

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Fort Collins Utilities
Name of Water Project	Fort Collins Utilities Water Efficiency Plan Update
Grant Request Amount	\$200,000.00
Primary Category	\$200,000.00
<i>Conservation & Land Use Planning</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$152,500.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$81,250.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$71,250.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$0.00
Total Project Cost	\$352,500.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Fort Collins Utilities
Mailing Address: 222 Laporte Ave Fort Collins CO 80521
FEIN: 846,000,587

Organization Contact: Mariel Miller
Position/Title: Water Conservation Manager Email: mamiller@fcgov.com
Phone: 970-221-6719

Organization Contact - Alternate: Kelsey Doan
Position/Title: Email: kdoan@fcgov.com
Phone: 970-416-2410

Grant Management Contact: Mariel Miller
Position/Title: Water Conservation Manager Email: mamiller@fcgov.com
Phone: 970-221-6719

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Kelsey Doan
Position/Title: Email: kdoan@fcgov.com
Phone: 970-416-2410

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Fort Collins Utilities (Utilities) is a municipal utility located in Fort Collins, Colorado, 65 miles north of Denver. Utilities serves about 35,500 water customers and delivers an average of 24,000 acre-feet per year.

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☒ Public (Government)
☐ Public (District)
☐ Public (Municipality)

- ☐ Ditch Company
- ☐ Private Incorporated
- ☐ Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- ☐ Non-governmental Organization
- ☐ Covered Entity
- ☐ Other

Category of Water Project

- ☐ Agricultural Projects
Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- ☒ Conservation & Land Use Planning
Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- ☐ Engagement & Innovation Activities
Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- ☐ Watershed Restoration & Recreation
Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- ☐ 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 and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

Latitude	40.585258
Longitude	-105.084419
Lat Long Flag	
Water Source	Utilities' water sources are the Poudre River and the Colorado-Big Thompson (C-BT) Project. We divert an average of 11,300 acre-feet from the Poudre and own 18,855 units of CB-T water.
Basins	Colorado; South Platte
Counties	Larimer
Districts	3-Cache La Poudre River

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Municipal
Type of Water Project	Planning (e.g. watershed)
Scheduled Start Date - Design	1/1/2023
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	
Description	To meet the state's requirement, Fort Collins Utilities (Utilities) will update the 2015 Water Efficiency Plan (WEP) in 2023-2024. The update will address emerging challenges in Utilities' water service area, like water shortages and affordability, creating more resilience and equity for all customers, and reducing Utilities' water resource risks.

Grant funding will be used for consultant expenses to help complete the following components of the plan:

- **Modeling.** If funded, a consultant will use existing modeling, refining the supply and demand impacts to create a new model to evaluate future water saving strategies, which can be used long into the future to help with water resource management.
- **Integrated Water Resource Management and Planning.** If funded a consultant will facilitate internal discussions identifying cross-departmental strategies that use water more efficiently.
- **Inclusive Public Engagement.** If funded, a consultant will ensure increased diversity in engagement during the planning process. Input received will shape the WEP, resulting in strategies that reduce water use and provide equitable benefits and community outcomes.

Measurable Results

New Storage Created (acre-feet)
 New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
 Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
 New Storage Created (acre-feet)
 Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
 Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
 Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
 Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
 Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
 175,000 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
 2,500 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
 Other
 Efficiency savings will be determined in the WEP update.

Water Project Justification

Colorado's Water Plan

The WEP update supports the following statewide long-term goals outlined on page 6-59 in Chapter 6.3 of the Colorado Water Plan (CWP):

- Reduce overall future water needs through cost-effective water efficiency measures

The water efficiency strategies in WEPs are the most cost-effective way to manage water and support a sustainable future. Updated climate modeling and evaluating strategies for effectiveness and equity will ensure that Fort Collins Utilities' WEP update will include the best strategies to help us reduce our future water needs and to minimize the need to acquire additional water rights.

- Integrate water efficiency planning and projects into overall water resource management

The WEP update will use an integrated water resource approach (One Water). During the update a consultant will facilitate internal engagement to identify cross-departmental strategies to use water more efficiently. This will allow for more collaboration between City departments and ensure more sustainable development in the future.

- Promote water efficiency ethic throughout Colorado

The WEP update will include extensive public engagement that will improve the community's water efficiency literacy and will lead with the importance of efficiency in a sustainable future. Modeling climate impacts and potential strategies' savings will help conceptualize this for the community and could be used as an example for other water providers and their communities.

- Further integrate land use and water planning

The WEP update will include integration of these things. A facilitator will be used to identify strategies with internal staff and through the public engagement effort, the community's perspective will be incorporated, to determine which land use code changes and incentives could be developed to better integrate these.

The update supports the CWP Land Use Goal:

- By 2025, 75 percent of Coloradans will live in communities that have incorporated water-saving actions into land-use planning. (CWP, Section 10.2, pp. 10-50)

While the WEP is specific to Fort Collins Utilities, we will coordinate with the other water districts that serve the entire City and Growth Management Area (GMA) because our land use and building codes are applicable to the entire GMA. Given this expanded boundary, the entire population of the GMA (~175,000) will live in a community that has incorporated water-savings actions into land-use planning.

South Platte Basin Implementation Plan

The update supports the following goal of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan:

- Goal 3: Maintain and Promote Municipal and Industrial Conservation and Efficiency Municipal and industrial water users in the Metro and South Platte Basins will maintain their leadership role in conservation in the state of Colorado, recognizing that limited water supplies and a robust population drive the application of conservation best practices within the basin and throughout the state. Future conservation and efficiency efforts can reduce adverse environmental and social impacts of new supply development, help mitigate the impacts of climate change, and also maintain or improve valuable environmental and social benefits of urban landscapes. (Volume 2. Section 6 page 72)

The WEP update will be innovative, helping the Basin to maintain its leadership role in conservation. Modeling climate impacts and evaluating estimated savings via modeling will reduce the need to develop additional supplies and will mitigate negative impacts from water shortage and other climate impacts by more accurately evaluating targets and choosing strategies that will more precisely meet reduced supply and/or increased demands. Population will be a variable of the models, that can be adjusted at any time, to reflect increasing population and help ensure best practices in resource management.

Related Studies

Growing Water Smart Metrics Program
Vulnerability Study (initial climate modeling effort from 2019)

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

As a public government entity, the Fort Collins Utilities complies with all state laws and regulations. Any funds obtained by this grant would be placed in the Utilities enterprise fund and would not be subject to TABOR restrictions.