



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Ben Wade & Dori Vigil, Grants Section

CC: Jeannine Shaw, Grants Section Chief

DATE: November 20, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Agenda Item #12a-b, Water Supply Reserve Fund, Grant Funding Recommendations

Staff Recommendation - Action Items: WSRF Grant Requests:

A summary of staff's recommendations for each WSRF application are provided in the first component of the attached table.

Favorable recommendations may be contingent on providing the CWCB with additional information, clarifications, or modifications in the scope of work. Please refer to the Water Activity Summary Sheets contained within this agenda item to find a summary of staff's review and any conditions associated with each recommendation.

Background:

For this agenda item, the Board is provided with a brief overview of applications to the Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF). Attachments to this memo include:

- Summary spreadsheet detailing funding requests for the basin and statewide accounts.
- Summary spreadsheet displaying current WSRF Balance Summary of Fund Appropriations and Receipts by Fiscal Year, and Fund Distribution by Basin and Statewide Account.
- Water Activity Summary Sheets, which provide an overview, discussion, issues/additional needs, and staff recommendation regarding funding, partial funding, or not funding the applications.

Staff's review of the applications involves the following steps:

- 1) Applications are reviewed for completeness based on the information requirements, verify that the water activity meets the eligibility requirements and also verifies that the applicant was an eligible entity to receive funding which are primarily outlined in the Grant Guidelines.
- 2) Staff then prepares the Water Activity Summary Sheet which documents the outcome of the review process and contains staff's recommendations.



Water Supply Reserve Fund Balance Summary and Project Status Report:

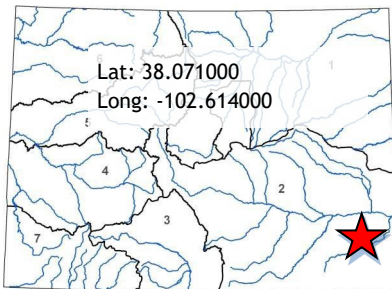
To provide the Board updates on the status of specific Water Supply Reserve Fund grant applications and projects, staff can provide a status report of the following information upon request:

- List of completed WSRF projects;
- List of WSRF projects in progress; and
- List of WSRF projects in the contracting and procurement process.





Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant



LOCATION
Counties: Bent, Prowers
Basin: Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$1,058,172
Total WSRF Recommended Amount:	\$110,502
Arkansas Basin Account Request:	\$110,502
Match Commitment:	\$947,670
Grant to Match Ratio:	10%.90%
Project Type: Design & Construction	
Major Water Use Type: Agricultural	
Measurable Result: 600 linear feet of pipe/canal built or improved	

The Fort Bent Ditch Company, which serves 70 shareholders in Bent and Prowers Counties, manages the Fort Bent Ditch. This ditch provides direct flow irrigation water using six direct flow water rights and also delivers water from John Martin Reservoir. Additionally, it helps convey Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water to the City of Lamar for the Clay Creek Recharge facility. The ditch diverts water from the Arkansas River and irrigates approximately 5,870 acres.

Late in the 2024 irrigation season, a small leak was found in a siphon crossing where the ditch water flows underground beneath Willow Creek and a main road to the Prowers Medical Center in the City of Lamar. A contractor repaired this section in early 2025, but further inspections revealed that more repairs were needed.

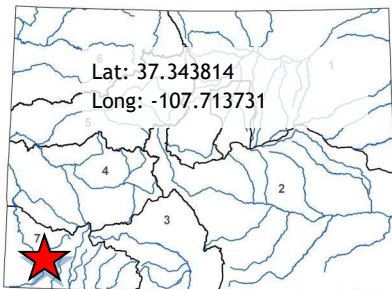
WSRF funds will be used for engineering and construction costs. The Company secured a CWCB loan in March 2025 for a significant portion of the project and is now seeking supplemental WSRF grant funding to help reduce the long-term financial burden on its shareholders.

The project aligns with the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan goal of repairing aging infrastructure and preserving critical agricultural and municipal water supplies in Bent County and Prowers County.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of up to \$110,502 from the Arkansas Basin Account.

Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant



LOCATION
County: La Plata
Basin: Southwest

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$1,536,121
Total WSRF Recommended Amount:	\$100,000
Southwest Basin Account Request:	\$100,000
Match Commitment:	\$1,436,121
Grant to Match Ratio:	7%:93%
Project Type: Design/Engineering	
Major Water Use Type: Municipal	
Measurable Result: 47,520 linear feet of pipe or canal being built or improved.	

The City of Durango is a community of approximately 20,000 residents located in La Plata County in southwestern Colorado. The City's primary source of drinking water is from the Florida River but the City also has in-flow water rights from the Animas River. The city does not have significant water storage to rely on. Approximately 45% of Durango's water consumption is indoor use, with 55% being used for outdoor irrigation.

A nine-mile pipeline, originally built in the early 1900s and reconstructed in the 1950s, carries this water to the College Mesa Water Treatment Plant. This pipeline is now over 70 years old and has experienced several breaks, causing interruptions to the water supply for up to three weeks at a time.

To address this, a new pipeline will be designed and installed alongside the existing one, requiring the verification and acquisition of necessary easements and rights-of-way. Once the new pipeline is operational, the old one will be taken offline for a rehabilitation assessment. It will then either be rehabilitated or replaced, ultimately providing the City of Durango with two fully redundant pipelines for its primary drinking water source. The WSRF grant will be used for design and engineering.

Issues/Additional Needs: The city is a covered entity as defined in Colorado Revised Statutes 37-60-126(1)(b), but does not have an approved Water Efficiency Plan (WEP) on file nor have they submitted required HB10-1051 reporting to CWCBC. However, the city is actively working to complete a new WEP and 1051 reporting. WSRF funds cannot be released until a WEP has reached at least conditional approval. Staff would proceed with grant contracting on a condition in the grant agreement that grant funds cannot be reimbursed until the WEP has received at least conditional approval and 1051 reporting has been submitted. No other issues or additional needs have been identified.

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of up to \$100,000 from the Southwest Basin Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.

Water Supply Reserve Fund Applications for Consideration at the November 2025 CWCB Board Meeting												
Agenda Item	Basin	Applicant/Grantee	Name of Water Activity	Basin RT Recommended Amount	Non-WSRF Cash Match	Non-WSRF In-Kind Match	Non-WSRF Total Match	Total Project Costs	Basin Only Request Match % (min 25%)	Special Flood Hazard Area/Regulatory Floodplain?	PM	Grants Portal ID
Director's Report	Arkansas	Arkansas River Basin Water Forum	2026 Arkansas River Basin Water Forum Education and Outreach Program	\$30,261	\$90,784.00	\$0	\$90,784.00	\$121,045.00	75.00%	N/A	Ben	App-02917
Agenda Item 12a	Arkansas	Fort Bent Ditch Company	Fort Bent Ditch Siphon Repairs	\$110,502	\$947,670.00	\$0	\$947,670.00	\$1,058,172.00	89.56%	No	Joshua	App-02916
Agenda Item 12b	Southwest	City of Durango	Florida Pipeline Reconstruction - Design	\$100,000	\$1,436,121.00	\$0	\$1,436,121.00	\$1,536,121.00	93.49%		Joshua	App-02756
Director's Report	Southwest	Colorado Trout Unlimited - Dolores River Anglers	Upper Snow Spur Creek Restoration and Resilience Enhancement	\$25,288	\$3,681.25	\$3,681	\$7,362.50	\$32,650.50	22.55%	No	Steve	App-02759
				\$266,051.00	\$2,478,256.25	\$3,681	\$2,481,937.50	\$2,747,988.50				
			Basin	Total Requests								
			Arkansas Basin	\$140,763.00								
			Colorado Basin	\$0.00								
			Gunnsion Basin	\$0.00								
			Metro	\$0.00								
			North Platte	\$0.00								
			Rio Grande	\$0.00								
			Southwest	\$125,288.00								
			South Platte	\$0.00								
			Yampa/White/Green	\$0.00								
Water Supply Reserve Fund Total Requests				\$266,051.00								