



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Lafayette, City of
Name of Water Project	Integrated Water Conservation and Drought Response Plan
Grant Request Amount	\$78,812.00
Primary Category	\$78,812.00
<i>Conservation & Land Use Planning</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$35,618.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$35,618.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$0.00
Total Project Cost	\$114,430.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Lafayette, City of	
Mailing Address: 1290 S Public Rd Lafayette CO 80026	
Organization Contact: Cari Bischoff	
Position/Title: Water Resources Manager	Email: cari.bischoff@lafayetteco.gov
Phone: 303-604-3542	
Grant Management Contact: Cari Bischoff	
Position/Title: Water Resources Manager	Email: cari.bischoff@lafayetteco.gov
Phone: 303-604-3542	

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Utility - Water utility associated with a municipal government

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☐ Public (Government)
- ☐ Public (District)
- ☒ Public (Municipality)
- ☐ Ditch Company
- ☐ Private Incorporated
- ☐ Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- ☐ Non-governmental Organization
- ☐ Covered Entity
- ☐ Other

Category of Water Project

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- ☐ Agricultural Projects
Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- ☒ Conservation & Land Use Planning
Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- ☐ Engagement & Innovation Activities
Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- ☐ Watershed Restoration & Recreation
Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- ☐ Water Storage & Supply
Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

Latitude	39.990000
Longitude	-105.090000
Lat Long Flag	Water provider location: Coordinates based on address of water provider
Water Source	Boulder Creek Basin water rights, CBT and Windy Gap from Colorado Basin, and future NISP from Cache la Poudre Basin.
Basins	South Platte
Counties	Boulder
Districts	6-Boulder Creek

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Municipal
Type of Water Project	Planning
Scheduled Start Date - Design	10/1/2024
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	
Description	<p>Lafayette is initiating an update of its 2018 Water Efficiency Plan and 2001 Water Shortage Management Plan. There are benefits in developing a combined Integrated Water Conservation and Drought Plan (Plan) that meets State requirements and guidelines. Such benefits entail cost efficiencies, succinct messaging between “normal” and shortage years, and other collaborative outcomes accompanying a more holistic planning approach. Questions to be addressed during Plan development include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can one-water concepts be applied throughout the drought and conservation planning process where knowledge gathered through the planning effort can serve as a foundation to build from with future water related City planning efforts? • How can the Grantee integrate the following items into a cohesive and consistent messaging platform: necessity to increase water rates for future monetary needs related to fortifying water supplies, reliability of water supplies during drought periods, and the value of water particularly with a warming climate? • How can water conservation, drought mitigation and short-term drought response be implemented across a diverse customer base equitably? • What are the benefits and lessons learned by combining drought and water conservation planning? <p>The Grantee has contracted with a Consultant (INTERA) to facilitate the development of the Plan.</p>

Measurable Results

	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
32,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
32,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
Efficiency savings will be calculated with the development of the plan.	

Water Project Justification

The development of Lafayette's Integrated Water Conservation and Drought Plan supports the goals of the Colorado Water Plan and the South Platte/Metro Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) and State's education efforts. This is described in further detail below.

Goals from the South Platte/Metro Basin Implementation Plan

- Goal 1: Encourage implementation of projects – Lafayette is a participant in the Northern Integrated Supply Project and Windy Gap Firming Project, both of which are identified on the Basin Identified Projects. In addition, Lafayette is currently constructing additional storage facilities at its Goose Haven Reservoir Project and will have storage in the Gross Reservoir Environmental Pool in the Gross Expansion Project. Lafayette also plans to construct a reuse pipeline from its Water Reclamation Plant to the Goose Haven Complex. Water conservation and drought planning play a role in Lafayette's efforts in achieving a sustainable water supply. (Strategies 1.A., 1.B.).
- Goal 2: Maximize development of native South Platte supplies –Lafayette's Plan will include a comprehensive list of conservation and drought mitigation strategies. Such strategies will be achieved through direct diversion, storage, exchange, and reuse of its Windy Gap water and native ditch rights. Lafayette's planned future water supplies include a variety of collaborative efforts and multi-purpose projects to fully utilize its native South Platte supplies. Lafayette collaborates with many stakeholders in the region for operational purposes and to foster information sharing and data transfer. Some of these include Northern Water, neighboring municipalities, and ditch and reservoir companies (Strategies 2.A, 2.B, 2.C).
- Goal 3: Maintain and promote municipal and industrial conservation and efficiency - Key areas where Lafayette's Plan will intersect with the Goal 3 BIP strategies include the following:
 - o During the Plan development, Lafayette will develop water conservation goals and target water savings based on desired outcomes. Historical demand data will also be assessed to develop a baseline for measuring future water savings. The challenges/tradeoffs of how drought response measures translate to water savings when water restrictions and other drought response actions are implemented will also be explored. (Strategy 3.A).
 - o Lafayette is actively engaged with regional partners on water efficiency efforts. These efforts in addition to new opportunities will be explored during Plan development. (Strategy 3.B).

- o During Plan development, Lafayette will develop lessons learned from its current water efficiency program, expand existing measures, and adopt newer more innovative water efficiency measures. This includes how water efficiency may be integrated with land use planning. (Strategy 3.C).
 - o Lafayette's Plan will identify multi-pronged opportunities for integrating climate resiliency, watershed health, and community benefits, including urban landscapes and green spaces. (Strategies 3.D, 3.E, and 3.F).
- Goal 4: Maintain and promote reuse – Lafayette has decreed water rights to reuse much of its native reusable supply by exchange. It plans to develop mechanisms necessary to fully reuse its Windy Gap water and native rights. Lafayette has plans to construct a reuse pipeline from its Water Reclamation Plant to its Goose Have Reservoir Complex. This will result in increased exchange opportunities and indirect potable reuse to enable Lafayette to fully utilize its water supply portfolio. Such efforts will improve drought resiliency and will comprise a portion of Lafayette's drought mitigation efforts addressed in Plan. (Strategy 4.F).
 - Goal 5: Maintain and improve irrigated agriculture – Lafayette is implementing strategies, including maximizing use of native South Platte Basin supplies, conservation, and reuse, to minimize permanent buy and dry. (Strategy 5.A.)
 - Goal 6: Protect and enhance watershed function - Lafayette's water conservation and drought planning effort will identify opportunities where watershed health benefits can be coupled with water efficiency measures. For example, urban landscaping can be both water wise and fire resistant. Also, educational outreach on water efficiency can be coupled with practices to address watershed health during normal hydrological periods and during drought (Strategies 6.A.3, 6.A.4, 6.A.5).
 - Goal 7: Protect and enhance environmental attributes – Lafayette is a partner with the City of Boulder in the Gross Reservoir Environmental Pool. Lafayette will store its water rights in Gross Reservoir and release at times to ensure minimum stream flows in South Boulder Creek to improve watershed health and stream habitat. The Plan will contribute to this effort by fostering education and dialogue on the value of water and watershed health among City leadership, staff, and the public. (Strategies 7.A, 7.B., 7.C).
 - Goal 8: Protect and enhance recreational attributes – Lafayette's service area includes open space and areas of aquatic habitat. Urban parks are also a critical component to existing and future development. During the Plan development, discussions will be held to address potential policy opportunities of integrating water with land use planning considering recreational attributes. (Strategy 8.A).
 - Goal 9: Support collaborative development and management of supply options outside of the South Platte Basin - Lafayette relies on regional collaboration for a significant portion of its water supplies consisting of CBT and Windy Gap water and therefore has a vested interest in collaborative strategies between water providers on both the east and west slope. Lafayette supports municipal water efficiency and views this continual support as a significant contribution to the east/west collaborative effort and to drought resiliency and mitigation. (Strategy 9.A).
 - Goal 10: Utilize scenario planning to better manage uncertainty of future water needs – The Lafayette Plan will involve the development of drought stages of varying drought/shortage intensities. This is essentially a form of scenario planning where an appropriate level of response will be developed for each drought stage/scenario. Additionally, the development of water conservation goals for the Plan will include scenarios with and without active water conservation. (Strategy 10.A.)
 - Goal 11: Broaden South Platte communications, outreach, and education programs – Lafayette's Plan will provide a framework for communications between the city, its customers, and collaborative partners. This

framework will include incorporating an active role in collaborating with the South Platte Basin Roundtable on mutually beneficial educational efforts and communicating such efforts to Lafayette's customers. (Strategies: 11.E, 11.F).

Colorado Water Plan

Lafayette's Integrated Water Conservation and Drought Plan development efforts coincide with many aspects of the Colorado Water Plan vision and action area. Specific partner action categories that Lafayette's Plan will address include the following.

- **Vibrant Communities** – Lafayette's Plan will take a holistic look at drought and water conservation planning to create a sustainable urban landscape necessary for a vibrant community. The Plan will explore one-water concepts and identify multi-beneficial opportunities such as green infrastructure; climate appropriate resilient landscapes that are healthy; vehicles for engaging, educating participants and the public on the value of water and stewardship; integrating water efficiency and land use planning, and fostering dialogue among city departments around water which is important for implementation of a successful program and ensuring resilient water supplies. (Partner action categories: meeting future water needs, water wise use, healthy lands, engagement and education, integration with other sectors).
- **Robust Agriculture** – Lafayette continues to develop its water rights portfolio to meet growing demands. Lafayette looks for collaborative partnerships for multi-purpose projects to help keep irrigated lands in production and maintain ecosystem services. An example of this is Lafayette's participation in NISP. In addition, Lafayette is implementing strategies, including maximizing use of native South Platte Basin supplies, conservation, and reuse, to minimize permanent buy and dry. (Partner action categories: meeting future water needs, water wise use, healthy lands, engagement and education, integration with other sectors).
- **Resilient Planning** – Lafayette views water efficiency and drought planning as necessary for creating water security for sustainable and resilient communities. Through this integrated planning effort, Lafayette will investigate ways in which water efficiency can mitigate the vulnerability of natural hazards, identify multi-pronged solutions that support water efficiency and other critical elements of sustainability, identify drought response scenarios to protect water supply, promote climate appropriate landscapes, explore mutually beneficial partnerships, and identify opportunities for elevating education on water efficiency and drought occurrence and response strategies. (Partner action categories: meeting future water needs, water wise use, healthy lands, engagement and education, integration with other sectors).
- **Thriving Watersheds** – Lafayette continues to promote wise water use and natural and climate appropriate landscapes and maintenance practices in its service area which benefits the watershed. This Plan will promote education practices that emphasize the watershed and community benefits of sustainable water-wise landscaping. Lafayette recognizes the importance of watershed health in water security. An example of this is multi-partner collaborative effort with its the Gross Environmental Pool and targeted flow release program. This partnership provides for additional storage to help maximize its South Platte basin supply, a targeted flow release program to improve watershed health, recapture and use downstream, as well as supply in water shortages. (Partner action categories: meeting future water needs, water wise use, healthy lands, engaged partners, integration with other sectors).

Related Studies

Lafayette 2018 Water Conservation Plan
Lafayette 2001 Water Shortage Management Plan

Lafayette 2021 Legacy Comprehensive Plan
Lafayette 2024 Climate Action Plan
Lafayette 2024 Open Space Wildlife Plan
CWCB. 2020. Drought Management Planning: A Guide for Water Providers
CWCB. 2012 Municipal Water Efficiency Plan Guidance Document
CWCB. 2019. Best Practices for Implementing Water Conservation & Demand Management Through Land Use Planning Efforts.
Colorado WaterWise. 2024. Guidebook of Best Practices for Municipal Water Conservation in Colorado
CWCB Turf Removal Program

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

n/a