

COLORADO WATER PLAN

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES



Colorado communities have a range of municipal and industrial water needs. Communities face water supply and demand challenges, which are likely to be exacerbated by uncertainties like population growth, water supplies, climate change and market conditions that impact operations and livelihoods. The Water Plan update will prepare for uncertainty by evaluating how drivers of future change may impact communities and focus on near-term opportunities that lessen those impacts.

EMERGING CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- **INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS** - To meet current and increased future water needs driven by projected population increases and climate change, enhancements to infrastructure need to be considered. This ranges from expanding existing storage, to adding new storage as well as reducing evaporative losses, addressing aging infrastructure, reducing water loss and establishing increasingly adaptive operations.
- **URBAN GREEN SPACE** - Thriving cities need public green spaces, tree canopy and urban waterways that serve multiple purposes like mitigating heat, cleaning pollutants, reducing flood risks, enabling local food production, supporting nature, and physical and mental health.
- **EFFICIENT & INNOVATIVE WATER USE** - Developing landscapes that work for Colorado's climate and creating more incentives for efficient irrigation are critical to managing urban water demand. Fostering investment in indoor fixture efficiency is also needed in residences and businesses to reduce water use. Finding creative ways to reuse supplies, develop green infrastructure, look for alternative water sharing agreements and use One Water solutions (life-cycle water planning) are key to supporting these efforts.
- **WATER CONSCIOUS GROWTH** - Synergistic planning can help growing urban communities prioritize the wise use of water through a combination of land use policy, zoning, building codes, water reuse regulations and water rates. These approaches can help lower total water needs for cities, while also keeping water on farms to support local foods and in streams to promote healthy urban waterways.

► NEW TOOLS & INITIATIVES

Colorado Water Loss Initiative

A comprehensive program of training and technical assistance for urban water systems across Colorado to prevent systemic water loss through the use of the AWWA M36 auditing and training.

Colorado Growing Water Smart

A joint-program of the Sonoran Institute and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy to train and assist communities to integrate land and water planning effectively as they grow and redevelop.

Direct Potable Reuse Regulatory Framework

Proponents of Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) have been working to establish a clear regulatory framework that offers comprehensive, safe, flexible, and implementable rules. Presently, a Water Quality Control Division stakeholder process is underway that will result in a Water Quality Control Commission DPR rulemaking proposal for changes to Colorado's Primary Drinking Water Regulations (Regulation 11).



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



COLORADO

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