

# COLORADO WATER PLAN



## RESILIENT PLANNING

Coloradans face increased risks to our water supplies that will require equity, diversity, and inclusion to be adequately addressed and adapted to across water planning. This requires a renewed commitment to being inclusive in water discussions by broadening outreach to all Coloradans. This will help identify important water challenges and 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 Tribal Nations, acequias, rural populations, minority and 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 often disproportionately impact 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 users.

### NEW TOOLS & INITIATIVES

#### Evaluating EDI Challenges

Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) are top priorities for Colorado, elevated through a 2020 Executive Order. CWCB convened a Water Equity Task Force to develop a set of guiding principles around EDI that will help inform the Colorado Water Plan update. The Task Force effort represented a targeted extension of the Scoping Phase to give adequate time to identify these important principles.

#### Future Avoided Cost Explorer

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](http://cwcb.colorado.gov/FACE).

#### Colorado Resiliency Framework

The 2020 update to the Colorado Resiliency Framework provides guidance and resources for local communities to rebuild following natural disasters such as wildfires, drought, tornadoes, and floods. It also introduces steps for preparation before disasters occur, which communities will continue to face in a changing climate. Learn more about hazards and the resiliency framework at: [cwcb.colorado.gov/focus-areas/hazards](http://cwcb.colorado.gov/focus-areas/hazards).



Learn more about the Water Plan update and provide your thoughts at [engagecwcb.org](http://engagecwcb.org).



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