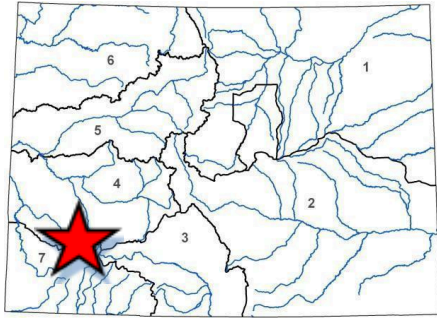




Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
County:	San Miguel
Basin:	Southwest

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$90,800.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$66,000.00
Recommended Amount:	\$0.00
Match Commitment:	\$24,800.00
Grant to Match Ratio:	73/27
Project Type:	Planning
Primary Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Result:	2 acre-feet of storage preserved or enhanced

The Town of Telluride, a municipality that operates water and wastewater utilities, is seeking a Colorado Water Plan grant to support its Stillwell Water Facility Management Plan.

Telluride has a small permanent population of 2,607 residents, which swells to as many as 20,000 during peak ski season and summer festivals. This dynamic population places a significant strain on the town's water infrastructure, which includes facilities built over 100 years ago during the mining boom. The town's water and wastewater treatment systems are composed of aging infrastructure that has reached or is reaching its end of life, leading to high costs for upgrades and maintenance, which in turn necessitates rising utility rates for residents.

Telluride's Stillwell water treatment and storage facility provides backup water supply for peak visitor periods or when one of the other water treatment facilities requires maintenance. These other facilities, Mill Creek and Pandora, are located above 9,200 feet along unpaved service roads, so that performing maintenance and repairs entails extensive time and costs—including avalanche mitigation in winter. Telluride has kept Stillwell online as a backup water provision facility for improved system resilience.

The Stillwell Water Facility Management Plan would evaluate if and how the Town should continue to repair, upgrade, and operate Stillwell. Telluride would hire a technical firm to assess the current status of the Stillwell water treatment and storage facility and identify its best future use within the town's water system. The plan would include technical recommendations for any needed improvements or upgrades to the facility. These deliverables will help the Town of Telluride to budget and plan for future work on the Stillwell facility as they prepare to create a comprehensive water system plan.

Telluride requests grant funds to cover consultant fees for the assessment, on-site evaluation, and technical recommendations for improvements to the aging Stillwell facility.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff does not recommend the Town of Telluride be awarded a Water Plan Grant for the Stillwell Water Facility Management Plan because the application did not adequately align with grant guidelines. Specifically, the plan does not advance water conservation, water reuse, or the integration of water and land use planning. Rather, the plan aims to evaluate how the applicant should address operation, maintenance, and potential replacement or retirement of the aging Stillwell water treatment and storage facility, which may have reached the end of its useful life.