



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: CWCB Board Members

FROM: Elizabeth Schoder, Water Supply Planning Section, CWCB

DATE: March 20, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: #22, PEPO Statewide Initiatives Grant Application

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the CWCB Board approval of one (1) PEPO Statewide Initiatives Grant application above \$100,000.

Background

In 2022, the CWCB Board approved grant guidelines for a Public Education Participation & Outreach (PEPO) grant program with two funding categories: the PEPO Basin Coordinator Fund and the PEPO Statewide Initiatives Fund. The PEPO Basin Coordinator Fund allows for an organization or individual to apply for up to \$25,000 annually per basin to support basin-specific education & outreach efforts in coordination with their respective roundtable and CWCB staff. The PEPO Statewide Initiatives Fund supports efforts that further statewide education and outreach initiatives with broad, multi-basin scope and support, and that advance the goals of the Colorado Water Plan.

In this cycle, CWCB received one (1) application for the PEPO Statewide Initiatives Fund totaling \$149,772. Per CWCB Policy #25, grant awards above \$100,000 will be placed on the full agenda for consideration by the Board. This agenda item recommends approval of one application with a total recommended amount of \$149,772. An attached data sheet for the project provides additional details.

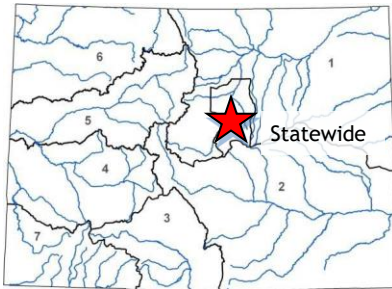
Table 1: PEPO Statewide Initiatives Award Recommendations Above \$100,000

Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
Colorado Water Center, CSU	Colorado Project Wet	\$149,772	\$149,772	\$200,427	25%	Statewide





PEPO Statewide Initiatives Fund Grant Application



LOCATION
County/COUNTIES: <i>Denver, Alamosa, El Paso, Pueblo, Mesa, Boulder, Eagle, Douglas, Jefferson, Larimer</i>
Basin(s): <i>Colorado, Metro, Arkansas, Rio Grande, South Platte, Yampa/White Green</i>

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$200,427
Total PEPO Statewide Initiatives Grant Request:	\$149,772
Recommended Amount:	\$149,772
Applicant Match:	\$50,656
Project Type:	Implementation
Major Water Use Type:	Education & Outreach
Measurable Result:	15,725 Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

The PEPO Statewide Initiative Grant funding will support the Colorado Water Center at Colorado State University (CSU) in revitalizing and implementing [Project WET](#) throughout Colorado. The Colorado Water Center recently became the host institution for Colorado Project WET (Water Education Today), a national education program that provides hands-on, science-based water education resources to educators, giving students from pre-K through 12th grade knowledge and experience to become water stewards, and building a needed water-literate populace in Colorado. Colorado Project WET stagnated over the last five years due to pandemic and capacity issues, and Colorado Water Center as the new host institution aims to rebuild the program statewide.

Funding will support a three-year implementation plan that will include the recruitment of new facilitators into the Colorado Project WET facilitator network; development and implementation of facilitator trainings across the state; an assessment of water education stakeholder needs and inventory of curriculum for Colorado- and river basin-specific issues, and the development of a sustainable funding model for Colorado Project WET.

Through the Project WET facilitator trainings, educator workshops, classroom implementation, and education stakeholder outreach, The Colorado Water Center will actively reach 15,725 Coloradans in years 1-3, with 15,000 being pre K-12 youth. In the first year, the facilitator training workshops and implementation will be focused on Colorado's Front Range including the Metro, South Platte and Arkansas Basins; in the second and third years, training and implementation will be focused on the Western Slope including the Rio Grande, Colorado, and Yampa/White/Green River basins.

The Colorado Water Center received letters of support from the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, Colorado Watershed Assembly, CSU Extension, Colorado State Forest Service, Greenway Foundation, and Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative for this project.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$149,772 to CSU Colorado Water Center.