



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Lauren Ris, Deputy Director

DATE: March 21-22, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 8. Water Plan Financial Policy

Background

Since the adoption of Colorado's Water Plan in November 2015, two of CWCB's grant programs have incorporated requirements for applicants to identify how the proposed project would further advance Colorado's Water Plan. The Colorado Water Plan Grant Application requires applicants to provide a description of how the proposed project supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan, SWSI, and the applicable Basin Implementation Plan. The Water Supply Reserve Fund criteria and guidelines were revised in 2016 to include evaluation criteria, which states that the proposed water activity shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan criteria for state support (outlined in Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44).

In order to further codify the importance of using Colorado's Water Plan as the lens through which the Board and Staff carry out CWCB's mission and to establish some consistency in CWCB's grant programs, the attached draft policy would require the staff and Board to use the following three values described in Chapter 1 of Colorado's Water Plan to evaluate grant funding proposals:

- A productive economy that supports vibrant and sustainable cities, viable and productive agriculture, and a robust skiing, recreation, and tourism industry;
- Efficient and effective water infrastructure promoting smart land use; and
- A strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers and streams, and wildlife.

The draft policy would require staff to create a field in all grant applications where applicants would describe how their proposed project aligns with these values.

CWCB's existing grant programs include the following:

- Colorado's Water Plan Grants
- Water Supply Reserve Account Grants
- Water Efficiency Grants
- Severance Tax Trust Fund Operational Account Grants
- Colorado Watershed Restoration Grants
- Agricultural Emergency Drought Response Program
- Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer Methods Grants
- Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund Grants



- Weather Modification Grants
- Non-Reimbursable Project Investment Grants
- Invasive Phreatophyte Control Program
- Reservoir Dredging Program Grants
- Damaging High Groundwater Response Grants in the South Platte Basin
- Technical Assistance for Federal Cost-Share Grants
- HB 15-1178 Emergency Dewatering Grant Program

Staff recommendation

No action is required at this time. This item is for discussion purposes only with the potential to adopt a policy at a subsequent CWCB Board meeting.



POLICY NUMBER: 22

SUBJECT: **GRANT FUNDING AWARDS CONSISTENT WITH COLORADO'S WATER PLAN**

EFFECTIVE DATE: To be determined

POLICY: The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) shall make grant funding awards that align with Colorado's water values as outlined in Chapter 1 of Colorado's Water Plan:

- A productive economy that supports vibrant and sustainable cities, viable and productive agriculture, and a robust skiing, recreation, and tourism industry;
- Efficient and effective water infrastructure promoting smart land use; and
- A strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers and streams, and wildlife.

PURPOSE: To ensure that the CWCB awards grant funds to projects that are consistent with and promote the values in Colorado's Water Plan.

APPLICABILITY: This policy applies to all CWCB grant programs, including Colorado's Water Plan Grants, Water Efficiency Grants, Severance Tax Trust Fund Operational Account Grants, Colorado Watershed Restoration Grants, ATM Grants, Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund Grants, Weather Modification Grants, Non-Reimbursable Project Investment Grants, Reservoir Dredging Program Grants, and any other existing or future CWCB grant program.

PROCEDURE: The CWCB staff shall create a field on all grant applications for applicants to describe how a proposed project aligns with the values in Colorado's Water Plan. The CWCB staff and Board shall use this information in evaluating whether to award grant funding for the proposed project.

