

Conservation as a Demand Reducer

An Agreement Among U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Discussions & Understandings

During 2010, representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC), and the Denver office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began a series of meetings known as the, Collaborative Approach to Water Supply (CAWS). The overall objective of CAWS is to streamline the time it takes from the start of a permitting request to a decision. Other purposes of these meetings were to identify mutually agreed upon areas of concern in water supply projects processes, and to take advantage of opportunities for increased efficiencies by addressing these concerns through the development of written agreements among the three agencies. This document summarizes an agreement developed as an outcome of a June 2011 CAWS meeting.

Agreements Reached

- Generally, agreement was reached among participants about how to address particular aspects of conservation.
- The agencies agreed that addressing conservation as a demand reducer during the development of “purpose and need” is the preferred approach. Advantages to this approach are that it results in up-front consideration of conservation which ensures that it is built into all alternatives, which in turn ensures that conservation is incorporated into the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA).
- The parties agreed that conservation should be addressed as a demand reducer during development of the “purpose and need,” if the permit applicant agrees and if they provide an acceptable conservation plan.
- It was also agreed that if the permit applicant does not provide an acceptable conservation¹ plan, water conservation will be addressed either as a stand-alone alternative or as a component of action alternatives.
- The parties agreed on two starting points for future discussion on conservation plans.
 - One included the following 5-step evaluation framework (the details of each step have not been described):
 1. Ensure an accurate baseline demand projection.
 2. Evaluate the documentation and selection process of conservation measures and programs by each community.
 3. Quantify savings for portfolio of conservation measures by each community.

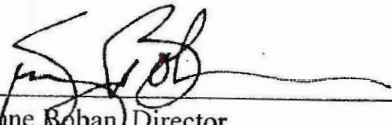
¹ The parties did not agree on what constitutes an “acceptable conservation plan.”

4. Modify projected demand forecast for each community.
 5. Modify and document projected demand forecast for the cumulative savings.
- The second included the CWCB's revisions to the Water Use Efficiency Guidance Document and subsequent revisions to the Guidelines for the review and evaluation of water conservation plans.

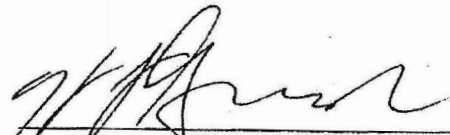
Signatures Attached

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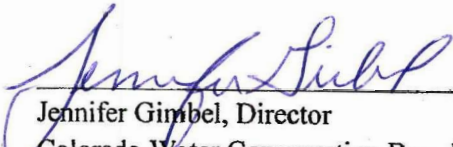
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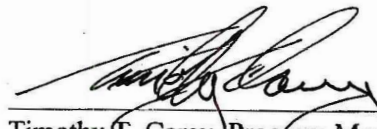
4/23/12
Date


Humberto L. Garcia, Jr., Director
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Date


Jennifer Gimbel, Director
Colorado Water Conservation Board

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Omaha District

4/26/12
Date