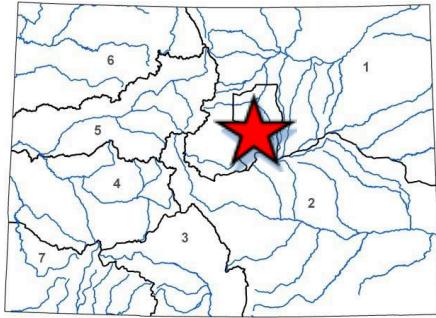




## Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
County:	Larimer
Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$400,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$300,000.00
Recommended Amount:	\$300,000.00
Match Commitment:	\$100,000.00
Grant to Match Ratio	75/25
Project Type:	Planning
Primary Project Category:	Conservation and Land Use
Measurable Result: 90,000 Coloradans impacted by incorporating water-saving actions into land use planning, 500 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity, development of a study that will future water management decisions for Larimer County and partners.	

Larimer County is seeking a Colorado Water Plan grant to conduct a comprehensive groundwater study. This study will establish a baseline of groundwater information to support responsible development for long-term water resource sustainability in the county's ag-urban transition areas. The project will focus on unincorporated Larimer County lands experiencing development pressure over the next 15-30 years, specifically residential, commercial, and industrial zones adjacent to Front Range communities. This project implements recommendations from the Larimer County Water Master Plan (adopted December 2024), which identified the need for groundwater studies to address inconsistent water adequacy review processes and support informed development decisions as population growth drives development pressures and well-drilling requests.

This project's goal is to produce a final report with actionable recommendations that support responsible growth while protecting groundwater resources. The study will inform future water management decisions and have measurable impacts, including the development of new groundwater supplies, the adoption of groundwater conservation measures, and cost savings from avoided infrastructure investments in water constrained areas. The study will also provide essential policy tools and data to inform land use codes, zoning decisions, and sustainable development guidelines.

The study advances the Colorado Water Plan's vision for Vibrant Communities by emphasizing holistic water management and planning that integrates land use and water solutions. It aligns with the Water Plan Grant by implementing long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning as well as spearheading a highly collaborative and multi-beneficial approach. The study brings together local government, water providers, the agricultural sector, the real estate and development sector, and Larimer County residents and businesses.

Grant dollars would be used to hire an expert engineering consultant to complete five integrated tasks. These tasks include: comprehensive data collection and hydrogeological mapping in coordination with state and university partners; a legal and policy analysis of Colorado water law and county regulations; GIS mapping of aquifers, development pressures, and water district boundaries; stakeholder engagement with various water providers, municipalities, and state agencies; and the preparation of a final report with recommendations for groundwater management.

Larimer County staff will coordinate with the engineering consultant and facilitate stakeholder engagement. The project will also involve collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey, Colorado Geological Survey, and Colorado State University to review existing data and identify gaps. Additionally, coordination will take place with Northern Water, the Colorado Division of Water Resources, and local water districts.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$300,000.00 to Larimer County for the Larimer County Groundwater Study.