

COLORADO WATER PLAN



RESILIENT PLANNING

Coloradans face increased risk to water that requires equity in awareness, engagement and support in order to achieve greater adaptive capacity. This requires a renewed commitment to being inclusive in water discussions with an aim to broaden outreach to ensure all Coloradans are aware of important water challenges and better understand how to address and adapt to them. Resilient planning also means developing supportive governmental policies and providing equitable funding opportunities.

EMERGING CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- **AWARENESS OF WATER ISSUES** - It is increasingly important for all Coloradans to be aware of local and state water challenges. Encouraging active outreach to existing stakeholders and increasing communication and access to engage new communities across a diverse range of people including tribes, acequias, members of minority or lower income communities, and those traditionally under-represented in public processes will be a priority.
- **INCREASED ADAPTIVE PLANNING** - As the climate warms the impacts are being increasingly felt, especially as it relates to shifting hydrologies and more extreme weather events. These impacts are often disproportionately impacting the poorest communities. Understanding and supporting creative adaptation measures and projects that support all Coloradans is critical.
- **INCLUSIVE COLLABORATION & FUNDING** - Ensuring that collaboration continues to involve regional representatives across the state is a hallmark of Colorado water planning. However, the essence of a grassroots process is striving for ever greater levels of inclusion across different sectors, cultures and perspectives in ways that are truly representative of Colorado. This collaboration must be coupled with equitable access to water management dialogue, funding opportunities and grant support.
- **SUPPORTIVE GOVERNMENT** - Communities need government to work toward streamlined permitting and supportive regulatory change for emerging technologies. Laws and policies need to be flexible enough to accommodate creative solutions but strong enough to protect Colorado's water and people's beneficial use of it.

► NEW TOOLS & INITIATIVES

Evaluating EDI Challenges

Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) are core values and top priorities for Colorado, elevated through an Executive Order launched in 2020. The CWCB will be exploring ways to express these values within the Water Plan update by convening an Equity Task Force on Water to help inform the Water Plan update.

FACE Hazards Tool

The Future Avoided Cost Explorer (FACE) Hazards tool was designed to help users understand potential future economic impacts of flood, drought, and wildfire on specific sectors of the Colorado economy. Future impacts are reported in terms of expected cost of annual damages. Learn more by visiting the website at: cwcb.colorado.gov/FACE.

Colorado Resiliency Framework

The 2020 update to the Colorado Resiliency Framework provides a continued path to address shocks and stresses, reduce vulnerability, improve adaptability, and build social capital in the face of hazards and changing conditions. Learn more about hazards and the resiliency framework at: cwcb.colorado.gov/focus-areas/hazards



Learn more and about the Water Plan update and provide your thoughts at engagecwcb.org.



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Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources