



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

P (303) 866-3441
F (303) 866-4474

Jared Polis, Governor

Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive
Director

Lauren Ris, CWCB Director

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Ben Wade & Dori Vigil
Grants Section

DATE: January 27, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda Item #2a, Water Supply Reserve Fund, Grant Funding
Recommendations

Staff Recommendation - Action Items: WSRF Grant Requests:

A summary of staff's recommendation for each WSRF application are provided in the first component of the attached table.

Favorable recommendations may be contingent on providing the CWCB with additional information, clarifications, or modifications in the scope of work. Please refer to the Water Activity Summary Sheets contained within this agenda item to find a summary of staff's review and any conditions associated with each recommendation.

Background:

For this agenda item, the Board is provided with a brief overview of applications to the Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF). Attachments to this memo include:

- Summary spreadsheet detailing funding requests for the basin and statewide accounts.
- Summary spreadsheet displaying current WSRF Balance Summary of Fund Appropriations and Receipts by Fiscal Year, and Fund Distribution by Basin and Statewide Account.
- Water Activity Summary Sheets, which provide an overview, discussion, issues/additional needs, and staff recommendation regarding funding, partial funding, or not funding the applications.

Staff's review of the applications involves the following steps:

- 1) Applications are reviewed for completeness based on the information requirements, verify that the water activity meets the eligibility requirements and also verifies that the applicant was an eligible entity to receive funding which are primarily outlined in the Grant Guidelines.
- 2) Staff then prepares the Water Activity Summary Sheet which documents the outcome of the review process and contains staff's recommendations.

Water Supply Reserve Fund Balance Summary and Project Status Report:

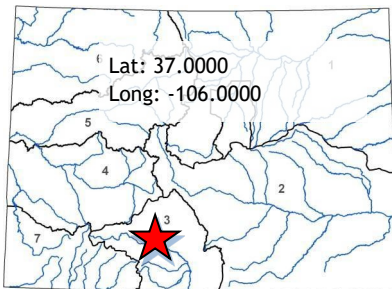
To provide the Board updates on the status of specific Water Supply Reserve Fund grant applications and projects, staff can provide a status report of the following information upon request:

- List of completed WSRF projects;
- List of WSRF projects in progress; and
- List of WSRF projects in the contracting and procurement process.





Water Supply Reserve Grant Application



LOCATION
County: Alamosa, Rio Grande, Saguache
Drainage Basin: Rio Grande

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$95,140
Total WSRF Grant Request:	\$71,355
Rio Grande Basin Account Request:	\$9,514
Statewide Account Request:	\$61,841
Recommended Amount:	\$71,355
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$23,785
Project Type: Construction/Implementation	
Water Use Type: Agricultural	
Statewide Category: Aging Infrastructure	
Measurable Result: Accurate data collection and measurement.	

The San Luis Valley Canal is a ditch in the Rio Grande Basin with junior water rights that provide water for agriculture, aquifer recharge, and wildlife refuges. In 2018, as part of the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, a Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) grant supported headgate replacement, streambank stabilization and riparian restoration for the San Luis Valley Canal and four other ditches. At the time, San Luis Valley Canal assumed that the current measurement device would allow for accurate measurement and allow the new headgate automation to function properly. The project was designed during a low flow water year that gave the company the false assumption it would function properly during low and high flow years. However, several years after Phase 1 was completed, the ditch company found that the current measurement structure didn't provide accurate data to feed into the automatic headgate during either a low flow or high flow water year.

Phase 2 of the project will replace the current headgate with a 24" weir about 100 yards from the current structure and retrofit the existing radar level sensor to measure ditch diversions accurately.

The applicant will provide \$23,785 in cash match.

The project aligns with four of the five goals in the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan including:

- 1) Maintaining healthy watersheds that provide critical ecosystems services, are resilient to disturbances, and benefit from ongoing efforts to protect water sources, improve water quality, enhance aquatic, riparian, wetland, and upland habitat and maintain connected ecosystems.
- 2) Administer water that is adaptive, flexible, and creative while complying with state statutes and the doctrine of prior appropriation, and fully utilizing Colorado's compact entitlements under the Rio Grande and Costilla Creek compacts.
- 3) Maintaining groundwater supplies for farmers and ranchers, towns, and wildlife habitat
- 4) Maintaining vibrant and resilient agriculture, recreation, municipal, and industrial economies that support thriving communities.

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of up to \$9,514 from the Rio Grande Basin Account and up to \$61,841 from the Statewide Account for a total of \$71,355. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.