



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Cole Bedford P.E., Chief Operating Officer

**DATE:** May 15-16, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM: 8. Fiscal Year 24/25 Water Plan Grant Funding Targets by Category**

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**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Board set target allocations distributing the \$23.30M appropriated in Fiscal Year 24/25 to each of the Water Plan Grant categories as described in Table 1.

**Table 1: Recommended Targeted Allocation by Category for FY 24/25**

Category	Targeted Allocation
Agriculture	\$4,190,000
Conservation and Land Use	\$4,890,000
Engagement and Innovation	\$1,400,000
Water Storage and Supply	\$5,590,000
Watershed Health and Recreation	\$7,230,000
Total	\$23,300,000

The amounts listed are target numbers and the Board retains flexibility to award grants based on actual demand in each funding category.

**Background**

CWCB's Water Plan Grant Program (Program) funds projects falling into five categories: agricultural projects, conservation and land use projects, engagement and innovation projects, water storage and supply projects, and watershed health and recreation projects. Applications for Water Plan Grant funding are evaluated within one of these five categories depending on which is the best fit for the project. Annual appropriations, however, are made for the entire Program with no specific allocations made per category. This allows flexibility to award grants across categories in accordance with demand. While maintaining this flexibility, it is helpful to set target allocations for each category to guide applicants and the grant review committees.



### Fiscal Year 23/24 Targets

There was \$25.20M appropriated for Water Plan Grants for Fiscal Year 23/24. In May 2023, the Board set target allocations to divide the appropriation among the five Water Plan Grant categories as shown in Table 2. The Watershed Health and Recreation category had the highest target at 32% or \$8.00M. Engagement and Innovation had the lowest target at 3% or \$0.70M. The other category targets fell in between.

Water Plan Grant applications for Fiscal Year 23/24 were received in July 2023 and December 2023. The total combined demand for those applications was \$33.76M or 134% of the \$25.20M appropriation. Demand exceeded the target for every category, though some more than others. The demand in the Agriculture and Conservation and Land Use categories exceeded the targets by the smallest percentage. The demand in the Engagement and Innovation and Water Storage and Supply categories exceeded the targets by the largest percentage. And the demand in the Watershed Health and Recreation category was close to that of the overall Program.

Table 2 shows the Fiscal Year 23/24 target percentage and target dollars for each category; demand for each category; and the percentage by which demand in each category exceeded the targets.

**Table 2: Water Plan Grant Targets and Demand for FY 23/24**

Category	Target %	Target \$ (million)	Demand \$ (million)	Category Demand \$ Category Target \$
Agriculture	20%	5.10	\$ 5.35	105%
Conservation and Land Use	23%	5.70	\$ 5.84	103%
Engagement and Innovation	3%	0.70	\$ 2.94	421%
Water Storage and Supply	23%	5.70	\$ 9.44	166%
Watershed Health and Recreation	32%	8.00	\$ 10.18	127%
Total	100%	25.20	\$ 33.76	134%



### Fiscal Year 24/25 Targets

The recommendations for Fiscal Year 24/25 are intended to respond to the percentages by which demand in each category exceeded the targets in Fiscal Year 23/24. There will be \$23.30M appropriated for Water Plan Grants for Fiscal Year 24/25, a slight decrease from last year.

Because the demand in the Agriculture and Conservation and Land Use categories exceeded the targets by the smallest percentage in Fiscal Year 23/24, the Fiscal Year 24/25 recommendation reduces the target percentages for those categories. The demand in the Engagement and Innovation and Water Storage and Supply categories exceeded the targets by the largest percentage in Fiscal Year 23/24, so the Fiscal Year 24/25 recommendation increases the target percentages for those categories. And the demand in the Watershed Health and Recreation category was close to that of the overall Program, so the Fiscal Year 24/25 recommendation only slightly reduces the target percentage for that category.

Table 3 shows the recommended targets for FY23/24 and for FY 24/25; the percent change between the two years; and the target dollar amounts for FY24/25.

**Table 3: Water Plan Grant Target Recommendations for FY 24/25**

Category	FY 23/24 Target %	FY 24/25 Target %	FY 24/25 Target % FY 23/24 Target %	FY 24/25 Target \$ (million)
Agriculture	20%	18%	90%	4.19
Conservation and Land Use	23%	21%	91%	4.89
Engagement and Innovation	3%	6%	200%	1.40
Water Storage and Supply	23%	24%	104%	5.59
Watershed Health and Recreation	32%	31%	97%	7.23
Total	100%	100%		23.30

