



**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:** January 27-28, 2020

**AGENDA ITEM:** 12. Water Plan Grant Program Funding

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**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Board make the remaining (\$5.3M) General Fund appropriation available immediately to the Water Plan Grant Program, allocate funding between all grant categories in a manner responsive to the needs demonstrated by grant applications, and continue to recommend grant awards on a competitive basis to projects that best meet the goals and objectives of the Water Plan.

**Background:**

The 2019 Projects Bill (SB19-221) included \$7 million for projects or activities that aim to make progress on the measureable objectives identified in Colorado's Water Plan. A General Fund appropriation (SB19-212) made an additional \$8.3 million available for Water Plan Grants through fiscal year 2021-22.

In May 2019, staff recommended and the Board approved making \$3 million of the General Fund appropriation available for the Water Plan Grant Program for this fiscal year (FY 19-20) and to equally distribute that amount across the four grant categories with the largest historical demand (agriculture, conservation, environment and recreation, and storage and supply).

During the August 1, 2019 grant cycle, the Engagement and Innovation grant category received requests for more than double the available funding. The Board asked staff to evaluate the distribution of funding and make a recommendation to address the increased demand for the Engagement and Innovation grant category.

