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# COLORADO

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**  
*Department of Natural Resources*

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**November 2024**

Interstate Compact Compliance • Watershed Protection • Flood Planning & Mitigation • Stream & Lake Protection  
Water Project Loans & Grants • Water Modeling • Conservation & Drought Planning • Water Supply Planning



# COLORADO

## Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Lauren Ris  
Rosie Major

DATE: November 20-21, 2024

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 4b, November 2024 CWCB Board Meeting Director's Report**

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## STATEWIDE

### Finance Section Director's Report Items – November 2024

#### CWCB SMALL FEASIBILITY STUDY GRANT FUND UPDATE:

New grant applications approved:

1. None

Previously approved grants in FY24/25:

1. None

Total funds approved for feasibility study grants in FY24/25: \$0

### Federal Technical Assistance Grant Program Director's Report, November 2024

The Colorado Water Conservation Board's Federal Technical Assistance Program helps eligible entities review the many federal funding opportunities currently available for water projects, then prepare and submit federal grant applications. The Program can also help enhance projects prior to application with feasibility studies, planning, and partial design/engineering so that they stand out in the highly competitive federal grant process. The Program was established in spring 2022 via House Bill 22-1379, which appropriated CWCB \$2.5 million for Local Capacity Grants and an additional \$2.5 million for Technical Assistance Grants.

Local Capacity Grants: These are direct awards to grantees to secure the resources they need (contractors or otherwise) to develop projects and submit competitive federal grant applications.

Technical Assistance Grants: These are awards to grantees who want to utilize a contractor hired by the Colorado Water Conservation Board. This contractor can provide a wide variety of water project services, including researching federal grant opportunities, project design, partial engineering, cost estimation and federal application development/grant writing.

#### Program Status

The 2024 Projects Bill contains language that allows CWCB to redistribute funds between the original Local Capacity and Technical Assistance appropriations in H.B. 22-1379. To meet demand and ensure that as much funding as possible is awarded to grantees, in fall 2024 program staff reappropriated \$1.2 million from the Technical Assistance side of the program to the Local Capacity side.

Program staff are in the process of finalizing grant awards for both Local Capacity and Technical Assistance, with the goal of awarding as much of the original \$5.0 million appropriation as possible (minus some costs for staff and operations) by the end of calendar year 2024.

#### Local Capacity Grants

As of November 2024, the Federal Technical Assistance Program has awarded about \$2.8 million in Local Capacity Grants. Program staff are finalizing decisions about an additional \$2.1 million in requests and hope to award an additional \$900,000 by mid-November. The following table summarizes Local Capacity Grant awards through November 2024:

<b><u>Approved Applications</u></b>			
Applicant	Project	Total Project Budget	Grant Award
Owl Creek Lateral	Improved Storage and Operations	\$42,400	\$31,625
Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust	Capacity for Federally Funded Conservation Projects in the Rio Grande Basin	\$194,750	\$145,000
Grand County Learning by Doing	Federal Funding for LBD Stream Restoration and Improvement Projects	\$237,531	\$169,775
Ute Mountain Utes Farm and Ranch Enterprise	Pre-Development Work (PL-566)	\$70,000	\$52,500
American Rivers	Wetland/Riparian Projects in the San Luis Valley	\$241,000	\$152,210
Colorado River Water Conservation District	Colorado River Drought Response Project	\$578,840	\$434,130
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	Rio Grande Basin Capacity to Secure Federal Project Funding	\$268,800	\$195,000
Collbran Water Conservation District	Plateau Valley Pre-Development Work (PL-566)	\$70,000	\$52,500
Sangre de Christo Acequia Association	Federal Funding to Improve Water Management	\$83,975	\$44,975
West Divide Water Conservancy District	Martin Reservoir Enlargement and Reconfiguration	\$315,906	\$118,464
Farmers Conservation Alliance	White River Ditches Modernization Strategy	\$564,690	\$188,186
Estes Valley Watershed Coalition	Fish Creek/Beaver Meadow Restoration Project	\$203,953	\$150,005
Southwestern Water Conservation District	Capacity Gaps in the Southwestern Water Conservation District	\$278,706	\$156,706
Farmers Conservation Alliance	Collbran Conservancy District Modernization Strategy	\$375,375	\$187,688
Trout Unlimited (Montrose)	Securing Federal Funding for Southwest Colorado Projects	\$168,496	\$129,836
Farmers Conservation Alliance	Pre-Development Work, Orchard Mesa Irrigation District	\$98,250	\$73,250
Farmers Conservation Alliance	Pre-Development Work, Montezuma Valley Irrigation Co	\$98,250	\$73,090
Farmers Conservation Alliance	Pre-Development Work, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District	\$23,625	\$17,625

Trout Unlimited/Gunnison Gorge Anglers	<a href="#">Uncompahgre River Fisheries Improvement Project</a>	\$80,486	\$46,308
Big Thompson Watershed Coalition	<a href="#">Advancing the Big Thompson River Envisioning Project</a>	\$216,033	\$162,027
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	<a href="#">Alamosa Riverfront Project - Planning, Design, Engineering Phase 2</a>	\$88,457	\$57,599
Farmers Conservation Alliance	<a href="#">Modernization Efforts for King Ditch, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and RCCP</a>	\$252,500	\$189,375
Total:		\$4,552,023	\$2,827,874

### **Technical Assistance Grants**

H.B. 22-1379 established \$2.5 million for Technical Assistance Grants. CWCB has contracted with Abt Associates to provide wide-ranging assistance to communities and water managers across Colorado as they develop federal grant applications for projects with a nexus to the Colorado Water Plan.

As of November 2024, the Program has five Technical Assistance projects that are either completed or in process:

- City of Grand Junction, Juniata Ditch WaterSMART Grant Support (complete)
- San Miguel Watershed Coalition, Reed-Chatfield Ditch and Diversion Project (contracting complete, project in process)
- Fountain Creek Watershed District, Fountain Creek Watershed District Technical Support (contracting complete, project in process)
- Trout Unlimited/National, Gunnison Basin EQIP Projects (contracting)
- Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, Minnequa Diversion Dam Removal and Replacement (contracting)

## COLORADO RIVER BASIN

### COLORADO RIVER WATER USE—

2024 Colorado River Storage as of October 28, 2024			
	Elevation (feet above mean sea level)	Storage (MAF)	Percent of Capacity
Lake Mead	1,061.88	8.566	33%
Lake Powell	3,577.04	9.060	39%
Total System Active Storage		24.815	42%
2023 Total Active Storage		25.026	43%
		Flow (MAF)	Percent of Average
Forecasted Unregulated Inflow into Powell (Forecasted Water Year 2024)		7.981	83%

\*Note MAF = million acre-feet

### Wild and Scenic Updates

Currently, two different stakeholder groups in the state are working on plans that are an alternative to Wild and Scenic eligibility or suitability. Two additional groups are considering pursuing Wild and Scenic River designations. The following provides updates on both types of stakeholder efforts.

### Wild and Scenic Alternative Stakeholder Groups

#### Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group

Background: The Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group (UCRW&S or SG) was formed to protect the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) identified in the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Wild and Scenic Eligibility Reports for river segments that start below the confluence with the Blue River and end near No Name in Glenwood Canyon. The SG includes water users from both the West Slope and East Slope, environmental interests, anglers, recreational interests, and local and state government representatives. The Amended and Restated Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group Management Plan (Plan) was completed in June 2020 and includes long-term protective measures, cooperative efforts to address issues, and monitoring of the ORVs and other important environmental factors related to recreational fishing and floatboating. The effective date of the Plan commenced June 12, 2015, upon issuance of records of decision by BLM and USFS. The federal entities accepted the SG Plan and deferred making suitability determinations as part of their resource planning efforts. More information about this group is available at: <https://www.upcowildandscenic.com/>

Updates: The SG continues to hold regular meetings and subcommittees continue to meet to fulfill the SG Plan. The SG met on October 22, 2024 to discuss future uses of an endowment fund, hear updates about monitoring efforts and potential water leases, and review financial information. The SG is conducting the observational monitoring program this fall which includes filling out a survey and photo

points at specific locations throughout the reach. The next SG meeting will be on January 17, 2025. This group is being supported by Wild and Scenic Funds, the most recent request for \$99,999 which was approved and issued in early June.

#### Lower Dolores Plan Working Group

Background: The Lower Dolores Plan Working Group has been meeting since 2008 to develop alternative protections for a section of the Dolores River between McPhee Dam and Bedrock. The stakeholder group includes water districts, conservation and recreation groups, local landowners, counties, and others. This group proposed to 1) create a National Conservation Area and 2) continue to understand and improve native fish habitats through the Dolores River Native Fish Monitoring and Recommendations Team (M&R Team). The BLM has agreed to not find portions of the Lower Dolores River eligible for Wild and Scenic designation if those actions occur. The legislation was first introduced to Congress in 2022 and reintroduced in both the House and Senate in 2023. The NCA legislation had a markup in December of 2023 in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee and passed unanimously. A hearing in the House ENR Committee is the next procedural step.

Fort Lewis College is assisting the M&R Team to conduct a number of monitoring efforts on the Dolores River. This group secured a WSRF Grant in 2020 for \$165,617 for a 5-year project. In addition, Fort Lewis College applied for Wild and Scenic funding in 2023 on behalf of the group for \$73,565.04 for a 2-yr project that will end in 2025.

Updates: There are no updates on the legislation. The M&R team is considering a fall meeting to review updates and plan for next year. Fort Lewis College conducted topographic surveys of two sites for hydraulic modeling that will be completed this fall and winter. Vegetation surveys have also been completed.

### **Potential Wild and Scenic Designations**

#### Deep Creek Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group

Background: On July 8, 2015, the USFS White River National Forest and the BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office issued RODs finding three reaches of Deep Creek suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system. Deep Creek is a tributary to the Colorado River just upstream from the confluence with the Eagle River. That year, American Rivers convened CWCB staff, the Colorado River Water Conservation District (River District), BLM, USFS, and members of Colorado's congressional delegation to discuss issues related to a potential Wild and Scenic designation on Deep Creek. A stakeholder group (SG) was formed in 2016 to develop the boundaries, legislation, and flow protection with a state-held ISF water right. ORVs include ecologic, scenic, and geologic. The SG includes the USFS, BLM, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), local landowners, American Rivers, Eagle River Coalition, River District, and various recreation and environment-based groups among others. The group has been drafting and refining the legislation, evaluating flow needs, and working through SG concerns for several years.

Updates: The SG approved an update to the proposed legislation in April. CWCB staff has been meeting internally and with EDO to address concerns related to the legislation and need to protect the State's exclusive authority to administer waters within the State, and to discuss paths to move forward. CWCB staff and River District are discussing potential terms and conditions to address the proposed CWCB-held ISF water right to protect all unappropriated flow with a water development allowance (WDA) to meet reasonable potential future uses. American Rivers and the Eagle River Coalition are preparing a



formal ISF recommendation. Outreach efforts are underway to talk with Garfield and Eagle Counties. We anticipate asking the board to form intent on a Deep Creek ISF in 2025.

#### *Crystal River Wild and Scenic Collaborative*

Background: A portion of the Crystal River from the headwaters to the Sweet Jessup canal headgate was determined to be eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic program in the 1980s and again in 2002. This local stakeholder group met numerous times in 2023 and 2024, with the assistance of a facilitator, to discuss flow and land use protection options. After the facilitator's contract, the stakeholder group formed a recommendation to further consider the three options, including a Wild and Scenic designation, an instream flow, and an intergovernmental agreement. The group has designated members of the steering committee into sub-groups to further gain understanding and explore all three of these options. More information about this group can be found on their website: <https://thecrystalvalleyecho.com/wild-scenic-stakeholder>.

Updates: The stakeholder group reconvened on October 28th to discuss what information has been gained so far. The sub-groups will continue to meet to further explore what protections could be achieved through each of the three options.

## WATERSHED AND FLOOD UPDATES

### Wildfire Ready Watersheds Phase 1 Grant Funding Summary

The CWCB's first phase of funding for Wildfire Ready Action Plans and projects identified by WRAPs was made available through a Special Release of the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program. Ten million dollars was available through this grant program. As of October 16, 2024, all funds have been awarded.

There are 20 Wildfire Ready Action Plans (WRAPs) in progress in different watersheds around the State. Details about the location and grantees are below. There are also ten active projects in progress to mitigate the impacts of post wildfire hazards. The projects are located in the South Platte, Arkansas, Colorado, and Gunnison River Basins. The next funding opportunity will be through the CWCB's [Colorado Water Plan Grant funding, Watershed Health and Recreation Category](#). Applications are due on July 1st and December 1st annually.

WRAP Locations/Lead

#### ***South Platte Basin:***

Upper Poudre – Fort Collins Utilities

Poudre River Watershed – Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed

Big Thompson River Watershed – Peaks to People Water Fund

St. Vrain River Watershed– Watershed Center

Boulder Creek Watershed – Boulder Watershed Collective

North Fork Upper South Platte Watershed – Jefferson Conservation District

#### ***Arkansas Basin:***

North Slope Pikes Peak – Colorado Springs Utilities

Twin Lakes Watersheds – Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative

#### ***Colorado Basin:***

Upper Colorado River Watershed – Grand County

Middle Colorado River Watershed – Middle Colorado Watershed Council

Roaring Fork Watershed – Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative

Blue River Watershed – Blue River Watershed Group

#### ***Gunnison Basin:***

Grand Mesa Watersheds – American Rivers

North Fork Gunnison and Smith Fork Watersheds – West Slope Conservation Center

Coal Creek and Slate River Watersheds – Town of Crested Butte

***Yampa Basin:***

Bear River Watershed – Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District

Upper Yampa above Steamboat – Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust

Upper Yampa Watersheds – National Forest Foundation

***Southwest Basin:***

Dolores River Watershed – Dolores Watersheds Collaborative

Mancos River Watershed – Mancos Conservation District

-Chris Sturm

**Wildfire Ready Action Plans – Before, During and After Fire**

The Wildfire Ready Action Plans (WRAP) program has shown significant promise in mitigating wildfire risks and supporting recovery efforts. By identifying areas susceptible to post-wildfire hazards and highlighting valuable local resources, a WRAP facilitates proactive planning and project implementation. Furthermore, the program's value extends beyond pre-fire mitigation. During the recent Alexander Mountain Fire, stakeholders in the Big Thompson Watershed, despite having an incomplete WRAP, were able to leverage existing data and collaborate effectively with the responding incident command team. This real-world example demonstrates how the program can inform on-the-ground decision-making during active fire events. Post-fire, the various WRAP models can be adjusted to reflect the post disturbance conditions, enabling targeted recovery efforts. We are currently working with local stakeholders in the Alexander Mountain Fire area to complete their WRAP and support long-term recovery.

(Steve Reeves)

**2024 Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference**

The Sustaining Colorado Watersheds (SCW) conference has been held annually for the past 19 years to bring together knowledgeable and engaged community members, scientists, ecologists, water managers, educators, community leaders, young professionals, policymakers, and regulators to share knowledge, network, and discuss current issues facing Colorado’s watersheds. The conference aims to explore innovative and inclusive approaches to watershed management that address the unique challenges we face in Colorado. This year’s Flowing Through Change theme emphasized the relentless nature of change and the need for adaptation, as well as the challenges of bringing about desired change.

SCW is jointly planned by the Colorado Riparian Association, Water Education Colorado, and the Colorado Watershed Assembly. It was held October 8-10<sup>th</sup> in Avon, Colorado. In my capacity as a board member of the Colorado Riparian Association, I am on the conference planning committee and had a large influence over this year’s content. We received many great abstracts and provided a lot of wonderful content for the water community, with a strong presence by the CWCB, who also acted as a Sustaining Sponsor. Jenna Battson gave a great presentation on the turf replacement program, and most

of our Regional Water Plan Grant Managers were in attendance, connecting and networking with watershed leads throughout the state, discussing great ideas and potential projects. This annual event brings together such great minds and is a great opportunity to understand what is going on in the watershed world throughout the state, how to leverage ideas, and catalyze enthusiasm to get more done.

(Andrea Harbin Monahan)

#### ***FEMA NFIP State Assessment, Colorado Compliant***

In a November 5<sup>th</sup> letter to Governor Polis, FEMA Regional Director Nancy Dragani informed the state that Colorado has been found compliant with the rules and requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program for state-owned and state-managed properties. This letter culminates 5 years of cooperation and coordination between the CWCB, FEMA, and other Colorado departments & divisions following FEMA's May 2019 letter notifying the state of the nationwide assessment of states' programs.

The Colorado General Assembly passed and Gov. Polis approved SB24-179 *Floodplain Management Program* on June 6, 2024, which establishes a state floodplain management program within the Office of the State Architect to implement and enforce compliance with the criteria of the National Flood Insurance Program and the state's *Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado* (2-CCR 408-1). The CWCB continues to work closely with the State Architect in drafting the administrative processes and procedures of the program as well as their hiring of staff to manage the program.

We wish to thank the State Architect, DNR leadership, and the CWCB for their support and contribution to the success of this endeavor.

#### ***NFIP Community Outreach and Support***

Doug and Willem have conducted four community assistance contacts (CAC) since August. The CAC provides a means to establish or re-establish contact with an NFIP community for the purpose of determining any existing problems or issues and to offer assistance if necessary. The CAC also provides the opportunity to enhance the working relationship between the State or FEMA and NFIP communities, and creates a greater awareness of the NFIP and its requirements. Most communities contacted were found to be in good standing. For communities where any issues were found, guidance was provided to help the communities get the issues addressed.

To increase outreach efforts, Doug and Willem have initiated a quarterly newsletter for local floodplain administrators across Colorado. This newsletter provides updates on floodplain management, highlights new resources and tools, and shares information on regulatory changes and upcoming events. Some examples of newsletter topics include flood after fire, Colorado high water sign initiative, Community Rating System (CRS) information, Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, and Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (CASFM) information. The goal is to keep floodplain administrators informed and equipped to effectively manage local floodplain issues.

In addition to our newsletter outreach regarding the Federal Risk Management Standard (FFRMS), our office has partnered with FEMA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to offer a Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> webinar to the FEMA Region 8 floodplain administrators and other stakeholders in our respective states to review and discuss the changes HUD has made regarding flood risk criteria for their programs such as FHA-backed mortgages.

***FEMA FY23 NFIP Community Assistance Program (CAP) Grant Summary: End of Performance Period***  
June 30, 2024, saw the end of the FY23 CAP grant 12-month period of performance.

During the year, this office conducted 10 Community Assistance Visits (CAV) audits of community programs, completed 27 Community Assistance Calls (CAC) community touch-points, assisted 27 communities with adoption of new floodplain maps, and recorded 224 instances of providing General Technical Assistance (GTA) to our Colorado communities.

(Doug Mahan; Willem Lensink)

### **Colorado Floodplain and Stormwater Criteria Manual**

The Colorado Floodplain and Stormwater Criteria Manual revisions are currently on hold due to changes in the FEMA program requirements.

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### **The Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) Review Partners Program**

The CWCB LOMR Review Partners Program continues to work with applicants, communities and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to answer questions, provide guidance, and work through complex issues for both ongoing and upcoming map revision requests. CWCB processes and makes recommendations for revision requests on behalf of FEMA to modify flood hazard information on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). FEMA determines if the revision request will be approved or become effective. We have started our fourth year of implementing this program. It has been well-received by applicants and communities and provides the ability to have some coordination between the map revision requests and ongoing Risk MAP projects. Currently there are ongoing cases in Arapahoe, Boulder, Delta, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Gunnison, Larimer, Mesa, Pitkin, Prowers, Routt, Weld, and Yuma Counties. CWCB is starting processes to complete Boulder County LOMRs that were based on CHAMP data and closed with Special Response Letters (SRLs). These cases will be opened (in the order SRLs were dated), draft exhibits and final documents completed and sent to FEMA for final processing. Once these LOMRs have been issued they will have a 90-day mandatory appeal period and become effective approximately 4.5 months later.

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### **November 2024 Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (MAP) Project Updates by Major Water Basin**

CWCB is FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) for the state while Mile High Flood District (MHFD) is the CTP within their service area (Denver Metropolitan Area). CWCB provides support for and coordination with MHFD on projects and data sharing for communities that extend across common boundaries.

**North Platte Basin** – No flood hazard studies are being conducted in this area.

**South Platte Basin** – Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Sedgwick, Larimer, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Park, Phillips, and Weld Counties have ongoing Risk MAP studies. Ongoing CWCB studies within the South Platte basin are as follows:

- Park County Phase 2: The hydraulic analyses were approved September 25, 2024. Coordination on a community Flood Risk Review (FRR) meeting will be underway once the floodplain mapping is approved by FEMA, and the meeting will be scheduled in the near future.
- Logan County Phase 2: The County's suspension from the NFIP does not impact progress for the ongoing Risk MAP project. Hydrology was approved by FEMA on May 1, 2024. Phase 2 hydraulic modeling tie-in issues have been addressed and the initial submittal to FEMA will occur in the next few weeks.
- Adams and Arapahoe Counties Base Level Engineering (BLE): The full Phase 1 submittal comments have been addressed and updated Flood Risk Products (FRPs) and flood hazard mapping have been uploaded for FEMA review. Phase 2 kickoff meetings will be held in the coming months.
- Morgan County BLE: Phase 2 (Data Development) is underway. We are working to coordinate a meeting with FEMA and the Town of Wiggins regarding the Kiowa Creek levee. When the previous Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) was updated, the levee was secluded (not evaluated) since FEMA was updating their certification requirements and guidance. The levee must now meet effective levee certification requirements so it can be accredited, then FIRM mapping can continue to show the levee as providing flood protection for the Town of Wiggins. Once there is concurrence on a path forward for the levee issue, CWCB will work toward getting the communities to sign the final Phase 2 scope of work Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will provide the basis of further data development.
- Phillips County Phase 4: CWCB's contractor is working on completing updated hydraulic modeling and mapping that will reflect the revisions associated with incorporating CDOT's revised hydrology along the Frenchman Creek and Tributaries within the Town of Holyoke (submitted during the appeals period). A revised preliminary product distribution will be required and another 90-day mandatory appeal period will need to take place. CWCB's contractor has submitted floodplain mapping and anticipates review comments by the middle of November.
- Phillips Countywide: CWCB followed up with two towns unable to attend the Phase 2 Kickoff meeting (Haxtun and Paoli). This study covers the portions of Phillips County **not** included in the Phase 4 project above. CWCB has received the MOA from the Town of Haxtun and Phillips County for the final Phase 2 scope of work and is waiting on responses from other communities (that were due the end of October). Paoli is presenting the MOA at their next town council meeting.
- Republican Basin County BLE: A BLE/Discovery effort is being initiated for all flooding sources with drainage areas greater than a square mile within portions of Cheyenne, Kit Carson, Washington, and Yuma Counties. CWCB is coordinating with FEMA on a pilot approach to decoupling hydrology and hydraulics that is being used successfully in other parts of Region 8. Once details are settled, we will review CWCB's contractor's scope and fee to see if modifications are warranted. CWCB will then schedule a Phase 1 kickoff meeting with communities.

- Sedgwick County BLE: A countywide BLE/Discovery effort is underway for flooding sources with drainage areas greater than one square mile that weren't updated with the CHAMP project back in 2021. CWCB's contractor made a full Phase 1 submittal for review and comment on October 14, 2024. We are working to schedule the Discovery meeting and we hope that will take place in mid-November.
- Weld Countywide: A countywide BLE/Discovery effort is ongoing for all flooding sources with drainage areas greater than one square mile that were not recently updated with the CHAMP project below (which went effective November 30, 2023). CWCB's contractor is preparing a full Phase 1 submittal for review (including floodplain mapping and FRPs) for submittal to FEMA. We will then meet with the communities at Discovery.

The Colorado Hazard Mapping Program (CHAMP) Physical Map Revisions (PMRs): The CWCB was able to leverage funds from FEMA to continue getting several CHAMP studies incorporated into updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Studies (FISs) through the FEMA Physical Map Revision process. CHAMP involved analyzing major streams across various Colorado counties (following the devastating 2013 flooding along the Front Range) and includes over 200 FIRM panel updates. Larimer County is the one remaining legacy county being completed within the South Platte Basin.

- Boulder County PMR: This PMR became effective October 24, 2024. Approximately 3.7 miles along Left Hand Creek downstream of the Geer Canyon/Left Hand Creek confluence is being restudied as recommended by a Scientific Review Panel (SRP). Three FIRM panels impacted by the restudy reverted to the previous effective flood hazard data (versus the CHAMP data) for this area. Once this restudy is completed, the resulting updates to these three panels will become effective through a future LOMR that will follow the MT-2 revision process.

An additional state funded LOMR is being completed to reflect CHAMP data for over 6,000 feet along Geer Canyon Creek and approximately 12,000 feet along Left Hand Creek (upstream of the SRP area). Stream reaches included in the LOMR are well outside the SRP area. The LOMR will allow use of the revised CHAMP flood hazard data for these upstream segments of Geer Canyon and Left Hand Creek.

- Weld/Boulder County PMR (aka the Longmont PMR): The City of Longmont extends into both Weld and Boulder Counties. Longmont has opted to split their flood hazard information at the Boulder/Weld County line. This required a Longmont PMR for the three impacted FIRM panels that will now be part of the Weld County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and FIRMs (previously all Longmont flood hazard data was included as part of the Boulder County PMR). The three panels reflecting the updated flood hazard data for portions of the City of Longmont that are physically within Weld County became effective on September 26, 2024.
- Larimer County PMR: The Letter of Final Determination (LFD) for this project was anticipated for August 28, 2024 and has been delayed. No revised LFD date has been determined. Delays have been caused by a few different factors. There are still some issues with the Drake Levee Certification LOMR along the Cache la Poudre River. The existing levee has provided flood protection for one of Fort Collins Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs). A recent resubmittal to address outstanding comments is with FEMA for review. There are

also two ongoing state-funded LOMRs that will update the PMR flood hazard information to reflect updates that have occurred since the revised preliminary mapping was completed. One LOMR is along Boxelder Creek near the Town of Wellington, and one is being performed in partnership with the City of Fort Collins and Larimer County along the Cache la Poudre River (CLPR) corridor. The CLPR LOMR extends from just west of N. College Avenue to just south of Kechter Road in the City of Fort Collins and unincorporated Larimer County. The revision includes the White Water Park/Oxbow Levee certification LOMR, the Harmony/I-25 LOMR revisions, and other minor flow distribution corrections. All communities impacted by the Larimer County PMR are anxious to have the updated flood hazard data for regulatory use.

**Colorado Basin** – Eagle, Grand, Garfield, and Summit Counties have ongoing Risk MAP studies:

- Eagle County Physical Map Revision Phase 3: The Eagle County PMR information was published in the Federal Register October 31, 2024. Due process tasks are ongoing and the project has an expected Appeal start date of December 15, 2024. CWCB's contractor submitted the state funded LOMR for an area in Basalt that impacts portions of both Eagle and Pitkin Counties September 25, 2024, and it is with FEMA for review. The LOMR will provide flood risk data to bridge an existing data gap, verify appropriate flow splits, and revise modeling to reflect existing flood risk.
- Garfield County Phase 2: Review comments on the latest hydraulic submittal are being addressed. A resubmittal to FEMA is anticipated mid-November.
- Summit County Phase 2: The hydraulic submittal is scheduled for mid-November. CWCB is contacting the newly created Town of Keystone to bring them up to speed on the study and make sure any questions or study requests are addressed sooner rather than later.
- Grand County BLE: A countywide BLE/Discovery effort was initiated for all flooding sources with drainage areas greater than a square mile within the county. Materials for a kickoff meeting with communities are being prepared in anticipation of holding the meeting in early December.

**Gunnison Basin** – Delta, Gunnison, and Ouray Counties have ongoing studies:

- Delta County Phase 3. Due Process tasks are ongoing and we are waiting for the Federal Register publication. The state-funded Minnesota Creek LOMR will update flood hazard information through the Town of Paonia and bridge an existing data gap near the confluence with the North Fork Gunnison River. First round LOMR review comments have been addressed and the case was resubmitted to FEMA October 24, 2024.
- Ouray County BLE: CWCB's contractor is targeting mid-November to submit the full Phase 1 package for FEMA review (BLE hydraulic modeling, draft flood hazard mapping, and FRPs). This new countywide project does not include flooding sources included in the Ouray County PMR that went effective on January 2024.
- Gunnison County PMR: CWCB's contractor is working on floodplain mapping for the Town of Crested Butte, and updated 2-dimensional hydraulic modeling for the Gunnison River area.
- CWCB will pursue a grant amendment to reduce the PMR scope to only include flood hazard revisions along Coal Creek in Crested Butte. CWCB, FEMA And the community have agreed to a



more representative flood hazard mapping approach within Crested Butte. Mapping will reflect shallow flooding areas in wide overbanks where traditional floodway mapping is not appropriate. If the PMR scope is reduced, the remaining flooding sources originally included as part of the PMR will be revised in conjunction with the ongoing Gunnison Countywide Phase 2 project.

- Gunnison Countywide Phase 2: CWCB received a signed MOA from Gunnison County for the revised Phase 2 scope of work on October 15, 2024. CWCB is collecting the signed revised MOAs from other communities impacted by this study and we hope to have those by early December at the latest.

**Rio Grande Basin** – Alamosa, Costilla, and Mineral Counties have ongoing studies:

- Alamosa County BLE: CWCB and its contractor met with FEMA’s contractor to resolve remaining modeling comments. CWCB’s contractor is working on the full Phase 1 package (including floodplain mapping and FRPs) for FEMA review. Discovery meeting will be scheduled once the full Phase 1 materials are available. CWCB has coordinated with the City of Alamosa, Alamosa County, USACE and FEMA, as the city works toward certification for portions of the existing levee system along the Rio Grande River. After verifying the USACE mapping funding was not able to be used to assist the community with levee issues, it was determined that CWCB would continue the flood hazard delineation study in Alamosa County (outside the City of Alamosa) through the Risk MAP process. The City will have USACE provide a feasibility study for the Rio Grande levee systems. Based on USACE the study findings and recommendations, the City will be looking to apply for additional funding sources to assist in getting portions of the levee system certified, accredited by FEMA, and allowed to be shown on the revised flood hazard mapping as providing flood protection to portions of the City. USACE inspected the levee on May 22-23, 2024, and the information collected will be discussed with communities during the yet to be scheduled Discovery meeting. The City’s involved partnership with USACE levee process will take several more years before portions of the levee system will be shown to provide flood protection.
- Effective flood hazard mapping in Alamosa County is still on paper mapping from the 90s. At Alamosa County’s request, CWCB has asked that FEMA consider allowing portions of unincorporated Alamosa County (outside the city) to move forward with the Risk MAP study process. There is significant development pressure in the County and accurate, digital flood hazard mapping will support the County floodplain management and regulation. We hope to schedule the Discovery meeting for late November or early December.
- Costilla County Phase 2-3: CWCB continues working with our contractor to complete data development for the remaining effective Zone A stream reaches. Hydraulic modeling review comments have been addressed and a resubmittal is in process.
- Mineral County: The LFD for Mineral County PMR is expected to take place on January 8, 2025 with an effective date of July 8, 2025.

**Arkansas Basin** – Lake, Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Pueblo, El Paso, Huerfano, Las Animas, Otero, Bent, Prowers, Baca, Crowley, and Kiowa Counties have ongoing studies:

- Lake County Phase 2: Flood hazard mapping was submitted October 14, 2024. Review comments are expected to be provided by mid-November. We will hold the Resilience meeting with the communities shortly after FEMA approval.
- Chaffee County Phase 2: CWCB met with Chaffee County and Town of Buena Vista October 16, 2024, regarding shallow flooding along Cottonwood Creek and its overflow paths. CWCB will continue with FEMA reviews and meet with communities for the flood risk review meeting.
- Custer County Phase 2: CWCB worked with FEMA to accommodate community requests for additional approximate and detailed flood hazard mapping to provide more accurate flood hazard mapping for flooding sources near the Town of Westcliffe and Town of Silver Cliff. This flood hazard mapping will inadvertently extend into portions of unincorporated Custer County to provide continuous mapping for the streams to the confluence with Grape Creek. CWCB's contractor is completing scope and fee revisions that will allow the project to move forward with the Phase 2 task.
- Pueblo County Phase 2: FEMA's request to rescope portions of Phase 2 Year 1 resulted in project delays. Letters were sent to property owners notifying them of surveyors in the area. We are also actively working on the county's hydrology development/updates.
- Huerfano County Phase 2: CWCB's contractor is working on a full submittal package to submit for FEMA review. The package is to be submitted the end of November.
- Bent County Phase 2: This floodplain mapping project continues to be on hold as CWCB and FEMA allow the Arkansas River Conservancy District (levee sponsors) to work towards completing the Arkansas River South Levee analysis and certification. The existing levee has previously provided flood protection to the City of Las Animas and portions of unincorporated Bent County. The levee sponsors continue to work with their contractor to obtain certification and accreditation for the Arkansas River South Levee. CWCB, FEMA, and USACE will continue to coordinate and support the communities and levee sponsors as progress toward levee certification continues. CWCB provided state funding to develop an Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) and Interior Drainage Analysis for this levee. Both the EPP and Interior Drainage Analysis products are required for certification and will be included by the levee sponsors as part of their levee certification package to FEMA. CWCB has made a one-time funding contribution for the sponsors to complete the geotechnical evaluation. Results of the geotechnical information is being used to provide an accurate assessment and identification of the level of effort needed for work associated with obtaining levee certification. Results of the geotechnical analysis are being reviewed to assess necessary actions.
- Otero County Phase 2: Review comments for the revised BLE floodplain mapping have been addressed and a resubmittal is expected by November 8, 2024.
- El Paso Phase 2 and Templeton Gap (T-Gap) Levee: CWCB's team is working with the City of Colorado Springs, the USACE, and FEMA on updated flood hazard mapping in this area. Certification of the existing T-Gap Levee is required to allow the revised flood hazard mapping to reflect the levee providing continued flood protection within Colorado Springs. A meeting was held on October 31, 2024 with CWCB, CWCB's contractor, FEMA, and FEMA's contractor to discuss the timelines for different study activities and the existing levee certification process. Results will be provided to communities at the next quarterly meeting (January, 2025).

- Las Animas County Phase 2: Progress continues on the hydraulic modeling. CWCB's contractor is targeting March 2025 for the full hydraulic submittal that will include floodway analysis.
- Fremont County Phase 2: CWCB's contractor received infrastructure information from Canyon City to incorporate into the hydraulic modeling. Results will better represent shallow flooding areas.
- Prowers County Phase 2: CWCB's contractor is putting together a memorandum for floodway and shallow flooding mapping options. CWCB is working with FEMA, USACE, and the communities regarding the existing levees and anticipate some delays.
- Towns of Granada/Holly/Lamar (Prowers County) Pre-Levee assessments: The draft Lamar Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedure (LAMP) has been reviewed by CWCB and comments have been incorporated. The LAMP will be shared and reviewed with the community soon. State-funded Interior Drainage Reports and EPPs have been reviewed by CWCB and shared with communities. We are still waiting for some final community information from the Town of Granada to finalize the EPPs. All other comments/input from the communities have been incorporated into the EPPs. USACE inspected the Holly levee on May 15, 2024, and the community still has not received the final USACE report but will provide to CWCB once available.
- Kiowa County BLE: A countywide BLE/Discovery effort is underway for all flooding sources with drainage areas greater than a square mile. CWCB's contractor is working on the full Phase 1 package for FEMA review and targeting mid-November for submittal.
- Baca County BLE: CWCB's contractor is working on the full BLE submittal. The target date to provide the information to FEMA for review is December 1, 2024. The Discovery materials are being reviewed by CWCB, and the meeting will be scheduled once the full BLE package has been submitted.
- Crowley County BLE: A countywide BLE/Discovery study is underway for all flooding sources with drainage areas greater than a square mile. A full BLE package was submitted October 14, 2024. Discovery materials have been prepared and CWCB will schedule this meeting with communities in the near future.

**Yampa/White Basins** –Moffat and Routt Counties have ongoing Risk Map studies:

- Moffat County Phase 2-3: Floodplain mapping was submitted the first of November, 2024. FEMA approved digitizing effective (not yet revised) flood hazard data for streams within the county. This allows CWCB to move forward with the revised flood hazard information for the initial CHAMP study streams. Preliminary distribution of this information is expected next year.
- Routt County BLE: We received funding to initiate a countywide BLE/Discovery effort for all flooding sources with drainage areas greater than a square mile within the county. We are waiting for new contractor master contracts to be in place before negotiating a scope and fee with one of CWCB's approved contractors. Once that occurs, a kickoff meeting with communities will be scheduled.

**Dolores/San Juan Basins** – La Plata, Dolores, Montezuma, and Archuleta Counties, along with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) and Ute Mountain Ute (UMU) Tribe nations, have ongoing studies.

- Southwest Colorado (Montezuma, Dolores, La Plata, Archuleta Counties and the SUIT and UMU Tribes) Phase 2: The Phase 2 scope of work is being finalized for detailed study stream reaches following the Phase 2 kickoff meetings that took place in May 2024. CWCB has an approved FEMA grant amendment that allows the reallocation of secured funding from the Phase 3-4 scopes of work tasks to accommodate the data development for some of the additional streams that were requested by communities during the Discovery meetings in 2022. Some community requested scope of work revisions that have been incorporated and CWCB is finishing collecting the signed Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs). Funding from the approved FY24 grant will cover the remaining streams. Additional funding for re-scoping the Phase 3-4 tasks will be requested in a future FEMA CTP grant cycle.

**Multi-Basin Risk Map Projects**: Elbert, Mesa, Montrose, Hinsdale, Lincoln, Saguache, San Miguel, and Teller Counties have ongoing studies that span multiple water basins.

- Elbert County Phase 2: Data Development is underway. Additional review comments for hydraulics have been addressed. Resubmittal occurred October 8, 2024.
- Mesa County Phase 2: Countywide hydrology and the hydraulics for the Colorado River have been approved. The remaining countywide hydraulics have been reviewed and comments received. State funding was provided to include Adobe Creek and tie in issues with the main Colorado River reach near Grand Junction have been resolved. Coordination on accommodating issues associated with the existing levee in Grand Junction is resulting in some project delays.
- Flood Risk Information System (Mesa County): Community feedback has been addressed. A final back-check of site modifications is being performed by CWCB before the site will go live. This project was preliminarily shown to the Mesa County floodplain administrator in September 2023.
- Hinsdale County/Lake City Partial Countywide: This study became effective on September 12, 2024.
- Hinsdale Countywide Phase 2: Hydraulic modeling has been finalized with an anticipated submittal to FEMA in mid-November.
- Teller County Phase 2: CWCB's contractor received final approval of the hydrology deliverables on August 1, 2024. Updated reports on the results have been completed and coordination is underway to schedule a meeting to share and review this information with impacted communities. Hydraulic analyses are underway.
- San Miguel Countywide BLE: A countywide BLE/Discovery effort has been initiated for flooding sources with drainage areas greater than one square mile that were not included in the San Miguel PMR (more updates under the CHAMP Ph3 category below). CWCB anticipates an in-person kickoff meeting with communities that will be scheduled in coordination with a meeting for the San Miguel PMR.
- Lincoln County BLE: A countywide BLE/Discovery effort is underway for flooding sources with drainage areas greater than a square mile that were not included with the ongoing Lincoln

County PMR revisions (summarized below). CWCB's Contractor submitted the full Phase 1 BLE package (including FPM, FRP, address BLE DFIRM Database exception) for FEMA's final review and approval on October 14, 2024. Review comments are expected by mid-November.

- Montrose County BLE: A countywide BLE/Discovery effort is being initiated for all flooding sources with drainage areas greater than a square mile within the county. A kickoff meeting with communities will be scheduled soon.
- Colorado Hazard Mapping Program (CHAMP) Phase 3: This set of studies originated from the Colorado Senate Bill (15-245) which was put forth as a response to the destructive 2013 flooding along the Front Range. This bill released funding to better assess and map various flood related hazards, including debris flows and erosion, throughout Colorado. In this phase CWCB funded a paper inventory reduction effort through various counties across the state. This would replace and update effective FIRM panels with updated digital flood hazard information. Counties that were affected by 2013 floods where local conditions were clearly changed. Several county projects that were scoped as part of this CHAMP effort are still ongoing, including the ones listed below.
- San Miguel County PMR: This PMR has been on hold for almost three years pending as-constructed data from the Town of Telluride for the Valley Floor Restoration project. The Valley Floor Restoration project as-built data has now been provided to CWCB's contractor so the draft preliminary hydraulic modeling for the impacted portion of the San Miguel River can be revised to incorporate this project data. CWCB is working with its contractor for an updated scope and fee to accommodate these modeling changes. Once the San Miguel River modeling has been revised, CWCB will coordinate with San Miguel County communities through an in-person Flood Risk Review (FFR) meeting to share and review results before wrapping up the Phase 2 Data Development. This meeting will be coordinated with the San Miguel Countywide Kickoff meeting (mentioned above). Next steps include development of preliminary products (Phase 3). CWCB is coordinating with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Trout Unlimited for a channel and riparian restoration project along the San Miguel River in the middle of the recent Valley Floor LOMR reach. Coordination will address ultimately getting the final revisions based on as-built changes reflected in the regulatory products (likely through a LOMR).
- Lincoln County Phases 2-3: This project became effective on September 12, 2024.
- Saguache County: CWCB is waiting for Federal Register publication for this project which is anticipated to be late-December, 2024.
  - CWCB working on reallocating funding originally intended for the Town of Crestone alluvial fan analysis work. Due to uncertainty of alluvial fan mapping implications on insurance and development. Other organizations/stakeholders are looking at potential projects to divert future flood flows away from the Town at this time.

*(Caitlin McDaniel, Marta Blanco Castaño)*

## **Durango Radar Online After 6-Year Effort to Plug Radar Gap**

The new gap-filling radar in Durango was officially unveiled with a ribbon cutting event on October 29, 2024. This event was the culmination of a 6-year effort that began following the 416 Fire during the 2018 fire season. This area of the state has long been known to contain a “radar hole” in which existing National Weather Service (NWS) radars are unable to see all but the highest based storms due to beam blockage by the high mountains and the curvature of the earth.

Following the 416 Fire in 2018, it became clear to both local officials and CWCB flood staff that the area was subject to significant debris flow and flooding potential due to post-wildfire conditions, which are common downstream of recent large burn scars. Due to the “radar hole”, it was difficult to forecast flood-producing storm events with any lead time, which led to significant public safety concerns by local emergency managers.

The effort to construct this solution began in the waning days of the Hickenlooper administration when the Colorado Department of Local Affairs provided a significant grant to spur design and project development. The project was ultimately subject to numerous delays caused by siting issues (unlike in other areas, there is no obvious place to place this radar when factors such as beam quality, electrical access, property ownership, and road access were considered. A very robust stakeholder effort stalled the location decision for a period of time, but ultimately ended up with a group of local stakeholders agreeing to pay for portions of the cost, including ongoing O&M. Ultimately, the radar was located at the Durango-La Plata airport, which was determined to be the best compromise for all of the issues listed above.

CWCB staff used their knowledge and experience from assisting with a similar project in Alamosa solving a similar concern in that region. While the project was ultimately completed by La Plata County, who now owns the radar, staff provided significant technical expertise and organized a number of stakeholder calls to discuss the issues that arose during project development. CWCB also contributed financially to the construction through an interagency agreement with the Colorado Department of Transportation.

CWCB staff congratulates the hard work of La Plata County administration and all of the local stakeholders who came together to make this project a success. The La Plata County website describes the project as follows:

*La Plata County has partnered with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, the Colorado Water Conservation Board Water, and the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to acquire, install and operate a permanent weather radar station in southwest Colorado on land adjacent to the Durango-La Plata County Airport. The radar is locally owned by La Plata County.*

*This game-changer in preparedness for the region came on the heels of the 416 Fire in 2018 and the floods and mudslides that followed during annual monsoons. Relying on radar imagery from stations in Grand Junction, Albuquerque and Flagstaff – the closest radars until now - painted an incomplete picture of what was headed this way. This is because most of the storms that hit La Plata County and its surrounding areas form at or below 28,000 feet, which falls below eyeshot of those other radar stations.*

*The 416 Fire prompted a solution to this long-recognized gap in coverage, when the Colorado Department of Local Affairs extended a \$1.7 million grant to fund a significant portion of the roughly*

*\$2.6 million project, with the remainder funded by La Plata County, Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado Department of Natural Resources and other local partners pitching in for its operation and maintenance.*

*(Kevin Houck)*

## WATER SUPPLY PLANNING SECTION UPDATES

### November 2024 WSP Director's Report

- **Russ Sands Departure:** After 7 years at CWCB, we are sad to share that Russ Sands is leaving to join the Colorado Energy Office as the *Director of Local Climate Action Solutions* running the states first Climate Accelerator. Among other things, he was integral to efforts like the Colorado Water Plan, Basin Implementation Plans, and the 2019 Analysis and Technical Update. Kat Weismiller will serve as acting Section Chief in the interim.
- **C9 Summit:** Around 260 water leaders gathered in Crested Butte for the 2024 Colorado 9 Basin (C9) Summit on October 1-2, including the CWCB Board, basin roundtables, and the IBCC. In addition to the live [CWCB podcast recording](#), additional audio will be made available on [engagecwcb.org](#).
- **Turf Replacement Grant Program (TRGP):** The first application window closed with 7 requests totaling \$1,345,115.50. If all are approved, \$334,884.50 will be available for the next funding cycle (Dec 31 - Feb 28).
- **Water Loss Efforts:** CWLI hosted water loss audit training on October 29 and 31, training 15 utilities. Additional sessions are scheduled for Nov 19 and Dec 17. These sessions are in demand with CWCB's new mandatory water loss reporting. The CO Water Loss Control and Management Committee also met on Nov 12, with recurring meetings every two months.
- **Water and Land Use Alliance:** The Alliance met virtually on Nov 7, hearing a summary of the Transit-Oriented Communities bill (HB24-1313) and other legislative updates.
- **Recent Staff Presentations:**
  - Jenna Battson spoke at AWWA's Water Smart Innovations, Las Vegas.
  - Elizabeth Schoder & Jenna Battson presented at the Sustaining Watersheds conference.
  - Jenna Battson & Corinne Anderson co-lectured at CU Denver for environmental planning master's students.
  - Corinne Anderson & Kevin Reidy presented at the Colorado APA annual conference on Oct 3, 2024.
  - Russ Sands presented at the Water in the West Symposium on Nov 14, 2024.
  - Kat Weismiller spoke on drought preparedness with Syrian representatives (Nov 13, 2024) and to a group of international representatives on climate adaptation in water planning with Emily Zmak and Wenli Dickinson (Nov 12, 2024).
- **Water Year 2024 Summary:**
  - Temperatures during Water Year 2024 rank 6th warmest in the 129-year record. Much of Colorado experienced a warmer than average August, while South-central Colorado experienced a top ten warmest August.
  - Precipitation this water year has remained near normal, ranking 61st driest in the 129-year record. The Rio Grande basin has been wetter than normal, while Larimer, Boulder, Grand, and Weld Counties are experiencing D3 drought.





# WATER PLAN GRANT PROGRAM

FY 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by the Colorado Water Conservation Board.



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources



# An Introduction to Water Plan Grants

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The Colorado Water Plan provides a comprehensive framework to guide collaborative actions throughout the state. Critical to this goal—is the Water Plan Grant Program, managed by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), which provides millions of dollars of funding for projects in five key categories:

- Water Storage & Supply
- Conservation & Land Use
- Engagement & Innovation
- Agricultural Projects
- Watershed Health & Recreation

Water Plan Grants also support the four key action areas of the 2023 Colorado Water Plan: Vibrant Communities, Robust Agriculture, Thriving Watersheds, and Resilient Planning—as well as support the Water Plan’s critical Partner Actions. Funded projects are wide-ranging and impactful to the state, focusing on enhancing water infrastructure, restoring ecosystems, supporting education and community collaboration, boosting water conservation and efficiency, guiding resilient land use planning, and much more.



CWCB staff work to distribute Water Plan Grant funds to eligible entities across the state. This team includes four regional grant managers who live and work in the communities they serve. Every river basin in Colorado carries its own unique fingerprint of hydrology and geology, as well as sociocultural differences. Because of these differences, Water Plan Grant managers are vitally important liaisons between local communities and the CWCB—making significant contributions to local water management entities far beyond reviewing applications, making funding recommendations, and ongoing oversight of projects. The Water Plan Grant team also includes a technical lead staff member for each of the grant funding categories, providing critical expertise to the grant process and a technical review that enhances the work of the regional managers.

Colorado will continue to face increased challenges from climate change, population growth and changing water demands. The Colorado Water Plan and the Water Plan Grant Program will continue to meet and mitigate our state’s most critical water challenges—allowing water partners, agencies, and Coloradans to work together to ensure our Colorado communities, agriculture and environments will continue to thrive for generations to come.

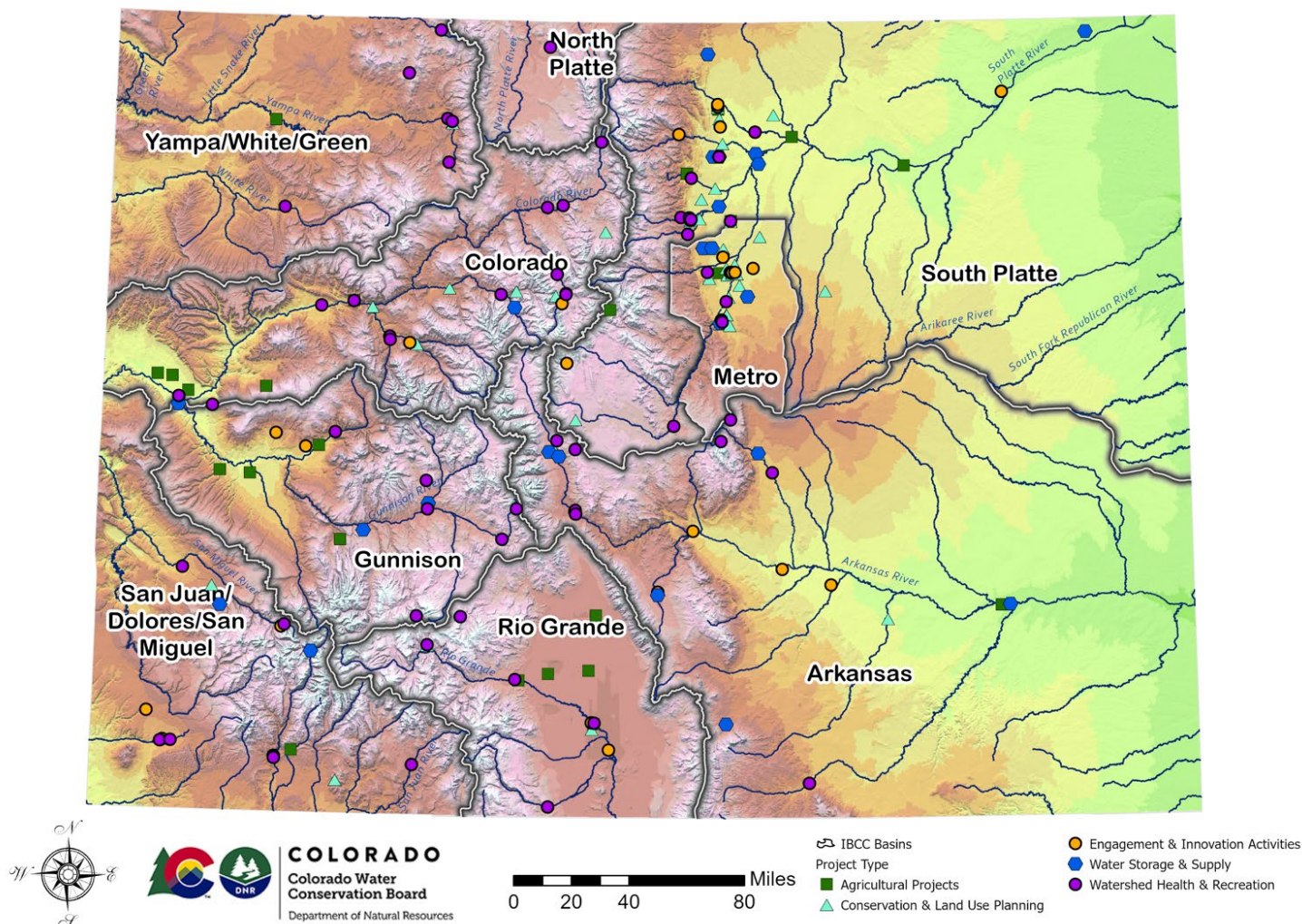
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## Funding Sources and Background

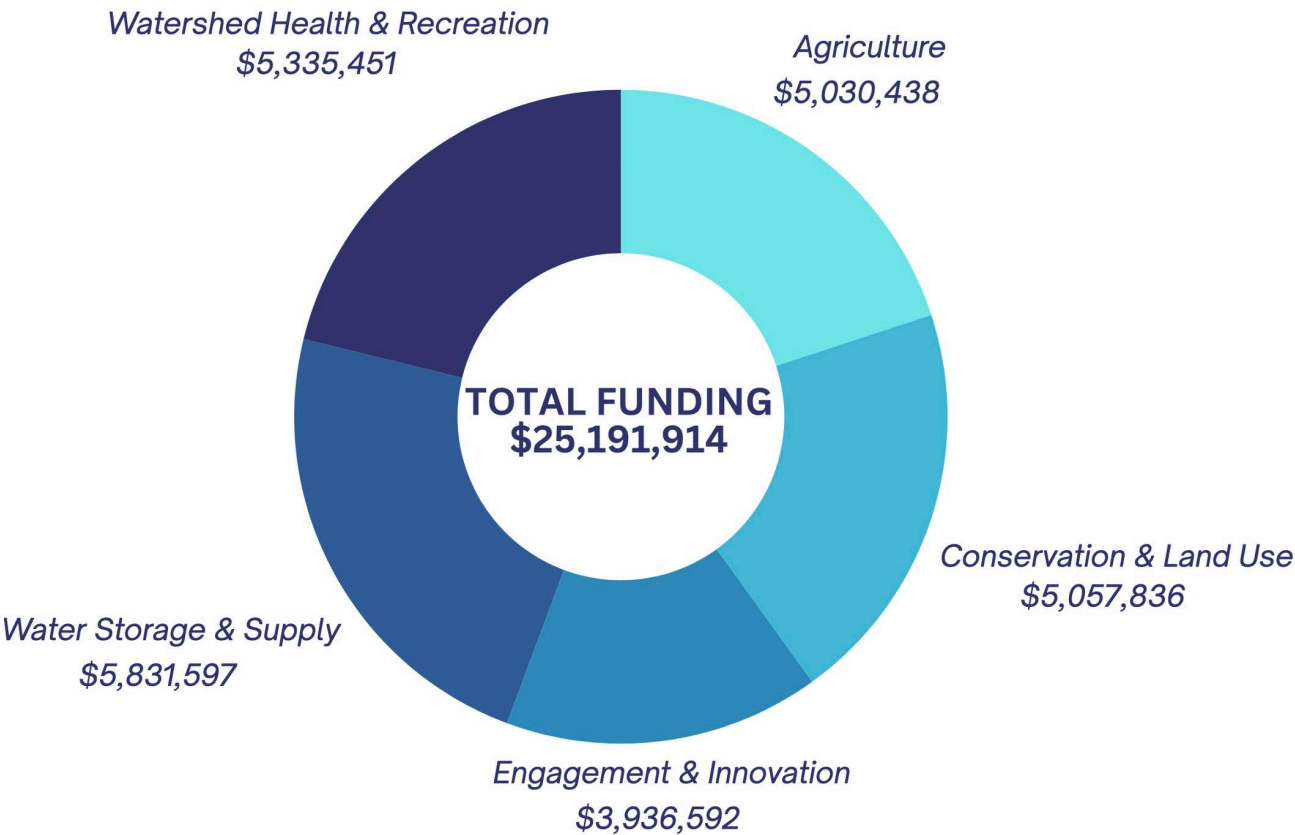
Prior to the receipt of revenue associated with the passage of H.B. 19-1327 (Authorize and Tax Sports Betting Refer Under Taxpayers' Bill of Rights) and the approval of Proposition DD by voters in November 2019, the WPG Program was supported by a series of one-time installments of funding from a number of sources, including the General Fund, the CWCB Construction Fund, and state stimulus funding. Through FY 2024, sports betting revenues are distributed to agencies in arrears of collection, with over 90 percent of revenue distributed to the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund in September of the fiscal year following collection by the Department of Revenue. These funds are appropriated in the legislative session following distribution in the CWCB's annual projects bill. Grants are then awarded twice in the fiscal year following appropriation, which results in a two-year lag from revenue collection to grant award.

Since the 2023-24 fiscal year, sports betting tax revenue represents a stable and permanent source of funding for the WPG Program via the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund. As of the end of FY 2023-24, the WPG Program has issued 470 grants and funded over \$95 million in local projects since it began in FY 2017-18.

## Water Plan Grant Project Locations, FY2024



# WATER PLAN GRANT FUNDING FY24



(above numbers rounded to the nearest dollar)

## Water Plan Grants By the Numbers



**84**

The total number of Water Plan Grant-funded projects for FY24



**602**

The number of acres of preserved habitat from FY24 Water Plan Grant projects



**918,668**

The number of linear feet of stream to be restored from FY24 approved projects (includes design, implementation, planning)



**9**

Water Plan Grants were awarded for projects in all 9 of Colorado's water basins for FY24



**30**

Water Plan Grants were awarded for projects in 30 counties across the state for FY24



# Projects at a Glance

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## Agriculture

### **Las Animas Water-Sharing Program**

Grantee: Western Water Partnerships

Basin: Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$245,738

Description: Western Water Partnerships will lead the development of a water-sharing program that will provide farmers on the Las Animas Consolidated and Consolidated Extension Canals with a permanent water supply through a partnership with a municipality. This project will bring together diverse stakeholders, including Xcel (the current water right holder), farmers, municipal, industrial, environmental and recreational groups to engage in the co-creation of a water sharing program that will provide certainty for agricultural water users while helping to mitigate other water supply challenges in the region.

### **San Luis Valley Rye Resurgence Project**

Grantee: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

Basin: Rio Grande

Grant Amount: \$405,000

Description: San Luis Valley producers are growing rye, a crop that uses less water than crops traditionally grown in the water-stressed basin. Their water plan grant supports the development of a supply chain and marketing scheme to bring the rye to Colorado's distilling and baking communities. This effort helps farmers reduce groundwater use, prevent erosion, and improve soil health, while creating new economic opportunities, making it an important step toward sustainable agriculture in the region.

### **Development of a Market for a Drought Tolerant Fresh Vegetable**

Grantee: Colorado State University

Basin: Colorado/Gunnison

Grant Amount: \$69,673

Description: This project funds a study to determine consumptive water use savings and consumer taste preference for varieties of Southern Sweet Pea. Southern Sweet Pea will be grown at the Western Colorado Research Center's Grand Valley location and taste preference studies will be conducted at CSU SPUR campus and two western Colorado farmers markets. The consumptive water use results will be compared to other common crops in the area including sweet corn, alfalfa, wheat, orchard grass, and field corn. The study will be used to inform the potential use of cowpea as an augmentation or alternative to other crops.



*Southern Sweet Pea varietal taste testing (consumer preference study) at Montrose farmers market*

## **Conservation & Land Use**

### **Alamosa County, Comprehensive Plan Update**

Grantee: Alamosa County

Basin: Rio Grande

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Description: In its comprehensive plan update, Alamosa County is focusing on how dwindling water supplies will reshape land-use practices in the San Luis Valley. This effort engages the community and develops strategies for sustainable growth, balancing agriculture, housing, and recreation.

### **Single Family Home Water Audits and Installs**

Grantee: Mile High Youth Corps

Basin: Metro

Grant Amount: \$183,201

Description: Mile High Youth Corps' Energy & Water Conservation Program trains and employs young adults to complete 510 water-efficiency service visits to low-income households. These visits include replacing inefficient fixtures with low-flow alternatives and ultra-high efficiency toilets, reducing water and energy consumption while helping families save money and promoting conservation efforts in the Denver Metro area.

### **Advancing High Impact Water Efficiency Solutions in Colorado Communities, Phase 2**

Grantee: Multiplier, WaterNow

Basin: Statewide

Grant Amount: \$331,885

Description: WaterNow and their fiscal partner Multiplier will continue their efforts to accelerate and fund high-impact water efficiency projects, focusing on integrating water use efficiency with land use planning. This second phase includes technical assistance for municipal water providers, leadership development, and support for underserved communities accessing federal and state funding, helping Colorado communities close supply gaps and promote sustainable water management.

## **Engagement & Innovation**

### **Colorado Water Fellows Program**

Grantee: Colorado State University

Basin: South Platte, Metro, Colorado, Southwest

Grant Amount: \$306,000

Description: The Colorado Water Fellows Program at Colorado State University is expanding to six universities across three river basins. Participants in the Water Fellows Program range from first-year undergraduates to Ph.D. candidates from historically marginalized or excluded communities and identities. The current cohort represents 15 distinct degree programs from engineering to sociology. The year-long program provides comprehensive exposure to practical and theoretical facets of water management and sustainability, including conference attendance, field trips, topical monthly educational sessions, and a stipend to support their participation. By fostering diverse talent and providing comprehensive education in water management, the program builds a skilled and resilient workforce, addressing challenges such as talent retention and diversity, and aligning with Colorado's water equity goals.



*The 2024 Water Fellows Cohort*

### **Place-Based Water Education in Southwest Colorado**

Grantee: Montezuma Land Conservancy

Basin: Southwest

Grant Amount: \$112,000

Description: The Montezuma Land Conservancy is implementing hands-on water education in partnership with local charter schools, focusing on local watersheds and water systems while incorporating Indigenous perspectives. By engaging a diverse student body, including many Ute and Navajo youth, the project will enhance water stewardship knowledge and confidence, align with Colorado Water Plan goals, and promote equity in water education.

### **Custer County Conservation District Water Stakeholder Engagement**

Grantee: Custer County Conservation District

Basin: Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$68,400

Description: This project will proactively address Custer County's water needs while supporting the Arkansas Basin Roundtable's goals for water quality and agricultural preservation. By conducting wildfire preparedness assessments, evaluating irrigation infrastructure, and educating pond owners on compliance, the project seeks to enhance water management practices and serve as a model for other districts in the Arkansas River Basin.

## **Water Storage & Supply**

### **Welton Reservoir Expansion**

Grantee: The Consolidated Mutual Water Company

Basin: Metro

Grant Amount: \$919,441

Description: The Consolidated Mutual Water Company will expand the Welton Reservoir in Arvada, including increasing drought storage and accommodating additional water rights. This project aligns with the Colorado Water Plan by addressing water storage needs, enhancing regional water resilience, and optimizing infrastructure investments, supporting both local communities and broader water management goals.



*Welton Reservoir*

### **Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot Study**

Grantee: Donala Water and Sanitation District

Basin: Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$290,000

Description: The Donala Water and Sanitation District will transition from non-renewable groundwater to renewable surface water through aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), enhancing future water supply sustainability. This pilot project aims to retrofit a well for ASR, demonstrating feasibility and promoting regional collaboration on water resource management, while aligning with the Colorado Water Plan's goals for vibrant communities and resilient planning.

### **Raw Water and Infiltration Gallery Infrastructure Improvements**

Grantee: City of Gunnison

Basin: Gunnison

Grant Amount: \$1,500,000

Description: The City of Gunnison is constructing three new groundwater wells and a surface water diversion structure from the Gunnison River as part of a central water treatment plant project. This upgrade aims to enhance water supply capacity, protect against contamination, and create a more resilient water system, ultimately supporting the city's growing needs and regional water management goals.

## **Watershed Health & Recreation**

### **Alamosa Riverfront Project, Phase I**

Grantee: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

Basin: Rio Grande

Grant Amount: \$182,900

Description: This project will finalize designs, engineering, and permitting for new public river access, recreation infrastructure, and aquatic habitat enhancements along the Rio Grande River through the Town of Alamosa. The project will also rehabilitate a downstream agricultural diversion, improving deliveries to water users, creating fish passage, and addressing recreational safety concerns. This multi-benefit project will improve water quality, reduce flood risks, and support recreation while advancing key Colorado Water Plan goals for vibrant communities, thriving watersheds, and resilient water management.

### **North Sand Creek Health & Water Quality**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Basin: North Platte

Grant Amount: \$57,634

Description: Ducks Unlimited is developing a long-term plan to address severe erosion and sedimentation in North Sand Creek, which hinders irrigation water diversions and impacts fisheries. The plan will address mitigating sediment transport, benefiting agricultural water use and improving wildlife habitat, while also supporting recreational planning efforts in collaboration with stakeholders like Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Bureau of Land Management.



*North Sand Creek*

### **South Arkansas River Restoration Concept Design**

Grantee: Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Basin: Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$62,709

Description: The Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited will develop concept designs and cost estimates for the re-naturalization of a 1.2-mile stretch of the South Arkansas River near Salida. This project aims to restore in-stream habitat and the riparian corridor in collaboration with local organizations and landowners, who support conservation efforts amidst development pressures. The plan includes an "Ecosystems Learning Center" for community education, with the restored corridor also serving as a fire break in a high wildfire risk area.



# Water Plan Grant FAQs

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## Who can apply?

- Governmental entities: municipalities, districts, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities.
- Covered entities as defined in Section 37-60-126, C.R.S., are eligible if the applicant has adopted an approved water conservation plan.
- Private entities: mutual ditch companies, non-profit corporations, and partnerships.
- For more information about FY24 WPG projects, see the [September 2023](#) and [March 2024](#) CWCB Board Meeting notes.

## How can the money be used?

- Examples of eligible projects and activities:
  - Technical assistance regarding permitting, feasibility studies, and environmental compliance.
  - Studies or analysis of structural, programmatic, consumptive, and non-consumptive water projects or activities.
  - Design of structural projects or activities.
  - Activities that promote education, outreach, and innovation consistent with the mission and goals of the Colorado Water Plan.
  - Researching and demonstrating methods to improve agricultural drought resilience.

## How can I apply?

- Applicants must submit application materials through the CWCB portal (July 1 and December 1 deadlines).
- Review these [Partner Actions](#). How does the project advance Colorado Water Plan goals?
- Visit [cwcb.colorado.gov/funding/colorado-water-plan-grants](https://cwcb.colorado.gov/funding/colorado-water-plan-grants) for more information.
- Reach out to your [Regional Water Plan Grant Manager](#) for pre-application questions.

To learn more or if you have questions, please email [waterplan.info@state.co.us](mailto:waterplan.info@state.co.us), call 303-866-3441 or visit the Colorado Water Conservation Board website at, <https://cwcb.colorado.gov>.



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## INSTREAM FLOW

### 2024 Reservoir Releases for Instream Flow Use

Reservoir	Amount Released in AF	Date Release Started	Date Release Ended	Purpose
Ruedi	6,000	9/15/2024	10/21/2024	To protect flows in the 15 Mile Reach (CO River) for four federally protected native fish species – the Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, humpback chub and bonytail. Agreement with Ute Water Conservancy District.
Ruedi	350	10/21/2024	10/25/2024	To protect flows in the 15 Mile Reach (CO River) for four federally protected native fish species – the Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, humpback chub and bonytail. Agreement with Garfield County.
Stagecoach	5,100	7/30/2024	10/20/2024	To support flows on the Yampa River for an outstanding rainbow and brown trout fishery. Agreement with the Colorado Water Trust who contracts water from Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District.
Steamboat Lake	712	10/19/2024	10/29/2024	To assist with the migration of the Mountain Whitefish upstream on the Elk River to spawn in its tributaries. Releases coordinated with Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
Terrace	443	11/1/2024	11/29/2024	To preserve the environment by keeping water in the Alamosa River.

### Requests for Administration of Instream Flow Water Rights for 2024

Stream and Lake Protection staff investigated low flow alerts from the satellite monitoring system and placed six formal requests for administration, identified in the table below. The Division Engineers worked to enforce the calls through curtailment of junior water rights or undecreed uses, limiting water rights to decreed rates through implementation of augmentation plans, and denying junior exchanges.

The call letters and detailed information on the Board's rights that were administered can be found on the CWCB's web page at: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/instream-flow-administrative-calls>

Stream Name	Water Division	Case Number(s)	Date(s) of Formal Call	Amount cfs (dates)	Termini
Dallas Creek	4	98CW0234	May 13, 2024	9 (10/15-4/30) 20 (5/1-10/14)	UT: confl East & West Forks Dallas Creek LT: confl Ridgeway Reservoir
Bear River	6	77W1315	August 13, 2024	12 (1/1-12/31)	UT: outlet Yampa (Yamcolo) Reservoir LT: confl Phillips (Chimney) Creek
Slater Creek	6	17CW3030	September 4, 2024	16 (10/16 – 3/15) 25 (3/16 – 4/15) 74 (4/16 – 6/30) 25 (7/1 – 7/15) 10 (7/16 – 7/31) 6.5 (8/1 – 9/15) 8.5 (9/16 – 10/15)	UT: confl Beaver Creek LT: USGS Gage #09255000
Elk River	6	77W1279 & 77W1331	September 4, 2024	65 (1/1-12/31) & 65 (1/1-12/31)	UT: confl NF Elk River LT: confl Rock Creek & UT: confl Rock Creek LT: confl Yampa River
Slate River	4	80CW0092	September 18, 2024	12 (12/1-3/31) 23 (4/1-11/30)	UT: confl Coal Creek LT: confl East River
Uncompahgre River	4	98CW0222	September 30, 2024	20 (10/15-4/30) 65 (5/1-10/14)	UT: highway 62 bridge LT: confl Ridgway Reservoir

**November 20-21, 2024 Board Meeting  
Instream Flow and Natural Lake Level Program  
Summary of Resolved Legal Protection Cases**

The Board's Instream Flow ("ISF") Rule 8i(1) states:

In the event the pretrial resolution includes terms and conditions preventing injury or interference and does not involve a modification, or acceptance of injury or interference with mitigation, the Board is not required to review and ratify the pretrial resolution. Staff may

authorize its counsel to sign any court documents necessary to finalize this type of pretrial resolution without Board ratification.

Staff has resolved issues of potential injury in the following water court cases. Staff had filed Statements of Opposition in the cases listed below.

#### **A. STATEMENTS OF OPPOSITION**

##### **1. Case No. 19CW3159 (Water Division 5) - Application of City of Aurora, Colorado, acting by and through its Utility Enterprise**

The Board ratified this Statement of Opposition at its March 2020 meeting. Applicant requested “Appropriative Rights of Exchange, Including Both “River Flow Exchange” and “Contract Exchange,” in which Applicant would “instantaneously exchange a volume of its water already in storage” from one reservoir to another “notwithstanding the rate of stream flow” between the reservoirs. Staff, in cooperation with the Attorney General’s Office, has negotiated a settlement to ensure that the CWCB’s instream flow water rights will not be injured. CWCB’s stipulation was approved by the Court on September 19, 2024. The Ruling of the Referee was filed on October 1, 2024. The final decree was entered on October 31, 2024.

The CWCB holds instream flow ("ISF") water rights, including the following, in Water Division 5 in the Roaring Fork watershed that could be injured by this application:

##### **Appropriated ISF Water Rights**

<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Stream</b>	<b>Upper Terminus</b>	<b>Lower Terminus</b>	<b>CFS Rate (Dates)</b>	<b>Approp. Date</b>
W-1945 (1973)	Fryingpan River	confl Rocky Fork Creek	confl Roaring Fork River	39 (11/1 - 4/30) 110 (5/1 - 10/31)	07/12/1973
W-1948 (1973)	Fryingpan River	confl Marten Creek	confl SF Fryingpan River	6 (10/1 - 3/31) 12 (4/1 - 9/30)	07/12/1973
W-1952 (1973)	Ivanhoe Creek	hdgt Fry-Ark Project div	confl Fryingpan River	1 (10/1 - 3/31) 2 (4/1 - 9/30)	07/12/1973
W-1955 (1973)	Fryingpan River	confl NF Fryingpan River	confl Ruedi Reservoir	30 (10/1 - 3/31) 200 (6/1 - 6/30) 150 (5/1 - 5/31) 100 (4/1 - 4/30) 100 (7/1 -	07/12/1973

				7/31) 75 (8/1 - 8/31) 65 (9/1 - 9/30)	
W-2936 (1976)	Lincoln Creek	confl Galena Creek	confl Roaring Fork River	8 (1/1 - 12/31)	01/14/1976
W-2948 (1976)	Roaring Fork River	confl Difficult Creek	confl Maroon Creek	32 (1/1 - 12/31)	01/14/1976
W-2949 (1976)	Roaring Fork River	confl Lincoln Creek	confl Difficult Creek	15 (1/1 - 12/31)	01/14/1976
85CW0639	Roaring Fork River	confl Fryingpan River	confl Crystal River	75 (10/1 - 3/31) 145 (4/1 - 9/30)	11/08/1985
85CW0646	Roaring Fork River	confl Maroon Creek	confl Fryingpan River	30 (10/1 - 3/31) 55 (4/1 - 9/30)	11/08/1985

Aurora also acknowledges that the CWCB has existing acquired water rights that were changed to instream flow use in Case No. 10CW184 that originate at the Stapleton Brothers Ditch on Maroon Creek and are protected through the reach of the Roaring Fork River between Maroon Creek and the Fryingpan River.

In addition to standard terms regarding measuring devices, accounting and retained jurisdiction, the Applicant has agreed to the following additional protective terms and conditions:

- Paragraph 13 of the Decree:**  
 Reservoir Trade. The application in this case sought approval of a “Contract Exchange”, which is one of the operations referred to as a “Reservoir Trade” in that memo from State Engineer Kevin Rein and Division Engineer for Water Division 2 Bill Tyner to Arkansas River Basin water users dated January 22, 2020, on the subject of “Reservoir Trades and Substitutions in Water Division 2.” The Court has determined that C.R.S. § 37-92-302(1)(a) does not provide the legal authority for it to enter a decree for a claim for a Reservoir Trade, and the proposed provisions relating thereto have been removed from this Decree. Nothing in this Decree shall be interpreted to preclude Aurora from operating a Reservoir Trade subject to administrative approval by the Division Engineer. The CWCB has entered into an amended stipulation in this case regarding Aurora’s operation of any such Reservoir Trade and the court approved such stipulation on September 19, 2024.
- Paragraph 10 of the Stipulation:**  
 In addition to, or apart from, the river exchange described in Paragraph 12.2.2. of Exhibit 1 hereto, if administratively approved, Aurora intends to operate, at times, a contract exchange (a.k.a., book-over exchange or “Reservoir Trade”) between its account in Ruedi Reservoir and Ivanhoe Reservoir for the purpose of moving water derived from its pro rata share of the Twin Lakes Project (Independence Pass Transmountain Diversion System) which will have been placed in storage in

Ruedi Reservoir by exchange, for an equal volume of water belonging to Aurora or another owner (having first obtained the permission of said owner) in storage within Ivanhoe Reservoir. This Reservoir Trade will be accomplished as an accounting matter, and at the time of the Reservoir Trade will not alter the rate of stream flow between Ivanhoe and Ruedi Reservoir. The amount of water traded to Ruedi Reservoir by this operation will then be immediately released as native water, or in the event of a call at Ruedi Reservoir, shall be transferred to the account for the calling right. To avoid injury to the instream flow water rights of CWCB, Aurora agrees to comply with the following terms and conditions pertaining to the Reservoir Trade, and will include such terms and conditions in any request for administrative approval from the Division Engineer for the operation of the Reservoir Trade.

- a. Aurora shall provide sufficient notice to the CWCB and obtain approval from the Division Engineer prior to operating the Reservoir Trade. Aurora shall notify the Division Engineer of the volume of water released from Ivanhoe Reservoir and instantaneously exchanged from Ruedi Reservoir Trade.
- b. Aurora will not operate the Reservoir Trade described above when the CWCB's instream flow water right on Ivanhoe Creek adjudicated in Case No. W-1952, the CWCB's instream flow water right on the Fryingpan River adjudicated in Case No. W-1955, and that portion of the CWCB's instream flow water right on the Fryingpan River adjudicated in Case No. W-1948 downstream from the Ivanhoe Creek and Fryingpan River confluence, all in Water Division 5, are not fully satisfied.
- c. Aurora will separately account for all water stored in Ivanhoe Reservoir via the Reservoir Trade. If any portion of water stored in Ivanhoe Reservoir via the Reservoir Trade is not physically released to Ivanhoe Creek or physically delivered through the Carlton Tunnel in a given water year, that water will be carried over in an account separate from the accounts tracking other water rights stored in Ivanhoe Reservoir. This same requirement will apply in subsequent years. In the current or subsequent water year(s) following any Reservoir Trade, the space in Ivanhoe Reservoir created when Reservoir Trade water is physically released to Ivanhoe Creek or physically delivered through the Carlton Tunnel may only be refilled, including under the priorities for the Busk-Ivanhoe System water rights decreed in Case No. CA-2621, at times when the Colorado Water Conservation Board's instream flow water right on Ivanhoe Creek adjudicated in Case No. W-1952, the Colorado Water Conservation Board's instream flow water right on the Fryingpan River adjudicated in Case No. W-1955, and that portion of the Colorado Water Conservation Board's instream flow water right on the Fryingpan River adjudicated in Case No. W-1948 downstream from the confluence with Ivanhoe Creek, all in Water Division 5, are satisfied. Aurora will use existing or other future gauges and measurement facilities to confirm the above instream flow water rights are satisfied and Aurora's Busk-Ivanhoe System rights are in priority.

## **2. Case No. 22CW3082 (Water Division 5) - Application of NamuRanch LLC**

The Board ratified this Statement of Opposition at its November 2022 meeting. Applicant requested "Groundwater Right, Surface Right, Storage Right, and Approval of Plan for Augmentation Including Exchange". Staff, in cooperation with the Attorney General's Office, has negotiated a settlement to ensure that the CWCB's instream flow water rights will not be injured. CWCB's stipulation was approved by the Court on September 23, 2024. The Ruling of the Referee was filed on September 20, 2024. This

case remains pending before the Water Court. The final decree was entered on October 31, 2024.

The CWCB holds instream flow ("ISF") water rights, including the following, in Water Division 5 in the Roaring Fork watershed that could be injured by this application:

<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Stream</b>	<b>Upper Terminus</b>	<b>Lower Terminus</b>	<b>CFS Rate (Dates)</b>	<b>Approp. Date</b>
W-2946 (1976)	Conundrum Creek	Conundrum Springs	confl Castle Creek	9 (1/1 - 12/31)	01/14/1976
W-2947 (1976)	Castle Creek	headwaters	confl Roaring Fork River	12 (1/1 - 12/31)	01/14/1976
W-2948 (1976)	Roaring Fork River	confl Difficult Creek	confl Maroon Creek	32 (1/1 - 12/31)	01/14/1976
85CW0646	Roaring Fork River	confl Maroon Creek	confl Fryingpan River	30 (10/1 - 3/31) 55 (4/1 - 9/30)	11/08/1985
85CW0639	Roaring Fork River	confl Fryingpan River	confl Crystal River	75 (10/1 - 3/31) 145 (4/1 - 9/30)	11/08/1985

In addition to standard terms regarding measuring devices, accounting and retained jurisdiction, the Applicant has agreed to the following additional protective terms and conditions:

- **Paragraph 9.C.iv. Of the Decree:**

Local call: In the event of a valid local call on Castle Creek or the Roaring Fork River between the confluences with the Frying Pan River and Castle Creek, including a call for the CWCB's instream flow water rights decreed in Case Nos. W-2947-76, W-2948-76 and 85CW646, Applicant will curtail all storage diversions into the Mesa Augmentation Pond and lower the surface water level of the Mesa Augmentation Pond commensurate with evaporation losses, pond releases, and passing through of surface runoff and precipitation. Applicant will also curtail all out-of-priority well pumping and surface diversions unless the depletions associated with such pumping and diversions can be replaced by making sufficient releases from the Mesa Augmentation Pond back to Castle Creek, through the return pipe as shown on Figure 1, with water previously stored in priority for augmentation purposes. If the local call lasts for a greater duration than the Mesa Augmentation Pond is capable of covering, Applicant will cease irrigation so that the stored water can fully augment the in-house depletions. The amount of water required for augmentation will be determined in the same manner as described in the sub-section above. Table 6 outlines an augmentation schedule for a local call with releases from the pond during a critical drought year.

- **Paragraph 10.F.ii. Of the Decree:**

Applicant will operate the Mesa Exchange Project only when it is in priority. At any time the exchange project is out-of-priority due to a valid and administered call within the exchange reaches, including a call from an instream flow water right, the replacement of out-of-priority depletions must be made from Applicant's local augmentation supplies (i.e., water previously stored in priority for augmentation purposes in the Mesa Augmentation Pond). On an annual basis, Applicant must provide a projection of operations including local and by-exchange replacement sources sufficient to

replace the projected depletions from the operation of the Mesa Well, Mesa Pump and Pipeline, and Mesa Augmentation Pond. If Applicant is unable to demonstrate that it has sufficient replacement sources for the projected year of operation, the plan is no longer operational and the structures will be curtailed for that year or until Applicant has acquired sufficient replacement sources.



## FINANCE

### Two Rivers Water & Farming Company / Two Rivers Farms F-2, Inc. – Loan Default

Background: The annual loan payment for loan contract #C150328A (CT2015-0164) that was due on March 1, 2023. The Board assessed a late fee of 5% of the annual payment (\$3,800.34). That fee increased the amount due to \$79,807.12. The borrower failed to cure the delinquency which resulted in the entire balance declared in default in December of 2023. This also resulted in the loan bearing an interest rate of 7% per annum.

#### Update:

In September, the case was converted from a small business expedited Chapter 11 (known as subchapter V) to a standard Chapter 11 case. The Debtor has not yet filed a plan of reorganization and has indicated that it is working to obtain financing. The financing, if approved, could pay CWCB over time through the plan (with interest) or pay it in full prior to that time. The Debtor has initiated several lawsuits to determine various parties' rights in the Orlando Reservoir and water rights. The Debtor is unlikely to confirm a plan of reorganization prior to resolution of the outstanding lawsuits.



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Jared Polis, Governor

Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive Director

Lauren Ris, CWCB Director

**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Kirk Russell, P.E., Finance Section Chief

**Board Meeting:** November 20-21, 2024 Board Meeting

**Directors Report:** Water Project Loans  
Interest Rates

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### Introduction

The CWCB establishes interest rates bi-monthly for the Water Project Loan Program (per Financial Policy #7).

The current rates for a 30-year term are as follows:

- 2.05% - Agricultural
- 2.85% - Low-income Municipal
- 3.25% - Middle-income Municipal
- 3.65% - High-income Municipal
- 6.00% - Commercial
- 2.00% - Hydroelectric

The standard loan term is 30 years. Rates are reduced by 0.25% for 20-year loans, and by 0.90% for 10-year loans. Rates are increased by 0.25% for 40-year loans.

The rates can also be found on the CWCB web site under the “Loans and Grants” tab. These rates will be applicable for loans presented at this Board meeting.





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Jared Polis, Governor

Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive Director

Lauren Ris, CWCB Director

**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Matthew Stearns, P.E., Project Development

**DATE:** November 20-21, 2024 Board Meeting

**DIRECTORS REPORT: Water Project Loan Program**  
Prequalified Project List and Loan Prospect Summary

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The Finance Section compiles a list of prequalified projects for the Water Project Loan Program. In order to be included on this list, potential borrowers must submit a Loan Application and three years of financial statements to the CWCB staff. In addition, Borrowers requesting to be placed on the Prequalification Project List have a defined project, have performed preliminary engineering, and have a reasonable estimate of the project costs.

Projects on this list fit the initial criteria of the Water Project Loan Program; however, the list does not constitute loan approval. In order to receive a loan, borrowers must additionally submit a completed Loan Feasibility Study for review by CWCB staff. Staff will then prepare a recommendation to the Board for approval at a future CWCB meeting. Projects will remain on this list for one year from the date of the application or until Board approval of a loan.



## Prequalified Project List

BORROWER	PROJECT NAME	APPLICATION DATE	BASIN	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT COST/LOAN AMOUNT
Previously Approved Applications					
Sustainable Water Augmentation Group, Inc.	Water Rights Purchase	July 1, 2022	Rio Grande	The Corporation is purchasing two irrigated farm/ranch properties where 39 center pivot irrigation circles will be retired, and surface water rights will be used to replace stream depletions to the Rio Grande caused by groundwater withdrawals of member wells.	\$39,200,000
Total					\$39,200,000



The Finance Section also compiles a list of potential borrowers/projects for the Water Project Loan Program. This list represents borrowers that have contacted the CWCB about a potential need for funding but have not submitted a loan application and loan feasibility study. Projects are also identified if they have a Health/Safety (\*), Economic Impact (†), or Federal Match (‡) component.

BORROWER	PROJECT NAME	POTENTIAL LOAN AMOUNT
<b>South Platte</b>		
NISP Participants	NISP	\$750,000,000
Woods Lake Mutual Ditch Company	Culvert Replacement	\$150,000
Town of Kersey	Water Line Project	TBD
Riverside Reservoir and Land Company	Ditch Rehabilitation	\$250,000
Town of Bennett	Raw Water Tank	\$500,000
Evergreen Metro District	Evergreen Dam Enlargement	TBD
Left Hand Water District	Dry Creek Reservoir	TBD
Shawnee Water Consumers Association	Reservoir Rehabilitation	\$200,000
Boulder and White Rock Ditch & Res. Co.	Reservoir Dredging	TBD
Western Mutual Ditch Company	Reservoir Dredging	TBD
Louviers Water and Sanitation District	Regional Connection	TBD
City of Fort Collins	Irrigation Ditch Piping	\$20,000,000
City of Fort Collins	Halligan Reservoir Enlargement	\$120,000,000
SPROWG Participants	SPROWG	\$1,800,000,000
City of Milliken (*)	Hillsboro Dam Rehabilitation	\$15,000,000
Colorado Parks and Wildlife (*)	Tarryall Dam Rehabilitation	\$5,000,000
Standley Lake Operating Committee	Reservoir Expansion	TBD
Danna Ortiz	Knouth Reservoir Rehabilitation	\$3,000,000
Loup Reservoir Company	Loup Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Arthur Irrigation Company	Ditch Rehabilitation	TBD
Handy Ditch Company	Welch Reservoir Rehabilitation	\$1,000,000
Glacier Lake Property Owners	Glacier Lake Outlet Rehabilitation	TBD
Central, City of	Raw Water Pipeline	TBD
Denver, City of	Floodplain Improvement	TBD
Consolidated Mutual Water Company (*)	Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Wadley Farms 3 HOA	Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Loveland Lake and Ditch Company	Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Inverness Water and Sanitation District	Reservoir Improvements	\$2,000,000
Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District	Reservoir Improvements	\$1,600,000
Arapahoe County W/WW Authority	Reservoir Improvements	TBD
Highland Ditch Company	Raw Water Pipeline	TBD
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$2,718,700,000</b>



BORROWER	PROJECT NAME	POTENTIAL LOAN AMOUNT
<b>Arkansas</b>		
Town of Manitou Springs	Raw Water Pipeline	\$3,000,000
City of Woodland Park	Storage Project	\$1,000,000
Holbrook Ditch Company	Reservoir Enlargement	TBD
Lake County	New Reservoir	TBD
Catlin Canal Company	Canal System Improvement	\$1,500,000
Donala Water and Sanitation District	Ditch Construction	TBD
Fort Lyons Canal Company (+)	Diversion Structure Repair	\$500,000
Aguilar, Town of (‡)	New Augmentation Reservoir	TBD
Huerfano County	Water Rights Purchase	\$1,200,000
Lincoln Park Crooked Ditch Company	Ditch Rehabilitation	TBD
Huerfano Cucharas Irrigation Company	Reservoir Rehabilitation	\$200,000
Fruitland Water Company	Ditch Piping Project	\$400,000
Walsh, Town of	Water Rights Purchase	\$560,000
Deweese Dye Ditch Company	Outlet Pipe Rehabilitation	\$100,000
Triview Metropolitan District	New Reservoir	\$8,000,000
Lamar Canal Company	Siphon Rehabilitation	TBD
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$16,460,000</b>
<b>San Miguel/Juan</b>		
Town of Bayfield	Ditch Piping Project	\$500,000
Redmesa Reservoir and Ditch Company(*)	Redmesa Reservoir Enlargement	\$11,500,000
City of Cortez	Distribution System (Loss Prevention)	\$10,000,000
Webber Ditch Company (‡)	Ditch Piping Project	TBD
Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation Dist. (*)	Raw Water Pipeline Rehabilitation	TBD
Farmers Water Development Company	Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Lone Cone Ditch and Reservoir Company	Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Sellers McClane Reservoir and Ditch Co.	Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Forest Lakes Metropolitan District	Dam Rehabilitation	TBD
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$22,000,000</b>
<b>Colorado</b>		
Orchard Mesa Irrigation District	Lateral Piping	\$300,000
Silt Water Conservancy District	Harvey Gap Reservoir	\$300,000
Middle Ditch	Ditch Piping Project	TBD
Gunther Covers	Christenson Dam	TBD
Town of Minturn	New Well Field	\$5,220,000
Fruita, City of	Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Circle C Ranch	King Dam Rehabilitation	TBD
Royal Elk Ranch	Ditch Rehabilitation	\$2,000,000
Clifton Water District	New Reservoir	\$8,000,000
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$15,820,000</b>



BORROWER	PROJECT NAME	POTENTIAL LOAN AMOUNT
<b>Gunnison</b>		
Bostwick Park Water Conservancy District	Dam Construction	TBD
Ouray, City of	Water Supply Pipeline	\$750,000
Grand Mesa Water Users Association	Reservoir Rehabilitation	\$600,000
Crested Butte, Town of	Dam Outlet Rehabilitation	TBD
Lone Cabin Ditch Company	Ditch Rehabilitation	TBD
Otter Pond HOA	Dam Rehabilitation	\$650,000
Project 7 Water Authority	Raw Water Pipeline	TBD
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>North Platte</b>		
Colorado Parks and Wildlife (*)	North Michigan Creek Reservoir	\$6,000,000
Walden, Town of	New Well	TBD
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$6,000,000</b>
<b>Rio Grande</b>		
Manassa Land & Irrigation Co.	Ditch Rehabilitation	\$6,000,000
Baca Grande WSD	Water Rights Purchase	\$1,000,000
Sanchez Ditch and Reservoir Co.	Dam Rehabilitation	\$15,000,000
Rio Grande WCD - Subdistrict #1	Water Rights Purchase	\$5,000,000
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Alberta Park Dam Rehabilitation	\$4,000,000
La Jara, Town of	System Rehabilitation	TBD
Crestone, Town of	Water Rights Purchase	\$200,000
San Luis Valley WCD	Water Rights Purchase	\$500,000
Rio Grande WCD	Water Rights Purchase	\$3,000,000
Rio Grande WCD - Subdistrict 6	Water Rights Purchase	\$5,000,000
Rio Grande WCD - Subdistrict 5	Water Rights Purchase	\$2,500,000
Rio Grande WCD - Subdistrict 2	Water Rights Purchase	TBD
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$42,200,000</b>
<b>Yampa</b>		
Town of Oak Creek (*)	Reservoir Rehabilitation	\$5,600,000
Rio Blanco WCD	Wolf Creek Reservoir	\$100,000,000
Bear River Reservoir Company	Stillwater #1 Dam Rehabilitation	TBD
Marc Etchart	Procter Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$105,600,000</b>





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Jared Polis, Governor  
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To: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

From: Kirk Russell, P.E., Finance Section Chief  
Jessica Halvorsen, Program Assistant

Board Meeting: November 20-21, 2024 Board Meeting

Directors Report: Water Project Loan Program, Design & Construction Status Report

The CWCB Loan Program has Substantially Completed (16) projects in Calendar Year 2024 as shown in the Table. There are currently (46) projects authorized to receive loan funding totaling \$506M. There are (38) projects currently under contract and in the Design/Construction phase totaling \$299M. The attached spreadsheet summarizes the status of all loans. A detailed description about each project is provided on the CWCB website under Water Project Loan Program. [www.cwcb.colorado.gov/loans-grants/water-project-loan-program](http://www.cwcb.colorado.gov/loans-grants/water-project-loan-program)

	Borrower	Project	County	Loan Amount	Complete
1	City of Grand Junction	Carson Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation	Mesa	4,343,000	1/24/24 (a)
2	Orphan Wells of Wiggins	Kiowa Creek Dam Rehabilitation	Morgan	\$357,873	3/1/24
3	Billings Ditch Company	Billings Ditch Implementation Project	Rio Grande	\$126,250	3/1/24
4	East Mesa Water Company	East Mesa Emergency Ditch Repair	Garfield	\$43,347	5/1/24
5	Oxford Farmers Ditch Company	Chicosa Siphon Repair	Otero	\$1,323,979	5/1/24
6	Tunnel Water Company	Headgate Improvements (DIL)	Larimer	950,575	5/1/24
7	Genesee WS District	Genesee Reservoir No. 1 Enlargement	Jefferson	\$5,122,625	6/1/24 (b)
8	Ogilvy Augmentation Company	Loloff Reservoir Acquisition	Weld	\$1,140,290	6/1/24 (c)
9	Root and Ratliff Ditch Company	Ditch Piping and Rehabilitation	Montezuma	\$250,408	6/1/24
10	Grand Junction, City of	Kannah Creek Flowline Replacement	Mesa	2,246,326	6/1/24
11	Glenwood Springs, City of	System Redundancy & Pre-Treatment	Garfield	\$3,777,754	6/1/24
12	Triview Metropolitan District	Stonewall Springs Reservoir Complex	Pueblo	\$5,202,439	6/1/24 (d)
13	Fort Morgan Res & Irr Co	Augmentation Pump Replacement	Fort Morgan	\$1,644,076	8/1/24
14	Last Chance Ditch Company	Measurement Structure Reconstruction	Weld	\$191,691	9/1/24
15*	Ogilvy Irrigating and Land Co	Seely Reservoir Dredging	Weld	\$3,029,791	9/1/24 (e)
16*	Orchard City Irrigation District	Fruitgrowers Res Gates Replacement	Delta	\$505,000	9/1/24
	* included in Director's Report		Total	\$30,255,424	

Calendar Year 2024 has added and preserved 5,087 acre-feet of reservoir storage; (a) 637; (b) 46; (c) 1,998; (d) 2,050; (e) 356







## Loloff Reservoir Acquisition

Ogilvy Augmentation Company  
Substantially Complete June 1, 2024

Ogilvy Augmentation Company and Ogilvy Irrigation and Land Company purchased 20% and 80%, respectively, of Loloff Reservoir - a 1,998 AF reservoir in Weld County Colorado.



### Project Description

The Ogilvy Augmentation Company (Company) allows for the operation of 15 irrigation wells within the Ogilvy Ditch System; these wells provide supplemental irrigation water supplies on approximately 1,400 acres from the eastern edge of Greeley, CO to farms east of Kersey, Colorado.

In 2022, the Company - in agreement with Ogilvy Irrigation and Land Company (OILC) purchased 20% and 80% of Loloff Reservoir (a reclaimed gravel pit with a storage capacity of 1,998 AF), respectively, for a total of \$4,800,228. OILC paid their portion outright and the Company took out a bridge loan to cover its portion of the costs - with a commitment to repay the bridge loan within one year. The Company and OILC also jointly constructed a bi-directional pipeline to connect the Ogilvy Ditch with the reservoir. Both the reservoir and the pipeline are now in active use.

P R O J E C T   D A T A		
<i>Sponsor:</i> Ogilvy Augmentation Company	<i>County:</i> Weld	<i>Water Source:</i> Cache la Poudre
<i>Type of Project:</i> New Reservoir		<i>Board Approval Date:</i> January 2023
<i>Loan Terms:</i> 30yr @ 1.80% (Original) \$1,140,290.00 (Final) \$1,140,290.00		
<i>Design Engineer:</i> NOCO Engineering		
<i>Contractor:</i> Four C Sons Inc.		



## Fruitgrowers Reservoir Gates Replacement

Orchard City Irrigation District  
Substantially Complete September 1, 2024

Below on the left is a photo of the newly constructed gatehouse used to protect the SCADA system and the access to the newly constructed gates and motorized controls. On the right is a photo of the Fruitgrowers Reservoir drained to allow for installation of the gates.



### Project Description

The Orchard City Irrigation District (District) provides water to 558 landowners for use on 2,760 irrigated acres of agricultural land and for domestic use. The Fruitgrowers Reservoir and Dam are owned by the Bureau of Reclamation but operated and maintained by the District.

For 85 years, the same emergency and control gates were in place and manually operated to release water to downstream users. The gates had reached the end of their designed life and the emergency gate would leak at 1,500 gal/min when fully closed. In 2023 and 2024 the gates were completely removed and replaced with newly fabricated gates. Additionally, a gatehouse was built over the access to house the new SCADA system and motorized controls. The new system was constructed to accommodate telemetry at the choosing of the District.

P R O J E C T D A T A		
Sponsor: Orchard City Irrigation District	County: Delta	Water Source: Surface Creek and Dry Creek
Type of Project: Dam Rehabilitation		Board Approval Date: November 2023
Loan Terms: 30 years @ 2.20% (Original) \$505,000.00 (Final) \$505,000.00		
Design Engineer: Applegate Group, Inc.		
Contractor: Kissner G.C. Inc.		

**PROJECTS UNDER CONTRACT**

PROJECT						STATUS		
Borrower	Project Name	Basin	Contract #	Amount	Manager	Design	Construction	Update
Amity Mutual Irrigation Company	Queen Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation	Arkansas	CT2021-2224	\$2,600,000	Joshua Godwin	100%	75%	Construction ongoing. Some delays due to concrete contractor. Construction completion expected by end of 2024.
Board of Water Works of Pueblo	Southside Diversion Dam Improvement Project	Arkansas	CT2024-1240	\$9,750,000	Joshua Godwin	100%	95%	Construction work is expected to be complete by mid November.
Breckenridge, Town of	Goose Pasture Tarn Dam Rehabilitation	Colorado	CT2023-0673	\$13,000,000	Cole Bedford	100%	99%	The project has been under construction since 2020. This loan is intended to cover the costs of the second half of the project which is starting in the fall of 2022. The first draw took place in December 2022. Construction will continue into 2024. SC will be about Dec 2024
Crawford Clipper Ditch Company	Crawford Clipper Ditch Improvements	Gunnison	CT2024-2009	\$750,000	Joshua Godwin	100%	75%	Construction delayed some, but expected to be completed before end of 2024.
Dove Creek, Town of	Reservoir No. 2	Southwest	CT2022-3321	\$800,000	Joshua Godwin	90%	0%	Engineers are finalizing design and sending to SEO for approval.
Florida Consolidated Ditch Company	Hess Lateral Improvement	Southwest	CT2019-2034	\$1,075,000	Kirk Russell	100%	0%	Company received a Water Smart Grant in April 2023. This \$2M will help cover the increase of construction costs since the original bid in 2020. Project will be rebid fall2024.
Florida Consolidated Ditch Company	Florida Canal Diversion Replacement	Southwest	CT2021-2890	\$750,000	Matt Stearns	100%	99%	This project is the replacement of a low head dam diversion structure with multibeneficial outcomes. Construction began October 2023 and the contractor demobilized in December 2023. Contractor revegetated in spring 2024 and construction is complete. Loan will be closed out in spring 2025.
Fort Morgan Farms, LLC	Delta Water Storage Phase 1	South Platte	CT2021-2222	\$8,982,000	Zach Salin	80%	66%	NPH classification granted by Dam Safety. Gravel mining continuing.
Fruitland Irrigation Company	Tunnel and Canal Renovation	Gunnison	CT2019-2848	\$1,729,000	Kirk Russell	100%	80%	Company may need to request additional loan funds. Grant contracts have been extended.
Grand Junction, City of	Purdy Mesa Flowline Replacement	Gunnison	CT2021-2857	\$7,000,000	Joshua Godwin	100%	75%	Construction restarted in May. Completion expected in November and SC by end of 2025.
Grand View Canal Irrigation Company	Grandview Canal Improvements	Gunnison	CT2024-4203	\$500,000	Joshua Godwin	90%	80%	Demolition and rebuild of diversion structure underway.
Grand View Irrigation Company	Siphon Repair Project	Arkansas	CT2023-2058	\$350,000	Joshua Godwin	100%	100%	Project substantially complete.
Groundwater Management Subdistrict of CCWCD	Hokestra Reservoir Purchase	South Platte	CT2020-3348	\$5,390,500	Zach Salin	100%	85%	Weld Co. continuing to mine Reservoir #3/#4. Completing wiring cathodic protection for steel piping at pump station. Rec'd final building permit for pump building, HVAC installed.
Groundwater Management Subdistrict of CCWCD	Pioneer Reservoir	South Platte	CT2019-3687	\$8,611,000	Zach Salin	100%	90%	Platte Valley REA need to complete power supply to pump. Pumphouse 90% complete. Anticipate SC of project in early 2025.
Hidden Valley Water District	Master Water Meter Connection	South Platte	CT2020-2244	\$1,720,000	Kirk Russell	100%	95%	Assets and operations are all to the District. District signed and approved EMD IGA. EMD connect 7/2020. Construction complete, final walk thru Aug 2020. Water court work is complete. Loan increase may be required for water storage.
Keensburg, Town of	Alluvial Water Rights Extension Project	South Platte	CT2024-2007	\$2,100,000	Joshua Godwin	0%	0%	Water rights purchase is complete. Construction of pipeline from wells to town expected in Fall 2024 and to be completed before the end of 2024.
Lookout Mountain Water District	Upper and Lower Beaver Brook Dam Rehabilitation	South Platte	CT2021-3115	\$3,500,000	Joshua Godwin	100%	98%	Army Corp has accepted the district's solution to the pH issues. Beginning the SC process.
Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company	Beaver Creek Ditch Repairs	Southwest	CT2024-3135	\$1,400,000	Joshua Godwin	100%	99%	Substantial completion set for Nov 1.
North Poudre Irrigation Company	Park Creek Expansion Project	South Platte	CT2023-2593	\$9,900,000	Zach Salin	75%	20%	Non-Projects Bill Loan increase effective. Received first 2 PRs drawing on Loan and Construction WPG. Construction is continuing with excavation of the downstream slope, subgrade prep at the spillway, completion of the sand filter chimney drain test bed, etc.
Platte Valley Irrigation Company	Platte Valley Reservoir No. 1	South Platte	CT2024-2005	\$4,500,000	Zach Salin	80%	0%	Project is still negotiating with FRICO. FRICO rejected PVCs draft agreement and wants agreement on their form. FRICO wants to operate the entire facility, does not want to pay shared costs. PVC Board revised agreement 3 weeks ago, FRICO reviewing. PVC may try to approach individual board members. FRICO requested storage, which PVC granted, PVC is offering FRICO a share of an upcoming Frac project.



**PROJECTS UNDER CONTRACT**

PROJECT						STATUS			
Borrower	Project Name	Basin	Contract #	Amount	Manager	Design	Construction	Update	
Redmesa Reservoir and Ditch Company	Redmesa Reservoir Rehabilitation Engineering	Southwest	CT2022-0498	\$183,000	Matt Stearns	60%	0%	This project is to engineer a financially feasible dam rehabilitation, including a potential enlargement. Work began on March 8, 2021. The Company has secured a local governmental sponsor and has been approved to proceed in the NRCS PL-566 program which will cover 100% of design and 75% of construction.	
Rio Grande Water Conservation District Subdistrict No. 5	Saguache Pipeline	Rio Grande	CT2021-3846	\$6,020,000	Zach Salin	100%	97%	Still waiting for driller invoice. Chris Ivers has offered partial payment, etc., driller has refused. This is the last item preventing the project from Substantially Completing.	
Silver Lake Ditch & Reservoir Company	Elephant Buttress Tunnel Rehabilitation	South Platte	CT2025-0766	\$150,000	Zach Salin	100%	0%	Project is under contract. Harrison Western has started work, including scaling and liner plate installation.	
Smith and Emmons Ditch Company	Diversion Structures Replacement Project	South Platte	CT2023-2473	\$410,000	Zach Salin	100%	10%	Construction Bid Packet went out today. Transition over to Bryan Black in effect, ZCS providing budget and remaining funds summaries for loan and grant. Pre-bid site walk occurring Nov. 7th 2024.	
Special Improvement District No. 3 of the RGWCD	Alpha Hay Farms Augmentation	Rio Grande	CT2023-2843	\$2,555,000	Zach Salin	100%	0%	Project is continuing to operate under their SWSP including operation of the aug well using the recently-installed VFD. Subdivided tracts of the property are being offered for sale to offset loan costs.	
Special Improvement District No. 4 of the Rio Grande WCD	Peachwood Farms Augmentation & Sustainability	Rio Grande	CT2023-3361	\$3,456,000	Zach Salin	100%	50%	Closed on property. New hole for aug well planned in Winter to Spring 2025. Drill job will be put out to bid. RGWCD continuing non-loan scope work like revegetation.	
Trinchera Conservancy District Groundwater Management Subdistrict	Augmentation Pipeline	Rio Grande	CT2022-3040	\$977,000	Kirk Russell	100%	99%	Project is complete. Substantial completion date TBD.	
Trinchera Groundwater Management Subdistrict	Water Rights Purchase	Rio Grande	CT2025-0288	\$2,300,000	Joshua Godwin	100%	0%	Contracting complete. Awaiting PR from borrower to complete the water rights purchase.	
Tunnel Water Company	West Half Laramie-Poudre Tunnel Rehabilitation	North Platte/South Platte	CT2019-3706	\$18,730,000	Kirk Russell	100%	99%	Construction was completed in spring of 2022 after delays due to Cameron Peak wildfire. After the '22 irrigation season, warrenty review found tunnel lining caved in. Repair was made winter of 22/23. Discussion re cost inceased responsibility. Loan increased by Board March '24	
Twin Lakes Reservoir and Canal Company	Grizzly Reservoir Rehabilitation	Colorado	CT2024-2006	\$9,833,000	Joshua Godwin	95%	60%	Dam faced lining complete. Site closed out for the season. Construction expected to resume Summer of 2025 or 2026.	
Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association	Taylor Park Hydro Powerplant Project	Gunnison	CT2023-2565	\$1,685,000	Kirk Russell	100%	99%	This project is complete. Substantial Completion will be set for the spring of 2025 after power generation revenue begins.	
Victor, City of	Victor Reservoir No. 2 Dam Rehabilitation	Arkansas	CT2021-3873	\$510,000	Kirk Russell	100%	99%	Town replaced the outlet tower per DWR/Dam Safety. Project is complete. City is determining amount of cash funds they will use. Increase to loan funds requested Nov '24.	
West Divide Water Conservancy District	Flannery Reservoir Purchase	Colorado	CT2025-0769	\$2,029,000	Joshua Godwin	75%	0%	Money disbursed to cover bridge loan on Flannery Reservoir purchase. Need to select contractor for reservoir improvements.	
Wiggins, Town of	Wiggins Recharge Facility at Glassey Farms	South Platte	CT2018-0892	\$2,385,000	Kirk Russell	100%	0%	The purpose of this project is to develop an augmentation water source for the Town. In August 2017 the Town purchased Glassey Farms and its associated water rights and 52% of funds were disbursed at that time. The project is back underway and an extension was granted.	
Windy Gap Farming Project Water Activity Enterprise	Windy Gap Project (Chimney Hollow Reservoir)	South Platte	CT2021-2039	\$154,108,911	Zach Salin	100%	76%	Currently the Project is backfilling the upstream tunnel pipeline and grouting the dam abutments. The Projects also performed chemical grouting and placement of spillway slab sections. Carter Lake Interconnect occurred 8/29/24. PR amounts are being coordinated with Mimi and Treasury.	
Grand Valley Water Users Association	Vinelands Power Plant	Colorado	CT2022-2084	\$1,066,000	Matt Stearns	100%	98%	This project will replace the existing 2.75 MW hydroelectric powerplant with a new 4.5 MW facility. Contractor mobilized November of 2021, and construction of the power generation facility completed in November 2022. The powerplant is producing power (up to 3.2 MW as of July 2023) via a temporary interconnect with Xcel Energy, and will be fully operational in May 2024 via a permanent interconnect.	
Orchard Mesa Irrigation District			CT2022-2057	\$1,066,000					
Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District	WISE - Phase 2 Infrastructure	South Platte	CT2015-0105	\$1,674,000	Kirk Russell	100%	90%	Binney Connection Pipeline of Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency project will increase WISE flow capacity to 30MGD and provide infrastructure from Aurora Binney Facility to SMWSA. Pumps/Treatment-Glacier, Pipeline/Infrastructure-T.Lowell, Jacobs is Engineer. Vault excavation began 9/2020. Construction trailer onsite through project duration. Glacier complete foundation work, pumpm cans have been delivered and installed, pump motors have arrived at the pump manufacture, preliminary SCADA meetings begun, Glacier starting to form rebar for the flow control building, start laying pipe. Precast concrete walls for pump station complete.	
Inverness Water and Sanitation District			CT2015-0119	\$2,105,000					
Pinery (Denver SE Water and Sanitation District)			CT2015-0086	\$1,413,130					

**PROJECTS UNDER CONTRACT**

PROJECT						STATUS		
Borrower	Project Name	Basin	Contract #	Amount	Manager	Design	Construction	Update
38 Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District	WISE - Denver International Airport Connection	South Platte	CT2015-0104	\$363,600	Kirk Russell	98%	60%	Annual disbursement to be made on this loan through 2021.Design Status indicates percent of funds disbursed to date. WISE WDA negotiations between parties continue with the goal of having an amended Water Delivery Agreement ready to be brought to the respective Boards and Council for review and approval by April 1, 2021. Group discussion continues focused on the DIA Connection.
Inverness Water and Sanitation District			CT2015-0120	\$450,000				
Parker Water and Sanitation District			CT2015-0110	\$1,089,000				

**TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT                    \$298,966,141**

**APPROVED PROJECTS - NOT CONTRACTED**

PROJECT						STATUS		
Borrower	Project Name	Basin	Contract #	Amount	Manager	Design	Construction	Update
1 Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District	Arkansas Valley Conduit	Arkansas	CT2025-XXXX	\$90,000,000	Kirk Russell	0%	0%	Federal Funding will control the scheduled use of these funds
2 Colorado City Metropolitan District	Lake Beckwith Dam Modifications	Arkansas	CT2025-XXXX	\$3,333,000	Joshua Godwin	0%	0%	
3 Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District - Northern Integrated Supply Project Water Activity Enterprise	Northern Integrated Supply Project	South Platte	CT2025-XXXX	\$101,000,000	Zach Salin	15%	0%	2024 Projects Bill
4 Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company	Lower Arickaree and Garrett Ridge Canal Piping	Montezuma	CT2025-XXXX	\$3,004,000	Joshua Godwin		0%	
5 High Line Canal Company	Rocky Ford High Line Canal Diversion	Pueblo	CT2025-XXXX	\$4,119,000	Zach Salin		0%	
6 Crawford Water Conservancy District	Feeder Canal Stabilization	Gunnison	CT2025-XXXX	\$297,030	Joshua Godwin		0%	
7 Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District	Taylor Draw Hydroelectric Turbine Refurbishment	Yampa/White /Green	CT2025-XXXX	\$2,125,000	Joshua Godwin		0%	
8 Larimer and Weld Irrigation Company	Cache La Poudre River Diversion Rehabilitation	Cache La Poudre	CT2025-XXXX	\$2,872,000	Zach Salin		0%	

**NOT UNDER CONTRACT SUB TOTAL                    \$206,750,030**

**GRAND TOTAL                    \$505,716,171**

**WATER PROJECT CONSTRUCTION LOAN PROGRAM  
LOAN REPAYMENT DELINQUENCY REPORT  
LOAN FINANCIAL ACTIVITY REPORT  
November 2024**

**LOAN REPAYMENT DELINQUENCY**

Loan repayments received relative to the Water Project Construction Loan Program have been reviewed for the period covering July 2024 through October 2024 to date of report. The effective due date of the payment is inclusive of the Board's current 60 day late policy. Hence, the date the payment was received was compared to the last day allowable prior to the payment being considered late.

Repayments due for Fiscal Year 2025 total 308. Two Rivers is currently delinquent and is in foreclosure. All other payments are current.

**LOAN FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**

Loan financial activity relative to the Water Project Construction Loan Program for Fiscal Year 2025 is summarized as follows:

Funds received relative to loans in repayment totaled \$16.3M for this year.

Funds disbursed relative to new project loans totaled \$51.4M for this year.

Net activity resulted in \$35.1M disbursed by the CWCB Construction Fund and the Severance Tax Perpetual Base Fund (STPBF) over the total received.

Further breakdown is summarized as follows:

The Construction Fund portion consists of \$5.6M in receipts and \$38.6M in disbursements for a total net activity of \$33.0M disbursed over received.

The STPBF consists of \$10.7M in receipts and \$12.9M in disbursements for a total net activity of \$2.2M disbursed over received.

**CONSTRUCTION FUND**

Period	Principal	Interest	Total Received	Disbursements	Net Activity
July 2024	\$ 366,225	\$ 153,487	\$ 519,712	\$ 2,469,000	\$ (1,949,288)
August 2024	\$ 1,871,552	\$ 1,081,695	\$ 2,953,247	\$ 15,441,097	\$ (12,487,850)
September 2024	\$ 1,331,112	\$ 517,814	\$ 1,848,926	\$ 47,886	\$ 1,801,040
October 2024	\$ 188,310	\$ 65,664	\$ 253,974	\$ 20,601,890	\$ (20,347,916)
November 2024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
December 2024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
January 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
February 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
March 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
April 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
May 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
June 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>FY 2025 Totals</b>	<b>\$ 3,757,199</b>	<b>\$ 1,818,660</b>	<b>\$ 5,575,859</b>	<b>\$ 38,559,873</b>	<b>\$ (32,984,014)</b>

**SEVERANCE TAX TRUST FUND PERPETUAL BASE ACCOUNT**

Period	Principal	Interest	Total Received	Disbursements	Net Activity
July 2024	\$ 162,610	\$ 82,859	\$ 245,469	\$ 3,480,139	\$ (3,234,670)
August 2024	\$ 4,721,884	\$ 1,467,187	\$ 6,189,071	\$ 1,867,800	\$ 4,321,271
September 2024	\$ 289,235	\$ 140,480	\$ 429,714	\$ 939,894	\$ (510,180)
October 2024	\$ 1,772,512	\$ 2,063,015	\$ 3,835,527	\$ 6,564,257	\$ (2,728,730)
November 2024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
December 2024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
January 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
February 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
March 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
April 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
May 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
June 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>FY 2025 Totals</b>	<b>\$ 6,946,241</b>	<b>\$ 3,753,541</b>	<b>\$ 10,699,782</b>	<b>\$ 12,852,090</b>	<b>\$ (2,152,309)</b>

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 10,703,440</b>	<b>\$ 5,572,201</b>	<b>\$ 16,275,641</b>	<b>\$ 51,411,964</b>	<b>\$ (35,136,323)</b>
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