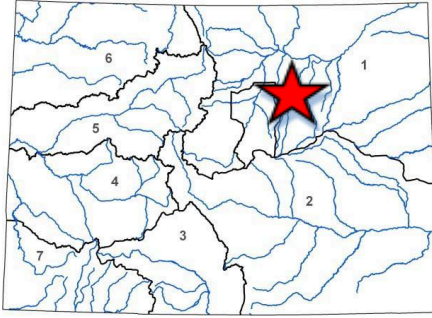




Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
Counties:	Douglas; Arapahoe
Basin:	Metro

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$856,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$640,000.00
Recommended amount:	\$640,000.00
Match Commitment:	\$216,000.00
Grant to Match Ratio	75/25
Project Type:	Planning
Primary Project Category:	Storage & Supply
Measurable Result:	Feasibility of regional aquifer storage and recovery project

South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA) is a quasi-municipal entity comprised of 14 water provider members in the South Metro area of Colorado. SMWSA is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support Phase 2 of their Regional Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project, specifically focusing on "hub" areas like Castle Rock, Centennial, and East Cherry Creek Valley (ECCV).

This Phase 2 directly leverages the conclusions from CWCB funded Phase 1, specifically the recommendation for further regional studies and a regional groundwater model. Phase 2 represents a significant step forward by proposing to refine a regional groundwater model (USGS Denver Basin Model) to a much higher resolution, integrate data from key "hubs" (ECCV, Centennial, Castle Rock), and simulate regional ASR operations. It also integrates legal and water quality assessments, recognizing the complex regulatory environment. The objectives are more detailed and quantitative, aiming to characterize mounding effects, optimize injection/extraction, and assess long-term sustainability on a regional scale.

This phase would evaluate the feasibility of implementing a regional ASR system by refining the existing USGS groundwater model, assessing legal and water quality concerns, and developing a model to evaluate the effects of an ASR system. The goal is to optimize ASR operations regionally to enhance individual local provider benefits and create regional benefits for the South Metro region.

This project advances the Colorado Water Plan's vision for Vibrant Communities and Resilient Planning by emphasizing thoughtful storage, as well as addressing the opportunity for additional storage through ASR. It aligns with the Water Plan Grant criteria through planning efforts that could result in the storage of additional water or result in a shared benefit to multiple stakeholder interests.

Grant dollars would be used to fund legal analysis of water rights and quality, groundwater model development for both hub and remaining South Metro areas, characterization of regional ASR potential at each hub, project documentation, and project management.

The project is supported by the Metro Basin Roundtable.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$640,000.00 to South Metro Water Supply Authority for the Regional ASR - Phase 2 project.