



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Kevin Reidy, Water Supply Planning Section

DATE: November 15-16, 2017 Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 32 a-b. Water Plan Grants - Water Conservation and Land Use
Final Consideration

Introduction

The items and grant amounts listed below were presented by staff for Initial Consideration at the September 2017 Board Meeting in Walden Colorado. The Board provided feedback and support for final consideration at this Board Meeting. No changes have been made to the recommended level of grant funding.

The Water Conservation and Land Use category started at \$1 million in available funds. With the final approval of the applications listed below, this Water Plan Grant category will have \$886,000 available for future applications.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends Board Approval of the projects/activities listed in the following table for Water Plan Grant funding.

Applicant	Project Name	% of Eligible Project Costs	Grant Amount
a. Dominion Water and Sanitation District	Regional Factors for Precipitation Harvesting	50%	\$54,000
b. Peak Spatial Enterprises /Chambers Econ and Analytics	Water Information/Real Estate Disclosure	47%	\$60,000
		Total	\$114,000

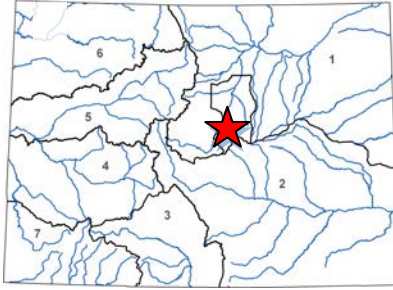
* Indicates items which will include a presentation by the applicant

See attached Data Sheets for locations and summaries.





Water Plan Grant Application



L O C A T I O N	
County/Countries:	Douglas County; Statewide
Drainage Basin:	Metro; Statewide

D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$108,000
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$54,000
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$54,000
Project Type(s):	Study, IPP, Other
Project Category(Categories):	Conservation & Land Use
Measurable Result:	400 acre-feet/yr/application; \$8,000/yr in pumping costs; 30,000 ppl/application living in community where water saving actions incorporated into land use planning

On July 21, 2010, Dominion Water & Sanitation District was approved by the CWCB as the State's first and only Precipitation Pilot Program allowing precipitation harvesting with 100% replacement. Now in its eighth year of monitoring, the Pilot Program has collected a significant amount of field data to support a water right for precipitation harvesting at Sterling Ranch.

During the 2015 legislative session HB15-1016 was passed with the primary purpose of incentivizing additional precipitation harvesting pilot programs. The primary objective of HB15-1016 is to develop regionally applicable factors that program sponsors can use for substitute water supply plan. The regional factors specify the amount of historical natural precipitation depletion from evapotranspiration of preexisting natural vegetative cover that does not need to be fully replaced from areas made impermeable.

Dominion would like to partner with the State to support the development regional factors further incentivizing additional Pilot Programs. The CWP Grant will be used to fund a study evaluating the methods for developing regional factors and the legal framework for future applicants by providing methods, tools, and guidance for developing precipitation as a viable water supply.

Project objectives:

- Summarizing the current legal framework guiding pilot program applicants through the substitute water supply plan and augmentation plan processes.
- Providing clarity and guidance from the State on how precipitation harvesting will be administered
- Collaborating with the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado Division of Water Resources, and external peer reviewer to develop, document, and obtain approval for proposed methods for establishing Regional Factors.
- Utilize Sterling Ranch Precipitation Pilot Program data to support the development of Regionally Applicable Factors.
- Develop methodology to calculate Regionally Applicable Factors for future applicants in other regions of the State.
- Develop sample water budget accounting forms for administering precipitation harvesting using regional factors, and local climate data for future applicants.



Water Plan Grant Application



L O C A T I O N

County/Countries: Denver, Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, El Paso, Teller, and Pueblo

D E T A I L S

<i>Total Project Cost:</i>	\$127,500
<i>Water Plan Grant Request:</i>	\$60,000
<i>Other CWCB Funding:</i>	\$20,000
<i>Applicant Match:</i>	\$47,500
<i>Project Type(s):</i> Education & Outreach / Conservation and Land use	
<i>Project Category(Categories):</i> Engagement & Innovation	
<i>Measurable Result:</i> 52,000 home buyers/year in pilot area = Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning & 147 Water supplier conservation plans directly targeted to a home sale audience	

This project would build a water information disclosure tool. The tool is free, online, and uses public data aggregation. The disclosure tool links water supplier information with property buyers and real estate MLS to increase property buyer awareness of address-specific conservation plans, water planning, and municipal water suppliers. The public tool directly supports the statewide conservation ethic recognizing the need to work within our arid environment; increase the specific understanding of conservation practices; and reduce wasteful behavior.

The tool consolidates and communicates water information in a user friendly, accessible format allowing users to search by property address. With more than 50,000 annual real estate transactions from Denver County to Pueblo County, these municipal buyers are closely tuned into water metrics and conservation tools that apply to property transactions in which they have a stake.

The real estate community is incentivized to use the tool to inform and serve all types of clients. Water suppliers benefit from consumer understanding of supplier details. Home buyer participation in water understanding and engagement provides the foundation needed to meet the CWP conservation stretch goal.

The overall goal of the project is to expand the knowledge and water ethic of urban/suburban water consumers and realtors by engaging them early in a home buying process and allowing them to include important water factors in their buying decisions. The CWP grant funding supports building a mobile application/tool and back-office enterprise that links home buyers with aggregated information for water providers accessed through the application. The specific engagement sub-goal of this project is to connect the residential real estate buyers in the 6 county pilot region (over 50,000 buyers/year) with their water provider and the provider's conservation plans at the point of the transaction.

The project serves the mission of the CWP and as a public good; therefore, matching WSRF funds are sought from Statewide and Basin accounts.

The project will:

- Disseminate Water District Conservation Plans
- Provide nexus between Real Estate buyers and State level, Basin level, and District level Water Information
- Provide platform to disseminate other key State metrics of interest
- Supports the PEPO mission by providing contact with upwards of 45,000 residential real estate buyers/year in the selected counties who otherwise would likely not be water information consumers - this is the time that they would most likely be researching this type of information
- Interact with State level Real Estate MLS services to disseminate critical water consumer information