



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Jeannine Shaw, Grant Section Chief

CC: Ashley Garrison, Regional Grant Manager (Colorado, Gunnison, Yampa/White/Green)
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DATE: September 16, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: #6, Water Plan Grant Action Items Above \$100K

Staff Recommendation

Staff is recommending approval of 40 Water Plan Grants (WPG) that are above \$100K.

Background

The Water Plan Grant Program supports the implementation of the Colorado Water Plan (Plan) by funding partner actions that will help advance the Plan. Eligibility and grant categories are statutorily defined and applications go through a competitive review process. Funding for Water Plan Grants comes from sports betting tax revenue and interest earned on the grant fund. In May 2025, the Board approved a target allocation for each grant category.

The WPG program has two grant application cycles: July 1 and December 1. For State fiscal year 2025-2026, the CWCB has approximately \$36.8M available to award. This includes \$29.2M in new appropriations through the 2025 Projects Bill (SB25-283), and \$7.6M carried over in unawarded dollars from the previous fiscal year.

For the July 1 application cycle, the CWCB initially received 81 applications requesting about \$39M; two applicants withdrew. Staff are recommending grant awards for 56 applications totaling about \$24.8M across all grant categories. This leaves approximately \$12M available for the second application cycle in December. All grant applications are publicly available on CWCB's website: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/july-2025-water-plan-grant-applications>.

Per CWCB Policy #25 (Approval of Grants), grant awards above \$100,000 are considered by the Board as action items; there are 40 grant awards being recommended, totaling \$24M. These are summarized in the tables below. Datasheets for each project provide additional details.



Table 1: Water Plan Grant applications by category (action items only)

Category	Funding Requested (\$)	Funding Recommended (\$)	Count (recommended)
Agriculture	\$ 8,716,617.15	\$ 8,716,617.15	12
Conservation and Land Use	\$ 3,896,450.14	\$ 3,724,715.14	6
Engagement and Innovation	\$ 904,771.00	\$ 904,771.00	4
Storage and Supply	\$ 5,059,232.00	\$ 3,559,232.00	5
Watershed Health and Recreation	\$ 7,415,496.33	\$ 7,050,647.16	13
Action Item Totals	\$ 25,992,566.62	\$ 23,955,982.45	40

Project Issues/Additional Needs:

- All awards are contingent upon the applicants' ability to secure match funding.
- Post award, staff will contact each grantee to discuss comments and contracting procedures, as well as any staff comments to scopes of work and engineering designs, as applicable.
- All grantees will be instructed to adhere to their organizational procurement policies when hiring contractors and consultants. CWCB recommends that State procurement policies be used as a guide if an organization does not have procurement policies.
- Projects must comply with the CWCB's Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado, when applicable.

