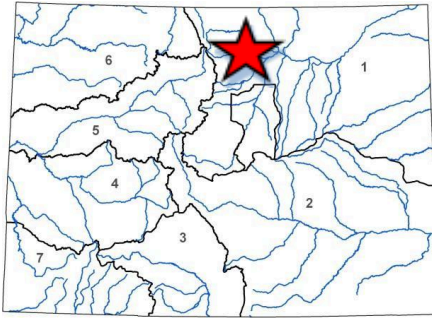




Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
County:	Larimer
Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$77,367.97
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$57,855.57
Recommended amount:	\$57,855.57
Match Commitment:	\$19,948.00
Grant to Match Ratio	75/25
Project Type:	Education
Primary Project Category:	Engagement & Innovation
Measurable Result:	2,500 Coloradans impacted by the engagement activity

Colorado State University's Radical Open Science Syndicate is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support the Water Quality Sound Project, a community engagement project that uses real-time water quality data from the Cache la Poudre River to create an immersive soundscape and video installation.

Anticipated project outcomes include a multimedia exhibit and online installation exploring water quality, watershed health, and critical water concepts. The project will take real-time water quality data from sensors installed throughout the Cache la Poudre River that collect data for key water quality parameters. This network is a collaborative project between the City of Fort Collins and Colorado State University (CSU), built in part to better understand the effects of the 2020 Cameron Peak wildfires on the watershed. The network includes eight water quality stations strategically located upstream, throughout, and downstream of the City of Fort Collins metropolitan area. These stations report water quality data every six hours and measure parameters like temperature, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen, providing key quality insights to City staff and delivering high-precision data to CSU researchers.

These sounds will be used to create a soundscape, combined with environmental field recordings taken from the Poudre, community-sourced reflections on the river, and meditations on three critical water concepts: water is essential to life, water cycles naturally through the watershed but is diverted by man, and both humans and nature impact water quantity and quality. This soundscape will be paired with a video installation featuring timelapse and video footage of the watershed. The goal is to increase public awareness of critical water quality and watershed health concepts, including the potential effects of climate change on water supply, and engage the community in innovative water quality monitoring efforts.

The project will debut in Fort Collins, CO at the Museum of Discovery and will travel to CSU Spur in Denver. After its tour, it will be hosted online for listeners around the world with open-source tools and resources for creating your own water quality soundscape for statewide educational purposes.

Grant dollars would be primarily used for project management and execution, including data sonification and soundscape compilation, visual media collection, public exhibition coordination, digital launch, and open-source toolkit development. Funds will also cover marketing material design, printing, audio mixing and mastering, and video editing.

The project advances the Colorado Water Plan's vision for Vibrant Communities, Thriving Watersheds, and Resilient Planning by emphasising effective engagement and innovation. It aligns with the Water Plan Grant criteria through advancing education, outreach, and public engagement to significantly improve the level of public awareness and engagement regarding water issues statewide.

Project supporters include the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, the City of Fort Collins, the Mighty Arrow Family Foundation, the Geospatial Centroid at CSU, and the Agricultural Water Quality Program at CSU.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$57,855.57 to Colorado State University for the Water Quality Sound project.