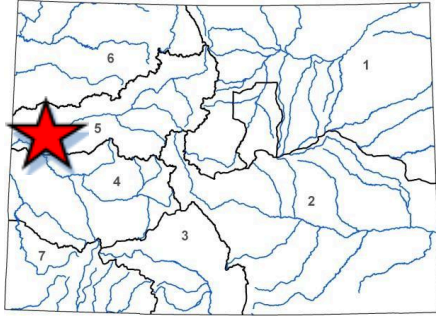




## Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
County:	Mesa
Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$ 3,573,472.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$1,786,736.00
Recommended Amount:	\$1,786,736.00
Match Commitment:	\$ 1,786,736.000
Grant to Match Ratio:	50/50
Project Type:	Construction / Implementation
Primary Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	1,500 linear ft Pipe, 2,678 acre-feet/year Efficiency Savings

Mesa County is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to pipe the Orchard Mesa (OM) Check canal along Mesa County 38 Rd and cover the pipe with a paved multi-modal pedestrian path, connecting Palisade and East Orchard Mesa. The project is a phase of the 38 Road Bike and Pedestrian Project in Palisade and East Orchard Mesa along the Fruit and Wine Byway.

Piping the check canal would improve the hydraulic efficiency of the OM Check and enable increased water reuse for many agriculture users. The OM Check allows water that has been used for power generation by the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District (OMID) to be redirected upstream of the Grand Valley Diversion Ditch (GVDD) for reuse as irrigation water. The OM Check operates by raising the water surface elevation in the afterbay through the actuation of radial gates, which causes water to flow through the open channel to the upstream side of the GVDD. The exchange enabled by the OM Check effectively reduces the net demand in the Grand Valley, delaying the onset of calls and conserving water within the Historic Users' Pool (HUP) of Green Mountain Reservoir.

The project seeks to advance the Colorado Water Plan by sustaining agriculture through increased late-season water supplies, protecting and restoring healthy streams and rivers, and ensuring dependable basin administration by improving water delivery efficiency. It aligns with Water Plan Grant criteria by implementing collaborative, multi-beneficial agricultural projects. This project integrates water and land use planning, and watershed restoration and recreation by providing more operational flexibility in the Green Mountain Reservoir Historic Users Pool.

Grant dollars would be used for the construction of the check piping phase, including procurement and installation of pipes and headwall structures. The full project cost is approximately \$6M; however, the piping portion of this project that grant dollars would fund is approximately \$3.5M.

Project supporters include the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District (OMID) and the Federal Transportation Alternatives Program. The project was identified in the 2023 Colorado River Basin BIP.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$1,786,736.00 to Mesa County for Orchard Mesa Check Piping - 38 Road Bike and Pedestrian project.