



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Local Capacity Grants

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Colorado Ag Water Alliance	
Name of Water Project	Pre-development work: Plateau Valley PL-566	
Grant Request Amount		\$52,500.00
Project Type		Agricultural
Federal Grant Application Deadline		
Population 10,000 or less		☒
MHI less than 80%		☒
MHV less than 100%		☒
County 24-month unemployment average		☐
Applicant Cash Match		\$8,750.00
Applicant In-Kind Match		\$8,750.00
Sources of Funding		

Grant Details

Anticipated federal grant program applicant is likely to apply for
NRCS Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention (PL-566) Program

How does the proposed project further Colorado Water Plan or current Basin Implementation Plan goals, objectives, or actions?

This project will help advance the goal of Robust Agriculture by improving conveyance efficiency improvements. The Southside Canal (32 miles) runs from Vega Reservoir to irrigated acreage throughout the basin. The canal crosses multiple tributaries of Plateau Creek, allowing irrigation water to be delivered via the tributaries or directly to irrigated lands from the canal through individual turnouts. The Southside Canal has some serious infrastructure issues and is in need of repair and modernization. Much of the canal is unlined and has issues with seepage. The seepage makes delivery of irrigation water difficult and also contributes to erosion and collapse of the canal. Some sections of the canal may need to be piped and even possibly rerouted because of collapsing hillsides. There is also a desire to improve efficiency of the project by automating the delivery system and individual turnouts.

Does the project advance interstate, regional or watershed-scale water and natural resource management efforts and solutions? Please describe.

This project does help the Colorado River District meet two strategic initiatives: agricultural water use and water efficiency. This work will also provide valuable capacity to the Conservation District, helping the CWCB meeting the statewide goal of integrating capacity-building efforts to support agriculture.

Does the project advance an innovative approach to water and natural resource management? Please describe. Many ditches and irrigation ditch companies only have the capacity to focus on addressing the most immediate infrastructure problems. Often times, this is done after a failure and severe impacts to the irrigated crops because they do not have the capacity to proactively implement needed upgrades or repairs. This is an opportunity to

utilize Farmer's Conservation Alliance experience and partnership to introduce a new process for improving large-scale and/or whole agricultural irrigation systems.

Describe any local community and stakeholder support? Note: Letter of support can be uploaded at the end of the application.

We are working with the Collbran Water Conservancy District, American Rivers, the Plateau Valley Conservation District, Ute Water, and Colorado Ag Water Alliance.

Have relevant Federal, state and local government agencies provided input on the project? Please describe which agencies and any relevant details.

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Colorado Ag Water Alliance

Mailing Address: 10440 W Fair Unit C Littleton CO 80127

FEIN: 832,969,510

Organization Contact: Alan Horton

Position/Title: Managing Director

Phone: 541-716-6085

Email: alan.horton@fcasolutions.org

Grant Management Contact: Alan Horton

Position/Title: Managing Director

Phone: 541-716-6085

Email: alan.horton@fcasolutions.org

Agency Information

Agency Type

Other

Current Assessment

Number of Shareholders or Customers

Number of Shares

Number of Taps

Average Monthly Water Bill

Annual Water Delivery (acre-feet)

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Association of agricultural organization focused on education and outreach. Our mission is to support and preserve irrigated agriculture

Location of Water Project

Latitude 39.225953

Longitude -107.799231

Lat Long Flag Water provider location: Coordinates based on address of water provider

Water Source Vega Reservoir

Basins Colorado

Counties Mesa

Districts 72-Lower Colorado River

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Agricultural

Type of Water Project Planning

Scheduled Start Date - Design

12/1/2022

Scheduled Start Date - Construction

Description

The Collbran Project is overseen by the Collbran Conservancy District in west-central Colorado in the Plateau Creek Basin. The project serves roughly 21,000 irrigated acres and generates electricity from two power plants. Major infrastructure includes Vega Dam and Reservoir, 37 miles of canal, and 18 miles of pipeline. The Southside Canal (32 miles) runs from Vega Reservoir to irrigated acreage throughout the basin. The canal crosses multiple tributaries of Plateau Creek, allowing irrigation water to be delivered via the tributaries or directly to irrigated lands from the canal through individual turnouts. The Southside Canal has some serious infrastructure issues and is in need of repair and modernization. Much of the canal is unlined and has issues with seepage. The seepage makes delivery of irrigation water difficult and also contributes to erosion and collapse of the canal. Some sections of the canal may need to be piped and even possibly rerouted because of collapsing hillsides. There is also a desire to improve efficiency of the project by automating the delivery system and individual turnouts. As water resources become more scarce, delivering water with less carriage water will become the norm in Western Colorado.

This pre-development effort will provide the foundation needed to design, fund, and implement these projects at scale. Farmers Conservation Alliance, Colorado Ag Water Alliance and the Collbran Water Conservancy District will develop a district brief, initial stakeholder engagement, data audit and literature review, preliminary conceptual design, an initial findings report, and funding support. This work will enable the ditch companies to request assistance from NRCS under the agency's Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention (PL-566) program, starting a process that can provide up to \$25 million in federal funding for on-the-ground infrastructure modernization. This pre-development work will provide the foundation for submitting a competitive request to NRCS and provide a framework to accelerate the ditch companies' modernization efforts.

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)
	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
10,000	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)
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
	Application for PL-566 program submitted