



3.0 ROLE OF THE STATE IN WATER EFFICIENCY PLANNING

The State has a vested interest in promoting and supporting local water efficiency planning within the jurisdiction of Colorado’s legal water rights system. This is primarily conducted through three vehicles: State legislation, grant funding administered through the CWCB, and other CWCB water efficiency related activities.

3.1 State Legislation

The following State legislation addresses municipal water efficiency planning. Copies of these legislative bills are provided in Appendix B.

The Water Conservation Act of 1991 (HB 91-1154) declared: “... in view of the increasing competition and demand for water in the State of Colorado, it is the purpose of this act and the policy of the State to enhance the efficiency with which water is used to meet end uses, with the objective of making water available for all beneficial uses in Colorado.” This act established the Office of Water Conservation to provide technical and financial assistance to municipal and other urban water providers and state agencies to support their water efficiency planning efforts.

The Water Conservation Act of 2004 (HB 04-1365) enhanced CWCB’s Office of Water Conservation and Drought Planning (OWCDP) role in providing technical and financial assistance for drought and water efficiency planning efforts to other entities within the State. Additionally, it required all covered entities (retail water providers that sell 2,000 acre-feet (AF) or more on an annual basis) to have a State approved water efficiency plan containing certain required minimum plan elements. C.R.S. 37-60-126 (1-4 and 5) govern the requirements put forth in HB 04-1365. These required plan elements are addressed in Sections 4.0 and 6.0 of this Guidance Document.

The Act Concerning Additional Information Regarding Covered Entities’ Water Efficiency Plans (HB 10-1051) requires covered entities to report water use and water efficiency data on an annual basis to the State for statewide water supply planning. C.R.S. 37-60-126 (4.5) governs the requirements put forth in HB 10-1051. This Guidance Document specifies the water efficiency planning data required by C.R.S. 37-60-126 (4.5) in the Section 6.0 Model Template as well as in applicable worksheets.

3.2 Role of CWCB and Water Efficiency Planning

Public information and technical and financial assistance for water efficiency and drought planning is provided by CWCB’s OWCDP. Specifically the OWCDP provides the following:

- Maintains a clearinghouse of water efficiency and drought information and disseminates that information to the water community and public.
- Provides technical assistance and evaluates and approves water efficiency and drought mitigation plans.



- Provides financial assistance for water efficiency planning, water efficiency activities, drought management planning, and public education and outreach through the Water Efficiency Grant Program.
- Provides leadership through the Water Availability Task Force to monitor, forecast, mitigate, and prepare for drought.
- Coordinates with multiple state and local agencies to provide public information.

The CWCB website provides additional information on the items provided above. The OWCDP may be contacted directly for water efficiency-related information and technical assistance at 303-866-3441. Direct contact information is provided on CWCB's website.