



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Anna Mauss, P.E. Loan Program Marketing

DATE: November 15-16, 2017 Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 7a. 2018 Projects Bill
Non-Reimbursable Project Investments
(3) Feasibility Study Small Grant Fund - Refresh

Introduction

In 1999 through SB 99-173, the Legislature authorized the creation of a Small Feasibility Study Fund for water resources infrastructure systems projects. Section 37-60-122.7(5) of the C.R.S. describes the fund. The money in the fund is continuously appropriated to the Board for making grants to water users to help pay for the costs of preparing feasibility studies in conformance with the CWCB Water Project Loan Program Guidelines. The fund is intended to encourage planning by local water supply entities and to evaluate technical feasibility and the financial aspects of projects if funded through Water Project Loan Program.

In an effort to align with the goals of the Colorado Water Plan, staff is asking the Board to support an appropriation up to \$500,000. The intent of the increase is to encourage and support reconnaissance and feasibility planning by local water providers. If approved this will be included in the FY 2018 Projects Bill.

Policy 17 - Application approval and use of grants from the Feasibility Study Small Grant Fund controls the use of this money. The Policy gives the CWCB Director approval authority for general project grants up to \$5,000 without Board authorization. In 2016, the Board approved an increase in the CWCB Director's approval limit to \$50,000 for projects that involve storage.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board request the General Assembly to authorize the transfer of \$500,000 from the Construction Fund to the Feasibility Study Small Grant Fund for use by the CWCB to continue to support feasibility level planning and engineering of water projects by local water providers.





Feasibility Study Small Grant Fund

Colorado Water Conservation Board

November 2017 Board Meeting

In 1999 through SB 99-173, the Legislature authorized the Board to set aside \$200,000 of Construction Fund money in a special fund reserved for feasibility studies for water resources infrastructure systems projects. The money in the fund is continuously appropriated to the Board for immediate availability for making small grants to water users to help pay for the costs of preparing feasibility studies in conformance with the CWCB Water Project Loan Program Guidelines. The fund is intended to encourage planning by local water supply entities and to evaluate technical feasibility and the financial aspects of projects if funded through Water Project Loan Program.

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$500,000
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	est. \$500,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Construction Fund
<i>Project Type:</i>	Grant Fund Refresh
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	CWCB

L O C A T I O N	
<i>Benefits:</i>	Statewide
<i>Water Source:</i>	Various
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	All Basins

In an effort to align with the goals of the Colorado Water Plan, staff is asking the board to support a statute change in Section 37-60-122.7(5) to increase the appropriation to \$500,000. The intent of the increase is to encourage and support reconnaissance and feasibility planning by local water providers.

A transfer of approximately \$500,000 from the Construction Fund's unreserved cash into the fund is requested to fund the Feasibility Study Small Grant Fund.