



# COLORADO

## Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203

TO: Colorado water users, stakeholders, and other interested parties  
FROM: Director Rebecca Mitchell  
DATE: January 24, 2020  
SUBJECT: Demand Management Feasibility Investigation Update

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As we look forward into 2020, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) continues the important work of investigating whether a Demand Management program would be feasible and advisable for the State of Colorado. Demand Management is the concept of temporary, voluntary, and compensated reductions in the consumptive use of water in the Colorado River Basin. Any water saved would be used only to ensure compact compliance and to protect the state's water users from involuntary curtailment of uses.

The Drought Contingency Plan, a suite of agreements among the seven Colorado River Basin States, was executed in May 2019, and provided the opportunity to begin initial discussions about a potential Demand Management program in the Upper Colorado River Basin. All Upper Basin States, including Colorado, are currently conducting their own feasibility investigations. Though these states recognized that Demand Management may be a mechanism for ensuring ongoing compact compliance, they also recognized that significant stakeholder outreach and interstate coordination would need to come first. In the event that Colorado reaches the conclusion that Demand Management is feasible and advisable, all other Upper Colorado River Basin States must agree to key elements before any program could be created.

Colorado's investigation is guided by the 2019 Demand Management [Work Plan](#), which was adopted by the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The Plan provides a framework for initial stages of the investigation, including: workgroups, regional workshops, and education and outreach.

Since the CWCB's [June 2019 update](#) on Demand Management, the workgroups have met multiple times across the state to identify issues associated with a potential Demand Management program. Workgroups consist of experts in Colorado River issues and water management, along with water stakeholders. All meetings have been open to the public. Meeting details and reports are available on the [CWCB website](#). In addition, the IBCC is aiding in



this process by analyzing how principles of equity may be incorporated into any potential Demand Management program, if one is set up. This ongoing work is informing the feasibility investigation.

The second regional Demand Management workshop will be held at the Colorado Water Congress [Annual Convention](#) on January 29 from 9:00 - 11:30 am. This workshop will provide an update on the feasibility investigation, and an opportunity for attendees to provide feedback on the work completed so far and potential next steps.

We are only in the initial stages of the feasibility investigation. CWCB staff plans to seek additional guidance this summer from the CWCB Board relating to the next steps of the feasibility analysis. Additionally, CWCB staff has reported to the Water Resources Review Committee as requested and continues to work with the Colorado General Assembly to secure funding for the feasibility investigation.

The CWCB recognizes the importance of a thorough investigation, including discussions with Colorado water users, stakeholders, and others across the state. At this stage, we cannot provide a timeline for completion of this feasibility investigation.

**Upcoming meetings include:**

| Date        | Time             | Event  | Location        |
|-------------|------------------|--|-----------------|
| January 29  | 9:00am – 11:30am | Demand Management Regional Workshop (Water Congress Annual Convention) | Westminster, CO |
| January 29  | 1:00pm – 3pm     | Economics & Local Government   | Westminster, CO |
| January 30  | 9:00am – 11:30am | Funding  | Westminster, CO |
| February 5  | 12:00pm – 3:00pm | Law & Policy Workgroup   | Frisco, CO      |
| February 10 | 10:00am – 2:00pm | Monitoring and Verification Workgroup                                  | Salida, CO      |
| February 10 | 10:00am – 2:00pm | Administration & Accounting  | Denver, CO      |
| February 10 | 9:00am – 3:00pm  | Education & Outreach   | Denver, CO      |
| March 3     | 12:00pm – 5:00pm | Agricultural Impacts   | Denver, CO      |

**Get involved in the discussion:**

- Attend a workgroup meeting. All meetings are open to the public and provide opportunity for public comment.
- Attend a regional workshop to hear updates on the feasibility investigation and provide feedback.
- Reach out to us directly at [demandmanagement@state.co.us](mailto:demandmanagement@state.co.us).

The CWCB would like to thank workgroup members who have spent significant time considering these important issues, as well as the water stakeholders and other Coloradans who have been involved with this investigation throughout the process. The CWCB looks forward to continuing its important work on Demand Management in the New Year.

To provide written comments on demand management, please email [demandmanagement@state.co.us](mailto:demandmanagement@state.co.us). For more information from CWCB staff, email Sara Leonard at [sara.leonard@state.co.us](mailto:sara.leonard@state.co.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Mitchell".

Rebecca Mitchell  
Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board