF THE PROJECT (NOT "POTABLE REUSE")

Denver Water: Denver Water has an extensive non-potable water reuse system that serves many large customers such as parks, golf courses and Denver Zoo. This ~~system is a~~ direct reuse system ~~and it~~ has a treatment capacity of 30 MGD, ~~and is~~ expandable ~~up~~ to 45 MGD. Denver Water continues to add sites to its nonpotable water distribution network towards its goal of 17,500 AFY of recycled water use.

Basin Implementation Plans

***SUMMARY OF BIP WORK TO DATE IS BELOW. THIS WILL BE
UPDATED BASED ON BIP WORK. ALL OF THE WORK BELOW IS IN
DRAFT FROM AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE***

Reuse of water has appeared in a couple of Basin Implementation Plan drafts. According to the *Initial Draft Statewide Basin Implementation Plan Goals* on Colorado's Water Plan website, a number of basins have created the following draft goals:

Colorado Basin-The Colorado basin is focusing on efforts that include developing water court process recommendations to encourage efficiency, conservation, and reuse.

Metro/South Platte Basin-The Metro/South Platte basin is viewing reuse water in the context of the Colorado River. Their initial goals state, “A balanced program to plan and preserve options to responsibly develop Colorado River water to benefit both east slope and west slope consumptive and nonconsumptive water uses is needed to assure that the State’s plan has equal focus on the previously identified strategies including: 1) developing IPPs; 2) municipal conservation and reuse; 3) agricultural transfers and 4) new supply.”

Southwest Basin-The Southwest Basin has a straight forward goal to “Support and implement water reuse strategies.”

Reuse Recommendations

- **Improve quantification, planning and tracking for potential**

At the present time, the area of reuse water in Colorado needs more research to be carried out. According to the IBCC’s No/Low Regrets Action Plan, there is a lack of reliable data on how much water is currently being reused, how much potential there is and how much water is planned on being reused. More work must be done assessing how much water providers are using of their fully consumable supplies and how much more can be utilized.

As a future planning effort, regional plans and projects should be explored to utilize efficiencies in size and expenditure. Currently, the Water, Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency (WISE) partnership is underway with participation between being implemented to share supplies and infrastructure between Denver Water, Aurora Water and the South Metro Water Supply Authority. The WISE project is not a reclaimed water project but rather relies on return flow credits from Aurora and Denver Water’s reusable discharges and equivalent volumes being diverted downstream for the project. Planning for future projects such as this will be crucial to extending water supply options and increasing efficiencies in garnering those additional water supplies.

Additionally, Regulation 84 has shown to be a very flexible framework that has adapted over the years to accommodate changes and advances in the science of reuse water. Regulation 84 was created-adopted in year 2000 and has been amended four times since then to accommodate changes and new uses. As Colorado plans its reuse future, this flexibility will be paramount to adapting to new water resource challenges.

- **Research and development of additional reuse options**

At present time, reuse water can be used for a wide range of nonpotable uses (e.g., landscape irrigation, heating/cooling, vehicle washing and evaporative industrial, commercial, non-food crop irrigation, and fire protection uses). There is momentum in the near future for expanding to uses such as food crop irrigation. Locally, water providers are looking at reuse water for community garden irrigation and other such types of food crop settings. It is critical that research continue to better define the water quality needs for various reuse options to ensure treatment decisions are based on sound scientific

Comment [JR4]: WISE is not a “reuse” project, per se – unless you are making the link to Aurora’s sharing of its reusable return flows via Prairie Waters, when Aurora makes that available to SMWSA and/or Denver Water. If that’s the intent here, it should be explained more – otherwise it’s unclear as to the linkage between reuse and WISE.

Comment [LB5]: This sentence was added to respond to John’s comment above.

Comment [DH6]: I appreciate the effort that has gone into this document, but I think that the difficulties that Colorado reuse proponents are encountering are underrepresented here. Reuse in Colorado lags far behind many other states, especially when you consider the arid, water-starved climate we face. Reuse is critical to many municipalities in addressing identified supply gaps in Colorado, but without significant progress on the ease of implementation, the gains forecasted may not be realistic. I think Reg 84 was envisioned as a flexible mechanism for practicing reuse and was implemented with the vision of progressing forward from the initial implementation. You could make the case that Reg 84 has moved backward from that original vision and is now quite inflexible, with stakeholders needing to engage the Commission to make changes several times. New use approval is now a process that can take multiple years and thousands of dollars for uses that are practiced commonly throughout the US and world. Also, additional regulations have come into play that were not contemplated in the original Regulation 84 that make storage, distribution and even basic irrigation problematic for some treaters and users.

information to facilitate the maximum benefit of reuse and efficiently invest public funds in treatment.

~~On the national level as well as in Colorado~~Nationally and internationally, research has begun to focus towards potable reuse systems. In Colorado, most reuse systems have been non-potable in nature. ~~However, widespread unintended or “de facto” potable reuse occurs where one community discharges to a receiving water that is used by downstream communities for potable supply. This process is controlled by water quality standards in the receiving waters (which drives discharge permits from water reclamation facilities) and Safe Drinking Water Act requirements for potable treatment. Intentional IPR projects are increasingly common, such as Aurora’s Prairie Waters Project and Parker’s use of water from its water reclamation facilities to supply Rueter-Hess Reservoir. Examples Direct potable reuse (DPR) projects, with no discharge to receiving waters or “environmental buffers,” have recently been implemented in New Mexico and Texas~~exist in California as well as in Big Springs, Texas where there are projects underway. Denver Water pioneered DPR research with its potable reuse demonstration project in the 1980s. Due to severe drought and serious long term water resource challenges, the Colorado River Municipal Water District (water provider for Big Spring, ~~Texas~~) has undertaken ~~the an~~ initiative ~~of to~~ “reclaim 100% of the water, 100% of the time.” Technologically, this type of system works today but more research will be needed to show reliability to assure regulators and to gain public acceptance (WaterReuse Foundation, 2011). ~~The WaterReuse Research Foundation and WaterReuse California. According to the Water Reuse Foundation, the Water Reuse Research Foundation and WaterReuse California~~ launched the Direct Potable Reuse Initiative (DPR) in ~~June of~~ 2012 to advance DPR as a water supply option in California. This was driven by the establishment in recent years of statewide goals for the use of recycled water, and a mandate from the California legislature to come up with a feasibility study by 2016 to investigate developing uniform water recycling criteria for DPR. The DPR Initiative has harnessed funding in the neighborhood of \$-6 million to carry out innovative research, such as public acceptance, critical control points, source water control, and development of an operations plan.

Widespread development of potable reuse could be an important facet of closing the future water supply-demand gap. Additionally, CWCB has funded research into zero liquid discharge over the last few years to assess the technology needed to address the challenges ~~associated created~~ with managing residuals from advanced treatment of alternative water supplies from lower quality water sources. The research will provide solutions and inform decision making related to managing membrane brine concentrate in inland areas at two pilot sites-Brighton and La Junta, Colorado (WERF, 2011).

On the smaller scale of local and site specific reuse of water, HB 13-1044 authorized the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s (CDPHE) Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) to promulgate a regulation (Regulation 86) with standards for the use of graywater. Graywater is defined by the bill as wastewater collected within a building from sources other than toilets and urinals, kitchen sinks, dishwashers, and non-laundry utility sinks. Following the promulgation of Regulation 86, counties and municipalities may adopt

Comment [JR7]: I believe this work is complete – are there conclusions to share here?

Comment [JR8]: Check the bill – did it authorize WQCC (Commission) or WQCD (CDPHE staff) to develop the reg? Probably was WQCC.

local legislation to allow graywater use. Graywater use is limited to applications that are within the uses allowed under the well permit or water right of the original source or sources of the water. As of April 2014, the [WQCCD](#) is working with the Colorado Plumbing Board to create plumbing design standards for graywater systems before developing treatment and control standards. Graywater could be an important component of new construction in the future that crosses water conservation, reuse and land use topic areas.

Comment [JR9]: Could be WQCC – see above

- **Explore incentives and funding**

Using WSRA grant funds, future research into various areas of reuse could expand into areas such as zero liquid discharge, ~~indirect and direct potable reuse~~ [IPR and DPR](#), regional opportunities for systems and facilitating the ability to share reuse water. The CWCB Loan program could be utilized for developing ~~some~~ regional projects much like it was used for the WISE partnership. Additionally, State Revolving Fund loans, [Bureau of Reclamation](#) Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Programs, and [other](#) Federal WaterSmart grants could be used to support more reuse development in the future.

- **Education**

Public perception of [reuse-recycled](#) water [use](#) can be a barrier to increased implementation of reuse strategies, especially involving potable reuse. Work has been done that explores how people understand drinking water reuse in the context of the urban water cycle and if this would increase acceptance of drinking water reuse projects (Macpherson, et.al, 2012). Stronger education efforts should be carried out as to the benefits of reuse water as an integral part of a water supply system and that this is a source of supply that will most likely need to be fully realized.

- **Marketing and selling of reuse water**

According to the IBCC's No/Low Regrets Action Plan, many water providers are limited in their ability to share reuse water. Incentives that better allow for reuse water to be marketed to water providers outside a service area could make building a reuse project more desirable. This could come in the form of incentivizing larger regional projects that allow for more flexible arrangements between water providers.

References:

- [Initial Draft Statewide Basin Implementation Plan Goals]. April 2014. Retrieved from <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>
- RMWEA/RMSAWWA Water Reuse Committee. (n.d.). [Information on web page]. Retrieved from <http://www.rmwea.org/reuse/Colorado.html>
- Water Research Foundation. (2011). Demonstration of Membrane Zero Liquid Discharge for Drinking Water Systems: A Literature Review. Executive Summary. WERF5T10a.
- Water Reuse Research Foundation (2012). Effect of Prior Knowledge of Unplanned Potable Reuse on the Acceptance of Planned Potable Reuse; Macpherson, Snyder, Law and Johnson.
- Water Reuse Research Foundation and WaterReuse California (2011). Direct Potable Reuse: A Path Forward; Tchobanoglous, Leverenz, Nellor, Crook.

Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 6/19/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: June 19, 2014

Input provided by: Gary Wockner, Save the Colorado

Method of submission: Email to cowaterplan@state.co.us

Related sections of CWP Framework: General; 5.6.3

Summary of Input: Copy of email: "A great new editorial in the Denver Post by me: http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_25986715/colorados-water-plan-is-being-hijacked Please insert this editorial as public comment in the Colorado Water Plan process. I'd be happy to talk to you about this. Thanks!!"

Documents Submitted for Review: Copy of editorial

Staff Response: The current course of Colorado Water leads to several of the results the commentator mentions. For instance, without alternatives, up to 35% of Colorado's farms in the South Platte could be dried up. This is one impetus for why Colorado is pursuing the development of a water plan. Colorado's Water Plan will yield better results through support of conservation, reuse, sharing agreements between farmers and municipalities, incentive-based of water-smart land use, and the development of multi-purpose projects and methods. With regard to conservation, the Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation as a critical component to help meet future water needs. Initial work indicates that conservation will likely be able to meet the needs of an additional one million people. This is not enough to meet all of Colorado's future water demand, so Colorado's Water Plan will also encourage balanced multi-purpose projects to meet our future water needs. Scenario planning indicates that a new transmountain diversion may not be needed in the future, however some futures suggest that new transmountain diversions may be a necessary part of Colorado's water supply portfolio. Colorado's Water Plan will not include any specific transmountain water project, but it will discuss how we can move forward with this option should it be needed, based on the IBCC's work. In addition to the environmental representative members of the South Platte Basin Roundtable, several environmental interest groups statewide have been actively

involved in development of the South Platte BIP and Colorado's Water Plan. Regarding agricultural water sharing and modernizing agricultural efficiencies, those concepts are already aspects of Colorado's Water Plan and included in Section 5.7 and Subsection 5.6.4. Colorado's Water Plan will incorporate conservation and reuse, however those strategies alone might not be enough to meet Colorado's future water needs. Additional balanced options need to be explored. With regard to the creation of public debt the commenter mentions, this draft chapter of Colorado's Water Plan has not yet been released for review - Chapter 6. Funding and Financing is due to be released in draft form in September, 2014 and will be available online for public review along with all other chapters currently posted in draft form. With regards to fracking, this practice currently uses approximately 18,000 acre feet per year, which is a very small proportion of Colorado's overall water use. However, there may be some areas where there are greater regional effects. In addition, power plants that burn natural gas to make energy use less water than traditional power plants. Colorado's Water Plan will recognize that there is an energy water nexus.

Colorado's water plan is being hijacked

By Gary Wockner Guest Commentary

Updated: 06/19/2014 05:31:50 PM MDT

DenverPost.com



The South Platte River was up over its banks earlier this month as it flowed under the Highway 6 bridges in Sterling. (Denver Post file photo)

What a beautiful sight! The rivers of Colorado are running fast and furious these last couple of weeks. Rafters, kayakers, and all sorts of water lovers are relishing this year's wonderful spring runoff. Be careful, but get out there and enjoy it this year because this beauty and wildness could soon be a remnant of the past.

Last year, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper wrote an executive order requiring the state to create an official Colorado water plan that would lay out how the state should manage water for the next 30 years. Unfortunately, that plan is

being hijacked by dam and pipeline builders who want to dam, drain, dry up, and destroy our Colorado rivers. A first draft of the plan was recently released, and if implemented it would dam and drain rivers, subdivide and pave over farms, support more water for fracking, and force massive public debt on the backs of local ratepayers. Here are some of the problems:

- The plan for the South Platte River basin - where most of the growth in the state exists - endorses all the proposed dam and reservoir projects that would further drain, divert, and dry up the Poudre, South Platte, and Colorado rivers. It even goes so far as to call for a massive new and exorbitantly expensive diversion from the Colorado River in Western Colorado to be piped over to the sprawling Denver metropolis.
- The biggest threat to farmland in Colorado is population and housing growth, and this draft plan fuels and subsidizes growth paid for by massive public debt. In fact, one project proposed for the Cache la Poudre River - the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) - would fuel the dry-up, subdivision, or pave-over of over 100,000 acres of Colorado farmland. Instead of forcing small cities and suburbs to conserve water and manage growth, the plan supports the status quo and its farm-eating psychosis that threatens our food systems as well as our rivers.
- Several of the cities that are proposing new river-destroying dam projects are also selling water for fracking. The invasion of drill rigs north of Denver along Interstate 25 and eastward also requires an invasion of our water supplies. Several proposed dam/reservoir projects including NISP, Windy Gap Firming Project, the Seaman Project, Bellvue Pipeline, and Chatfield Project will all serve cities selling water for fracking further endangering the Colorado, South Platte, and Cache la Poudre Rivers.
- If the plan supports all of the proposed dam/pipeline projects and the massive new diversion of water out of the Colorado River, roughly \$10 billion in public debt would be required to pay for it all. And, in the draft chapters this cost is hardly discussed nor is who would pay for the projects. Yet, cost is always one of the most critical pieces of information the public wants to know in its decision-making.

Gov. Hickenlooper has been telling the public and the press that this plan will be "bottom up" and "grassroots" because it relies on local people creating it who represent a broad base of the public. I'm afraid he's been given bad information. In fact, in the South Platte River basin that includes the Cache la

Poudre River, the 51-person "roundtable" of appointed people who created the draft is made up of 49 who represent and support diverting more water out of our rivers and two who represent fishing and duck hunting. Not one river-saving environmentalist on the committee — not one.

Instead of draining Front Range rivers, drying up Western Colorado, paving over farms, and supporting massive public debt, this plan should promote water conservation and efficiency, water recycling, water-sharing agreements with farmers, and cost-effective alternatives. These alternatives aren't rocket science - this path forward has been laid out to the state government for years. In fact, river groups that I direct put these alternative into the public comments for the plan, but they've so far been ignored.

The Colorado Water Plan proposes to have a full draft this fall and a final plan done next year. Thus, there's still time to influence the outcome. The public needs to engage - if you don't grab your voice and get involved, you better grab your wallet and your water, because this plan is after them both.

Send comments to the Colorado Water Plan at cowaterplan@state.co.us or contact Gov. Hickenlooper directly at 303-866-2471. Save the spring runoff; save our rivers!

Gary Wockner directs Save The Poudre, which works to protect and restore the Poudre River of Northern Colorado. Contact him at Gary@GaryWockner.com.

Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 6/20/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: June 20, 2014

Input provided by: Torie Jarvis, NWCCOG/QQ

Method of submission: Email to cowaterplan@state.co.us

Related sections of CWP Framework: 5.6; 5.10

Summary of Input: Copy of email: "attached please find comments from NWCCOG/QQ on the May 2014 draft sections of Colorado's Water Plan. We've included 3 documents: Narrative comments on Chapter 5.6 and 5.10 in PDF form. • Redline comments for chapter 5.6 • The summary from the Land Use Water Conservation Workshop QQ hosted in early May. Thank you, and please let us know if you have any questions."

Documents Submitted for Review: Narrative Comments, Redline 5.6, Summary of Workshop

Staff Response: CWCB appreciates the edits and suggestions provided by NWCCOG/QQ committee, and will consider these comments during the revisions of these subsections. Regarding Section 5.6.1, page 2, paragraph 1, potential savings is discussed a bit further into the section. Regarding Section 5.6.1, page 4 on state's knowledge of conservation (paragraph 4), this statement refers to putting saved water into drought reserves or something similar. Although it is not the full potential, it is the minimum that should be tried for. Regarding Section 5.6.1, page 6 on IBCC actions, the consensus at the IBCC was that this should be the absolute minimum that should be accomplished not just planned for. Regarding Section 5.6.1, page 8 on recent legislative actions, the Governor's rationale for vetoing SB14-023 belongs in the Agricultural Conservation Section. Regarding Section 5.6.1, page 1 on partnership recommendations, local governments are the land use authority while the water provider has direct control over the water supply and demand management. This is handled in the land use section. Regarding Section 5.6.3, page 15, land use was originally included in the M&I water conservation section but was separated out as its own section but retained in the overall water conservation section due to how it relates to water conservation. Regarding Section 5.6.3, page 17, incentives are and

will be a very important part of saving water. The incentives based approach can be explained in another part of the water plan (i.e. introduction chapter) as opposed to just this section.



WATER QUALITY / QUANTITY COMMITTEE (QQ)

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Summary of May 7, 2014 Land Use and Water Conservation Workshop

The Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Water Quality/ Quantity Committee (QQ) hosted more than 35 planners and planning commissioners, primarily from headwaters towns and counties on the West Slope. Several attendees represented Front Range communities as well, including Arapaho County and Denver Water.

The workshop started with an introduction of the statutory authority and requirements that connect land use planning with water supply availability and planning. A panel then presented on various communities' approaches to integrating land use decision making with water supply considerations, water conservation and watershed protection. The workshop then became hands-on, with a session to brainstorm land use planning practices and regulations that work to achieve water conservation and water quality objectives within participant's communities.

The following is a summary of the panel presentations, discussion session and conclusions reached during this workshop.

I. Panel discussion on integrating land use decision-making, water supply considerations, and water conservation.

Panelists for this workshop included:

Tom Boni, *Eagle Town Planner*

John Ely, *Pitkin County Attorney*

Peter Grosshuesch, *Breckenridge Director of Community Development*

James Shockley, *Winter Park Town Planner*

Panelists answered and discussed a series of three questions. Participants in the workshop were encouraged to ask questions and provide additional feedback from their communities.

1. What plans/regulations does your jurisdiction use to ensure that new development will have adequate water supply? What challenges have you faced with respect to that issue?

Answers to this question reaffirmed that local governments currently control timing, density, and location of development, and require development to provide adequate water supplies. The techniques communities employ for ensuring adequate water supplies vary.

The Town of Winter Park has robust regulations to ensure adequate water supplies, in part because of the reduced flows in the Fraser River caused by transmountain diversions. 65% of the Fraser River is diverted to the Front Range before reaching Winter Park.¹ The Town developed much of its land use code to protect the health of the Fraser River through the Town. The Town limits the issuance of development permits to maintain 10 cfs (cubic feet per second, a unit of measuring flowing water) in the Fraser River. The Town also does not allow outside irrigation anywhere in Town limits.

When new developments apply for annexation into towns, the application serves as an opportunity to evaluate and control water supplies. The Town of Eagle, for example, requires the annexor to donate all water rights to the Town which then are leased back for use in the development. The Town of Eagle's Land Use Code also requires developers to give assurance of adequate public facilities in development applications. If no such facilities are available, the developer must upgrade existing facilities or provide new facilities. The Town of Breckenridge also requires new development to bring its own water supplies.

2. How do your plans/regulations protect streams, wetlands and other riparian areas from the impacts of land use and development and major challenges in protecting riparian areas?

Local governments actively regulate land use development for the protection of river corridors and riparian habitat. Local governments are also making significant public investments in river restoration and preservation. Specific funding and regulatory examples are listed below.

- **Management plans for river and stream corridors**, such as the Brush Creek Management Plan in the Town of Eagle. Such plans identify values in stream that should be protected and then require new development to preserve those values in order to be approved for a development permit. The Town of Eagle also works collaboratively with the Eagle River Watershed Council to implement recommendations in the Eagle River Watershed Plan.
- **Defining development areas on property**. Pitkin County regulates permissible areas of development within a property with an eye on riparian habitat protection, and imposes limits on landscaping outside of the design area.
- **Regulating septic systems**. Generally, participants and panelists agreed that septic systems are huge sources of pollution and degraded water quality in rural areas. Septic systems are also problematic because when they are not working properly the cost of repairs or replacement can be exorbitant. Panelists agreed local governments should look for methods to regulate septic systems and to help fund replacements. Summit County and other jurisdictions have explored options for addressing septic problems, such as requiring a septic inspection and compliance with current regulations upon the sale of homes. Summit County also encourages replacement of septic systems with sewer by

¹ Coley/Forrest Inc., "Water and its Relationship to the Economies of the Headwaters Counties," Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, December 2011
<http://nwccog.org/docs/qc/QQStudy_Outreach%20Summary%20Jan%202012.pdf>.

requiring new development to minimize phosphorous loading to Lake Dillon.

- **Conservation easements.** Pitkin County has two zoning districts that require conservation easements before development approval.
- **Local government ownership of the river corridor.** The Town of Winter Park attempts to purchase as much of the river corridor through town as possible to protect river health and water quality and to add recreation and tourist opportunities. Generally, a new annexation to Winter Park requires town ownership of the river corridor.
- **River restoration projects.** Local governments are actively investing in projects that will improve river corridors, water quality, and riparian habitat in their communities. For example, the Town of Breckenridge invested in seven river restoration projects to date, primarily related to abandoned in-stream mines.
- **Construction management regulations.** Local governments regulate erosion from construction sites and limit impervious surfaces to reduce potential sediment loading into the rivers.
- **Revegetation requirements.** Local governments require the revegetation of disturbed areas with native species as a condition of development permits.
- **Setbacks** to prevent riverfront development from encroaching on riparian habitat. However, three panelists agreed that setbacks of 25 feet or 30 feet are often inadequate. The small setbacks also create an enforcement problem.
- **Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams Fund.** In 2008 voters in Pitkin County passed a dedicated 0.1% sales tax for healthy rivers and streams. The Fund allows Pitkin County to award grants, develop restoration projects and participate in litigation to protect healthy rivers and streams. The Fund is administered by the Board of County Commissioners with the advice of a citizens' board.

The panel's discussion of the significant local government investment in river restoration turned to a broader discussion of how to ensure the Colorado Water Plan protects already-existing investments. Participants recommended gathering information on what investments have been made by various communities in the QQ region for inclusion in the Colorado River Basin Implementation Plan. Examples of local government investment are listed as Exhibit 1.

3. Does your jurisdiction use the concept of “carrying capacity” or similar analysis in planning or regulation to ensure that new development is located in areas where the natural environment can accommodate the development?

Some local governments have embraced the idea and funded studies to better understand how many people a community's available natural resources, including water, can support, as several panelists described. Other panelists stated that once a study came up with a carrying capacity number, then it's politically difficult to limit growth once it reaches that number due to concerns about how this could affect the economy of the area. In contrast, other local governments have embraced the idea and funded studies to better understand how many people a community's available natural resources, including water, can support.

The Town of Breckenridge completed carrying capacity studies as recently as 5-7 years ago. The study conducted in cooperation with Summit County examined what the Town and County will look like by 2030 and whether the leadership liked the direction the area was headed.

Breckenridge also funded a recent study of the capacity of all infrastructure including water and wastewater. The Town of Winter Park has regulations directly tied to the carrying capacity for the Town. The water capacity is capped (based on average density of currently zoned lands) to protect the river from over development. These capacity studies are subject to reevaluation, such as the potential to allow for more growth in Winter Park through new water available as a result of the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement.

While John Ely, Pitkin County's attorney, questioned the effectiveness of a "carrying capacity" approach to planning, he also highlighted Pitkin County's Growth Management Quota System, which establishes a set number of development permits available on a competitive basis to ensure slow, measured growth that won't get ahead of Pitkin County's quality of life. Likewise, the Town of Eagle institutes an urban growth boundary to help control density and ensure growth happens slowly enough to provide time to react.

II. Small Group Discussions: Water Conservation Targets in Comprehensive Plans.

Small groups debated the various pros and cons of requiring water conservation targets, such as a certain goal in gallons per capita per day, in local comprehensive plans. Participants explained why some alternative water conservation measures might work better in their communities than targets, identified issues with rural areas utilizing wells, and considered how they might prioritize the different water conservation methods. Finally, discussion focused on the best forum to integrate land use and water conservation.

1. Should water conservation targets be required in comprehensive plans?

Generally, most participants in this workshop positively affirmed that water elements should be required in comprehensive plans. Participants felt that conservation targets or something similar would be appropriate to implement water conservation in comprehensive plans. Several commented that targets were useful because they were flexible and could be easily changed. Water use goals or targets should include timelines to be most effective.

The metric that different communities would use to measure conservation was problematic. A method to determine the actual population using water day-to-day is necessary to avoid the appearance of inflated per capita use in communities where tourism and recreation-based population swings are dramatic. Many people in rural communities also rely on septic systems for wastewater treatment and wells for water supplies; usually neither of these services is metered. Water conservation targets based on gpcd may not adequately consider these situations.

Finally, some participants highlighted the difficulty in a local government instituting a conservation goal when a special district provides the water for development in that same area. Even for these areas that may want to implement water conservation regulations, such change can be cumbersome with multiple districts and multiple processes. Nevertheless, the local government regulates where, how, and when development occurs and what conditions if any should be imposed on the amount of water that development uses.

For these reasons, most participants felt communities should adopt their own specific water conservation goals to allow local governments to tailor goals to their own needs. The metric used to calculate the baseline for comparing improvements in water conservation was important to most participants. One group offered the suggestion that gallons “consumed” per capita per day might more fairly compare local water use with trans mountain diversions since most water delivered to a household is not consumed but rather returns to the stream, whereas water that is diverted out of the basin has no return flows in the basin.

2. What alternative methods of conserving water would work in your communities? How should these methods be prioritized?

Participants discussed several possible techniques that might help implement water conservation in their communities. Such techniques include:

1. Requiring higher density development, which is also beneficial as a practical land use tool, especially for resort communities where tourists want to take advantage of public transportation.
2. Improvements in outdoor irrigation and landscaping, including:
 - Watering restrictions (participants were mixed as to the effectiveness for their communities)
 - Landscape design regulations, including encouraging alternative grass types
 - Evapo-transpiration-sensing fixtures for outdoor irrigation
 - More efficient irrigation practices and efficiency incentives (although many communities already do not allow outside irrigation for lawns)
3. Lodging tax that could be used to redevelop infrastructure (like the Pitkin County Healthy Streams tax, mentioned in the panel discussion above), for infrastructure improvements
4. Incorporate Low Impact Development protocols to protect water quality for stormwater runoff
5. Adjustable water billing rates based on water usage or a monthly “budget” of water calculated for a new development.
6. Metering of wells to include in compliance with targets.

Most participant discussions mentioned the importance of prioritizing efforts on measures that result in the highest water savings, such as outdoor irrigation regulations, in many regions around the state.

Each group also emphasized the importance of education in implementing water conservation measures. The general public should understand the reasons for such regulations. In order to gain momentum for implementing water conservation regulations, land use planners, planning commissioners, and elected officials all need continued education on the importance of such efforts.

3. What is the best forum to further land use and water integration?

Participants generally agreed that all government sectors, from the federal level through the state and county to the community, would need to be involved in meaningful water conservation. One group pointed out the importance of working with federal agencies to protect water infrastructure from wildfire, for example.

Many acknowledged that the issue is very localized, with strong momentum to keep it that way, but on many levels it should be a more regional discussion. Several groups mentioned that regional organizations like NWCCOG should be taking the lead, along with organizations directly involved in land use planning like the American Planning Association, Colorado Counties, Inc., or the Colorado Municipal League.

Each group grappled with whether they felt state legislation to mandate water conservation targets for communities statewide would be an acceptable solution. Many were hesitant to invite state action because of how varied communities' water challenges are and how unique the solutions might be. As discussed above, a system of state-wide targets created concern among some participants. Some mentioned that some type of state legislation could be possible, even if targets were not ideal. Others were very supportive of state legislation that would require water conservation and water availability elements in all comprehensive plans. Across the board, participants remained concerned about what the metric would be for targets or some other mechanism for water conservation.

III. Conclusion.

Local governments have the authority and tools to make sure that new growth and development do not outstrip water supply. These tools have been used effectively in many communities to protect the quality of life and important natural resources identified in master plan goals. The workshop agreed on the importance of integrating land use planning with water planning and making sure this discussion is included as part of the Colorado Water Plan, especially in light of State projections that Colorado's population may double by 2050 with necessary water supplies for many of those people yet to be built or even identified. Immense opportunities exist for closing Colorado's future water supply gap through land use planning and conservation while also restoring and maintaining healthy rivers and preserving agriculture.

Participants recommended continuing discussions on how best to establish and measure water conservation targets in land use planning, but emphasized that this is best done at the local level. They also want to consider legislation that would require, rather than allow, a water planning element in municipal and county master plans around the state.

Participants decried the knowledge gap about water conservation in the planning profession and recommended that more should be done to close the gap. All were in agreement that the dialogue about the intersection of land use planning and water conservation must continue. Regional organizations like Councils of Governments, American Planning Association, Colorado Counties, Inc., and the Colorado Municipal League should provide leadership to educate and assist local governments in instituting water conservation and water availability elements in comprehensive plans.

Exhibit 1

Examples of Nonconsumptive Restoration Projects in Headwaters Counties

Many nonconsumptive projects have been completed at considerable investment of time and money. These projects deserve to be recognized and protected from future water projects envisioned by the Colorado Water Plan.

The following are only *examples* of the many nonconsumptive projects initiated by local governments to benefit the environment and recreation in their communities. QQ encourages the Colorado Water Plan process, specifically those undertaking planning efforts in the Colorado Basin, to consider completing such a list for the entire Colorado River Basin in Colorado. Such a list is important both to give a sense of scale and expense of these projects and to document investments that could be endangered with additional development of water resources in the Colorado Basin.

These sample responses were provided by NWCCOG members in response to the following emailed question:

NWCCOG/QQ is seeking information to include in the Colorado River Basin implementation plan for the Colorado Water Plan. We want to make sure that the Plan takes into account watershed restoration projects and other water body protections so that protected segments are not jeopardized by future transmountain diversion water development projects. **Examples are the stream restoration in Breckenridge in former mining areas, Town of Eagle water body setbacks required for new development along Brush Creek, or conservation easements allowing public access along stretches of the Roaring Fork.**

Please let us know whether your jurisdiction has restored any stream segments, acquired any conservation easements on any stream segments, or spent money on or required other watershed restoration work.

Please identify the specific stream reaches that have been protected or restored and an estimate of the amount of money spent on the projects.

Town of Fraser

The Fraser River Project, an aquatic habitat enhancement project completed in 2006, addressed riparian restoration of two miles of river through town.

Town of Frisco

In the past ten years the Town of Frisco has done extensive tree plantings to the benefit of the watershed on the Frisco peninsula in Dillon Reservoir. We have also created a white water park on Ten Mile Creek that included river restoration and improvement to the fish habitat.

Town of Silverthorne

The Town of Silverthorne has made a number of investments in restoring and protecting the Blue River corridor through Town, including:

- RICD below Dillon Reservoir with kayak park construction planned
- Paths/bridges along the River in Town
- Multiple Blue River restoration and habitat improvement projects
- Old Dillon Reservoir to supplement flows on the Blue River
- Several parks on the river
- Open space and conservation easements on the river
- Wastewater treatment plant investments

Eagle County and Eagle River Watershed Council

- River health and restoration projects in Eagle County, collaborative efforts of Eagle County and the Eagle River Watershed Council, include:
- Edwards Restoration Project- a \$4 million project on the Eagle River was that will be completed by spring 2015.
- Basin of Last Resort- a \$20 million sand clean up and prevention project for a 10 mile segment along I-70 to protect Gore Creek and the Eagle River. This is a CDOT project in response to a TMDL and is on-going, current monitoring costs alone are \$15,000/year.
- Camp Hale – watershed improvement projects that the National Forest Foundation is guiding this process, with Marcus Selig being the primary contact. Originally it was a \$5million project- made up of a \$2.5 million match from USFS and the remaining \$2.5 match from NFF's fundraising efforts, but is now estimated to cost \$10-20 million for competition.
- The Eagle River Watershed Council restored the Eagle with the ERWSD above and below Lake Creek to mitigate temperature issues.
- Several boat ramps have been constructed on the Colorado River.
- The Town of Minturn also conducted restoration on the upper Eagle River in two phases with assistance.

Town of Breckenridge

At least 7 major restoration projects have been completed, including:

- Cucumber Creek: \$130,000
- Maggie Pond: (pending response)
- Riverwalk (in town): \$8 million
- Wellington Oro: \$4 million for the building; \$300,000 annual operating
- Block 11: \$51,450
- 4 mile bridge: (pending response)
- Upper Swan: \$279,800

- Miners Creek: \$29,600
- Sawmill Creek: \$117,170
- Klack: \$181,000
- Illinois Gulch: \$141,310
- Kayak Park: \$225,000
- Stan Miller: \$1 million



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The following are NWCCOG/QQ's Redline comments on the May 9, 2014 draft of Section 5.6: Water Conservation and Reuse:

Chapter 5: Water Management

INITIAL DRAFT 5.6: Water Conservation and Reuse

NOTE: This draft section will be modified and supplemented upon receipt of the draft Basin Implementation Plans from the Basin Roundtables and additional work completed by the IBCC.

Introduction

As Colorado heads towards a gap between supply and demand, water conservation activities will play an important role in balancing the need for additional water supply against what can be done to lessen that need. By creating a comprehensive statewide approach to implementing water conservation activities, we can create a consistent approach from the local level up to the state level. While conservation and reuse are not "silver bullets," considerable gains in reducing the gap can be achieved through conservation; however the implementation of conservation measures is unique to the specific water system and the associated community it serves. We can achieve the benefits of conservation by creating scalable technical resources, bolstering local initiatives through financial incentives, and sharing best-practices and policy recommendations at local and state levels.

This section examines active water conservation, passive water conservation, reuse, land use, agricultural water conservation, self-supplied industrial conservation, and state agency conservation. These various water management strategies will define the road that Colorado will take to close the supply gap, maintain a healthy environment, and preserve agricultural production into the future.

Comment [A1]: Why down play the value of conservation and reuse? The State should aggressively encourage conservation at the local level and offer to support necessary policy measure to accomplish this.

5.6.1 M&I Water Conservation

As described in section 5.1, no matter what future Colorado faces, a significant amount of conserved water will be needed to ensure that we have enough water to meet Colorado's future needs. The minimum saved water identified by the IBCC is nearly 170,000 acre-feet, which is enough water to meet the needs of about 1.1 million people, which is equivalent to thirty percent of all the new people expected to move to Colorado between now and 2050 (No/Low Regrets, 2013). There have been a number of stakeholder-based efforts such as the 2010 Statewide Conservation "mini-summit," work of the IBCC Conservation Subcommittee, and work of the CWCB's Water Conservation Technical Advisory Group, that have helped to 1) determine the minimum levels of conservation needed and 2) chart potential ways to achieve these levels of active conservation. We must ~~also~~ recognize that conservation can also acts as a management tool to buffer against drought. Water managers reduce demands through conservation over the long term and also in times of drought when water is scarce. The amount of water realized from long term water conservation could be used as drought reserve. In these cases, greater storage is required to maintain drought protection (Mayer, Little & Ward, 2006). Reduced demand due to expanded conservation efforts, however, will stretch existing supplies in times of drought, too.

Potential
Minimum Water
Savings:
170,000 AF
Could Serve
1.1 Million

Comment [A2]: This paragraph should include a statement on the full potential for water savings, not just the minimum from No/Low regrets.

Benefits of Water Conservation

The CWCB *Municipal Water Efficiency Plan Guidance Document* states that water savings achieved through water efficiency activities can reduce water demands assisting providers in avoiding, downsizing, or postponing the construction and operation of water supply facilities and wastewater facilities as well as eliminate, reduce, or postpone water purchases. In addition to these water supply benefits, there are other societal, political, and environmental benefits. Examples of such benefits include:

- Reduction of wastewater discharges through indoor water savings which can improve water quality and aquatic habitat.
- Reduction of outdoor irrigation runoff which can improve water quality.
- Demonstrating commitment to sustainability.
- Meeting political and regulatory requirements necessary to obtain permitting for local and regional water supply projects.
- Demonstrating leadership to the community that being more efficient is the right thing to do in an arid environment.
- Lowering operational costs such as pumping and water treatment.
- Lowering amount of chemicals needed to treat water.
- Delaying capital costs for projects

Benefits may also be reflected in how the saved water is used. Depending on a provider's water supply portfolio and situation, saved water can be used in the following ways:

- Conserve water for future generations – Saved water can be a less expensive option than acquiring new supplies for future growth and result in less environmental consequences.
- Leases to agriculture – This supports the agriculture sector and can generate additional revenue for the municipality.
- Drought protection – Saved water can be stored for later use during a drought. This in turn improves water supply reliability without having to purchase additional water.
- Instream flows – Saved water ~~can mean less water diverted from it remain in the stream.~~ ~~This can increase~~ flows in particular reaches of the stream.

State of Knowledge on Water Conservation

In 2010, the CWCB funded a first ever *Best Practices Guidebook for Municipal Water Conservation in Colorado* (Best Practices Guidebook). Colorado WaterWise created the Best Practices Guidebook with a large technical and stakeholder group and created fourteen best practices that outline the potential and costs for active water conservation measures that span indoor to outdoor to residential and non-residential. These best practices comprise what a water provider would have to carry out in order to conserve water. They require financial and human resources to accomplish and implementation varies greatly among water providers.

The CWCB created the Levels Analysis Framework that prioritizes the best practices that a local water provider might undertake to achieve its goals. The Levels Analysis focuses on foundational practices first and then proceeds in varying degrees of difficulty organized by technical assistance and incentives, regulations, and education. This will help water provider personnel focus both human and financial resources on the most cost efficient activities (most acre feet saved/resources expended) first and then with time expand to attain the more difficult activities.

Using the Best Practices as a basis, SWSI 2010 estimated low, medium and high strategies for active water conservation savings. Active water conservation is water conservation that occurs due to the enactment of programs at the local level where financial and human resources are committed to carrying out water efficiency programming. Depending on the level of savings, a varying amount of effort is required to achieve penetration rates consistent with the savings estimates. Many of the activities that would attain the medium to high savings estimates were estimated to require some kind of regulation to ensure the success of the savings estimates. The total potential savings ranges from 160,000 to 461,000 acre feet statewide in 2050 (CWCB 2010 b).

~~Not all of these savings can or should be applied to meet future growth.~~ Not every municipality that conserves water will need all of it to meet future growth, and there are legal barriers that restrict

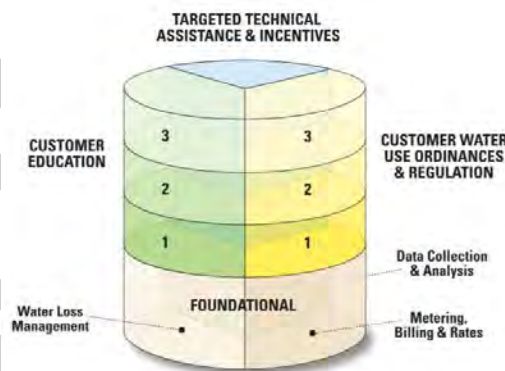


Figure 2-SWSI Levels Analysis Framework

Comment [A3]: Reducing demand indirectly results in applying savings to future growth, this statement is misleading, the remaining paragraph is more to the point.

water providers from sharing conserved water. In addition, most entities do not have the infrastructure to either share water or re-time conserved water so that it can be used when it is needed. In addition, some entities may choose to utilize conserved water as part of their strategic drought reserve. Initial estimates by the roundtables indicate that between fifty and sixty percent of conserved water could be used to meet future growth. **Approximately 170,000 acre-feet was determined to be the plausible amount that could be applied to meet future needs, no matter what type of future Colorado may face.**

Comment [A4]: But this is not the full potential.

In addition to this amount, another 150,000 of savings will likely accrue by 2050 due to natural replacement rates of fixtures and appliances (CWCB, 2010a; CWCB, 2010 b). These passive water conservation savings occur when home and property owners need to replace their indoor water fixtures and appliances. Their choices tend to save water compared to old appliances and fixtures due to large-scale regulatory or legislative initiatives such as the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (1992 EPACT). Passive water conservation can be considered a baseline of water savings that will occur naturally and thus should be included in demand projections. As customers replace their toilets, dishwashers, clothes washers, showers and the like, many will choose WaterSense or EnergyStar labeled fixtures and appliances, which use less water. This will be further supported through recent legislation (see below).

Examples of Exemplary Water Conservation

Municipalities have done a remarkable job in the past decade reducing per person water needs. Statewide, this amounts to a little under twenty percent (SWSI 2010), but some municipalities have reduced their per person water use by as much as thirty percent. Others have developed regional and cooperative approaches to reduce water use. Most of the largest water providers in Colorado have CWCB approved water conservation plans and most of the M&I demand is covered by an approved CWCB plan.

Many water providers have adopted best practices, including landscape practices, water loss management and inclining block rate structures. For example, of the CWCB approved water conservation plans on file, approximately 85% of water providers along the Front Range and East Slope and 77% of West Slope water providers have inclining block rate structures (CWCB, 2011). Below are a few examples that highlight some efforts. There are many more great examples of water conservation across the state, but there is not room to include them all.

- *Aurora Water*
Aurora Water has implemented landscape and irrigation standards along with tiered rate structures. Additionally, they are creating a customer information system using geographic information systems, excel based water use calculator and state of the art communication tools to efficiently focus incentives to specific customers and to collaborate with their customers more closely.
- *Douglas County*
All covered entities in Douglas County have CWCB approved water conservation plans and the vast majority of the smaller providers manage water conservation activities under a regional water conservation plan. Of the covered entities, all are implementing water conservation best practices such as landscape/irrigation ordinances, landscaper

certification requirements, a variety of incentives, tiered rate structures (including water budgets), smart metering with a customer feedback loop, new construction requirements in relation to water conservation and customer education.

- *Denver Water*
Denver Water has made progress through their “Use Only What You Need” campaign over the last 8 years. Now they are taking that one step further with creating water budgets for their largest customers and customizing their efficiency approach with each one. This way their largest customers know exactly “what they need” and can be more efficient with their water use.
- *Greeley, Boulder, Highlands Ranch and Castle Rock*
All of these municipalities have adopted water budget rate structures tied to actual water use on a site. Using winter quarter average as a proxy for indoor use and GIS imagery to define water use outside, these communities have used this tool to manage their summer peak demands through technology, education and appropriate pricing.
- *Ute Water/Grand Junction/Clifton*
Starting in 2002, the Grand Valley Water Providers came together to create a drought response plan called DRIP or Drought Response Information Project. This was a success and is still in action. Modeling this effort, they came together again to create a regional water conservation plan. This effort made sense since their systems are interconnected and generally reside in the same media shed.
- *More Regional Plans*
Many communities and water providers are not required by statute to have a CWCB approved conservation plan due to their small size. These small water providers can however come together and create more than the sum of their parts.
 - o In the lower Arkansas Valley, 38 small water providers came together to create a regional water conservation plan, under guidance from Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, as a roadmap of how they were going to plan and implement conservation over the next 50 years.
 - o Steamboat Springs completed a community conservation plan that brought together three water providers under a single community plan in 2010.
 - o Presently, five communities in the Roaring Fork Watershed (Aspen, Snowmass Village, Basalt, Carbondale and Glenwood Springs) are creating their own regional conservation plan that ties directly into their Roaring Fork Watershed Plan.

Basin Implementation Plans

For 2014, each Basin Roundtable is formulating their own implementation plan that will include water conservation goals and activities in addition to already planned projects and methods, use of Colorado River water, and alternatives to agricultural transfers.

**SUMMARY OF BIP WORK TO DATE IS BELOW. THIS WILL BE
UPDATED BASED ON BIP WORK.**

A number of basins have created the following draft goals (Initial Draft Statewide Basin Implementation Plan Goals, 2014)

The Arkansas Basin has submitted a WSRA grant that explicitly aims to further explore conservation.

The Colorado Basin has created a goal “to develop land use policy improvements addressing conservation and awareness of limited available water supply and develop water court process recommendations to encourage efficiency, conservation, and reuse.”

The South Platte/Metro Basin has an overarching theme of continuing “its Leadership Role in Efficient Use and Management of Water - No person, company or institution operates without risk/perils of change. The State’s future, and the future of each of its river basins, depends on efficient, sustainable and collaborative solutions.” They also have the following goals and measurable outcomes:

Goal: Continue the South Platte River Basin’s leadership in wise water use.

- MO#1 – Further quantify the successes of programs implemented in the past several years throughout the South Platte River Basin and establish a general baseline against which the success of future programs will be assessed.
- MO#2 – Distribute and encourage adoption of “best management practices” as “guidelines” (not standards) for M&I water suppliers to consider in their “provider-controlled” programs recognizing the significant differences in climates, cultures and economic conditions throughout the South Platte River Basin.
- MO#3 – Maintain and enhance current levels of municipal water reuse and consider studies to quantify the effects of: 1) additional municipal water conservation on water available for reuse; 2) additional municipal water reuse in relation to water available for exchanges; 3) reuse and successive uses of water downstream including effects on agricultural water shortages.
- NC MO#1 – Ensure conservation, reuse and drought management plans take into consideration environmental and recreational focus areas and attributes.

Finally, the Southwest Basin has a “goal of promoting and incentivizing wise and efficient water use through implementation of municipal conservation strategies to reduce overall future water needs”.

Each Basin is in the process of compiling all of their strategies for closing their M&I gap. These are preliminary goals and as more plans are fleshed out more goals will be finalized.

Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Actions

In 2010, the IBCC Water Conservation Subcommittee developed a list of water conservation strategies that were included in an IBCC “Letter to the Governors” (IBCC Report to Governors, 2010). Among the recommendations were a number of short-term and longer term conservation actions that ranged from statewide education campaigns to legislation addressing indoor and outdoor water use.

In 2013, the IBCC developed the “No and Low Regrets Action Plan” for water conservation (No/Low Regrets, 2013). ~~This strategy outlines what minimum level of water conservation should be considered for planning purposes in the out statewide plan.~~ The IBCC reached consensus on the need to reach low to medium levels of water conservation regardless of the future scenario, and the near term potential future actions that would be needed to achieve this (Table 1).

Comment [A5]: This should be a statement reflecting what can realistically be planned for, not the minimum that “should be” implemented.

Table 1: Interbasin Compact Committee Potential Future Actions Summary

- 1) Improve Tracking and Quantification of Conservation**
- 2) Establish a Statewide Conservation Goal with Intermittent Benchmarks**
 - a) Develop general political support for a statewide conservation goal
 - b) Develop statewide agreement tying conservation to new supply development and agricultural transfers
 - c) Support local entities in their efforts to outline and report their own approaches to help achieve the statewide goal.
 - d) Explore best approach to implementation of standards to achieve goal
 - e) Develop and implement conservation standards
- 3) Continue to Support Local Implementation of Best Practices**
 - a) Continue implementation of state conservation programs
 - b) Encourage use of levels framework and best practices guidebook
- 4) Promote Enabling Conditions for Use of Conserved Water**
 - a) Maintain and develop storage and infrastructure for the use of conserved water
 - b) Promote incentives for the use of conserved water
 - c) Identify and, where possible, resolve legal and administrative barriers to the use of conserved water
 - d) Identify and explore barriers to sharing conserved water
- 5) Develop New Incentives for Conservation**
 - a) Explore funding options in support of the Water Efficiency Grant Program
 - b) Develop professional education and certification programs
 - c) Develop new eligibility requirements for state grants and loans that include certain conservation levels or indications of commitment to conservation
 - d) Develop conservation standards for communities planning to use agricultural transfers or new supplies for future water needs
 - e) Develop incentives that incorporate the following concepts: encourage a base level of conservation; assess issues, benefits, and drawbacks of the current definition of "covered entities;" conservation water markets; small community support; permitting incentives
- 6) Explore Legislative Concepts and Develop Support**
 - a) Explore legislative options and support for indoor plumbing code standards
 - b) Explore legislative options and support for outdoor water efficiency standards
 - c) Engage in outreach and education efforts to explain the need for legislation; develop political support
- 7) Implement Education and Outreach Efforts**
 - a) Track public attitudes through baseline and ongoing surveys
 - b) Develop statewide messaging and use focus groups to refine and guide implementation
 - c) Develop decision-maker outreach strategies
 - d) Pursue a coordinated media campaign

Recent Legislative Actions

Partly in response to the work of the Basin Roundtables and the Interbasin Compact Committee, there have been some recent legislative developments. The legislative process can be contentious and does not always reflect the collaborative nature found at the Basin Roundtables and Interbasin Compact Committee. Many of the Basin Roundtables have expressed an interest in working more closely with their legislative representatives to increase the level of understanding for both bodies. As in this session, there have been bills passed in the last few years that will direct the course of statewide water conservation implementation for the foreseeable future.

Senate Bill 14-017, concerning a limitation on the approval of real estate developments that use water rights decreed for agricultural purposes to irrigate lawn grass, was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor in 2014. The bill seeks to identify and quantify the types of best practices that could be used to limit municipal outdoor water conservation and to determine if proposed legislation is needed to facilitate the implementation of those practices. The bill directly refers to the work of the Basin Roundtables and the IBCC, stating, "As part of the Colorado water conservation board's statewide water supply initiative and the interbasin compact committee and basin roundtable process, a "No/Low Regrets Action Plan" has been developed, an important element of which is to establish an implement conservation strategies to extend the ability of existing water supplies to meet increasing needs and thereby minimize agricultural dry-up."

Senate Bill 14-103, known as "the fixtures bill," was passed by the General Assembly. It would phase out less efficient water using fixtures and requires that only WaterSense specified fixtures may be sold in Colorado. These fixtures are those fixtures that carry the EPA WaterSense label, are third party certified and presently are 20% more efficient than existing fixtures. In addition, these fixtures do not cost more than their less-efficient counterparts. The bill's supporters estimate that it would garner approximately 40,000 acre feet of savings annually by 2050 and would increase the replacement rate of existing fixtures. (Denver Water, 2014). The bill is consistent with the Interbasin Compact Committee's suggestion to explore legislative options to help increase indoor water efficiencies.

Past Legislative Actions

HB 10-1051 will have a long lasting impact on how Colorado plans for water conservation. This bill that requires covered entities (those water providers that deliver over 2000 acre feet of water annually) to submit water use and water conservation data to the CWCB. This is a good first step to better quantifying and tracking water conservation activities and water demand in Colorado. This bill is being implemented in 2014 and the data will be valuable to state water supply planning processes.

HB10-1358 required the builder of a new single-family detached residence, for which a buyer is under contract, to offer the buyer a selection of water-saving options, including:

- Water-efficient toilets, lavatory faucets, and showerheads;
- Dishwashers and clothes washers that meet federal Environmental Protection Agency energy star program standards if they are to be financed, installed, or sold as upgrades through the home builder;

Comment [A6]: SB-023 should be mentioned and the Governor's rationale for vetoing it noted.

- If the landscaping is financed, installed, or sold as upgrades through the home builder and maintained by the homeowner, landscape design that follows the Green Industry's best management practices; and
- Installation of a pressure-reducing valve that limits water pressure in the residence to 60 pounds per square inch.

As a side note, SB 14-103 would effectively remove the first bullet above that relates to water efficient toilets, faucets and showerheads in order to streamline legislation and avoid duplication.

HB 09-1129 authorized a pilot program for the collection of precipitation from rooftops for nonpotable uses. The program can include up to 10 new residential or mixed-use developments. At present, the Sterling Ranch development in Douglas County is the first and only pilot to begin and is at the beginning of their first construction phase.

HB 05-133 stated that an owner would not abandon their water right if certain conditions were met. Two conditions refer to "a water conservation program approved by a state agency and a water banking program as provided by law". These don't go as far as allowing sharing but it does state that an owner of a water right won't lose the right if non-use stems from water conservation activities.

Water Conservation Recommendations

THIS WILL BE UPDATED TO REFLECT BIP CONSERVATION WORK.

In the past decade, great strides in understanding and implementing water conservation activities have taken place across Colorado. Most of the largest water providers in Colorado have CWCB approved water conservation plans, most of the M&I demand is covered by an approved CWCB plan, Colorado-specific Water Conservation Best Practices were created, SWSI 2010 refined water savings projections to reflect current industry knowledge, House Bill 10-1051 was passed and implemented to collect current water use and water conservation data and local water providers are implementing more measures than ever before.

With all these successes there is still much to do. Incentives and technical resources will assist in creating a space where more measures can be implemented but local regulation will have to be implemented to attain higher level of water conservation as well as the focus on foundational activities within a water provider's water system to ensure that water systems are operating as efficiently as they can.

- **Foundational Activities:**

A comprehensive focus on foundational activities at the water system level will be necessary to attain water efficiency and support the business practices of local water providers. Conservation oriented rate structures, such as water budgets, comprehensive water loss programs using industry standard water auditing practices and improved data collection on customer water uses are all foundational practices that should be carried out by all utilities. Implementation of these practices supports a water provider's business model and helps to assure revenue stability and efficient use of resources. The foundational

activities could be incentivized or tied to regulatory vehicles such as local land use codes or water system connection requirements.

- **Better Tracking and Quantification:**

Advances have been made over the last decade in tracking and quantifying water conservation data. With the passage of HB10-1051 into C.R.S 37-60-126 (4.5), the CWCB can now collect annual water use and water conservation data from covered entities across Colorado. This is a necessary first step for tracking demands and water conservation program savings but will need to be expanded upon to include creation of savings tracking tools as well as savings estimating tools. For the typical water provider, water conservation savings are estimated using rules of thumb and not by analyzing actual demand reductions at the customer level. With creation of more technical resources, a water providers' ability to estimate savings will improve, reliability of these savings will increase and the input into future BIPs will improve as well. This is consistent with the Interbasin Compact Committee's first No and Low Regret Action.

Additionally as passive savings are attained they will have to be monitored closely. Whether we reach these savings and decide to increase the savings goal will influence how we proceed in terms of adopting new, higher efficiency standards in the future. Part of this would be the option to adapt to increasing efficiencies in technologies that are created for the marketplace. Specifically, this speaks to the adoption of WaterSense specifications for indoor fixtures as well as adoption of WaterSense specifications for outdoor technology. If products that meet these levels of water efficiency are sold in Colorado's marketplace, we will be more assured of reaching passive levels of water conservation savings by 2050. Additionally, monitoring progress and adopting these standards creates certainty for garnering savings as well as for the marketplace. This process creates a minimum standard that can be adapted easily to accommodate higher efficiency technologies as they are created and certified.

- **~~Incentives for o~~Incentives for outdoor water conservation measures:**

Outdoor water conservation is an area that has been touched on in the past decade but efforts have not gone very deep. This sector of water use, along with the commercial, industrial and institutional sector, will be the most important to address in the coming years. For example, incentives for retrofitting higher water landscape with lower water landscapes, more efficient irrigation systems and siting higher water use landscapes to create more appropriate use areas would help garner higher levels of water savings. Addressing outdoor water use creates multiple benefits like water savings, smarter growth patterns and less runoff of pollutants to urban water ways. This is consistent with SB14-017 and the IBCC's No and Low Regrets Action Plan.

- **Water Conservation Education and Outreach:**

Implement far reaching water conservation education and outreach measures for creating water stewards across different segments of the population from children to adults to elected officials to citizens. A comprehensive education program will tie together the other actions illustrated within this section and provide the "why" for carrying out these actions. These efforts could be rooted in each BIP and carried out to address specific issues that

occur in each basin. As part of this work, surveys of public attitudes will need to be carried out and partnerships with water providers and other water educators will also be critical in accomplishing this task. From a water conservation perspective Colorado WaterWise, a water conservation non-profit organization, could assist in carrying out water conservation and stewardship education messaging across the state. The recommendation is consistent with the No and Low Regrets Action Plan.

- **Multi-Scale Regulation:**

- As savings become more difficult to achieve local regulatory efforts to shape how new construction interacts with water use may be necessary to accomplish local water conservation goals. For example, local jurisdictions could craft landscape and irrigation ordinances, tap fees that reflect actual water uses and more stringent green construction codes that include higher efficiency fixtures and appliances and more waterwise landscapes. Some examples include:

- Aurora Water crafted a comprehensive set of landscape and irrigation standards with the City of Aurora's Planning department.
- The City of Westminster has tap fees that reflect water usage for new development and is backed up by landscape and irrigation standards.
- Town of Telluride has a rigorous green building requirement for new construction, remodeling and additions that includes indoor and outdoor water conservation measures.
- A recent workshop of community planners sponsored the NWCCOG on water use and land use planning resulted in a recommendation for local governments to establish water conservation targets in the land use master plans

This has a direct connection to land use patterns and codes and should be considered as a comprehensive way to address the statewide water supply gap.

- On a larger scale, possibly the state level, more robust professional education and certification programs for the landscape industry could assist in creating a more water efficient ethic across Colorado. Industry best practices could be tied to local ordinances making a consistent approach for the landscape industry to be more successful and be more water efficient. Green Industries of Colorado (GreenCO) have shown support for this type of regulation in the past as a way to level the playing field and encourage the highest level of professionalism.

- **Partnerships**

Partnerships will be key to carrying out many of these previous recommendations. As we have seen through the roundtable and IBCC process, bringing different people and groups together is not always easy but can be extremely productive. Creation of or renewal of partnerships between the CWCB and the following groups will be very important for reaching our water conservation goals:

- Local governments – as the entity approving future development plans local governments are uniquely situated to encourage efficient water use in their jurisdiction.

- Local Water Providers- Probably our most important partners in that they carry out water conservation programs to benefit their water system.
 - Intra-state government (Department of Local Affairs, Division of Water Resources, Department of Regulatory Agencies and State Facilities)
 - Green Industry (GreenCO, Irrigation Association)
 - Home Building/Construction (Home Builders Association, LEED, U.S. Green Building Council)
 - Non-Governmental (Colorado WaterWise, Alliance for Water Efficiency, Western Resources Advocates, American Water Works Association, Water Research Foundation)
 - Academia (Colorado State University, CU-Boulder, CU-Denver, One World One Water Center-Metropolitan State)
- **Funding**

Stable future funding sources will be critical to enhancing water conservation activities over the near term and long term. The use of funds to implement water conservation activities statewide is a wise investment due to the fact that these are some of the most inexpensive strategies that can be implemented today and will allow local water providers to be more efficient with the water resources they already have. This is truly a no and low regret for Colorado's water supply future. Presently, the Water Efficiency Grant Program (WEGP) receives \$500,000 per year through Tier 2 severance tax funds. Periodically, full funding does not appear and thus staff must be careful on how funds are spent. As Colorado water providers move forward in implementing more sophisticated and integrated water conservation programs, this grant fund will be called upon more and more. The lowest hanging fruit has been picked and if Colorado chooses to continue to use water conservation as a viable option for closing the gap, more annual WEGP funding will be required, more consistent WEGP funding will be necessary and different and varied funding will have to be created.

Additionally, loans and grants may have to be used to bolster implementation of larger advanced metering infrastructure projects, web based customer service portals and advanced water utility billing computer systems. At present, CWCB loan funds can only be used for raw water projects with the exception of meters on potable systems. Colorado Water and Power Authority grants money from their Drinking Water Revolving fund that includes distribution rehabilitation and water meters along with scoring criteria that specifically calls out water conservation.

Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) grants could also be employed to fund water conservation programming. Given the more regional aspect of some conservation programming in the past few years and the larger expenditures for more system infrastructure types of programs, WSRA funding could help fill some of the larger projects.

- **Market for conserved water**
The use of and/or sharing of conserved water has been discussed extensively in the IBCC and state water supply planning process. The SWSI 2010 water conservation section stated

that even though the section illustrated a range of potential water savings it did not necessarily translate those into closing the gap:

“...it did not integrate a water supply analysis, and did not attempt to discern the legal, temporal, or spatial availability of conserved water toward meeting the gap in future water supplies. The conditional forecasting methodology used for this SWSI 2010 update assumes that the identified strategies will be implemented and does not account for water providers’ management decisions, such as storing a portion of the savings for drought or strategic planning or using a portion to improve stream flows for environmental or recreational benefits. Management decisions consider legal, temporal, economic, social, political, and spatial constraints that must be understood at a local utility level, and should be part of integrated resource planning that considers the specific water rights portfolio, system reliability, drought response, etc.”

These are extremely important aspects of using conserved water to consider when addressing the water supply/demand gap. If water providers do not have the legal means to share conserved water across jurisdictions or basins then the amount applied to the gap may not be as much as could be possible. The IBCC No/Low Regrets Action Plan identified two points where more work must be done:

- o Identify and, where possible, resolve legal and administrative barriers to the use of conserved water
- o Identify and explore barriers to sharing conserved water

These points have much in common with allowing conserved agricultural water to be used for instream flows or using a water bank for the conserved water.

As Colorado looks to the future, water conservation will play an important role in managing our finite water resources. This section illustrates that there are a number of mechanisms and tools that can be employed to create a successful water conservation approach that diminishes the gap between supply and demand. The combination of foundational measures, incentives, regulation, education and partnerships creates a holistic approach to efficient water resource management that one or two of these approaches by themselves cannot accomplish. By creating a holistic prioritization framework, this management system can define the arena in which water efficiency can take place in the future by creating pricing incentives, monetary incentives, regulations that shape actions and education that transforms Coloradans from water customers into water stewards.

References:

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- [Initial Draft Statewide Basin Implementation Plan Goals]. April 2014. Retrieved from <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>
- Mayer, P., D. Little, and A. Ward. 2006. System Reliability and Demand Hardening. Colorado Statewide Water Supply Initiative, Conservation and Efficiency Technical Roundtable, March 2006.

5.6.2 Reuse- omitted, no QQ comments.

5.6.3 Land Use

As Colorado grows in the future, land use planning and water planning will become more closely connected through integration of principles from both disciplines. This does not mean that local control over these two planning spheres will be diluted. The way a local municipality, county or some other local government chooses to develop will remain intact. Private property rights, ~~1041 powers~~ and local ~~control~~ land use authority will not be diminished by the connections between these planning disciplines. Rather, local growth and water supply planning could be enhanced through the development of best practices, financial incentives and other technical resources.

Water planning and land use planning intersect in several areas. First, local land use planning identifies areas suitable for future growth and articulates the values and vision that a local community wishes to honor as the community reaches "build-out." The water plan has to respect these local plans when considering proposals to meet water demands. A water project to meet the needs of one community cannot override these local values. Second, the timing and location of water demand is driven by local plans and regulations. Some communities are interested in facilitating rapid growth and development through incentive-based land use regulations. Other communities prefer slower, measured growth that is regulated to respect the capacity of the community and environment. These structures determine whether a community is actively pursuing new supplies now or whether it expects new growth to occur only when and if the developer contributes water rights or water supply. Finally, land use planning and regulation drives density and lot size and can establish irrigation and vegetation standards that affect per capita demand for water.

Higher density development has been shown to save water over traditional developments along with many other benefits. The 2009 California Water Plan Update showed that a 20% increase in density could yield a 10% water savings (California Water Plan, 2009). Different land use and

Denver Regional Council of Governments Water Conservation Vision, Goal, and Policies

Vision: The Denver metro region will maximize the wise use of limited water resources through efficient land development and other strategies, recognizing that no single strategy will meet the state's water needs and the region will need to pursue a range of strategies concurrently.

Goal: Reduce regional per capita municipal and industrial water use by working with municipalities, counties, water providers and other stakeholders within the next 6 to 12 months (February 2012) to identify a specific numeric target or measurable benchmark against which to measure progress.

Policies

1. Regional Collaboration. DRCOG will bring together local governments, water providers and other stakeholders to facilitate collaborative efforts to promote water conservation.

2. Best Practices. DRCOG will work to increase understanding of the link between land development and water demand, and to identify best practices for promoting the efficient use of water resources across the region.

3. Efficient Land Development. Compact development, infill and redevelopment consistent with DRCOG's urban growth boundary/area and urban centers policies will help reduce water demand and related infrastructure costs.

Source: DRCOG MetroVision 2035:34

Comment [A7]:

NOTE: the discussion of land use and its relationship to water planning is much greater than "conservation." QQ recommends creating a new section for land use rather than making it a subsection of 5.6 Conservation and Reuse.

development patterns extend beyond just density, bringing in a host of elements that help define what a community looks like such as transportation, open space, community design and walkability. There are also synergies to be gained between density and landscape and irrigation best practices. The landscape and irrigation layers fit within densification to offer more benefits within a denser land use environment than if they were employed within a traditional less dense environment. This does not mean that urban landscapes will disappear with a denser environment. Healthy urban landscapes tremendously enhance the livability of a city or town and are a crucial asset for urban populations.

Another recent concept that is gaining support in Colorado is the idea of “Net Zero Water Developments”. The concept states that there are certain management practices that can be developed for a site that will reduce the water quantity and quality impacts. The concept can ~~span scales~~range from a building site to a more regional scale, ~~with and has~~ the goal of becoming water neutral. Net Zero Water is being forwarded by the Colorado Water Innovation Cluster and a large stakeholder group where a toolkit and set of guidelines are being developed for Colorado.

The manner by which Colorado develops into the future will have a strong bearing on Colorado’s future water supply gap and vice versa. The CWCB began preliminary work in this arena in 2009 by hosting the *Water and Land Use Planning for a Sustainable Future* conference and creating an associated report and density memo describing several actions that bridge the land and water topic areas. Recently, urban land use has been a major discussion point at the Interbasin Compact Committee where they incorporated several options into the Water Conservation No and Low Regrets Action Plan. Some of these appear below in the recommendations sections.

Additionally, a recent collaborative effort involving water planners and land use planners from local jurisdictions showed promise in moving the dialogue forward. The Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) convened land use and water planners along with city managers, city council members, developers, regional government planning groups and CWCB staff for four all day sessions focusing on the land use and water planning nexus. These sessions proved very productive at not only developing strategies for better integration of land and water planning but also assisting in the development of relationships between land and water planners within municipalities and between the different municipalities who were present (LULA, 2013). This could be a model for connecting local planning efforts together within a local government as well as into regional planning efforts.

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments hosted a workshop for land use planners and elected officials to discuss strategies that have been implemented to protect water resources through land use regulations and to brainstorm methods to establish water conservation goals in comprehensive plans that can be implemented through development review and permit regulations.

Finally, the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) has also been exploring the nexus between water use and land use patterns in recent years. The latest Metro Vision 2035 document was adopted in 2011 and for the first time includes a water conservation section that ties into land use planning. DRCOG has a goal of increasing housing density by 10% between year 2000 and year 2035. According to the CWCB density memo *Calculating Per Capita Water Demand Savings from Density Increases to Residential Housing for Portfolios and Trade-Off Tool*, this 10% would equal approximately a 5% decrease in water use in this housing sector (CWCB, 2010).

Comment [A8]: It would be great to combine reporting on the conferences and workshops to reporting also on the substance. For example, what were the actions the CWCB identified?

Identifying trends and intersections between land use and water planning seems essential in this section to educate and set the stage for recommendations.

Recent Legislative Actions

House Bill 08-1141 required that building permit applications for developments of more than 50 single-family equivalents include specific evidence of an adequate water supply. An adequate supply is defined as one that sufficient for the development through buildout in terms of quality, quantity and dependability. The developers must submit proof of adequate supply to the local government through a report from a professional engineer or water supply expert that identifies the water source and what kinds of demand management will take place on the site. An update to House Bill 08-1141 occurred through Senate Bill 13-258. Through House Bill 08-1141, a local government was permitted to make the adequacy determination only once during the development permit approval process. Senate Bill 13-258 modified the definition of the term "development permit" to clarify that each application included in the definition constitutes a stage in the development permit approval process.

Potential Land Use Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE UPDATED BASED ON BIP WORK.

As mentioned previously, in 2010, CWCB produced a report titled Colorado Review: Water Management and Land Use Planning Integration. Several local actions that could be used more broadly stemmed out of that report. These local governmental and utility tools could be very effective in shaping how water is used in the future and are consistent with the IBCC No/Low Regrets Action Plan ~~that focuses on incentives as much as possible~~. Some of these potential recommendations for further exploration include: expedited permitting for buildings and developments that incorporate certain water efficiency measures or high levels of density; tax incentives: developments that incorporate certain water efficiency measures or high levels density; structures impact (tap) fees that are designed to promote water-wise developments and in-fill; and water budget rate structures to help maintain initial projected water budgets for each site.

Other recommendations for the Water Management and Land Use Planning Integration report that could be considered include partnerships and funding opportunities. These are described below.

Partnerships: To be successful in land use, it will be necessary to partner with many different agencies and groups. Much like water conservation and other water issues a necessary first step is bringing people together. Possible partnerships:

- Local Municipalities/Local Water Providers- The rubber meets the road at this level. These are the entities that will actually carry out these plans. Without their partnership and support of new ideas, an idea like comprehensive water/land planning will not succeed.
- Department of Local Affairs- DOLA carries out much work in the land use and local government arena. Like the CWCB, they also have grant funding that could be leveraged for water-land use projects.
- Department of Regulatory Agencies- DORA regulates professionals in various industries and works to create a fair marketplace. They could be partnered with regarding the landscape and irrigation industry or the property management industry and their connections to water demand.
- Home Building/Construction (Home Builders Association, LEED, U.S. Greenbuilding Council

Comment [A9]: Like other parts of 5.6, this type of statement, while assuring people that the focus of the Water Plan is incentive-based, downplays the importance of this topic.

We suggest either deleting or spending additional time explaining why the CWP will advocate for an incentive-based approach. Possible additional I

For example, in the headwaters

- Non-Governmental (Keystone Center, Alliance for Water Efficiency, Western Resources Advocates, American Planning Association)
- Academia (Colorado State University, CU-Boulder, CU-Denver, One World One Water Center-Metropolitan State)
- Land Use Leadership Alliance- This organization brings an innovative training model that could change the way Colorado looks at this subject.
- Council of Governments- These entities are extremely important at making the connection between local and state level. A crucial link between scales.

Funding: As with many other aspects of Colorado's water plan, funding will have to be an integral part of any initiative moving forward.

- Water Efficiency Grant Program and Water Supply Reserve Account grant funds could be used for funding aspects of the land use and water planning nexus. For example, WEGP funds could be used to implement inclusion of demand management strategies in local comprehensive plans. This has been identified as an important step for integration of water demand and land use planning. Additionally, WEGP funds could be used to study land use patterns to ascertain possible demand reductions associated with certain land use patterns. WSRA funds could be used for larger regional efforts as they tie more directly into the Basin Roundtables and larger regional projects.

Lastly, the Land Use Leadership Alliance has suggested further education and training on a longer-term basis to help create a long lasting culture of collaboration between land use and water supply/demand planning. This would be a necessary first step to integrating land use and water supply/demand planning on a broader scale.

References:

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DRAFT

5.6.4 Agricultural Conservation, Efficiency, and Reuse

Background

The majority of agriculture in Colorado operates in a water deficit and that factor limits. Despite the fact that agriculture uses the large majority of water in Colorado, there are only limited opportunities for agricultural conservation, efficiency, and reuse. The primary underlying reason for this is that the majority of agriculture in Colorado operates in a water deficit. If provided more water, most acres in the state would use it, which means that efficiencies often lead to increased use of water rather than a decreased use. In addition, water law in Colorado limits how agricultural conservation, efficiency, and reuse water can be utilized. This subsection will describe the opportunities and limitations.

Agricultural water conservation, efficiency, and reuse are broad topics that encompasses several characteristics that need further clarification, depending on the scale and context agricultural conservation is approached. Some issues need to be approached from the river basin scale; and others from a more site-specific, individual farm scale. The context in which agricultural conservation is examined must also be understood for both the basin and site-specific scales. While there is to some degree a perception that any water "conserved" by agricultural use can be transferred to other uses, it is vital to consider the physical, legal, and institutional context of agricultural conservation in order to determine if any of this water can be used for other purposes. Agricultural producers across Colorado are working to improve efficiencies, and reduce consumptive use for various reasons ranging from needed selenium and salinity water quality improvements for selenium and salinity to complying with interstate compacts or Supreme Court rulings. The Rio Grande and Republican River basins are working to maintain a sustainable agricultural community in the face of an imbalance between available water supplies and current levels of water use. The South Platte is grappling with a Supreme Court decision that led to the shutdown of many agricultural producers who relied on tributary groundwater wells. For this and other reasons, many agricultural producers have implemented extensive augmentation plans that

Comment [A10]: Move this first paragraph somewhere else in background section and discuss opportunities first so the reader isn't left with the impression that there are no opportunities for agricultural efficiencies.

Comment [A11]: Because they were illegally using water that was not theirs, saying "shutdown" implies something different.

allow the South Platte to operate very effectively on a basin-wide scale. Similarly, the Arkansas has struggled with a Supreme Court Ruling which limits the use of the Arkansas River to comply with related to the Arkansas River Compact. Recent work in the Uncompahgre Valley serves as an excellent example of agricultural efficiencies. For instance, a water users association converted portions of its open-ditch delivery system to pipelines. In the Grand Valley near Grand Junction, many of



5.6.4 Figure 1: Agricultural Interactions

the headgates were modernized to support the endangered fish species in the Colorado River, and many of the orchards are now on drip irrigation. CWCB and others have provided grants and loans to many agricultural producers across the state to improve agricultural conservation, efficiency, and reuse.

Comment [A12]: Did these efficiencies result in more acres planted with the saved water?

However, agricultural water use is deeply connected throughout each basin. The runoff, also known as return flows, of one farm serves as the water supply for the next, as depicted in the figure below. Changes in the timing and amount of the return flows can mean that that downstream agricultural producer doesn't get enough water when it is needed to have a successful crop. This is called "injury," and is illegal in Colorado. Because changes in how one farm operates can ripple up and down the basin, caution must be taken prior to making too many changes too rapidly.

Comment [A13]: This situation is true for other water users, downstream juniors survive on the return flows of upstream users. The reason it is such an issue for ag is the scale of their diversions.

Furthermore, in many cases, agricultural use benefits late summer flows, as well as riparian and wetland areas, which in turn benefit fish, migratory birds and many other species in Colorado. Photos and anecdotal accounts from the eighteen hundreds on the Yampa River, for instance, indicate that many of Colorado's rivers and streams essentially dried up in the late summer and early fall months. The cottonwood canopy and other riparian plant communities did not exist in abundance prior to irrigated agriculture. When agricultural water is applied to the land, the system operates like a giant sponge, slowly releasing water back into the river system over time. This can take hours, months, or years depending on how far and through what type of substrate the water travels. The effect of this retiming means that many of the rivers and streams now have water during the hottest time of the year, which is the most stressful for fish. It also means that riparian and wetland areas adjacent to the stream get water. For instance, there is a large and critically important wetland complex on the western side of John Martin Reservoir in the Arkansas, that is critical to endangered bird species, the Least Tern and Piping Plover. This wetland complex would not exist to such an extent without agricultural production retiming this water. Balancing river and riparian needs during the time of diversion compared to the benefits of being retimed through return flows requires careful consideration prior to making too many agricultural lands highly efficient.

State of Knowledge on Agricultural Reuse

Typically agricultural water is not "fully consumable" so it cannot be reused on a specific farm. However, within each basin the same water is used over and over again. At this basin scale, repetitive uses of water within a basin are achieved by the occurrence of return flows. Return flows occur as a result of agricultural water diversions, deliveries and irrigation applications. Downstream appropriators depend upon upstream return flows generated by either municipal and industrial uses, or agricultural uses. Each successive diversion generates potential return flows for beneficial use by downstream appropriators, and this system of use and re-use allows for multiple uses of water within basin systems and generates an increase in water supplies for downstream users in the latter part of the irrigation season. It has been estimated that in some basins water may be used as many as seven times before it crosses the state line.

In addition, there are more and more examples of agriculture directly reusing municipal water supplies. For instance, Colorado Springs and Pueblo lease fully consumable reuse water to

agricultural producers downstream of their wastewater treatment plants. However, as municipalities begin to grow into their reusable supplies, it could negatively impact agricultural production.

Reuse is more fully explored in subsection 5.6.2.

State of Knowledge on Agricultural Conservation and Efficiency

As depicted in Figure 1, there are many agricultural interactions and uses, and this is reflected in the types of agricultural conservation and efficiency. Essentially there are two major concepts that need to be clarified. The

first is whether or not a use is "consumptive" or not. If it is consumptive, then reducing the consumption of water may yield useable water that could be used by another user. However, there may be legal limitations to doing this. The other concept is whether the water can be used as a "beneficial use" or not. If it can be used as a "beneficial use" then it can have a water right associated with it.

Figure 2 provides a few examples for how to describe these different types of agricultural conservation and efficiency. Agricultural conservation and efficiency measures have the potential to

alter return flows which in turn have the potential to alter basin hydrology, thus impacting our ability to meet interstate obligations or the needs of downstream users.

The four types of agricultural conservation and efficiency are described below.

Irrigation Efficiency is generally viewed as water that results from more efficient diversion and application methods. These irrigation efficiency measures may include irrigation delivery system improvements and irrigation application methods that reduce ditch seepage and return flows generated by field application of irrigation water. It should be noted that some of these

	Reduces Nonconsumptive Uses	Reduces Consumptive Uses
Is a "Beneficial Use"	Voluntary Flow Agreement Examples: - Headgate Improvements - Dam Reoperations	Agricultural Conservation Examples: - Deficit irrigation - Rotational fallowing - Reduction of Soil Moisture / Evaporative Losses through Mulching, Drip Irrigation, and Tillage Practices[†] - Change of Crop Type to Cool Weather Crop or Lower Water Use Crop [†] For some crop types and in some locations
Is Not a "Beneficial Use"	Irrigation Efficiency Examples: - Reduction of Conveyance Seepage through Ditch Lining or Piping - Pivot Sprinkler Systems[‡] [‡] May increase consumptive use	Salvaged Water Examples: - Phreatophyte Control - Reduction of Deep Percolation Not Returned to the Stream through Ditch Lining or Piping

5.6.4 Figure 2: Different types of agricultural conservation and efficiency

measures have the potential to increase the crop beneficial consumptive use of the agricultural activity by improving the application efficiency. Typically, water supply is plentiful early in the irrigation year, hence crop consumptive use (CU) is not limited and is equal to the crop Irrigation Water Requirement (IWR). As the irrigation season continues, the available water supply generally decreases, becoming insufficient to satisfy crops' IWR, therefore CU is limited by supply. Hence as irrigation application efficiency improves, the crops' ability to consumptively use (CU) irrigation water increases.

Salvaged Water is generally viewed as water that results from reducing non-beneficial consumptive use of water, such as by the elimination of phreatophytes or by the reduction of deep percolation of water which does not return to the system as surface or groundwater return flows. Elimination of non-beneficial consumptive use can be accomplished by instituting irrigation efficiency measures.

Conserved Water refers to water that is part of the beneficial consumptive use of a water right that is removed from an irrigated cropping system by reducing the consumptive use of the agricultural activity. Measures that can generate conserved water include: deficit irrigation; rotational fallowing; reduction in irrigated acres; conversion to cool weather crops; conversion to crops with a shorter growing season; reduction in evaporative losses from the field surface by introducing conservation tillage practices, mulching, and drip irrigation. As with water resulting from irrigation efficiency measures, Conserved Water has the potential to alter return flows and must be considered on a system wide basis. The transfer of this water, while possible under Colorado water law, has not yet been tested in water court or codified by the legislature.

Voluntary Flow Agreements can be conceived that involve the re-operation of dam releases and headgate improvements that provide stream flows that benefit nonconsumptive uses. For example, the Arkansas River Voluntary Flow Management Program is a cooperative effort among the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Trout Unlimited, the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District and the Arkansas River Outfitters Association, and is assisted by the United States Bureau of Reclamation. The purpose of the agreement is to provide flows that benefit the mutual goals of divergent groups of water owners, water providers, water users, municipalities and government agencies.

Under current Colorado water law the amount of water that is legally transferable is an irrigator's historical consumptive use, not the amount of water diverted. In addition, with any transfer the historical return flows must be maintained at the same location, timing, quantity and rate of flow in order to avoid injury to downstream appropriators (or any other water rights holder) who are entitled to the stream conditions that existed at the time of their appropriation. The historical consumptive use is determined by the amount of water removed from the river system by crop evapotranspiration as well as deep percolation losses to nontributary groundwater aquifers. Furthermore, consumptive use can be defined as a water use that permanently withdraws water from its source; and water that is no longer available because it has: evaporated, been transpired by plants; incorporated into products or crops; consumed by people or livestock; undergone deep percolation and is not returned to stream; or otherwise removed from the immediate water environment.

As such, water that results from more efficient diversion and application methods can only be used on lands for which the appropriation was originally made. Selling or delivering (transferring) this type of water to other uses or new lands could constitute an improper expansion of use under current Colorado water law.

Moreover, Salvaged Water is water in the river or its tributaries which would normally go to waste, but somehow is made available for beneficial use. However, when salvaged waters are made available, they belong to the river system in general and are subject to call by senior appropriators in order of priority. Put more plainly, an appropriator that salvages water, whether by eliminating phreatophytes or by any other means, does not have a right to use that water outside of the priority system, and therefore does not have the potential to transfer salvaged water to any other use.

The transfer of Conserved Water, generated by a reduction in beneficial consumptive use, while possible under Colorado water law, has not yet been tested in water court or codified by the legislature. Conserved water generated by one of several approaches, such as; deficit irrigation; rotational fallowing; or a transition to cool season crops, is the subject of Alternative Agricultural To-Urban Transfer Methods and will be further explored in Section 5.7 of Colorado's Water Plan.

Increased agricultural conservation could potentially result in a voluntary reduction in the diversion of water to the farm, creating benefits such as improved water quality, and allowing water to remain in the streams that can provide environmental benefits.

Comment [A14]: Too bad the Governor vetoed SB-23 given this benefit.

Basin Implementation Plans

For 2014, each Basin Roundtable is formulating their own implementation plan, and several include agricultural water conservation and efficiency goals and activities.

**SUMMARY OF BIP WORK TO DATE IS BELOW. THIS WILL BE
UPDATED BASED ON BIP WORK. ALL OF THE WORK BELOW IS IN
DRAFT FROM AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Initial drafts of the Basin Implementation Plan goals for most of the roundtables indicate that they plan on increasing efficiencies and modernizing agricultural infrastructure. Several examples of these are below:

- Arkansas Roundtable: Provide increasing quantities of augmentation water for increased farm efficiencies.
- Colorado Roundtable: Improve agricultural efficiency, preservation, and conservation.
- Gunnison Roundtable: Restore, maintain, and modernize critical water infrastructure, including hydropower.
- North Platte Roundtable: "Continue to restore, maintain, and modernize critical water infrastructure to preserve current uses and increase efficiencies."
- Rio Grande Roundtable: Operate, maintain, rehabilitate, and create necessary infrastructure to the Basin's long-term water needs, including storage.
- Southwest Roundtable: developed a draft goal to "Implement efficiency measures to maximize beneficial use and production.
- Yampa/White/Green Roundtable: Restore, maintain, and modernize water storage and distribution infrastructure.

Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Actions

As part of the IBCC's ongoing work, the IBCC is recommending that "Colorado will continue its commitment to improve conservation and reuse." As part of this draft work, recommendations for agricultural conservation and efficiency improvements for current and future agriculture were developed. This is incorporated into the recommendations below.

Recent and Past Legislative Actions

There are some existing legislative exceptions to the aforementioned limitations which are applicable in narrow instances, such as:

HB 05-133 stated that an owner would not abandon their water right if certain conditions were met. Two conditions refer to "a water conservation program approved by a state agency and a water banking program as provided by law". These don't go as far as allowing sharing but it does state that an owner of a water right won't lose the right if non-use stems from water conservation activities.

HB 13-1130 allows a water right owner with an interruptible water supply agreement (IWSA) to request up to two additional ten-year periods for the IWSA. IWSAs enable water users to transfer a portion of their water right, called the historical consumptive use, to another water user on a temporary basis, without permanently changing the water right.

Comment [A15]: Not clear, does that mean ag user can transfer their water use for 20 years? Clarify what a IWSA is.

SB 13-019 restricts a water judge from determining a water user's historical consumptive use based on water use reductions resulting from the enrollment in a federal land conservation program; participation in certain water conservation programs; participation in an approved land fallowing program or to provide water for compact compliance; or participation in a water banking program. Some water users may wish to reduce their water consumption in order to limit the effects of drought on stream flows. However, under current law there is a disincentive that penalizes appropriators who decrease their consumptive use of water.

This section will be updated pending any changes to the law in the future.

Agricultural Conservation, Efficiency, and Reuse Potential Recommendations **RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE UPDATED BASED ON BIP WORK.**

Comment [A16]: Where are the recommended action, next steps, opportunities etc. identified in the No/Low regrets document?

The following recommendations and considerations would be helpful for the points related to the implementation of agricultural conservation and efficiency measures and are presented as a starting point for further discussion.

1. Incentives for on-farm implementation of agricultural conservation measures could be considered and evaluated at the appropriate scale and within the appropriate physical, legal and institutional context (based on CAWA 2008).
2. Many of the Basin Implementation Plans are looking to find the explicit interconnections between agriculture and nonconsumptive uses. In addition, several are looking to decrease agricultural shortages. As part of this work, each basin should seek to reduce non-beneficial consumptive use by following the guidelines laid out in the CAWA 2008 agricultural

Comment [A17]: Does this say pay farmers to conserve water where its legal?

conservation paper, which include reducing soil moisture loss where practical through drip irrigation or mulching (CWCB 2014).

3. Lining of high-priority ditches is another important tool in reducing seepage losses, and should be encouraged in appropriate areas (CWCB 2014).
4. Phreatophyte control presents one of the largest opportunities for reducing non-beneficial consumptive use and should be pursued aggressively, although balancing this with nonconsumptive needs can be challenging (CWCB 2014). Incentives for landowner control of phreatophytes, given savaged water limitations, could be developed (CAWA 2008)
5. To create incentives for implementing agricultural conservation measures, the cost of these measures could be borne by the beneficiaries of the re-purposed water. The agricultural user is unlikely and/or unable to bear the costs if benefits only accrue to improved stream flows, water quality, or the basin as a whole (CAWA 2008).
6. Additional incentives should be developed to assist basins in implementing, where appropriate, agricultural efficiency and conservation practices, support the ecosystem services agriculture can provide, and changing crops type to a lower water use crop (CWCB 2014).
7. New agricultural lands (currently identified in the North Platte and Yampa basins) should be designed to ~~with~~ use best management practices with regard to agricultural conservation and efficiency, or, alternately, be measurably and explicitly multi-purpose by meeting identified nonconsumptive needs (CWCB 2014).
8. The state will need to develop administrative means to track and allocate conserved water and ensure compliance (CAWA 2008).
9. Irrigation water conservation demonstration and pilot projects in each basin should be encouraged (based on CAWA 2008).
10. Projects and Methods that support agricultural efficiency, modernization and conservation presented in Basin Implementation Plan recommendations should be supported.

In summary, while potential opportunities for transferring agricultural water to other uses may exist, they are somewhat limited. The scale and context of agricultural conservation must be account for when considering implementation measures and policy proposals. Although currently available technologies and practices could generate water that could be put to other beneficial uses, our physical, legal and institutional framework place certain constraints on what is currently possible.

Comment [A18]: Phreatophytes should be defined so that this recommendation is not calling for wholesale removal of cottonwood galleries, or other valuable riparian species.

Comment [A19]: In addition to what?

Comment [A20]: ??

Comment [A21]: So the only option is buy and dry? What about some of the measures in the Agricultural Low/No regrets document?

References:

- Caile, Bill and Anne Castle (July 2007). *Salvaged Water – Memorandum to the South Platte River Task Force*.
- CDM (2010). *Draft Technical Memo: State of Colorado Current and 2050 Agricultural Demands*
- Colorado Agricultural Water Alliance (September 2008). *Opportunities and Challenges Associated with Potential Agricultural Water Conservation Measures*.
- Colorado Division of Water Resources (2011). *Synopsis of Colorado Water Law*.
- Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) (January 2011). *Statewide Water Supply Initiative 2010*.
- Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) (June 2013). *Alternatives to Permanent Dry Up of Formerly Irrigated Lands*.
- Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) (April 2014). *Draft IBCC Discussion Document for a Conceptual Agreement*.
- Colorado Water Institute, Colorado State University (undated Power Point presentation). *Opportunities and Limitations for Agricultural Water Conservation in Colorado*.
- Colorado Water Resources Research Center, Colorado State University (October 1996). *Irrigation Water Conservation: Opportunities and Limitations in Colorado – A Report of the Agricultural Water Conservation Task Force, Completion Report No. 190*.
- Partners for Western Conservation (undated brochure). *Finding Common Ground on Water*.

5.6.5 Self Supplied Industrial Conservation and Reuse. STILL IN PROGRESS.

OUTLINE INCLUDED BELOW. – OMITTED, NO QQ COMMENTS.



WATER QUALITY / QUANTITY COMMITTEE (QQ)

P.O. Box 2308 • Silverthorne, Colorado 80498
970-468-0295 • Fax 970-468-1208 • email: qqwater@nwccog.org

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/20/14

TO: Rebecca Miller, Jacob Bornstein, Kate McIntyre, Kevin Reidy, CWCB Staff

FROM: Northwest Council of Governments Water Quality/ Quantity Committee

SUBJECT: Comments on Draft Sections 5.6 and 5.10 of Colorado's Water Plan

The following are the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Water Quality/ Quantity Committee (QQ) comments on May 9, 2014 draft sections of Colorado's Water Plan. We are submitting redline comments in a separate document.

We appreciate the CWCB delivering these sections for public review early in the process, and we look forward to continuing to work with the CWCB on this process. Please let us know when

5.6.1 M&I Water Conservation

Overall, section 5.6.1 on M&I water conservation and reuse would be more effective if it were a more aggressive including recommendations rather than ideas. Also, the role of local governments in land use planning and the potential for their authority in this matter to result in significant gains in water conservation is unmentioned. For example, local governments could encourage denser developments, adopt limits on irrigated turf, require implementation of measure outlined in the CWCB's *Best Practices Guidebook for Municipal Water Conservation in Colorado*, etc. More focus is given to water providers, but remember that local governments are the entities who approve the growth that the water providers serve.

Introduction:

From the very beginning the document seems to down play the value of conservation and reuse. The State should aggressively encourage conservation at the local level and offer to support necessary policy measure to accomplish this, rather than lightweight comments like "it is not a silver bullet."

Benefits of Water Conservation:

The focus of this section is on what could be accomplished by the minimum or low level of conservation from the No/Low Regrets process and the IBCC determination that 170,000 acre-feet is the potential for water conservation. Given the reader is unlikely to understand the significance of No/Low Regrets, or what a low/medium level of conservation entails, it would be useful to explain this in terms of the range of potential conservation gains as context for this section.

Page 3 does mention that the potential for conservation savings is as much as 461,000 acre-feet, but it is not clear why the state is not pushing more aggressively for that kind of savings, given the threat of a gap. The section would benefit from a quick explanation of what additional measures would be required to move from “Low” levels of conservation to “High” levels.

IBCC Actions:

This section utilizes the IBCC statements as the bottom line for water conservation efforts. The second sentence in the second paragraph is a good example where it states that the minimum level should be what carried out statewide. Instead, the CWP should be encouraging the best reasonable conservation measures and recommending methods to get there.

Partnerships:

This section makes no mention of local governments in spite of their definitive role of reviewing and approving future development plans. This function of local governments uniquely situates them to encourage efficient water use in their jurisdiction.

5.6.3 Land Use

The discussion of land use and its relationship to water planning is much greater than "conservation." QQ recommends creating a new section for land use rather than making it a subsection of 5.6, Conservation and Reuse. Aligning land use planning and water planning has more benefits than conserving water supplies.

At the Land Use Planning and Water Conservation Workshop that QQ hosted in May of 2014, panelists emphasized land use regulations and various approaches for ensuring adequate water supply before approving development permits or approving annexation. Participants also spent significant time discussing the many ways that land use regulations benefit *water quality*. A summary of the workshop includes various examples of how land use regulations and local government efforts benefit water quality and ensure adequate water supplies. The summary was sent to the CWCB staff along with these comments, and is available at

<<http://www.nwccog.org/docs/qq/SUMMARY.NWCCOGQQ%20LandUseWaterConsvnWorkshop%205%207%2014.FINAL.pdf>>

We also recommend providing additional background information to educate the reader on the land use planning and water planning nexus. This section would benefit from an explanation of why the recommendations provided are incentive-based. We suggest explaining Colorado's long history of supporting local governance, and the importance of localities determining the best processes for their growth and achieving their goals.

5.6.4 Agricultural Conservation, Efficiency, and Reuse

Overall, the tenor of this section on Agricultural Conservation is very pessimistic in terms of opportunities for conservation. This negative theme will likely dissuade the reader of alternatives to buy and dry or opportunities to keep agriculture in place while freeing up some water. A small percent reduction in agricultural diversions from the stream is significant in terms of M&I needs. The recommendations section should discuss the type of policy changes that may enable this to occur.

The discussion simplifies some issues to the point they are meaningless whereas in other areas it assumes background knowledge or uses acronyms that may not be common knowledge. For example on page 29 it assumes an understanding of "IWSAs", or what a water bank is. In other sections it over simplifies the issue, such as on page 25 in the description of return flows. A little bit of consistency on the level of detail or explanation would be helpful.

5.10 Framework - More Efficient Permitting

QQ continues to recommend that permitting for water projects be accomplished through a Joint Review Process ("JRP") managed by DNR. The template for the process was developed in the 1970's in anticipation of rapid oil shale development and was used on several occasions for projects subject to review under multiple regulatory programs. QQ submitted a paper on this process in earlier comments on the Water Plan.

A successful JRP would begin before the NEPA scoping with initial meetings in which the applicant described the proposed project and the regulatory agencies explained their authority and technical concerns. The local governments in the area where the project would be constructed and the area where the water would be removed (whether through ag transfers or transbasin diversions) would be essential to developing a clear understanding of local conditions, concerns, and regulations. During the JRP meetings, the regulators would agree to time frames for review, comment, and permitting. The JRP could facilitate intergovernmental agreements.

In addition, the agencies would agree to allow common reports and studies that would evaluate impacts that would most likely occur. Pre-application meetings would reduce costs to all parties because review and study of environmental and socioeconomic impacts would be tailored to satisfy permitting standards from the start. Through the JRP the applicant and agencies would narrow the field of reasonable alternatives before the NEPA process begins so that the formal alternatives screening analysis in the EIS would be narrowed to the study of realistic alternatives, saving money for all affected interests.

Finally, the JRP would serve as a forum for discussing mitigation. Because impacts of water projects are localized, the degree to which mitigation is appropriate and successful depends on local conditions and values. In some regions, for example, compensatory mitigation might satisfy federal and state requirements and be locally acceptable. In other regions, mitigation might require localized responses. CPW field representatives, local governments, and watershed groups also have a detailed understanding of the affected environment that is critical to developing mitigation that works. Most importantly, this "worm's eye view" can generate creative ideas about ways to avoid impacts altogether, which is in everyone's best interest.

QQ also recommends repealing the wildlife mitigation plan statute because the process is time consuming and results in an advisory recommendation without regulatory effect. Instead, CPW should express its concerns during the JRP.

Cover Sheet for Input Document Received on 6/20/2014

The document listed in the table below was submitted as formal input for Colorado's Water Plan. A summary of the document, including a staff response and/or recommendation is included in the master spreadsheet included within this packet.

Date: June 20, 2014

Input provided by: Melinda Kassen, IBCC member; Bart Miller, Western Resource Advocates; Theresa Conley, Conservation Colorado

Method of submission: Email to cowaterplan@state.co.us

Related sections of CWP Framework: 5.10

Summary of Input: Summary of attachment: Comments on Chapter 5.10 including - Existing Process Descriptions, Permitting Process Improvements, Ensuring Appropriate Input, and Criteria for State Support.

Documents Submitted for Review: Comments on draft chapter 5.10

Staff Response: CWCB appreciates the detailed letter from several NGO's representing the conservation community and will consider the permitting improvement suggestion during the revision process of Section 5.10.

TO: CWCB Chairwoman Montgomery and other CWCB Members
Cc: James Eklund, Director; Becky Mitchell, Section Chief; & Kate McIntire, Outreach
FROM: Melinda Kassen, IBCC member; Bart Miller, Western Resource Advocates, Theresa Conley, Conservation Colorado
Date: 6/20/14
RE: Comments on Draft Chapter 5.10

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment on Colorado's developing Water Plan. We have the following comments on the 4/26/14 Draft Chapter 5.10.¹

Summary Comments

Existing Process Descriptions: The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB or Board) should add to the 401 certification description some regulatory provisions relevant to the direction of Colorado's Water Plan, as well as an explanation of the anti-degradation review, which is a critical component of the 401 certification process.

Permitting Process Improvements: The CWCB should include references in this chapter to relevant portions of the Executive Order. For example, Executive Order 2013-005 directs the CWCB to "align the state's role in water project permitting and review processes with the water values included in the Colorado Water Plan." The Executive Order lists "a strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers and streams, and wildlife" as one of three values. Most state (and federal) permitting processes are of course aimed at protecting the environment. A second value the Executive Order lays out is "efficient water infrastructure that promotes smart land use." Smart land use both benefits from and can help protect a strong environment. The third state value, a productive economy that supports, among other things, "a robust skiing, recreation and tourism industry" also requires a strong environment since so much of Colorado's recreation and tourism relies on healthy watersheds, rivers, streams and wildlife.

To meet another Executive Order directive -- "To streamline the state role in the approval and regulatory processes regarding water projects" -- the starting point would be process improvements that ensure state decisions reflect the best possible policy choices based on sound science and analysis. Decisions that lack these elements may not be legally defensible and may result in delays and "re-do's" that ultimately require more time and resources for permitting.

Another key to more expeditious permitting is to improve the quality of the analyses upon which the authorized agencies base their decisions, through coordination among investigations and broad scoping of issues, not only by agency personnel, but also by reaching out early to other stakeholders. The latter is critical because transparent decision-making will be a key element to eliminate costly delays due to challenges to inaccurate or incomplete permit decisions.

While logic suggests that coordination among the state agencies might enable streamlining, the chapter describes legislatively directed coordination processes that were never used, in part because wide-spread informal coordination already occurs between staff. Thus, efforts to improve such coordination and "streamline" existing processes should tread lightly and re-focus on state

¹ Available on line at, <http://cwcbweblink.state.co.us/WebLink/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=190228&-searchid=ab7801d6-5811-486e-9876-7134d711b89e&dbid=0>.

requirements to add value to the permitting process by providing high quality analysis through transparent and inclusive processes.

Ensuring Appropriate Input: The recommendations in the draft lack specificity. We suggest some refinements and propose several additional concrete recommendations for the Board to consider. The Board must involve the public fully as it and other state agencies contemplate changes to state law or practice that flow from the recommendations in this chapter. In addition, a critical next step in finalizing this chapter must be input from the agencies with primary responsibility for state regulatory actions – the Water Quality Control Division (WQCD or Division) and the Water Quality Control and Wildlife Commissions – in a way that allows these agencies to reach out to their own constituencies and stakeholders. Such outreach should occur primarily at the staff level, and staff engagement must continue long beyond completion of Colorado’s Water Plan. In addition, it may be useful for Board members to meet for a workshop to learn more about each other’s roles, challenges and opportunities.

Criteria for State Support: Executive Order 2013-005 states that “The Colorado Water Plan should place an emphasis on expediting permitting processes for projects that stress conservation, innovation, collaboration, and other criteria as determined by the CWCB.” It goes on to list as examples of criteria: “*efficient infrastructure promoting smart land use, healthy watersheds that support Colorado’s rivers and streams, and smart water conservation practices that utilize demand management.*”² The Annotated Framework for Colorado’s Water Plan puts the criteria in this chapter. Yet, Draft Chapter 5.10 proposes no criteria and instead relies on Roundtables to propose criteria in their Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs). With no criteria in this draft, it is unclear how the public will have a meaningful opportunity to comment on criteria when the CWCB does unveil them.

Having examined criteria from other states (including, notably, Texas which has adopted criteria in statute³), we suggest the CWCB adopt a list of criteria for projects to receive state support that require that such a project:

1. Provides water security
2. Meets a real gap(s)
3. Is cost effective
4. Is feasible
5. Does not impair water quality, fish and wildlife habitat or recreation
6. Has sought and incorporated public input
7. Coordinated with local government entities and affected basins on impacts
8. Does not interfere with compact compliance, and
9. Meets multiple purposes

² See, <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheadname1=Content-Disposition&blobheadname2=Content-Type&blobheadvalue1=inline%3B+filename%3D%22D+2013-005.pdf%22&blobheadvalue2=application%2Fpdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1251855355625&ssbinary=true>.

³ See, <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/83R/billtext/pdf/HB00004F.pdf#navpanes=0>. A good explanation of the criteria is available on line at, <http://texascenrforpolicystudies.blogspot.com/2013/06/understanding-house-bill-430.html>.

Specific Comments

Introduction, p. 1

- At the end of the phrase in paragraph 2, “The purpose of this section is to explore how permitting in Colorado can be more effective and efficient” please add: “while preserving transparency and public involvement in the process, and better align with water values.”
- The section would then continue by quoting the directly relevant portions of the Executive Order noted above.

401 Water Quality Certification, p. 4

- For readers who might be unfamiliar with the purpose for 401 certifications, please add to the end of the 1st sentence, “to protect water quality.”
- A Board member postulated at the May 2014 CWCB meeting that problems with 401 certification derive from the fact that the process was primarily designed for 402 discharge permits. In fact, Colorado first adopted 401 certification regulations in 1985, by which time, EPA had delegated to Colorado the authority to issue state 402 permits. Thus, 401 certifications were necessary not for 402 point source discharge permits, but for 404 permits for discharge of dredge and fill materials, FERC hydropower licenses and, other federal permits and licenses.⁴ Notably, the Water Quality Control Commission held an emergency hearing in 1988 to amend the 401 certification regulation so that Colorado could provide a 401 certification for the pending 404 permit application of Denver Water for its proposed Two Forks Dam and Reservoir.
- 401 certification is a federal requirement. Its scope of inquiry is defined, initially, in federal statute. Pursuant to that statute, Colorado must certify that an activity will protect water quality for all uses: aquatic life, drinking water supply, agriculture and recreation. For this reason, the Water Quality Control Division cannot rely exclusively on information that Colorado Parks and Wildlife develops for its state law §122 wildlife mitigation plan, as one Board member suggested at the May meeting. The 122 plan has a narrow scope. It is not done by Colorado’s designated water quality agency. The information and proposed conditions, while certainly worth sharing, can provide neither all of the information required for the Water Quality Control Division to comply with the Clean Water Act and Colorado Water Quality Control Act, nor address the range of conditions the Division must consider to protect classified uses.
- As a CWCB Board member asked that Colorado’s Water Plan discuss at the May meeting, this section could reference existing regulatory provisions regarding agency coordination and water rights protection.
 - 401 Certification regulations provide that, “Where possible, the 401 certification process should be coordinated or consolidated with the scoping and review processes of other

⁴ 5 CCR 1002-82.

agencies which have a role in a proposed project in an effort to minimize costs and delays for such projects.”⁵ Subparagraph (C)(3) further directs the Division to consult with the State Engineer and Water Conservation Board “in determining whether a contemplated 401 condition or denial may be inconsistent” with the Water Quality Control Act’s warning to the water quality agencies not to take any action that materially injures water rights.

- In addition, the rule states that certification (through conditions imposed or through outright denial) cannot materially injure water rights. The provision goes on to encourage creative solutions, stating:

[T]he Division and the project proponents shall, in concert with commenters to the certification proceeding, including the involved federal agencies, examine and implement, where appropriate, means to prevent, reduce or mitigate water quality impacts identified during the permitting process and associated with the exercise of water rights. In such case, agreed upon conditions to ensure that the federally permitted activity will comply with effluent limitations, water quality classifications and standards, and other applicable water quality control requirements that may be imposed under state law shall be included in the Division’s certification determination.⁶

- Anti-degradation Review.

Please add a paragraph describing the anti-degradation review that the Water Quality Control Division does for many 401 certifications. Clean Water Act regulations set out the basic analysis these reviews must include.⁷ State regulations describe Colorado’s process in the Basic Standards.⁸

The reviews require an evaluation of whether the socio-economic benefits of a proposed activity requiring a federal permit or license outweigh the costs of its degrading water quality that is currently “better than necessary” to maintain the classified uses of the water body (i.e., drinking water, aquatic life, agriculture and recreation). The anti-degradation review’s socio-economic inquiry provides information to consider both the costs and benefits of a water supply development. After all, as noted in the rule’s Statement of Basis of Purpose, Colorado initially adopted its anti-degradation review regulation during the controversial permitting effort for Two Forks with participation from Denver Water, Colorado Springs, Southeastern and Northern Water Conservancy Districts and the Water Congress.

Because of the issues relevant to an anti-degradation review, the Division invariably must develop and consider information different than that which the federal agencies produce either for the environmental impact statement or for evaluation of how an activity may affect a special aquatic site or wetlands under Clean Water Act section 404(b). While the

⁵ 5 CCR 1002-82.

⁶ 5 CCR 1002-82.5(A)(6)

⁷ 40 CFR, §131.

⁸ 5 CCR 1002-31.8.

federal information will be useful to the Division in its process, it is appropriate for the Division to collect additional information that informs its particular mandate.

Past and Current Efforts to Improve Permitting, pp. 5-6

- Previous “Streamlining”

The section currently mentions the Colorado Joint Review Process (CJRP) and Colorado Coordination Council (CCC). DORA, in its 2012 Sunset analysis, where it recommended not extending the CCC, summed up the purpose of the CCC, and the lack of need for it, as follows:

The goals of the Council were laudable – to create a “one stop shop” for the permitting of natural resources development projects (including mines, oil wells & water projects). However, the Council, like the Colorado Joint Review Process that preceded it, has not been used. A considerable level of coordination exists outside of the formal framework of the Council. Therefore, the Council should be sunset because it has not been used and it is not necessary.⁹

DORA described the existing level of coordination, saying:

A considerable amount of coordination already occurs informally, at least at the state level. The various agencies within DNR coordinate with one another, as do those within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. These two departments also coordinate their processes with one another, and, to the extent possible, with federal and local agencies. Additionally, DNR routinely coordinates with federal agencies on environmental impact statements.¹⁰

Ironically, the CCC existed, but remained unused, in 2010–11 when the IBCC suggested that the Governor issue an Executive Order to provide just this sort of process. While the legislature did not adopt the CCC’s predecessor, the Colorado Joint Review Process, for energy development projects, until 1983, the CJRP statute itself grew out of a 1978 Executive Order.¹¹ The CJRP was a voluntary means to seek better vertical coordination (between local, state and federal governmental entities) and was used a few times in the 1970’s when impact money was available and the big questions around permitting involved mitigation.¹²

⁹ Available on line at, <http://cdn.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition&blobheadername2=Content-Type&blobheadervalue1=inline%3B+filename-%3D%22Coordination+Council%2C+Colorado++2012+Sunset+Review.pdf%22&blobheadervalue2=application%2Fpdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1251828818487&ssbinary=true>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ See, EPA, *Streamlining the Environmental Permitting Process*, 800R82101 (1982), available on line at, <http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyNET.exe/20016KC9.TXT?ZyActionD=ZyDocument&Client=EPA&Index=1981+Thru+1985&Docs=&Query=&Time=&EndTime=&SearchMethod=1&TocRestrict=n&Toc=&TocEntry=&QField=&QFieldYear=&QFieldMonth=&QFieldDay=&IntQFieldOp=0&ExtQFieldOp=0&XmlQuery=&File=D%3A%5Czyfiles%5CIndex%20Data%5C81thru85%5CTxt%5C00000013%5C20016KC9.txt&User=ANONYMOUS&Password=anonymous&SortMethod=h%7C-&MaximumDocuments=1&FuzzyDegree=0&ImageQuality=r75g8/r75g8/x150y150g16/i425&-Display=p%7Cf&DefSeekPage=x&SearchBack=ZyActionL&Back=ZyActionS&BackDesc=Results%20page&MaximumPages=1&ZyEntry=1&SeekPage=x&ZyPURL>.

¹² Personal communication with Barbara Green.

Together, the CJRP and CCC provided a means for coordinated permits for 27 of the last 35 years. There is no evidence that permit applicants took advantage of the streamlined processes. It would seem that the lesson of these many years of non-use is that informal coordination is occurring enough that project proponents are not actually willing to step off the well-trod, if imperfect, path to try something new. Thus, unless a new coordination process were a mandate, there is no indication that it would change how project proponents actually proceed through their permitting processes.

- HB 14-1030¹³

Building on the *Memorandum of Understanding* that Colorado signed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 2010 and the existing process set out in the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) *Low Impact Hydropower Permitting Guide*,¹⁴ this new statute directs state agencies consulting on FERC hydro licenses to send their comments to the CEO, to compile all of the comments and send them as a packet to FERC. Later in the process, CEO is tasked with being a liaison between FERC and other agencies. This coordination process cannot replace the separate authority of the Water Quality Control Division to issue the 401 certification required by state and federal law. Moreover, it is not a process that applicants choose; rather, it is a mandate. Whether it results in meaningful process improvements, of course, remains to be seen.

- CAWS MOU

The draft of 5.10 mentions a *Collaborative Approach to Water Supply Permit Evaluation Memorandum of Understanding* that Colorado and EPA are currently discussing. The EPA Region 4 guidelines, which account for water conservation as part of a NEPA “permit and need” statement, would be an appropriate model for an MOU here; the Region 4 guidelines are quite detailed.¹⁵ The final write-up for 5.10 should cite these guidelines to give readers a sense of what might be included in a Region 8 version. It will also, obviously, be important if Colorado and EPA do negotiate a similar MOU on this topic that there be appropriate transparency and stakeholder input leading up to a final product.

Recommendations: Permitting Issues and Potential Process Improvements, pp. 7-8

- **Increase state and other resources.**

- Timeline.

¹³ Available on line at, http://www.leg.state.co.us/Clitics/CLICS2014A/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/-6463D7584236949F87257C3000062211?Open&file=1030_enr.pdf.

¹⁴ See, <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheadname1=Content-Disposition&blobheadname2=Content-Type&blobheadvalue1=inline%3B+filename%3D%22FERC+Report.pdf%22&blobheadvalue2=application%2Fpdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1251842998844&ssbinary=true>,

¹⁵ The guidelines are available on line at, http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/wetlands/documents/guidelineso_wate_efficienc_measures.pdf. They are also submitted with these comments as a separate attachment.

The draft chapter text recommends that “the length of time to complete the required environmental reviews should be shortened while maintaining a robust decision-making process.” Obviously, Colorado cannot change the timelines of federal processes. With regard to 401 certification (or 122 wildlife mitigation plans), mandating a particular time frame would be a mistake: one size does not fit all. More complex certifications require more time, even if the authorized state agency has sufficient resources. Less complex (and less controversial) 401 certifications, or those that do not affect high quality waters (and so do not require anti-degradation reviews), can move through certification more quickly.

Current water quality regulations provide for a 30 days public comment period based on the Division’s draft anti-degradation determination and 401 certification.¹⁶ The Division can finalize the certification after the public comment period, but also may wait for the federal agency to complete its record. For the reasons cited below, we believe that the current Division practice – to wait for the final federal agency record – is the most efficient use of state resources.

This latter path allows the Division to wait to see the conditions and mitigation that the federal agencies impose. With those lists in hand, the state agencies can go through their processes to meet their statutory and regulatory authorities, but only add additional permit conditions to fill gaps the federal agencies have left. Ensuring that the earlier, federal processes produced high quality, comprehensive scientific and socio-economic analyses, and that the federal permit conditions cover stakeholder concerns, the state agencies will be able both to streamline and expedite their reviews and save taxpayer money.

- Resources.

The draft text recommends that, “at the beginning of permitting process, the State should evaluate potential future staff demands and associated resources to complete the “reviews in a timely manner.” South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA) suggested allowing permit applicants to pay for consultants that the Division could hire to help develop the information, including hydrologic and other modeling. This is similar to the process the federal permitting agencies (Corps and Bureau of Reclamation) use. Given the constraints on state budgetary resources, this approach may be appropriate to extend the capacity for both the WQCD and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). To ensure transparency and objectivity, permit applicants who paid for state contractors would need to agree that other stakeholders (e.g., local governments, and environmental, recreation or community NGOs) would be included in the process of determining what information needed to be collected, analyzed or modeled early on. Inclusion and transparency should improve the efficiency of the process overall, including the expenditure of state and permit applicant resources.

- **Increase clarity.**

The components of this recommendation appear to be underway. As noted under next steps, the Water Quality Control Division is currently preparing a 401 certification handbook. Since 2010, EPA has had a national version of such a handbook on-line.¹⁷ Assuming that Colorado Parks and Wildlife generates a handbook for the Section 122 Wildlife Mitigation Plan process and the State

¹⁶ 5 CCR 1002-82.5(B)(1).

¹⁷ See, <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/cwa/upload-cwa-401-handbook-2010-interim.pdf>.

successfully negotiates and finalizes the CAWS MOU (embedding robust urban water conservation requirements into the purpose and need section of an Environmental Impact Statement), the underlying documents necessary to provide the clarity this section demands will be in place.

The SMWSA suggested establishing standardized methods to use across all state analyses, for example for hydrology modeling (e.g., for level or detail or time step). While this strategy may require fewer resources from a permit applicant in limited circumstances, there are many situations where any attempt to pursue standardization could end up requiring more time and resources. Often, federal agencies require their own methodologies that an applicant will need to follow regardless of any standardized state methodology. Thus, where an applicant intends to rely on existing information, even information generated by others (e.g., the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Support System model), having to conform to a pre-determined state methodology that isn't required by the federal permitting agency could increase the burden on the applicant, and increase the time necessary to provide the information. Moreover, to the extent that SMWSA proposes that the state adopt standardized methods for determining system risk, such a strategy could result in a race to the bottom, in terms of quality of analysis, or could lose the essence of the individualized nature of the issues associated with any given project.

- **Improving the quality of DEIS.** Good science, transparency and stakeholder involvement are the pillars for building the base for robust, rational and defensible decisions at any level of government.
 - The State of Colorado has relatively limited direct opportunities to improve a federal agency document, especially at the draft stage. However, when Colorado agencies become cooperating agencies, they expand their influence over the quality of the document. Sharing high quality work with federal agencies, ensuring that the scoping process is broad, transparent and includes stakeholder concerns, and providing feedback to the agency responsible for producing the document are all ways to improve the document's quality.
 - As DORA pointed out in its Sunset Review of the CCC, there is no apparent need for a formal process to coordinate permitting of natural resources, such as water supply projects. Informal sharing between state and federal agencies already occurs. As noted above, state regulations currently call for consultation and coordination. It is certainly possible to increase the informal information gathering and sharing both amongst Colorado's agencies, and between federal, state and local entities with regulatory authority. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and its Divisions could adopt regulations similar to the 401 Certification regulations.
 - Sharing of information goes beyond the "collating" function for consultation comments that HB 14-1030 provides the Colorado Energy Office for hydropower licensing and may improve both the quality of a DEIS and the efficiency of the process.
 - Bringing other stakeholders (local governments and environmental, recreational or community NGOs) into the process early on will improve the transparency of the process. By identifying more stakeholder issues earlier in the process, overall permitting efficiency can improve.
 - For the reasons stated above in the 401 certification comment section, requiring the Water Quality Control Division to finalize its 401 certification earlier in the process will **not** result

in a higher quality draft EIS, nor will it be more efficient in terms of state resources. Thus, we would oppose that approach.

- **Improve 122 Wildlife Mitigation Planning.** (This recommendation is new.)

Section 122 Wildlife Mitigation Plans are a creation of state law, pursuant to a statute passed in the aftermath of the failed Two Forks permitting process. Prior to its passage, Division of Wildlife staff submitted comments directly to the permitting agency. The statute inserted review by not one but two appointed bodies. For 15 years, the process lay dormant even as water projects around the state (from Wolford Mountain to Reuter Hess) received permits and began operations. The process was only revived recently, as the draft text of Chapter 5.10 states, and applied to a handful of projects. A state process that in part duplicates federal requirements does not contribute to efficient permitting.

The easiest streamlining thus would be to eliminate 122 plans and go back to having CPW experts submit comments directly to the agencies that have regulatory authority (EPA, WQCD, and the ultimate federal agency(ies) responsible, whether the Corps, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Forest Service or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), as well as consulting agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Such sharing and consultation could result in the federal agency requiring all of the mitigation CPW would want, obviating the need for a separate state mitigation plan. Eliminating 122 plans, with their required hearings before two appointed state agencies, would save permit applicants months of time and expense. We strongly urge the CWCB to confer with other agencies but then to make this recommendation in Colorado's Water Plan.¹⁸

- **Recommendations NOT to Adopt.** SMWSA has made a number of other recommendations that they are circulating at basin roundtables and elsewhere.¹⁹ Some will not expedite the permitting process and, in fact, may increase controversy and the time and resources needed to secure permits for water supply development projects:
 - SMWSA proposes that Colorado ask the Corps to use Colorado's Water Plan as the basis for a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS). Federal agencies typically undertake a PEIS when they are poised to embark on large scale new programs; for example, solar energy development on federal lands. By contrast, Colorado's Water Plan will create no federal program. PEISes provide a broad platform where individual permit applications will raise nearly identical issues; this strategy would be unlikely to suit an analysis of water projects, each of which will result in unique impacts and mitigation requirements. By contrast, even if Colorado's Water Plan results in a number of projects

¹⁸ A less ambitious alternative would be to eliminate automatic Wildlife Commission hearings and CWCB reviews of 122 plans. Only aggrieved parties would appeal to the Commission, likely a rare event, as it is for 401 certifications. This would substantially reduce the resources and time necessary for the 122 process. A party unhappy with the Commission's order could appeal it to state district court under the Administrative Procedures Act; again, likely a rare event. Substituting a rare court appeal for a mandatory second agency review (by the CWCB) would again lessen the time and resources needed for 122 plans for most permit applicants.

¹⁹ Their comments are summarized in the CWCB's response to public comment, <http://cwcbweblink.state.co.us/WebLink/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=190232&searchid=305c342c-fea8-4d00-8236-c1e57bc9e8a0&dbid=0>, starting at comment #52.

seeking federal permits, the important broad analysis will be to assess their cumulative impacts.

- SMWSA suggests that Colorado ask the Corps and EPA to amend their long-standing (1990) national MOU on sequencing to require the Corps to factor in potential mitigation prior to identifying the “practicable” alternative that would be the “least environmentally damaging.” Federal law directs the Corps and EPA first to avoid environmental damage, then minimize it, and only then to mitigate it. Thus, the change that SMWSA proposes is inconsistent with federal law. In general, it seems that Colorado’s Water Plan will add the most value if it focuses on improvements to state, rather than federal law.
 - SMSWA also suggests making the scoping process binding, so that it would become the first, last and only opportunity to raise an issue in the permitting process. Obviously, such a strategy would be antithetical to the iterative process of NEPA review and all permitting, licensing, and certification processes that progress from draft to final product. If we learn by doing, then we need to have the flexibility to respond to new issues that arise as analyses uncover information. This applies to EPA, stakeholders and all cooperating agencies.
 - SMWSA recommended that the Water Quality Division base its 401 certification on the Corps’ draft EIS. Such a re-ordering would almost certainly lengthen the process overall. A draft EIS, by its nature, is incomplete. Often, the action agency does not indicate a preferred alternative. The whole idea of a draft is that, through the public comment process, the agencies receive new information, ideas and perspectives, so that they can improve their science, documentation and rationale in the final. Pushing 401 certification earlier in the process may mean that the state does two reviews – one based on draft, and another after the Corps or BOR releases its Record of Decision, because it isn’t until that point that the Corps has completed its analysis of impacts and finalized the mitigation it will require. If the Division does not yet know what mitigation the federal agencies may require, it would need to be very conservative and potentially include many more conditions than it does when, as now, it waits to see what the federal requirements. Pushing certification earlier in the process therefore would increase the state’s regulatory footprint (with more conditions, not fewer), and likely require more resources for re-doing its first effort.
 - Finally, SMWSA suggests that the local 1041 process be downgraded so that a county would not have “veto authority” over a water project. Ever since Colorado’s Supreme Court upheld Eagle County’s decision under 1041 not to allow Colorado Springs to proceed with its Homestake II water project, water supply developers have sought to weaken 1041 authority. Doing so would fly in the face of the Executive Order’s interest in increasing collaboration and tying land use planning more closely to water planning. Colorado has always been a state that values and preserves local control.
- **Encourage Multi-purpose projects.** The State has expressed in multiple ways over the last several years a preference for multi-purpose projects. Below, we recommend a criterion that reflects this state policy. In terms of regulatory efficiency, however, adding purposes to a project is likely to increase the level of regulatory complexity and thus may best be addressed elsewhere in Colorado’s Water Plan. Any increase in complexity that derives from addressing non-consumptive needs in some form in most projects – either as a primary or secondary purpose – can be justified to meet the range of values articulated in the Executive Order and address the long list of non-consumptive needs facing Colorado.

- **Improve coordination across state agencies.** See comments above. Improving coordination seems to be a matter of implementing existing directives better and more efficiently rather than adding new ones.

Criteria for State Support: Potential Colorado Support of a Project Moving Forward, p 8

The May 8, 2014, Draft Annotated Framework sets out as a topics for section 5.10, “incentive-based criteria ... to help a new project ... become ... worthy of state support” as well as “an evaluation process and actions that take place when criteria are met,” and “criteria and a rubric for CWCB financing” for existing water infrastructure upgrades and operations. The current draft of 5.10 (at p. 8) states that, “The State of Colorado should develop a pathway for a water project to receive a State endorsement. This could be achieved by identifying milestones upfront and what decisions could be made at each milestone.”

As noted above, the current draft suggests that this section needs information from Basin Implementation Plans. Because the criteria at issue are for state support, rather than Basin Roundtable support, **we strongly urge the CWCB to proceed to draft the criteria now and circulate them prior to the September CWCB board meeting, to allow for public input** on this critical Water Plan element.

Please consider adopting the following criteria:

Provides Water Security. Taking into account its lifetime impacts and benefits, the project or method:

- Helps the proponent conform to principles of smart growth and sustainable land use that reduces per capita water demand, for example, with evidence of promoting new development around existing facilities, clustering, limited shared lawns or green belts or high density development,
- Relies on renewable, local surface and ground water sources and existing reusable supplies of water to the maximum extent possible,
- Avoids adverse effects to stream flows and other non-consumptive values, and if avoidance is not possible, minimizes and mitigates such adverse effects, in the first instance where such effects occur using tools including instream flow protections, water rights leasing, restoration projects, diversion improvements, and consumptive use efficiencies
- Enhances non-consumptive values, where possible and relevant,
- Avoids adverse effects to watershed health,
- Avoids adverse effects to rural communities,
- Avoids adverse effects to the local economy (including the economy of the basin of origin in the case of a transbasin diversion),
- Conforms to local government planning and permitting where the water would be used and, if a transbasin diversion, in its basin of origin, and

- Avoids adverse effects to viable and productive agricultural, including the permanent dry up of high value agricultural land and the habitat it provides.

Meets Real Gaps between supplies and demands. The project or process addresses a specific, identified gap for:

- M&I that exists or that will exist before 2050 based on the most recent state demographer data²⁰ and the integrated resource plan or other appropriate planning document of the water provider(s) responsible for supplying water to the area, and would meet such gap;
- And, the proponent demonstrates that there is a need for the project or process, after submitting written evidence that it:
 - Is meeting or has specific plans to meet the “high” conservation targets in SWSI 2010,
 - Has plans to recycle all current and future legally reusable supply,
 - Has already pursued projects or methods that firm the yield of existing sources of supply,
 - Sought out partners to maximize shared storage and delivery infrastructure, and
 - Explored and implemented all feasible sharing arrangements with agriculture
- OR, if Non-Consumptive by:
 - Appropriating, acquiring and transferring water to the CWCB for dedication within its instream flow protection program, including for improving flows, or
 - Protecting water that currently supports non-consumptive values, e.g., agreements that maintain water instream for the long-term, or
 - Restoring water to a reach, through re-timing of flows, exchanges and leases, and other management/administration strategies that will result in an enhancement of nonconsumptive values as presented in Basin Non-Consumptive Needs Assessments, or
 - Improving flows or habitat without dedicating new water to the streams, for example by removing barriers, modernizing irrigation structures, and restoring riparian corridors.
- OR, if Agricultural by:
 - Improving existing infrastructure including, e.g., dredging reservoirs that have lost capacity, lining or piping ditches, modernizing existing dams and diversion structures, or
 - Improving on-farm efficiency and productivity through conversion to new irrigation applications or farm practices, or
 - Sharing water amongst users on a stream or within a sub-basin, or
 - Exploring expanded or new storage opportunities – preferably smaller, local, and off-channel – that can stretch supplies for agriculture and provide water for multiple consumptive and non-consumptive needs, or

²⁰ New figures from DOLA will be available imminently. While the draft BIPs and current drafts of sections of Colorado’s Water Plan have, by necessity, been based on earlier information, the final BIPs and Water Plan must use the most recent information.

- Aid interested farmers in crop transition to low water use crops.

Cost-Effectiveness. The proponent of the project or process demonstrates:

- overall cost-effectiveness, taking into consideration both its expected unit cost and indirect impacts (including “opportunity costs”, like loss of recreational opportunities or loss of environmental values, such as expected fish mortality).
- an immediate, local contribution of at least 20 % to finance the project or process, including upfront capital,
- financial capacity to repay any state financial assistance provided. o ability to leverage any state grant or loan with local and/or federal funding in a timely manner, and
- Used or sought federal funding for which the project is eligible.

Feasibility. The proponent of the project or process demonstrates:

- availability of water supplies and water rights for the project or process, if relevant, AND o hydrological, technical and scientific practicability of the project, as demonstrated by professional engineering, biological, or other analyses.
- It is ready to proceed upon receipt of funding and permits by showing that:
 - it has completed all preliminary planning and design work,
 - it has, by decree, lease or contract, the necessary water rights,
 - it has secured a commitment for funding necessary from other sources, and
 - it can begin implementing the process or project.

Water Quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation.

- The project or process does not cause or contribute to an exceedence of an applicable water quality standard or impair a classified use (aquatic life, recreation, agriculture or water supply) in any waterbody affected.
- The project or process does not impair fish and wildlife habitat or recreation, either because the project or process results in improvements thereto, or because there is adequate mitigation.

Public Input.

- The proponent of the project or process has provided meaningful opportunities for stakeholder and public input,
- The proponent of the project or process has demonstrated it has made reasonable efforts to respond to, address, and modify the project based upon the concerns of those who did comment, and
- Stakeholder outreach and involvement began early in the process. While no decision will make everybody happy, early input and involvement from stakeholders will likely reduce conflict which leads to delay in agency decision.

Coordination. The proponent of the project or process demonstrates that the project or process:

- was subject to consultation with, and received the necessary approvals from or the support of affected local governments,
- has received the support or approval of the basin roundtables both where the water will be used and, if a trans-basin use is proposed, in its basin of origin,
- does not address a gap that another project or process qualified for state support pursuant to these criteria is already addressing,
- will not adversely affect levels of conservation, reuse or efficiency for other water suppliers or users,
- will not adversely affect non-consumptive values in the basin of origin beyond what can be avoided, minimized or mitigated, for example, as evidenced by support from local conservation organizations and the environmental and recreational representatives on the roundtable.

Compact Compliance. The proponent of the project or process demonstrates that its construction or implementation will not increase the risk of non-compliance with any inter-state compact or of curtailment of existing water rights.

Multipurpose. Projects and methods that satisfy all or significant portions of multiple gaps and have multiple purposes will have that factor weighed in their benefit in terms of funding approval.

- A project that benefits recreation and the environment is, by definition, multi-purpose. Thus, it is not necessary for a project to have a consumptive component to be deemed “multi-purpose.”
- Some basin roundtables discussions have suggested non-consumptive projects should be de-emphasized due to lack of a traditional project proponent. We believe this view fails to meet the letter and spirit of the values articulated in the Executive Order. A wide range of stakeholders—including state agencies, local watershed groups, conservation organizations, irrigators, and water providers—have proposed non-consumptive projects. They should stand on the same footing with other project proponents.

Next Steps/Process for Finalizing Chapter 5.10, p. 8.

The draft Chapter 5.10 lists three activities: development of a certification and mitigation handbook, finalizing the CAWS MOU and further exploration of ways to make state processes more efficient.

With regard to the first, the Water Quality Control Division is currently developing a certification handbook; presumably, the task for developing a mitigation handbook falls on the CPW staff.

If the CAWS MOU ends up being similar in content to the MOU on conservation reached with EPA and the Corps in Region 4, we would support finalizing this agreement – now, i.e., before Colorado’s

Water Plan is released in its final version in 2015, or even before the CWCB releases the draft at the end of this year.

In terms of “further technical and stakeholder exploration for how to make the permitting process effective and efficient based off the potential process improvements described above,” it is important to recognize that most of the proposed “improvements” are directed at processes the CWCB itself does not undertake. It is therefore critical that the CWCB engage directly with the authorized agencies at both the staff and board/Commission levels. Thus, CWCB staff could schedule briefings from the two Commissions’ staff while the CWCB schedules joint meetings with each Commission. Even more importantly, before Colorado’s Water Plan suggests changes to 401 certification, anti-degradation review or Wildlife Mitigation plan processes, there must be an opportunity for the Commissions’ stakeholders to provide input. The Water Quality Control Commission had an extensive and highly effective outreach to its constituents for developing chapter 5.4 on quality-quantity integration with a two-pronged strategy of reaching out through the Water Quality Forum, and by providing time at their monthly meetings for public comments on their initial outline and three iterations of the text. But, the Water Quality Control Commission has not done the same (perhaps because the CWCB has not asked them) for draft Chapter 5.10. It would be entirely inappropriate for the CWCB to propose changes to other agencies’ processes in Colorado’s Water Plan without these agencies first doing such outreach and having substantial and public input into any proposed “improvements” to their statutory mandates. Further processes should all also preserve transparency and provide public involvement.