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Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive Director

Lauren Ris, CWCB Director

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board

FROM: Anna Mauss, Deputy Director

Jeannine Shaw, Grants Section Chief

DATE: November 20-21, 2024 Board Meeting

ITEM: 21c. 2025 Projects Bill

Appropriations for FY 25/26 Water Plan Grant Cash Fund

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board support an appropriation of \$29.2 million from the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund for the Water Plan Grant Program in the 2025 Projects Bill.

Introduction/Discussion

The Water Plan Grant Program is available to promote progress on the critical actions identified in the Water Plan and its measurable objectives. The grant program supports projects, programs and activities that have the best opportunity to make progress on the Water Plan's objectives and that are in alignment with the program guidelines. Funding categories include: Agricultural Projects, Conservation & Land Use Planning, Engagement & Innovation, Water Storage & Supply, Water Sharing Agreements, and Watershed Health & Recreation Projects.

In September 2024, the Department of Revenue transferred \$26.8 million to the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund from sports betting revenue collected in FY 2023-24. An additional transfer of \$1.4 million is anticipated as a result of the passing of Proposition JJ (HB24-1436) by voters. Treasury interest also added to the fund balance. A portion of the revenue will be used for Water Plan Grant Program administration. Staff recommends including an appropriation of \$29.2 million for Water Plan Grants in the 2025 Projects Bill.

