



## 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:** May 23-24, 2018 Board Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM:** 38. Water Plan Grant Process for FY 18-19

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#### Introduction

The 2018 Projects Bill (SB 18-218) included \$7 million to continue the Water Plan Grant (WPGGrant) program for a second year, providing funding for the following categories:

- Up to \$3 million to facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial recharge into aquifers, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed storage capacity for multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap;
- Up to \$1 million to provide technical assistance, project or program funding for agricultural projects;
- Up to \$1 million to implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use and drought planning;
- Up to \$500,000 for grants for water education, outreach, and innovation efforts; and
- Up to \$1.5 million for environmental and recreational projects.

#### Staff Recommendation

In order to streamline the process and to clarify the application requirements, staff recommends the following changes to the WPGGrant application process and schedule:

- Reduce the number of grant funding rounds to two with August 1, 2018 and February 1, 2019 application deadlines.
- Post the grant applications on CWCB's Web site on September 1 and March 1 after initial staff review.
- Bring grants to the Board for final review and approval at the November 2018 and May 2019 Board meetings. At this time, if the Board needs additional information or decides that a project needs further consideration, the Board could move final approval of individual projects to the following Board meetings (in January and July).
- In lieu of a letter of support from Basin Roundtables, require applicants to include a form with their application materials from the applicable Basin Roundtable confirming that the project aligns with the goals identified in the Basin Implementation Plan. Staff will develop a simplified form for the applicants to use and the roundtables will determine the process and individuals or entities to sign the form.



**Table 1. Recommended WPGGrant Schedule FY 18-19**

<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Applications on Web</b>	<b>Final Board Approval</b>	<b>Additional Consideration &amp; Final Approval (if needed)</b>
August 1, 2018	September 1, 2018	November 2018	January 2019
February 1, 2019	March 1, 2019	May 2019	July 2019

### **Background**

The 2017 Projects Bill (HB17-1248) included \$9 million for a new Water Plan Grant (WPGGrant) program to fund projects or activities that specifically have the potential to achieve the measureable objectives and critical actions identified in Colorado's Water Plan.

The WPGGrant approval process for fiscal year 2017-18 included three funding rounds and each round included a two Board meeting review process. The first Board meeting included a staff presentation and recommendation for all of the applications received and provided an opportunity for the Board to offer feedback or to request any additional information. Final review and approval then occurred at the subsequent Board meeting. The application and approval schedule for the current fiscal year is summarized in Table 2.

**Table 2. WPGGrant Schedule FY 17-18**

<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Initial Board Review</b>	<b>Final Board Approval</b>
August 1, 2017	September 2017	November 2017
October 1, 2017	November 2017	January 2018
February 1, 2017	March 2017	May 2018

In addition to other project details, the current WPGGrant application asked applicants to provide a description of how their proposed water project supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan, the most recent Statewide Water Supply Initiative, and the applicable Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan. The Applicant was required to reference specific needs, goals, themes or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPS). Letters of Support from the Basin Roundtable were encouraged, but not required.