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Colorado Water Conservation Board

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 & Supply Projects	Matthew.Stearns@state.co.us
Conservation, Land Use Planning	Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us
Engagement & Innovation Activities	Ben.Wade@state.co.us
Agricultural Projects	Alexander.Funk@state.co.us
Water Sharing & ATM Projects	Alexander.Funk@state.co.us
Environmental & Recreation Projects	Chris.Sturm@state.co.us

FINAL SUBMISSION: Submit all application materials in one email to

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	National Young Farmers Coalition	
Name of Water Project	Water and Equity Partnership	
CWP Grant Request Amount		\$49,999.98
Other Funding Sources: Walton Family Foundation		\$45,350.66
Other Funding Sources		\$
Other Funding Sources		\$
Applicant Funding Contribution		\$
Total Project Cost		\$95,350.64



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Applicant & Grantee Information	
Name of Grantee(s): National Young Farmers Coalition	
Mailing Address: PO Box 1074 Hudson, NY 12534	
FEIN 47-2072946	
Organization Contact: Erin Foster West	
Position/Title: Western Campaigns Director	
Email: erin@youngfarmers.org	
Phone: 406-660-0798	
Grant Management Contact: Jaklyn Van Manen	
Position/Title: Development Director	
Email: jaklyn@youngfarmers.org	
Phone: 518-643-3564 ext. 701	
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	
Description of Grantee/Applicant	
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).	
<p>The National Young Farmers Coalition represents, mobilizes, and engages young farmers and ranchers to ensure their success. Since 2010, NYFC has grown to 49 chapters in 31 states, and a grassroots base of over 200,000 young farmers and supporters working together for change.</p> <p>Frontline Farming works to create greater equity across our food system in Colorado. FLF specifically seeks to support and create greater leadership and access for women and people of color in our food systems. As educators, we engage a range of individuals from elders to toddlers in ethical, sustainable growing practices that enhance land and community connections.</p>	



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	Public (Government): 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.
	Public (Districts): Authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
	Private Incorporated: Mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
	Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: Private parties may be eligible for funding.
X	Non-governmental organizations (NGO): Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
	Covered Entity: As defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes .

Type of Water Project (check all that apply)	
	Study
	Construction
X	Other: Education and Outreach

Category of Water Project (check the primary category that applies and include relevant tasks)	
	Water Storage & Supply - Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity, multi-beneficial projects, water sharing agreements, Alternative Transfer Methods, and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i> Note: For Water Sharing Agreements or ATM Projects - please include the supplemental application available on the CWCB's website.
	Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, water efficiency, and drought planning. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
X	Engagement & Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i> Organize Water and Equity Partnership Implement Year 2 of Water Fellowship
X	Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i> Outreach to producers to engage in Water Plan update Provide training and listening sessions to producers on water policy
	Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>



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	Other	Explain:
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Location of Water Project

Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in **decimal degrees**. The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.

County/Countries	
Latitude	
Longitude	

Water Project Overview

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.

The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.



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Colorado water policy is inextricable from unjust power structures that have historically excluded communities of color. Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) producers continue to be underrepresented in water boards, denying them the opportunity to shape water planning. Increasing their access to educational materials, forums for mutual learning, and positions of influence constitutes a step toward water equity.

Complementing the work of the CWCB Equity TaskForce by focusing on the agricultural sector, this project will provide educational and listening sessions to BIPOC and young producers to engage in Water Plan public comment. Frontline Farming and Young Farmers will collaborate with equity-centered organizations from across the state to host training, gather input, and provide outreach to BIPOC producers, specifically acequia users, tribal members, urban, and beginning farmers from the Rio Grande, Metro, South Platte, and Southwest basins.

In the second year of the project, the education and outreach efforts will culminate in the second cohort of the Young Farmer Water Fellowship. BIPOC and beginning producers will complete training to become water leaders in their communities. Building on the successes of the first Young Farmer Water Fellowship, the 2022 fellowship will provide participants with in-depth water policy knowledge while building leadership skills.

Measurable Results

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)
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
150	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity: 40 through webinars/listening sessions, 10 through fellowship, 100 through fellow trainings



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	Other	Explain:
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Water Project Justification

Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of [Colorado's Water Plan](#), the [Analysis and Technical Update to the Water Plan](#), and the applicable Roundtable [Basin Implementation Plan](#) and [Education Action Plan](#). 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).

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;)

Chapter 6 of Colorado's Water Plan, "Water Conservation and Reuse," lists the following among its overall goals:

- "Promote water efficiency ethic throughout Colorado"
- "Seek creative options for improving agricultural irrigation conservation and efficiency"

Section 6.3.4, "Agricultural Conservation, Efficiency, and Reuse," outlines the goal of developing a strategic education plan that includes "outreach to the agricultural community about available agricultural water conservation techniques and incentives".

These goals are served by this outreach and educational project; directly involving more producers, particularly historically underserved producers, in the Water Plan update. The Water Fellowship will provide Colorado's next generation of agricultural stewards with the knowledge, network, and resources to improve water use on their own farms and share creative water solutions with their communities.

The project also addresses Section 9.5 of Colorado's Water Plan, "Outreach, Education and Public Engagement," which aims to provide "high-quality, balanced, and grassroots water education and outreach efforts that inform Coloradans about the issues so that they may engage in determining Colorado's water future." By equipping a diverse group of Colorado producers with information about water-sharing innovations the project empowers Water Fellows to share this knowledge with their communities throughout the state

The latest Analysis and Technical Update to Colorado's Water Plan projects an incremental gap between available supply and agricultural demand in all five of its planning scenarios. A concerted effort to educate Colorado's next generation of producers will be critical in mitigating this incremental gap as their impact and responsibility as producers will only increase as their farming careers evolve.

Meanwhile, public perception research conducted for the most recent Technical Update found strong support for but little knowledge of agricultural water use: while Colorado residents feel that agricultural irrigation should be one of the state's highest priorities for water use, "only one in three residents recognizes that agriculture is the largest water user in Colorado." (Preliminary Release of the Draft Technical Update, section 5.1.1, "Public Perception Insights"). By investing in water policy training and education for young farmers embedded in rural communities throughout the state, this fellowship will have a secondary impact of improving awareness of water issues among the general public. Moreover, fellowship graduates that join local water districts, conservation districts, and basin roundtables will be well-positioned to support the State's goal to protect farm water needs.



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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.

After hosting 10 Water Law and Policy workshops for beginning producers throughout Colorado starting in 2017, Young Farmers' internal evaluations found participants inspired but overwhelmed by the knowledge they gained, and that a single workshop is insufficient for them to feel confident joining a water decision-making body. This feedback led us to develop the Colorado Young Farmers Water Fellowship; a more in-depth training approach necessary to cultivate emerging water leaders in the agricultural sector throughout the state. 3 of the 10 2020 Young Farmer Water Fellows have since been selected to serve on a water board; proof of the program's efficacy.

The Statewide Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP) developed by Water Education Colorado envisions a "water education continuum" designed to increase awareness, knowledge, behavior change and/or systems change. The Water and Equity Partnership touches all four areas of the continuum. It will equip participants with the information and support necessary to engage in water planning and engage in public comment. The project will change behavior and systems through the fellowship component by empowering producers to run for a water board and share their knowledge with other young and BIPOC producers. In addition, the workshops led by fellows for their farming and ranching peers, serve as leadership training and have the secondary benefit of increasing awareness and ideally inspiring behavior change among agricultural communities throughout the state.

Young Farmers' 2017 survey shows that younger producers understand the importance of water conservation. The vast majority of young producers are already conserving on-farm water use, particularly by building healthy soil. The proposed fellowship and subsequent workshops will support CWCB's goals for [Robust Agriculture and Resilient Planning](#) in the state through knowledge sharing of innovation solutions, on-farm improvements, adaptive planning, and other enhancements for water conservation and secondary agricultural benefits.

Whereas young farmers are active in water conservation, there exists a lack of intergenerational engagement around water issues. The Water Education Asset Mapping Project prepared for CWCB by MSU's One World One Water Center highlighted the widespread challenge of conducting water education across generations, noting that "groups in four out of five basins interviewed specifically mentioned the challenge of generational differences can create." CWCB's proposed goals for [Resilient Planning](#) include building awareness of water issues across a diverse range of producers and inclusive collaboration and funding. This project will deeply engage young and BIPOC producers by providing water policy information and opportunities to engage with CWCB during the webinars and listening sessions. These sessions, along with additional outreach and the fellowship, will ensure that the voices of young and BIPOC producers are more thoroughly integrated into water planning throughout the state.

The proposed program will also build on recommendations made in the 2015 Colorado Water Plan by a subcommittee within the Interbasin Compact Committee; "the state needs to provide additional education and assistance to farmers and ranchers to help realize more transactions that allow for alternative transfer methods (ATMs), and to enable new Colorado farmers to successfully enter the agricultural industry. This assistance may include financial and other support for land links, land trusts, and conservation easements that protect working farmland and make irrigated land affordable for the next generation of farmers and ranchers." The education, network and relationship building, and targeted engagement facilitated by the proposed program will create opportunities for the next generation of farmers and ranchers to steward irrigated lands.

The CWCB Equity Task Force has laid the groundwork to incorporate more perspectives in Colorado water planning. The proposed project will build on this foundation and create more space to advance opportunities for equity, specifically within agriculture and food systems in Colorado. We will host



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workshops and listening sessions, distribute educational materials, and provide platforms for dialogue and deeper engagement with stakeholders regarding equity, water, and food systems. Essentially, this project intends to serve as a supplement to the established Equity Task Force by creating more opportunity for targeted engagement and relationship building within the agricultural sector and supporting CWCB and partners to engage more deeply with existing stakeholders and build larger, more representative networks throughout the state. The project will also share funding opportunities, increase communication with the CWCB and Basin Roundtables, and facilitate discussions around equity within the agricultural and food systems sectors. Overall, the proposed project seeks to provide meaningful support for the goals of the Equity Task Force, and to further guide inclusivity within agriculture and food systems.

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. National Young Farmers Coalition. Training Young Farmers as Water Leaders through Colorado Water Law & Policy Bootcamps Southwest; Jan. 23, 2018. POGG1 PDAA 201800000785 83%

2. National Young Farmers Coalition. Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Pilot Program. 38% POGG1,PDAA,202000003090

3. National Young Farmers Coalition. Young Farmers & Ranchers Water Leadership Pilot Program. November 20, 2019. POGG1,PDAA,202000003090 50%

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.

None



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

(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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ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATION GRANT FUND SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION

Introduction & Purpose

Colorado's Water Plan calls for an outreach, education, public engagement, and innovation grant fund in Chapter 9.5.

The overall goal of the Engagement & Innovation Grant Fund is to enhance Colorado's water communication, outreach, education, and public engagement efforts; advance Colorado's water supply planning process; and support a statewide water innovation ecosystem.

The grant fund aims to engage the public to promote well-informed community discourse regarding balanced water solutions statewide. The grant fund aims to support water innovation in Colorado. The grant fund prioritizes measuring and evaluating the success of programs, projects, and initiatives. The grant fund prioritizes efforts designed using research, data, and best practices. The grant fund prioritizes a commitment to collaboration and community engagement. The grant fund will support local and statewide efforts.

The grant fund is divided into two tracks: engagement and innovation. The Engagement Track supports education, outreach, communication, and public participation efforts related to water. The Innovation Track supports efforts that advance the water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.

Application Questions

*The grant fund request is referred to as "project" in this application.

Overview (answer for both tracks)
In a few sentences, what is the overall goal of this project? How does it achieve the stated purpose of this grant fund (above)?
The decisions made about Colorado's water resources today will impact the state's agricultural community for decades to come. The proposed project aims to bring to the table the stakeholders that have historically been denied a seat: BIPOC and beginning producers. By empowering BIPOC and young farmers to take a more active role in water planning and by providing them with the knowledge and resources to educate their peers around water issues, the proposed project will generate more deep engagement by farmers and ranchers in the water supply planning process statewide.
Who is/are the target audience(s)? How will you reach them? How will you involve the community?
The project targets BIPOC and beginning producers. The fellowship and workshops will be promoted via National Young Farmers Coalition's network of three chapters throughout the state, Frontline Farming's network, the Black and Brown Grower's Collective, Mile High Farmers, and in collaboration with The Acequia Institute, Spirit of the Sun and other Tribal partners.
In the second year, water fellows will give at least one presentation on water policy and agriculture to their peers, reaching an additional estimated total of 100 other producers in communities throughout the state.
Describe how the project is collaborative or engages a diverse group of stakeholders. Who are the partners in the project? Do you have other funding partners or sources?



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The proposed program is primarily a collaboration between National Young Farmers Coalition and Frontline Farming with support from other organizations and water experts. Willow Cozzens has served as the Water and Equity Partnership Project Coordinator for the Coalition and Frontline Farming. In this project, Willow Cozzens will compile and summarize the discussions held during the four listening sessions and assist in research to support the project.

While Young Farmers and Frontline Farming are the primary program managers, the project requires the expertise of a broad group of stakeholders from Colorado's agricultural, water and BIPOC communities to succeed. To that end, four core partners will convene as an advisory board during the first phase of the project and expand as necessary to include additional partners throughout the project. The group will meet on a regular basis to inform choices around education, outreach, recommendations and fellowship delivery. Additionally, specific water planners and professionals will be solicited to provide content expertise during educational programming and fellowship delivery.

The Walton Family Foundation is a funding partner and has already granted funds to National Young Farmers Coalition to engage young producers in water planning and policy.

Describe how you plan to measure and evaluate the success and impact of the project?

The success of the Water and Equity Partnerships will be measured by the following metrics:

- Number of BIPOC and beginning producers that participate in Water Plan public comment;
- The increase in webinar participants' knowledge about Colorado's agriculture water policy, as measured by post-webinar surveys;
- A summary and qualitative analysis of the four webinar and listening session discussions;
- The increase in fellow participants knowledge about Colorado's agriculture water policy, as measured by pre- and post-fellowship surveys;
- Number of fellows that join local water conservation boards, water district boards, basin roundtables or other decision-making bodies within six months of graduation, as measured by self-reported follow-up interviews with fellows;
- Number of attendees at workshops led by fellows within six months after graduation, as measured by attendance records from workshops.

Project administrators will develop evaluation tools during the first phase of the project that will be employed throughout the duration of the program.

What research, evidence, and data support your project?

A review from the Journal of Southern Agricultural Education Research (2000) found that agricultural leadership programs with dual goals of developing leadership skills and increasing knowledge of food systems and policy-making are more likely to be successful in building farmer leadership. The majority of these agricultural leadership programs target participants in the early stages of their careers, between the ages of 25 and 45. This same paper reviewed a qualitative evaluation of eight graduates of a Florida-based agricultural leadership program, and concluded that participants "increased their political savvy by becoming more comfortable working within the political system, being more actively involved in the political process, and having a greater understanding of the political process."^[1]

A 2001 survey by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of over 7,500 alumni of agricultural leadership programs, reported increased participation in boards and councils as a significant outcome, with 82 percent of respondents describing program participation contributed "very much" to their public service.^[2] Similarly, a 2005 review of Nebraska's Leadership Education/Action Development Program (LEAD) found that program alumni were significantly more active as leaders in ag-related organizations and activities than



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members of a control group.^[3] A 2005 study of a New Jersey-based agricultural leadership program in the Journal of Extension found equally positive results: in a post-program follow-up survey, 72% of respondents reported joining or increasing their involvement in an agricultural organization, while 86% reported speaking at meetings and hearings. At the time of the evaluation, 16 of the program's 63 alumni were officers on their county boards of agriculture, including six presidents and eight vice presidents.^[4]

The Coalition's own 2016 report "Conservation Generation: How Young Farmers and Ranchers are Essential to Tackling Water Scarcity in the Arid West" surveyed over 400 western farmers to assess concerns and generate recommendations for western water policy. The average age of participants was 36 years; most being beginning producers who did not grow up on a farm or ranch. Their responses indicated that drought and climate change are among the top agricultural concerns of young farmers, many of whom cannot afford irrigated farmland. Though many young farmer respondents already conserve water, namely by building healthy soil, their interest in expanding their knowledge and collaboration on the issue made clear that educating young farmers and ranchers is crucial for water conservation and management in the arid west. The proposed project addresses these reports' findings in harmony; through collaborative engagement among diverse stakeholders and education on funding opportunities, conservation methods, ways to support local and statewide water decisionmaking, and more. [5]

[1] Carter, Hannah and Rudd, Rick (2000). "Evaluation of the Florida Leadership Program for Agriculture and Natural Resources". Journal of Southern Agricultural Research, 50:1

[2] Foster, Rick (2001). Leadership for leaders in agriculture. Symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the International Association of Programs for Agriculture Leaders, San Luis Obispo, CA.

[3] Gallup Leadership Institute (2005). Nebraska LEAD Program. Follow-up Study, Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council, Inc. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska. Retrieved February 3, 2005 from <http://lead.unl.edu/followup.htm>.

[4] Diem, Keith G. and Nikola, Mary (2005). "Evaluating the Impact of a Community Agricultural Leadership Development Program". Journal of Extension, 43:6

[5] Greenberg, K., Shute, L. L., & Simpson, C. (2016). Conservation Generation. Retrieved from https://www.youngfarmers.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/NYFC15_water-report_Feb3_low.pdf

Describe potential short- and long-term challenges with this project.

Building robust community relationships in a short time frame will be a challenge. We have already begun outreach to producers by hosting two webinars, one focused on water and equity and the other on urban agriculture. However, it takes not only engagement opportunities but time to build relationships with and provide meaningful content on water planning to young farmers. Similarly, while we have started outreach to partners and established relationships with BIPOC farming organizations, embarking on a new project requires additional relationships that we have yet to solidify. Building relationships in-person is most effective, but COVID may still cause challenges with travel and gatherings.

In the longer term, the program faces the challenge of ensuring that participants have the motivation and time to participate in water leadership roles. Despite careful participant selection and program design, a number of factors may complicate the stated goal of guiding participants towards leadership in water decision-making bodies. These factors include the time pressures of farming, competing leadership roles in other areas, commuting, and a decrease in interest over time. We will strive to keep participants engaged by connecting them with other Young Farmer Water Fellowship alumni, local partners, and peer leaders; providing regular water policy related updates and sharing invitations to further leadership opportunities.

Other challenges include the timing of when engagement is occurring and for participants to see meaningful impact from their engagement. As the Colorado Water Action Plan is nearing its renewal period, it will be important to create ways in which meaningful engagement for these communities can occur. Inherent challenges are also present in helping urban communities understand the water pressures in other parts of the state and creating advocates not only for urban farming but for farmers across the state.



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Please fill out the applicable questions for either the Engagement Track or Innovation Track, unless your project contains elements in both tracks. If a question does not relate to your project, just leave it blank. Please answer each question that relates to your project. Please reference the relevant documents and use chapters and page numbers (Colorado's Water Plan, Basin Implementation Plan, PEPO Education Action Plan, etc.).

Engagement Track

Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement measurable objective set forth in Colorado's Water Plan to "significantly improve the level of public awareness and engagement regarding water issues statewide by 2020, as determined by water awareness surveys."

This project is intentionally designed to reach members of the public who have not engaged with statewide water issues. It will support BIPOC and young producers to engage directly with the Water Plan and serve in leadership positions on state water boards.

Describe how the project achieves the other measurable objectives and critical goals and actions laid out in Colorado's Water Plan around the supply and demand gap; conservation; land use; agriculture; storage; watershed health, environment, and recreation; funding; and additional.

Primarily an educational project, the partnership and fellowship fit squarely within the Education, Outreach, and Innovation goal within the Water Plan. The goal of the listening sessions is to ensure young and BIPOC producers are well informed of state water issues and prepared to participate in conversations about them. The fellowship program is designed to cultivate emerging leaders interested in contributing directly to Colorado's water policy dialogue; participation from fellows will help advance numerous objectives and critical goals of Colorado's Water Plan, especially those relating to agriculture.

The project responds to the Water Plan's goal for agricultural productivity to keep up with growing state, national, and global needs by activating the next generation of farmers and ranchers on water policy. The education and outreach component will reach these producers and gather their input for the next iteration of the Water Plan. The Plan further commits CWCB to work with agricultural communities; this project will provide CWCB the opportunity to engage with producers that have had limited input and exposure to the Water Plan.

Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement goals set forth in the applicable Basin Implementation Plan(s).

As a statewide project, the listening sessions and fellowship aim to include participants from all nine basins, and would therefore seek to integrate with the PEPO efforts and other education goals of each Basin Implementation Plan. The following information from the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan serves as an example of how the program would integrate with each BIP:

The overall education and outreach recommendation of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan as outlined in section S.5.9 is to "*design and implement an intensive education, participation and outreach program designed to generate a lasting baseline of public awareness and support.*" Section 4.1.3 further highlights the need for integrating outreach strategy and messaging with PEPO representatives in other basins, as well as developing distinct approaches for specific stakeholder groups. The Water and Equity Partnership would support these goals by providing a forum for cross-basin exchange and collaboration, targeted towards the specific and vital stakeholder group of BIPOC and young farmers and ranchers.



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The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable has similar goals around outreach and education. Section 7.3 of the BIP “recognizes the importance of a balanced and ongoing outreach plan” with the goals of conducting outreach, education, and participation. The components of this project will support all three goals of the RGBRT.

Likewise, the Southwest Basin Roundtable conducted a robust outreach plan during the creation of their BIP. Section 4.1 describes how continued outreach will be key to implementing the BIP and their commitment to continue outreach, education, and encouraging participation. One of their goals is to support and utilize existing water education partners and efforts. The partnership would support their efforts by sharing BRT meetings on the website and newsletters as well as supporting outreach and education to producers within the basin through a listening session and webinar.

Section 5.3.2 of the South Platte BIP outlines specific water sharing practices as means of avoiding agricultural dry-up; switching to cool weather crops, reducing soil moisture evaporation by utilizing mulching and drip irrigation, deficit irrigation, rotational fallowing and dry year leasing. The water fellowship would provide an ideal venue for tomorrow’s agricultural leaders to learn about these practices, contribute their own innovative ideas to the agricultural water-sharing dialogue, and disseminate skills and knowledge throughout their agricultural communities.

Describe how the project achieves the basin roundtable’s PEPO Education Action Plans.

As a statewide project, the proposed fellowship would interface with each basin and its respective PEPO Education Action Plan and Equity Task Force members. PEPO basin contacts will be notified and invited to all webinars and listening sessions in their respective regions and introduced to fellows as a resource for developing individualized leadership strategies. Fellows will work with their PEPO contact to understand the education priorities outlined in their basin’s Education Action Plan and identify ways to align their knowledge and goals with these priorities. When appropriate, the fellow will serve as an advocate for farming and ranching education needs in their basin, and work to get those needs incorporated into future Education Action Plans.

Innovation Track

Describe how the project enhances water innovation efforts and supports a water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.

Describe how the project engages/leverages Colorado’s innovation community to help solve our state’s water challenges.



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Describe how the project helps advance or develop a solution to a water need identified through TAP-IN and other water innovation challenges. What is the problem/need/challenge?
Describe how this project impacts current or emerging trends; technologies; clusters, sectors, or groups in water innovation.



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Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

Statement Of Work

Date:	June 23, 2021
Name of Grantee:	National Young Farmers Coalition
Name of Water Project:	Water and Equity Partnership
Funding Source:	Colorado Water Conservation Board, Walton Family Foundation
Water Project Overview:	
<p>The Water and Equity Partnership will work with CWCB on the Colorado Water Plan update process to promote equity, inclusion, environmental justice, and visibility for historically underserved communities; a starting point and vehicle for broad, lasting engagement from BIPOC communities in the water planning process.</p> <p>Education and access to resources and influence are paramount for this work. The project partners will create and disseminate materials regarding water power structures, western water law, current events and issues, water policy, and more. The project will engage young and BIPOC producers in educational sessions and further enrichment opportunities to increase widespread education and advocacy, and also to build community and collective power for a broader water and equity community. After engaging with a broad group of producers in the Water Plan public comment, the project will engage a cohort of 10 producers to participate in the water fellowship to further develop their water knowledge and leadership skills. Upon completion of the program, fellows will be equipped to continue the work of spreading water policy knowledge and advocacy skills throughout their local agricultural communities.</p> <p>This project will empower new producers to engage in western water law and policy, and to help historically underrepresented communities become a robust facet of the water power and decision making processes. This will help achieve our long-term goal of elevating the voices of BIPOC communities and their water priorities.</p>	
Project Objectives:	
<p>The partnership has been designed to achieve the following outcomes for its participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased knowledge of water planning and policy in Colorado, specifically regarding the issues most relevant to BIPOC farmers and ranchers• Increase participation in a public water planning process, specifically the Water Plan Update public comment period• Increase participation in water decision-making bodies, such as local water board, water conservation board or basin roundtable• Ability to educate and mobilize fellow farmers and ranchers towards systems change on relevant local water issues <p>An ancillary objective of the fellowship is to raise awareness and knowledge for over 100 farmers and ranchers from throughout Colorado on relevant local water issues via fellow-led workshops.</p>	



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Tasks
Task 1 – Expand partnerships
Description of Task:
Assemble a group of knowledgeable partners focused on water and equity.
Method/Procedure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Frontline Farming and Young Farmers will work with existing partners and the CWCB Equity Committee members to reach out to new partners.● New partners will be invited to a kick-off meeting to orient them to the project and set up a schedule for regular meetings and collaboration.● Partners will engage throughout the project and assist in outreach to BIPOC and young farmers.
Deliverable:
Convene a meeting of interested parties to kick off the Water and Equity Partnership.

Tasks
Task 2 – Develop and disseminate materials to promote participation in Water Plan public comment
Description of Task:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Develop outreach materials for public comment on the Water Plan.● Host 4 webinars with listening sessions before and during the Water Plan public comment period to inform and encourage public participation in the comment period and engage in mutual learning. Sessions would be targeted at tribal members, acequia users, urban producers, and young farmers.● Summarize the learnings from the sessions and share with the CWCB and Colorado Department of Agriculture.● Share regular updates with the Partnership members, Young Farmer members, Black and Brown Growers Collective, producers engaged throughout the process, and other organizational partners on the water planning process and recommendations for public comment.
Method/Procedure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We will host 4 events (in-person or remote) geared towards populations underrepresented in the Water Plan. The events will include education for participants followed by a discussion with the participants. We will take notes on the discussion and highlight key themes and recommendations that come out of the session.● A summary of mutual learnings from each session, along with any recommendations, will be shared with CWCB. We will also provide regular communication through website, email, and listservs with partners and participants on the water planning process, opportunities to engage with water planning, regular water policy updates, and water leadership opportunities.
Deliverable:



Last Updated: May 2021

4 webinars
White paper and one-pagers, summarizing the 4 sessions
Goal of 30 young and BIPOC producers submitting public comment

Tasks
Task 3 – Water Fellowship
Description of Task:
<p>In the second year of the Water and Equity Partnership, we will deepen the engagement opportunities of BIPOC and young farmers by hosting the second Colorado Young Farmers Fellowship. The Fellowship will build upon the success of the 2020 Colorado Young Farmers Water Fellowship. In the first cohort of the fellowship, three out of ten fellows successfully secured seats on water boards and all graduating fellows hosted a water training, educating over 100 young farmers on state-water issues.</p> <p>In the 2020 fellowship, fellows that had attended some Basin Roundtable meetings or been involved with water boards, even as a volunteer or attendee, were the most successful. By providing education and webinars prior to the application through the activities described above, we believe the fellowship applications will be stronger and the fellows will be more successful than in the pilot class.</p> <p>The Fellowship will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruitment and application period• Two-day kick-off retreat• Five 2 hour webinars• One day graduation• Evaluation period <p>The webinars, kick-off, and graduation will focus on developing the fellows knowledge of diversity, equity, and inclusion in water; fluency in statewide water planning; and leadership skills.</p>
Method/Procedure:



Last Updated: May 2021

During this time, National Young Farmers Coalition, in partnership with Frontline Farming, will:

- Plan and facilitate a virtual two-day leadership retreat with the following objectives:
 - Community-building among fellows
 - Review of Colorado law and policy
 - Review of water decision-making bodies
 - Identification of topics to explore in virtual meetings
- Plan and host five two-hour virtual meetings around in-depth topics determined by fellows, such as in-stream flows, ATMs, conflict transformation and meeting facilitation
- Provide ongoing one-on-one support and mentorship to fellows in the following areas:
 - Identifying local opportunities for serving on water conservation districts, water districts, basin roundtables, or other decision-making bodies
 - Identifying conferences, meetings and other gatherings that fellows can attend to advance their personal goals
 - Support applications and securing letters of recommendation to decision-making bodies
 - Assistance in planning and promoting participant-led water workshop for local peers
- Plan and lead in-person fellowship debrief and graduation ceremony

Deliverable:

The deliverable for this task will be the successful graduation of all ten fellows at the conclusion of the program. Upon completion of the fellowship trainings, fellows will run for a water board and put on a water-related training for other young and BIPOC producers.

CWCB will be kept updated on fellowship outcomes via photographs and written summaries of program activities.

Repeat for Task 3, Task 4, Task 5, etc.

Budget and Schedule

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.

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.



Last Updated: May 2021

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.

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 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 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.



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant - Exhibit C Budget Template Instructions

**** Please select the most appropriate budget template for your project from the worksheet tabs below. A general budget template is provided, as well as templates for studies, construction, and engineering projects.****



Water Plan Grant - Exhibit C

Budget and Schedule

Project End Date:

Task No.	Task Description	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1						\$0
2						\$0
3						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
Total				\$0	\$0	\$0



Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant - Detailed Budget Estimate
Fair and Reasonable Estimate

Prepared Date:
Name of Applicant:
Name of Water Project:

Engagement

Task 1 - Build Coalition										
Sub-task	Item	Hourly Rate	# Hours	Sub-total	Item Cost	Item Quantity	Sub-total	Total	CWCB Funds	Matching Funds
Partnership Development	Partnership Stipends			\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	4	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
	Outreach and partnership development (I	\$ 48.00	80	\$ 3,840.00			\$ -	\$ 3,840.00	\$ 1,920.00	\$ 1,920.00
	Outreach to new partners and coordinate	\$ 48.00	100	\$ 4,800.00			\$ -	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
				\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Kick off meeting	Travel for Partners			\$ -	\$ 0.54	1804	\$ 965.14	\$ 965.14	\$ 723.86	\$ 241.29
	Coordinate & host partnership meeting (I	\$ 48.00	40	\$ 1,920.00			\$ -	\$ 1,920.00	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00
	Food			\$ -	\$ 15.00	6	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 67.50	\$ 22.50
				\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Task 2 - Outreach and Education										
Sub-task	Item	Hourly Rate	# Hours	Sub-total	Item Cost	Item Quantity	Sub-total	Total	CWCB Funds	Matching Funds
Develop outreach materials	Develop outreach materials (NYFC)	\$ 48.00	40	\$ 1,920.00			\$ -	\$ 1,920.00	\$ -	\$ 1,920.00
	Review outreach materials (Frontline)	\$ 48.00	5	\$ 240.00				\$ 240.00	\$ 240.00	\$ -
	Design outreach materials			\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	1	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 250.00
				\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Webinars/Listening Sessions	Stipends for participants			\$ -	\$ 50.00	20	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 250.00
	Guest speaker honorariums				\$ 200.00	8	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 400.00
	Coordinate speakers and topics for 4 liste	\$ 48.00	40	\$ 1,920.00			\$ -	\$ 1,920.00	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00
	Travel to 2 listening sessions (NYFC + Frontline)			\$ -	\$ 0.54	500	\$ 267.50	\$ 267.50	\$ 200.63	\$ 66.88
	Venue for 2 listening sessions			\$ -	\$ 200.00	2	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 100.00
	Lunch for Participants for 2 listening sessions			\$ -	\$ 15.50	20	\$ 310.00	\$ 310.00	\$ 232.50	\$ 77.50
	Host 4 listening sessions (NYFC + Frontline	\$ 48.00	50	\$ 2,400.00				\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
	Develop post-session survey	\$ 30.00	25	\$ 750.00				\$ 750.00	\$ 562.50	\$ 187.50
	Summarize listening session & post-sessio	\$ 30.00	75	\$ 2,250.00			\$ -	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 1,687.50	\$ 562.50
	Evaluation design and implementation	\$ 48.00	80	\$ 3,840.00				\$ 3,840.00	\$ 1,920.00	\$ 1,920.00
Outreach with Partners	Share outreach materials with partners ar	\$ 48.00	25	\$ 1,200.00			\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
	Recruit participants for webinars	\$ 48.00	12	\$ 576.00		1	\$ -	\$ 576.00	\$ 288.00	\$ 288.00
				\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Task 3 - Water Fellowship										
Sub-task	Item	Hourly Rate	# Hours	Sub-total	Item Cost	Item Quantity	Sub-total	Total	CWCB Funds	Matching Funds
Planning and Recruitment	Create and promote fellowship applicatio	\$ 48.00	20	\$ 960.00			\$ -	\$ 960.00	\$ -	\$ 960.00
	Stipends for application reviewers			\$ -	\$ 100.00	4	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 100.00
	Plan two-day leadership retreat	\$ 48.00	50	\$ 2,400.00			\$ -	\$ 2,400.00	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00
	Consultant Services for leadership develo	\$ 75.00	50	\$ 3,750.00			\$ -	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 2,812.50	\$ 937.50
	Plan five 2-hour virtual trainings	\$ 48.00	50	\$ 2,400.00			\$ -	\$ 2,400.00	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00
	Frontline partnership			\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	1	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Trainings and Graduation	Facilitate 2-day retreat	\$ 48.00	32	\$ 1,536.00			\$ -	\$ 1,536.00	\$ -	\$ 1,536.00
	Guest speaker honorariums				\$ 200.00	10	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 500.00
	Fellow stipends				\$ 2,500.00	10	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 18,750.00	\$ 6,250.00
	Host & coordinate five 2-hour virtual train	\$ 48.00	32	\$ 1,536.00			\$ -	\$ 1,536.00	\$ -	\$ 1,536.00
	Teaching materials			\$ -	\$ 115.00	10	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 862.50	\$ 287.50
	Training on equity and Leadership			\$ -	\$ 510.00	1	\$ 510.00	\$ 510.00	\$ -	\$ 510.00
	Lodging for leadership retreat (fellows and staff)			\$ -	\$ 105.00	13	\$ 1,365.00	\$ 1,365.00	\$ -	\$ 1,365.00
	Food for leadership retreat			\$ -	\$ 45.00	13	\$ 585.00	\$ 585.00	\$ -	\$ 585.00
	Travel to retreat (fellows and staff)			\$ -	\$ 0.54	2000	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 1,080.00	\$ -	\$ 1,080.00
	Professional dev for fellows (conferences or webinars)			\$ -	\$ 200.00	10	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 500.00
	Lead leadership development portion of f	\$ 75.00	50	\$ 3,750.00				\$ 3,750.00	\$ 2,812.50	\$ 937.50
Evaluation	Post-fellowship interviews and surveys	\$ 48.00	18	\$ 864.00			\$ -	\$ 864.00	\$ -	\$ 864.00
	Track post-fellowship deliverables	\$ 48.00	12	\$ 576.00			\$ -	\$ 576.00	\$ -	\$ 576.00
	Support fellows in planning/organizing tra	\$ 48.00	25	\$ 1,200.00			\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
				\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL								\$ 95,350.64	\$ 49,999.98	\$ 45,350.66
Other Direct Costs (see below)								\$0		
OVERALL TOTAL								\$ 95,350.64		

Other Direct Costs

Item:	Copies & Printing (Black & White)	Copies & Printing (Color)	Materials and Final Report Production Lump Sum	Lodging and Meals Per Diem	Travel Expenses (Airfare and Car Rental) Lump Sum	Mileage Miles	Total
Units:	No.	No.					
Unit Cost:	\$0.10	\$0.50		\$ 100.00		\$0.535	
Project Initiation							0
Report, Conclusions and Recommendations				0		0	0
Total Units:		0	0	0	0	0	
Total Cost:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0



The Acequia Institute

June 30, 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Alex Funk and Ben Wade,

On behalf of The Acequia Institute (TAI) I am writing to strongly endorse the National Young Farmer Coalition and Frontline Farming and their Water and Equity Partnership. Since 2006, TAI has served as a leading private philanthropic agency funding and supporting the acequia farm families of Colorado and New Mexico through tuition scholarships for local youth, fellowships to graduate students working with acequias and other traditional agroecosystems, and direct-to-producer grants for food sovereignty projects. TAI itself has a 181-acre farm in Viejo San Acacio on the historic San Luis Peoples Ditch with an April 1852 decree. In 2015, in partnership with Colorado Open Lands and Greater Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the entire TAI parcel was placed under a conservation easement emphasizing open space, ecological restoration of riparian habitat, preservation of acequia methods, and protection of acequia water rights.

The Water and Equity Partnership project will create opportunities for BIPOC and young producers to provide input to the upcoming Water Plan public comment process. The second component, the Water Fellowship, will provide Colorado's next generation of agricultural stewards with the knowledge, networks, and resources to improve water use and conservation methods on their own farms and share creative water solutions with their communities.

For the Water and Equity Partnership, TAI will participate by engaging our network of acequia producers in the Culebra watershed (Division 3, District 24). We commit to participating in and supporting the Water and Equity Partnership in the following ways: (1) attending partnership meetings, (2) conducting outreach in our watershed, (3) recruiting diverse BIPOC speakers, (4) presenting a webinar on acequia water law and customary practice, (5) providing input on fellowship design, and (6) providing expert consultancy on diversity, inclusion and equity strategies for additions and revisions to the Water Plan.

We look forward to participating in this effort to elevate the voices of BIPOC and young producers in Colorado water planning and thank you in advance for your support.

Atentamente,

Devon G. Peña, Ph.D.
Founder and President of the Board
The Acequia Institute

Mail | P.O. Box 129 | San Luis, CO 81152
Deliveries | 21667 County Rd. J-2 | San Luis, CO 81152
Mobile | 206-228-4876
Email | dpena@acequiainstitute.org
www.acequiainstitute.org

June 30th, 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

To Alex Funk and Ben Wade,

I am writing in support of National Young Farmer Coalition's and Frontline Farming's Water and Equity Partnership. Spirit of the Sun, Inc. is a Indigenous led non-profit organization that specializes in uplifting and providing services for our Native community. The project will create opportunities for BIPOC and young producers to provide input to the upcoming Water Plan public comment process. The second component, the Water Fellowship, will provide Colorado's next generation of agricultural stewards with the knowledge, network, and resources to improve water use on their own farms and share creative water solutions with their communities.

For the Water and Equity Partnership, Spirit of the Sun will participate and engage our network of producers in the Denver area and specifically with Native and Indigenous communities. We commit to participating in and supporting the Water and Equity Partnership, in the following way(s):

- Conducting outreach and meetings with the community, becoming a liaison for the organizations listed above to smoothly interact with the Native and Indigenous communities.
- Speaking at webinars and offering allies and accomplice training, land stewardship conversations and land acknowledgement training. These conversations will allow the Native community to be involved in conversations about their land.

We look forward to participating in this effort to elevate the voices of BIPOC and young producers in Colorado water planning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shannon Francis".

Shannon Francis
Executive Director
1290 N. Williams St, Suite 9
Denver, CO 80218



6/29/2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

To Alex Funk and Ben Wade,

I am writing in support of the National Young Farmer Coalition and Frontline Farming's Water and Equity Partnership. I am the owner and farmer of Rock 'n Roots Farm on the Western Slope of Colorado. The project will create opportunities for BIPOC and young producers to provide input to the upcoming Water Plan public comment process. The second component, the Water Fellowship, will provide Colorado's next generation of agricultural stewards with the knowledge, network, and resources to improve water use on their own farms and share creative water solutions with their communities.

For the Water and Equity Partnership, Rock 'n Roots Farm will participate and engage our network of producers in Delta County, CO. We commit to participating in and supporting the Water and Equity Partnership, in the following way(s):

- Attending partnership meetings,
- recruiting speakers or speaking at a webinar
- providing input on fellowship design
- reviewing fellowship applications

We look forward to participating in this effort to elevate the voices of BIPOC and young producers in Colorado water planning.

Sincerely,

Candice Orlando
Co-Owner and Farmer of Rock 'n Roots Farm
16451 Grange Rd.
Paonia, CO 81428



6.30.2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Alex Funk and Ben Wade,

I am writing in strong support of National Young Farmer Coalition and Frontline Farming's Water and Equity Partnership. At Climate Innovation, we are committed to and have developed frameworks and resources to support the leadership of communities at the frontlines of environmental and climate injustices in finding and implementing solutions. We know that when impacted communities lead, climate, water, and resilience solutions are more successful and holistic.

This partnership project will create opportunities for people of color, young producers, and other underrepresented communities to provide crucially needed input to the upcoming Water Plan public comment process. The proposed Water Fellowship will provide Colorado's next generation of agricultural and ecological stewards with the knowledge, network, and resources to improve water use on their own farms and share creative water solutions with their communities.

For the Water and Equity Partnership, Climate Innovation will provide resources and tools to help frontline communities engage in Colorado's water planning and decision-making. As part of Climate Innovation and personally as a community member, I commit to participating in and supporting the Water and Equity Partnership, in the following way(s):

- Providing and facilitating for the Spectrum of Community Engagement
- Providing and facilitating about the Community Driven Resilience Planning (CDCRP) Booklet
- Providing resources about water conservation and ecological design
- Providing resources and facilitating about effective traditional water legacies of communities of color from around the world
- Providing fellowship and curriculum design support along with any additional facilitation needed
- Connecting local growers and orgs with innovators in the Colorado River Delta in Mexico working on restoring the larger Colorado watershed

We look forward to participating in this effort to elevate the voices of communities of color, young producers, and other underrepresented communities in Colorado water planning. This partnership has the potential to be a true gift for our communities and to the watersheds we are connected to. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michelle Gabrieloff-Parish
Senior Program Manager
Climate Innovation at Movement Strategy Center



University of Colorado
Denver

School of Education & Human Development
Educational Foundations
1308 Lawrence St.
Denver, CO, 80204
303-315-6337
rene.galindo@ucdenver.edu

June 30, 2021
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

To Alex Funk and Ben Wade,

I am writing in support of National Young Farmer Coalition's and Frontline Farming's Water and Equity Partnership. I am an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado at Denver where I have worked for thirty-one years. I have collaborated with Frontline Farming across the years in the areas of education and service learning with my undergraduate students from my Food Justice class.

The proposed project will create opportunities for members of underrepresented groups and young agrarians to provide input to the upcoming Water Plan public comment process. The second component, the Water Fellowship, will provide Colorado's next generation of agrarians with the knowledge, network, and resources for sound water use and water policies. Frontline Farming is well positioned to undertake this fellowship program given their experience with farming apprenticeships and other educational activities they have developed. Additionally, Frontline Farming's state-wide network ensures that a wide-net will be cast in recruiting participants to the fellowship program as well as utilizing examples of important water policies and practices from across the state.

For the Water and Equity Partnership, the Educational Foundations program at the University of Colorado at Denver will participate by sharing resources regarding equitable water access policies and environmental justice case studies of urban water contamination, especially in the Denver metro area. We will support and participate in the Water and Equity Partnership. My participation with the Water and Equity Partnerships will include: attending network meetings, connecting my students with service learning opportunities with the Water Equity Partnership, participating in a guest speaker exchange, and exchange resources regarding water access and conservation.

We look forward to supporting and participating in this water equity project that includes the voices of underrepresented communities and young agrarians in Colorado water planning.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "René Galindo".

René Galindo, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

FrontLine Farming
2830 Clayton Street
Denver, CO 80205

1 July 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

To Alex Funk and Ben Wade,

I am writing in support of the National Young Farmer Coalition and Frontline Farming's Water and Equity Partnership. Black and Brown Growers Collective is an organization of black and brown people who are engaged in the food system. Our aim is to collectively discuss those challenges that are specific to our experience as black and brown people. We work collaboratively on projects that advance our collective. The project will create opportunities for BIPOC and young producers to provide input to the upcoming Water Plan public comment process. The second component, the Water Fellowship, will provide Colorado's next generation of agricultural stewards with the knowledge, network, and resources to improve water use on their own farms and share creative water solutions with their communities.

For the Water and Equity Partnership, Black and Brown Growers collective (BBGC) will participate and engage our network of producers in Denver, Jefferson and Adams counties where our collective members already have established relationships and can have the most impact. We commit to participating in and supporting the Water and Equity Partnership, in the following way(s):

- BBGC will partner in attending meetings and conducting research in communities that are looking for connections to agriculture and land stewardship.
- Support the practice and model environmental stewardship, which in turn actualizes environmental justice in our communities by creating spaces and education around healthy environments.
- Support fellowship design and application process

We look forward to participating in this effort to elevate the voices of BIPOC and young producers in Colorado water planning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Thompson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dr. Damien J. Thompson
Co-Founder FrontLine Farming
Director, Center for Food Justice and Healthy Communities