



Last Updated: June 2018

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

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**Water Plan Grant Application**

**Instructions**

To receive funding for a Water Plan Grant, applicant must demonstrate how the project, activity, or process (collectively referred to as “project”) funded by the CWCB will help meet the measurable objectives and critical actions in the Water Plan. Grant guidelines are available on the CWCB website.

If you have questions, please contact CWCB at (303) 866-3441 or email the following staff to assist you with applications in the following areas:

Water Storage Projects Conservation, Land Use Planning Engagement & Innovation Activities Agricultural Projects Environmental & Recreation Projects	Anna.Mauss@state.co.us Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us Ben.Wade@state.co.us Alexander.Funk@state.co.us Chris.Sturm@state.co.us
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**FINAL SUBMISSION:** Submit all application materials in one email to [\*\*waterplan.grants@state.co.us\*\*](mailto:waterplan.grants@state.co.us) in the original file formats [Application (word); Statement of Work (word); Budget/Schedule (excel)]. Please do not combine documents. In the subject line, please include the funding category and name of the project.

Water Project Summary	
Name of Applicant	South Metro Water Supply Authority
Name of Water Project	Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Certification Pilot Program
CWP Grant Request Amount	\$ 40,590
Other Funding Sources _____	\$
Other Funding Sources _____	\$
Other Funding Sources _____	\$
Applicant Funding Contribution	\$ 42,940
Total Project Cost	\$ 83,530



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Name of Grantee(s): South Metro Water Supply Authority
Mailing Address: 8400 E. Prentice Ave. Suite 315, Greenwood Village, CO 80111
FEIN: 61-1497221
Organization Contact: Lisa Darling
Position/Title: Executive Director
Email: <a href="mailto:lisdarling@southmetrowater.org">lisdarling@southmetrowater.org</a>
Phone: (720) 216-5158
Grant Management Contact: Mikal Kelly Martinez
Position/Title: Executive Administrator
Email: <a href="mailto:mikalmartinez@southmetrowater.org">mikalmartinez@southmetrowater.org</a>
Phone: (720) 216-5158
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)
Mailing Address
Position/Title
Email
Phone
<b>Description of Grantee/Applicant</b>
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).
The South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA) was founded in 2004, bringing many smaller water utilities in south Denver together to create a regional water authority. Today, our 13 water provider members serve about half of Douglas County and 10% of Arapahoe County, based on land area. Historically, our region has relied heavily on non-renewable Denver Basin groundwater. Together we are executing a plan to provide a secure and sustainable water future for the region through increased efficiency, partnerships, and investment in water supply and storage projects.



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	<b>Public (Government):</b> Municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
X	<b>Public (Districts):</b> Authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
	<b>Private Incorporated:</b> Mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
	<b>Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors:</b> Private parties may be eligible for funding.
	<b>Non-governmental organizations (NGO):</b> Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
	<b>Covered Entity:</b> As defined in <a href="#">Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes</a> .

Type of Water Project (check all that apply)	
	Study
	Construction
	Identified Projects and Processes (IPP)
X	Other

Category of Water Project (check the primary category that applies and include relevant tasks)	
	Water Storage - Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
X	Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
	Engagement & Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
	Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
	Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
	Other      Explain:



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<b>Location of Water Project</b>	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in <b>decimal degrees</b> . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Countries	Arapahoe and Douglas Counties
Latitude	
Longitude	

<b>Water Project Overview</b>
<p>Please provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). Include a description of the project and what the CWP Grant funding will be used for specifically (e.g., studies, permitting process, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the project, where applicable. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, and area of habitat improvements, where applicable. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain.</p> <p>The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.</p>
<p>SMWSA was awarded a Water Efficiency Grant (WEG) through the CWCB in 2016 to develop a program and plan for implementation of a Regional Landscape and Irrigation Certification Program, to be operated and managed through the Authority. Through the WEG, SMWSA identified Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) certification for implementation through a pilot program because of its ability to (1) customize training modules to include local water content, (2) present a broad perspective on efficient landscape and irrigation techniques, and (3) provide practical training and application of irrigation installation audits. QWEL is a recognized EPA WaterSense labeled certification program.</p> <p>The successful implementation of the program will equip regional landscape designers with the knowledge and training of best management landscape and irrigation design, installation, and maintenance techniques to improve the region’s outdoor water conservation and efficiency through a regional partnership program. Utilizing Colorado-specific training content created under the WEG, SMWSA will develop and implement a regional QWEL pilot program and broaden the Colorado-specific essential materials for other utilities to use; based on the results of the pilot program, there may be an opportunity for the program to expand statewide.</p>



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<b>Measurable Results</b>	
To catalog measurable results achieved with the CWP Grant funds, please provide any of the following values as applicable:	
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
50 – 100 AF/yr	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
	Other Explain:

<b>Water Project Justification</b>
<p>Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of <a href="#">Colorado's Water Plan</a>, the most recent <a href="#">Statewide Water Supply Initiative</a>, and the applicable Roundtable <a href="#">Basin Implementation Plan</a> and <a href="#">Education Action Plan</a>. The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers).</p> <p>The proposed water project shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan Framework for State of Colorado Support for a Water Project (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;)</p> <p><b>Commitment to Collaboration:</b>          SMWSA is committed to regional collaboration and partnership to benefit the South Metro communities. The QWEL program will widely address improvement of outdoor water use efficiency in the South Metro region and statewide, as contractors that are trained in our region may do business elsewhere in the state. Successful implementation and operation of this program on a regional basis would create an outline for other areas throughout the state and would provide opportunity for additional partnerships within the region.</p> <p>Through a regional certification program, landscape professionals will receive consistent training and messaging, while simultaneously utilizing regional messaging and reducing individual utilities' administrative requirements. This ensures the longevity of the program. A standardized certification program may also provide opportunities to leverage enforcement and/or compliance across the region regarding proper installation and maintenance for communities with regulatory land-use authority.</p> <p>SMWSA and the City of Aspen (Aspen) have been collaborating over several years with the QWEL Program Coordinator (PCO) in California to support and learn from others' experiences in implementing the QWEL program. SMWSA and Aspen have identified benefits and challenges from these past experiences and foresee on-going collaboration by offering opportunities for interested class</p>



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participants to attend training sessions at one another's respective locations and communication as each work to expand the program at their respective location. This experience encouraged SMWSA, supported by the QWEL PCO, to update the QWEL content for Colorado conditions in a way that can be utilized broadly across Colorado with supplemented local content.

Address Identified Gap:

The recommendation for this project initially resulted from SMWSA and Douglas County partnering in a study (completed in 2015) to better understand the relationship between water and land use planning as it pertains to water use efficiency. Further, investigation of this topic was also included in the Metro Basin Implementation Plan recommendations (BIP). As described in Colorado's Water Plan, the Interbasin Compact Committee's "No-and-Low-Regrets Action Plan" for water conservation has also identified this type of program as an important action toward incentivizing conservation.

In an effort to respond to this call to action, SMWSA has identified landscaping professional certification as a key conservation and water efficiency effort that can result in water savings benefiting the region. With Douglas County experiencing some of the highest growth rates in the State of Colorado, this program is expected to have a strong impact on reduced per capita demand for the region due to irrigation improvements in design and implementation. Proper landscape and irrigation system installation and plant selection, combined with irrigation system maintenance and improvements, will provide consistent water savings and help lessen the identified water supply gap. While it is challenging to isolate the water savings that will result from a certification program because of the overlap it has with savings that occur from other local programs and regulations, reductions in outdoor water use are consistently identified in Colorado's Water Plan, the Metro and other BIPs, and both prior and current SWSI planning as one of the most important ways to manage future municipal demands.

Demonstrate Sustainability:

As climate patterns change and population grows, appropriate landscape and irrigation installation and operation will become more important. Without proper installation, on-going operations may never reach optimal potential. This program will train landscape professional, HOAs, homeowners, and other interested parties to use consistent best management practices (BMP) and reduce their outdoor water use and urban runoff, which also benefits water quality. The QWEL program places a strong emphasis on water budgets, which not only trains the class participants about the importance of water-smart landscape and irrigation system design and operation, but it also lays the foundation for utilities to implement water-budget rate structures. In addition, there is a graywater specialty curriculum that, while not being updated for Colorado conditions at this time, could easily be added to the training in the future to support local graywater and reuse initiatives.

Fiscal and Technical Feasibility:

Through collaboration amongst SMWSA members, along with other water providers, support from SMWSA staff, and by building upon the exceptional training materials made available from the QWEL PCO, the funding request for this project is a fraction of what it would be for an entity implementing a professional landscaping certification program on its own. Through developing local trainers, future QWEL trainings will also continue to be possible at a fraction of the cost they would be outside of this program – making it possible to offer the trainings to interested professionals, HOA's, and homeowners at a nominal price.

## Related Studies

Please provide a list of any related studies, including if the water project is complementary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.



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The implementation of this project will be directed by the complete Landscape and Irrigation Certification plan developed under a Water Efficiency Grant and the QWEL Program.

**Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding**

List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order; 6) Percentage of other CWCB funding for your overall project.

- 1) SMWSA
- 2) Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project
- 3) Metro Basin Roundtable
- 4) September 2009
- 5) CTGG1 2015-394
- 6) N/A

- 1) SMWSA
- 2) Regional Landscape Certification Program Evaluation
- 3) Water Efficiency Grant Fund
- 4) Administratively approved September 2016
- 5) POGGI PDAA 20170000000000000384
- 6) N/A

**Taxpayer Bill of Rights**

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect your application.



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The South Metro Water Supply Authority does not anticipate any TABOR issues.

Submittal Checklist	
X	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the <a href="#">Standard Contract</a> .
Exhibit A	
X	Statement of Work <sup>(1)</sup>
X	Budget & Schedule <sup>(1)</sup>
	Engineer's statement of probable cost (projects over \$100,000)
X	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Commitments <sup>(1)</sup>
Exhibit C	
	Map (if applicable) <sup>(1)</sup>
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
	Letters of Support (Optional)
X	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) <sup>(2)</sup>
	Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State <sup>(2)</sup>
X	W-9 <sup>(2)</sup>
	Independent Contractor Form <sup>(2)</sup> (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
Engagement & Innovation Grant Applicants ONLY	
	Engagement & Innovation Supplemental Application <sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Required with application.

(2) Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval.

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<b>Colorado Water Conservation Board</b>
<b>Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A</b>

<b>Statement Of Work</b>
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<b>Date:</b>	<b>August 1, 2018</b>
<b>Name of Grantee:</b>	<b>South Metro Water Supply Authority</b>
<b>Name of Water Project:</b>	<b>Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Certification Pilot Program</b>
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<b>Water Plan Grant</b>

<b>Water Project Overview:</b>
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The SMWSA was awarded a Water Efficiency Grant (WEG) through the CWCB in 2016 to develop a program and plan for implementation of a Regional Landscape and Irrigation Certification Program, to be operated and managed through the Authority. Through the WEG, SMWSA identified Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) certification for implementation through a pilot program because of its ability to (1) customize training modules to include local water content, (2) present a broad perspective on efficient landscape and irrigation techniques, and (3) provide practical training and application of irrigation installation audits. QWEL is a recognized EPA WaterSense labeled certification program.

The successful implementation of the program will equip regional landscapers with the knowledge and training of best management landscape and irrigation techniques to improve the region's outdoor water conservation and efficiency through a regional partnership program. Utilizing Colorado-specific training content created under the WEG, SMWSA will develop and implement a regional pilot program and broaden the Colorado-specific content in essential materials for other utilities to use and provide an opportunity for the program to expand statewide.

<b>Project Objectives:</b>
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- |  |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Develop Colorado QWEL training materials and a South Metro-specific supplement</b></li> <li><b>2. Pilot the QWEL training program in the South Metro Region</b></li> <li><b>3. Develop a pool of local QWEL trainers to conduct future sessions</b></li> <li><b>4. Evaluate program success and determine future program needs</b></li> </ol> |
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<b>Tasks</b>	
<b>Task 1 – Modify QWEL Training Content</b>	
Description of Task:	
<p>Through the WEG, SMWSA created the local QWEL training content initially recommended by Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership (the Parent Professional Certifying Organization, PCO). During a recent QWEL training session held in Aspen, Colorado that was attended by SMWSA staff, it became clear that other portions of the training materials should be updated to reflect Colorado-specific climate and regulatory conditions. The Sonoma-Marín PCO is supportive of SMWSA preparing Colorado reference materials that can be supplemented with local content. Considering the broad interest amongst Colorado water providers in the QWEL certification program and likelihood for the program expanding throughout Colorado, this approach will promote consistency in messaging to landscape contractors who often work in multiple jurisdictions. In coordination with the Sonoma-Marín PCO, SMWSA will create a Colorado-specific training manual (for use across the state) and a SMWSA manual supplement that will contain South Metro region-specific conditions, rules and regulations, and other pertinent information. This training manual structure will allow for the program and training materials to be easily adopted by other utilities statewide. Additionally, we will translate training manual, curriculum, and testing materials to Spanish so that future QWEL training may be offered in Spanish. All new content will be submitted to for approval and for SMWSA to become a PCO. New material will also be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) WaterSense program for approval.</p>	
Method/Procedure:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Modify training materials (manual, training curriculum, and testing materials) to include Colorado specific conditions</li> <li>2. Develop a SMWSA training supplement</li> <li>3. Translate training manual, curriculum, and testing material to Spanish</li> <li>4. Apply to Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership to become a PCO</li> <li>5. Obtain EPA WaterSense Approval</li> </ol>	
Deliverable:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Colorado QWEL training materials</li> <li>2. South Metro Water Supply Authority QWEL training supplement</li> <li>3. Spanish Colorado QWEL training manual, curriculum, and testing materials</li> <li>4. Application to Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership (Parent Professional Certifying Organization, PCO) to become a PCO.</li> <li>5. Application to EPA’s WaterSense program to adopt an existing WaterSense labeled program.</li> </ol>	
<b>Tasks</b>	
<b>Task 2 – Pilot QWEL training program</b>	
Description of Task:	

Last Updated: Jan 16, 2018

<b>Tasks</b>
<p>Under this task, SMWSA will facilitate a 3-day pilot QWEL training session taught by an existing QWEL trainer. Facilitation will include (1) marketing and outreach to targeted audience (professional landscapers, HOAs, builders, homeowners, regional water providers, etc.), (2) QWEL program administration, scheduling, and pilot training logistics including audit exercises, (3) scheduling, proctoring, and grading the exam, and (4) managing certifications.</p> <p>Additionally, SMWSA will facilitate a 3-day intensive “train the trainer” session. The purpose of the “train the trainer” session will be to develop of pool of locally qualified QWEL trainers to conduct on-going Colorado training sessions and expansion of the Colorado program. This session will also be taught by an existing QWEL trainer. Facilitation will include the same tasks as the pilot training session with the addition of developing a Colorado QWEL certified trainer database. This database will be managed by SMWSA but will be available for use by other utilities statewide.</p>
<p>Method/Procedure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Customize electronically available QWEL marketing materials and distribute to targeted audience</li> <li>2. Contract with existing trainer to lead a 3-day QWEL training session</li> <li>3. Contract with existing trainer to lead a 3-day QWEL train the trainer session</li> <li>4. Develop a Colorado QWEL certified trainer database</li> </ol>
<p>Deliverable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. QWEL certified contractor list</li> <li>2. QWEL certified trainer database</li> </ol>

<b>Tasks</b>
<p><b>Task 3 – Evaluate program success and develop plan forward</b></p>
<p>Description of Task:</p>

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<b>Tasks</b>	
	<p>The purpose of this task will be to evaluate the success of the pilot program and determine necessary steps to ensure the continued success of QWEL throughout our region. With the help of the SMWSA Conservation Subcommittee, comprised of SMWSA members, we will develop an ongoing operations plan. This implementation plan will build off the preliminary plan that was created under the WEG. Additionally, the preliminary annual budget estimation developed under the WEG will be refined.</p>
	<p>Method/Procedure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop ongoing operations plan to provide to conservation subcommittee for approval</li> <li>2. Refine an annual QWEL program budget</li> </ol>
	<p>Deliverable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. QWEL operation plan</li> <li>2. QWEL annual budget</li> </ol>

<b>Tasks</b>	
<b>Task 4 – Project administration</b>	
	Description of Task:

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<b>Tasks</b>	
	<p>This task will include project coordination, contractor management, grant management, and progress reporting to CWCB. Progress reports will be submitted to the CWCB every 6 months and will include an update on the status of the project, success of meeting previously identified goals and objectives, obstacles encountered, preliminary findings/accomplishments, and potential need for revisions to scope of work and timelines. A final report will include a summary of the work completed and how any obstacles encountered were addressed. Grant funding management will also be performed under this task.</p>
<b>Method/Procedure:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manage project and coordinate grant</li> </ol>
<b>Deliverable:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Progress reports every 6 months</li> <li>2. Final report</li> <li>3. Grant funding management and tracking</li> </ol>

<b>Budget and Schedule</b>	
<p>This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined Budget and Schedule that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in excel format.</p>	

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## Reporting Requirements

**Progress Reports:** The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

**Final Report:** At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant's letterhead that:

- Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.
- Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

The CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

## Payment

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and must include invoices for all work completed. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by task, an estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire Project in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues, and proposed or implemented corrective actions.

Project costs not covered by those or other grants, and are therefore the responsibility of the grantee, will be eligible for CWCB funds at the following percentages of project costs:

Type of Activity	Percent of Project Costs		
	Recommended Grant Funding Request	Max Grant Funding Request (All CWCB Sources)	Minimum Funding Match (Non-CWCB Sources)
Engineering & Construction	20%	50%	50%
Feasibility Study	50%	50%	50%
Reducing Agricultural Dry Up	50%	80%	20%
Conservation/Efficiency Methods	50%	80%	20%
Educational Efforts	50%	80%	20%
Environmental Conservation	50%	80%	20%
Watershed Improvements	50%	80%	20%
Stream Improvements	50%	80%	20%
Land Use Planning	20%	50%	50%
Recreational Projects	20%	80%	20%

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of this contract are not reimbursable. The last 10% of the entire grant will be paid out when the final deliverable has been received. All products, data and information developed as a result of this contract must be provided to CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation.

## Performance Measures

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

(a) Performance standards and evaluation: Grantee will produce detailed deliverables for each task as specified. Grantee shall maintain receipts for all project expenses and documentation of the minimum in-kind contributions (if applicable) per the budget in Exhibit B. Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB

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### Performance Measures

staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines full documentation of project progress must be submitted with each invoice for reimbursement. Grantee must confirm that all grant conditions have been complied with on each invoice. In addition, per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.

(c) Monitoring Requirements: Grantee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of project progress per Exhibit A. Progress shall be detailed in each invoice and in each Progress Report, as detailed above. Additional inspections or field consultations will be arranged as may be necessary.

(d) Noncompliance Resolution: Payment will be withheld if grantee is not current on all grant conditions. Flagrant disregard for grant conditions will result in a stop work order and cancellation of the Grant Agreement.



August 10, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721  
Denver, CO 80203

**RE: Metro Roundtable Letter of Support**

Dear Honorable Board Members,

On behalf of the Metro Roundtable, acting as its Chairwoman, I am writing to express the Roundtable's support for the Colorado Water Plan (CWP) grant application submitted by the South Metro WISE Authority (Authority) for the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) Certification Pilot Program.

SMWSA was awarded a Water Efficiency Grant (WEG) through the CWCB in 2016 to develop a program and plan for implementation of a Regional Landscape and Irrigation Certification Program, to be operated and managed through the Authority. Through the WEG, SMWSA identified Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) certification for implementation through a pilot program due to its ability to (1) customize training modules to include local water content, (2) present a broad perspective on efficient landscape and irrigation techniques, and (3) provide practical training and application of irrigation installation audits. QWEL is a recognized EPA WaterSense labeled certification program.

The Authority is seeking a CWCB CWP Conservation and Land Use Planning grant to assist with the implementation of this pilot program. The successful application of the program will equip regional landscape designers with the knowledge and training of best management landscape and irrigation design, installation, and maintenance techniques to improve the region's outdoor water conservation and efficiency through a regional partnership program. Utilizing Colorado-specific training content created under the WEG, SMWSA will develop and implement a regional QWEL pilot program and broaden the Colorado-specific essential materials for other utilities to use.

This investigation is scheduled to start upon grant approval and is expected to be in place for the 2019 growing season. The grant application is requesting \$45,580 from the CWP program. In-kind services will primarily be provided by the Authority and its membership. We believe that, based on the results of the pilot program, there may be an opportunity for the program to expand statewide. Please contact me at [Barbara@roxwater.org](mailto:Barbara@roxwater.org) if you have any questions regarding this Letter of Support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barbara Biggs".

Barbara Biggs, Chairwoman  
Metro Roundtable

SOUTH METRO WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

8400 East Prentice Avenue Suite 315  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Phone 720 216 5158  
Fax 720 216 5154

July 31, 2018  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
c/o Rebecca Mitchell, Director  
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721  
Denver, Colorado

**RE: Colorado Water Plan (CWP) Grant Application  
Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) Certification Pilot Program**

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

The guidelines for the Colorado Water Plan grant program require the submittal of a Letter of (Financial) Commitment by the grant applicant. The South Metro Water Supply Authority (Authority) does hereby commit to provide both funds and in-kind services for the QWEL Certification Pilot Program, should the grant application be successfully approved. The total estimated value of the in-kind services to be provided by the Authority and its members for the project is \$40,100; the Authority's cash contribution is \$10,000. The Authority is able to provide this cash contribution through the financial support received from Douglas County to assist with Conservation programs.

The Authority has worked closely with its conservation subcommittee and the City of Aspen to develop a program and plan for implementation of a Regional Landscape Certification Program. Through a Water Efficiency Grant received in 2016, the Authority identified QWEL for implementation through a pilot program to better equip regional landscape designers with the knowledge and training of best management landscape and irrigation design, installation, and maintenance techniques to improve the regions outdoor water use efficiency. In order to continue this effort, SMWSA is requesting grant funding to implement a regional QWEL Certification Pilot Program.

The proposed scope of work includes: modifying QWEL training content to include Colorado specific reference materials; a pilot training program; the development of local trainers; and the development of an on-going operation plan. This pilot program will be facilitated by the Authority. A final report summarizing the program success and lessons learned will be submitted to the CWCB at the completion of the project. Project management will also be included in this effort.

The Colorado Water Plan identifies this type of program as an important action toward incentivizing conservation in the "No-and-Low-Regrets Action Plan". Additionally, the Conceptual Framework states that it is inherently each basin's responsibility to cooperatively and efficiently manage available water supplies, and that efforts to do so should seek to provide benefit to multiple users and uses. With Douglas County experiencing some of the highest growth rates in the State of Colorado, this program is expected to have a strong impact on reduced per capita demand for the region due to irrigation improvements in design and implementation. We also believe that the development of a regional QWEL pilot program and Colorado-specific materials may provide opportunities for the program to expand even beyond the South Metro and City of Aspen areas.

We look forward to working with the Colorado Water Conservation Board and its staff on the QWEL Certification Pilot Program, and I sincerely believe that the results of this work will have regional and state-wide benefits. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [lisadarling@southmetrowater.org](mailto:lisadarling@southmetrowater.org) or (720)- 216-5158.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa G. Darling", is written over a white background.

Lisa G. Darling, Executive Director

August 15, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 721  
Denver, CO 80203

**RE: South Platte Roundtable Letter of Support**

Dear Honorable Board Members,

On behalf of the South Platte Roundtable, acting as its Chairman, I am writing to express the Roundtable's support for the Colorado Water Plan (CWP) grant application submitted by the South Metro WISE Authority (Authority) for the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) Certification Pilot Program.

SMWSA was awarded a Water Efficiency Grant (WEG) through the CWCB in 2016 to develop a program and plan for implementation of a Regional Landscape and Irrigation Certification Program, to be operated and managed through the Authority. Through the WEG, SMWSA identified Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) certification for implementation through a pilot program due to its ability to (1) customize training modules to include local water content, (2) present a broad perspective on efficient landscape and irrigation techniques, and (3) provide practical training and application of irrigation installation audits. QWEL is a recognized EPA WaterSense labeled certification program.

The Authority is seeking a CWCB CWP Conservation and Land Use Planning grant to assist with the implementation of this pilot program. The successful application of the program will equip regional landscape designers with the knowledge and training of best management landscape and irrigation design, installation, and maintenance techniques to improve the region's outdoor water conservation and efficiency through a regional partnership program. Utilizing Colorado-specific training content created under the WEG, SMWSA will develop and implement a regional QWEL pilot program and broaden the Colorado-specific essential materials for other utilities to use.

This investigation is scheduled to start upon grant approval and is expected to be in place for the 2019 growing season. The grant application is requesting \$45,580 from the CWP program. In-kind services will primarily be provided by the Authority and its membership. We believe that, based on the results of the pilot program, there may be an opportunity for the program to expand statewide. Please contact me at [gvarra@varracompanies.com](mailto:gvarra@varracompanies.com) if you have any questions regarding this Letter of Support.

Sincerely,



Garrett Varra, Chairman  
South Platte Roundtable