



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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Jared Polis, Governor

Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive Director

Lauren Ris, CWCB Director

**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Cole Bedford, Chief Operating Officer

**DATE:** January 29-30, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM:** Consent Agenda 3a, Water Plan Grant Change of Grantee

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**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the Board approve a partial change of grantee/project sponsor from the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District to the Groundwater Management Subdistrict for the project titled, “Bernhardt Reservoir Water Storage Project Phase 1”.

**Background:**

At the September 2023 Board meeting, the Board approved a \$1,000,000 Water Plan Grant (Agenda Item 5r) to the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District (CCWCD) for the Bernhardt Reservoir Water Storage Project Phase 1. This project has been contracted but no reimbursement requests have been submitted. This project will divert water from the Big Thompson River using a gravity feed to pump stations and a pipeline distribution network to deliver water into four mined gravel pits reclaimed for water storage purposes. It will create 1,000 acre-feet of new storage and include the construction of a gravity diversion structure, pump station and pipelines to two of the four project cells.

CCWCD is requesting a partial change in fiscal agent, such that \$780,913 of the award will go to the Groundwater Management Subdistrict (GMS) and the remainder, \$219,087, will stay with CCWCD due to TABOR restrictions. The division of the award between the two entities will not affect the scope, schedule, or cost of the Project.

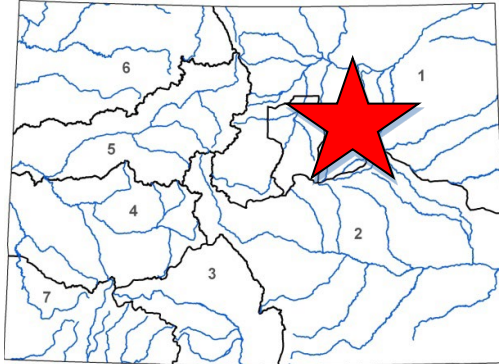
See attached for the amended Water Activity Summary Sheets and Budgets.





January 2024 Board Meeting

## Water Plan Grant Application

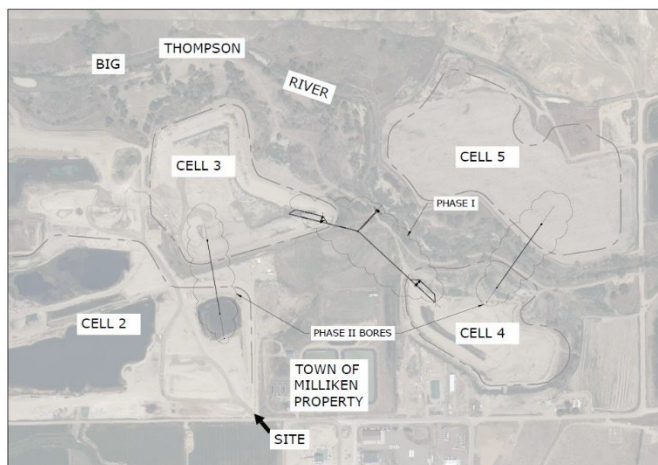


L O C A T I O N	
Counties:	Weld; Morgan; Adams
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$760,085
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$219,087
Recommended amount:	\$219,087
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$540,998
Project Type:	Construction/Implementation
Project Category:	Water Storage & Supply
Measurable Results:	219AF new storage created

The Bernhardt Reservoir Water Storage Project will create 1,000 acre-feet of new storage. The Project will divert water from the Big Thompson River using a gravity feed to pump stations and a pipeline distribution network to deliver water into four mined gravel pits reclaimed for water storage purposes. This project will directly support Central's existing augmentation plans while supporting the goals of the 2023 Water Plan by providing a new sustainable water supply for Weld County agricultural producers, creating new recreational and environmental opportunities, and supporting collaboration between water users.

Development of the Project is being completed in three phases. Phase A has been substantially completed and has consisted of obtaining necessary easements and permits, installation of bentonite slurry walls around the perimeters of the mined cells and obtaining a storage water right. Phase A also included the mining of sand and gravel within each of the slurry wall lined cells. A majority of the costs associated with Phase A of the Project were financed through a loan from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. This loan has been paid off in its entirety.



Central Colorado Water Conservancy District (CCCWD) is requesting funding to complete Phase 1 of the project, which will include construction of a gravity diversion structure, pump station and pipelines to two of the four project cells. Specific tasks will include site preparation and mobilization, construction of a gravity diversion structure on the Big Thompson River, construction of a pipeline, pump station and inlet/outlet for two storage cells and construction of subsequent release pipelines for both storage cells. Figure 1 provides an overview of this Phase 1 effort.

Finally, Phase 2, not included in this proposal, will involve construction of interconnecting pipelines between the storage cells. Once completed, diversions will occur under a junior priority water right during high flow conditions and will be used as a source of replacement in plans for augmentation operated by CCCWD. This is generally the case for high flow conditions, but diversions can also occur with existing fully consumable water rights when available.

**Funding Recommendation:** This project is recommended for full funding of the \$219,087.00 requested.



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### Water Plan Grant - Exhibit C

### Budget and Schedule

**Prepared Date: January 1, 2024**

**Name of Applicant: Central Colorado Water Conservancy District**

**Name of Water Project: Bernhardt Reservoir Water Storage Project - Diversion and Junction**

**Project Start Date: November 1, 2023**

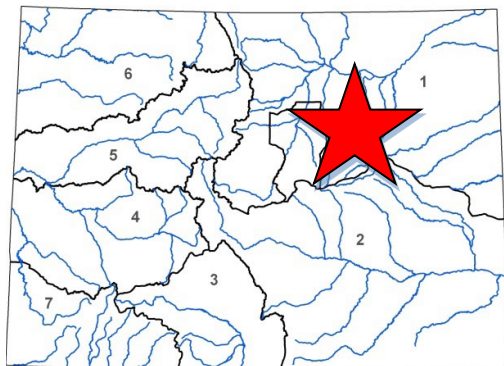
**Project End Date: December 31, 2025**

Task No.	Task Description	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
Task 1	Site Preparation / Mobilization	11/1/2023	11/15/2023	\$ 102,959	\$ 188,241	\$291,200
Task 2	Diversion and Junction Manhole	11/15/2023	4/1/2024	\$ 116,129	\$ 212,321	\$328,450
Contingency	Construction			\$ -	\$ 140,435	\$140,435

			<b>Total</b>	\$ 219,087	\$ 540,998	\$ 760,085

January 2024 Board Meeting

## Water Plan Grant Application

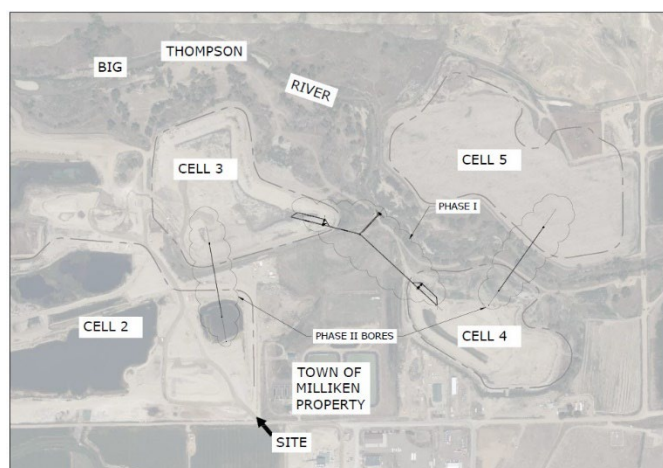


LOCATION	
Counties:	Weld; Morgan; Adams
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$2,491,505
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$780,913
Recommended amount:	\$780,913
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$1,710,593
Project Type:	Construction/Implementation
Project Category:	Water Storage & Supply
Measurable Results:	781AF new storage created

The Bernhardt Reservoir Water Storage Project will create 1,000 acre-feet of new storage. The Project will divert water from the Big Thompson River using a gravity feed to pump stations and a pipeline distribution network to deliver water into four mined gravel pits reclaimed for water storage purposes. This project will directly support Central's existing augmentation plans while supporting the goals of the 2023 Water Plan by providing a new sustainable water supply for Weld County agricultural producers, creating new recreational and environmental opportunities, and supporting collaboration between water users.

Development of the Project is being completed in three phases. Phase A has been substantially completed and has consisted of obtaining necessary easements and permits, installation of bentonite slurry walls around the perimeters of the mined cells and obtaining a storage water right. Phase A also included the mining of sand and gravel within each of the slurry wall lined cells. A majority of the costs associated with Phase A of the Project were financed through a loan from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. This loan has been paid off in its entirety.



Central Colorado Water Conservancy District (CCCWD) is requesting funding to complete Phase 1 of the project, which will include construction of a gravity diversion structure, pump station and pipelines to two of the four project cells. Specific tasks will include site preparation and mobilization, construction of a gravity diversion structure on the Big Thompson River, construction of a pipeline, pump station and inlet/outlet for two storage cells and construction of subsequent release pipelines for both storage cells. Figure 1 provides an overview of this Phase 1 effort.

Finally, Phase 2, not included in this proposal, will involve construction of interconnecting pipelines between the storage cells. Once completed, diversions will occur under a junior priority water right during high flow conditions and will be used as a source of replacement in plans for augmentation operated by CCCWD. This is generally the case for high flow conditions, but diversions can also occur with existing fully consumable water rights when available.

**Funding Recommendation:** This project is recommended for full funding of the 780,913.00 requested.



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### Water Plan Grant - Exhibit C Budget and Schedule

**Prepared Date: January 1, 2024**

**Name of Applicant: Groundwater Management Subdistrict**

**Name of Water Project: Bernhardt Reservoir Water Storage Project - Pump Stations**

**Project Start Date: February 1, 2024**

**Project End Date: December 31, 2025**

Task No.	Task Description	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
Task 1	Cell 3 Pump Station	2/1/2024	8/1/2024	\$ 299,731	\$ 548,006	\$847,737
Task 2	Cell 4 Pump Station	2/1/2024	8/1/2024	\$ 290,797	\$ 531,670	\$822,467
Task 3	Piping and Related Materials	8/1/2024	12/31/2024	\$ 190,385	\$ 348,084	\$538,469
Contingency	Construction			\$ -	\$ 282,832	\$282,832
			<b>Total</b>	\$ 780,913	\$ 1,710,593	\$ 2,491,505