



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Mesa County
Name of Water Project	Orchard Mesa Check Piping - 38 Road Bike and Pedestrian Project
Grant Request Amount	\$1,786,736.00
Primary Category	\$1,786,736.00
<i>Agricultural Projects</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$2,299,377.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$2,299,377.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$1,882,355.00
<i>Department of Transportation (Federal Transportation Alternatives Program Grant)</i>	\$1,882,355.00
Total Project Cost	\$5,968,468.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Mesa County	
Mailing Address: PO Box 20,000 Grand Junction CO 81501	
Organization Contact: KC Selleck	
Position/Title: Public Works Operations Manager	Email: kc.selleck@mesacounty.us
Phone: (970)424-4974	
Organization Contact - Alternate: Laura Page	
Position/Title: Engineering Division Director	Email: laura.page@mesacounty.us
Phone: 9702555031	
Grant Management Contact: KC Selleck	
Position/Title: Public Works Operations Manager	Email: kc.selleck@mesacounty.us
Phone: (970)424-4974	
Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Laura Page	
Position/Title: Engineering Division Director	Email: laura.page@mesacounty.us
Phone: 9702555031	
Engineering Contact: Laura Page	
Position/Title: Engineering Division Director	Email: laura.page@mesacounty.us
Phone: 9702555031	

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

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

- ☒ 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	39.101474
Longitude	108.347145
Lat Long Flag	Stream location: Coordinates based on general location on stream
Water Source	Colorado River
Basins	Colorado
Counties	Mesa
Districts	

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Agricultural
Type of Water Project	Construction / Implementation
Scheduled Start Date - Design	10/1/2026
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	11/1/2026
Description	The Check Piping Phase of the 38 Road Bike and Pedestrian Project aims to improve the hydraulic efficiency of the currently unimproved, unmetered OM Check. The existing 38 Road corridor does not have sufficient space for the multimodal improvements; enclosing and backfilling the OM Check will provide a surface and the

necessary space for the multimodal path. By improving the OM Check efficiency, the channel can be utilized to a greater extent resulting in increased water reuse. The increased reuse reduces in the net demand at the Cameo Call (the collection of major Grand Valley Water Rights on the Colorado River), which helps conserve water from the Historic Users' Pool (HUP) of Green Mountain Reservoir. Conserving the HUP can indirectly support endangered fish species in the 15-mile reach of the Colorado River by reducing the need for emergency reservoir releases and enabling more strategic water management. Additionally, preserving HUP water increases the likelihood of surplus declarations, which results in more water in the 15-mile reach during the latter parts of the irrigation season. Conserved HUP water would also provide significant benefit to the agricultural community by allowing for irrigation season extension during dry years. The project was listed as a Tier 2 project in the 2023 Colorado River Basin BIP (Project ID: CO-2020-0090).

The OM Check consists of an earthen channel and set of radial gates, and allows water previously used for power generation or pumping by Orchard Mesa Irrigation District (OMID) to be redirected upstream of the Grand Valley Diversion Dam for reuse as irrigation water. The OM Check operates by raising the water surface elevation in the afterbay through the actuation of the radial gates, which causes water to flow through the unimproved, unmetered channel to the upstream side of the GVDD. By installing twin 96" pipes in the OM Check channel, the hydraulic efficiency would be greatly improved, resulting in significant water savings for many users on the Colorado River.

The project will contain three tasks: Procure 96" HDPE Spirolite Pipe for Check Piping Phase, Construct Check Piping Phase, and Construction Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Sidewalk.

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)
1,500.00	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
2,678	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)
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
No additional measurable results provided	

Water Project Justification

Piping the Orchard Mesa Check addresses three of the themes identified by the Colorado Basin Roundtable, which are listed on page 89 (chapter 4) of the Colorado Water Plan. The project addresses the theme of "Protect and restore healthy streams, rivers, lakes, and riparian areas" by potentially increasing the likelihood of a HUP surplus on the Colorado Mainstem. An HUP surplus results in larger releases to the Colorado River from Green Mountain Reservoir that benefit the Grand Valley. The project also addresses the "sustain agriculture" theme by potentially increasing available late-season water supplies for agricultural users in the Grand Valley. Increased water could be available through implementation of this project by decreasing the net demand at the Cameo Call, allowing for HUP water to be conserved for use later in the season. The final theme addressed by this project is

“Ensure dependable basin administration”. The water conserved by piping the Orchard Mesa Check could reduce the likelihood of a compact call, and could help facilitate creative solutions to meet agricultural and environmental demands during dry scenarios while abiding by Colorado Water Law.

The project is specifically referenced as Project CO-2020-0090 in Table 28 (page 167) of the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan with an estimated yield of 2,678 AF.

Related Studies

Improvements to the Orchard Mesa Check were contemplated in the Grand Valley Water Users Association System Optimization Review (J-U-B Engineers, May 2022). The document describes how using the Orchard Mesa Check to a greater extent (which would likely occur if it were more efficient) would result in conserved reservoir water in the Colorado River system. Preliminary modeling by J-U-B Engineers has indicated that piping the Orchard Mesa Check could allow more water to be checked without impacting power production at the Vinelands Power Plant.

HUP surpluses at Green Mountain Reservoir may result in more water traveling through the 15-Mile Reach on its way to municipal beneficiaries; the 15-mile reach is an important instream flow right of CWCB.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

All grant funds received by Mesa County are TABOR exempt.