



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Jeannine Shaw, Grants Section Chief

DATE: November 20, 2025

AGENDA ITEM #23b: 2026 Projects Bill Water Plan Grant Appropriations for FY 2026-27

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board support an appropriation of \$37.7 million from the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund (WPIF) for Water Plan Grants in the 2026 Projects Bill.

Background

The Water Plan Grant Program is available to promote progress on the critical partner actions identified in the Water Plan and its measurable objectives. The grant program supports projects, programs and activities that have the best opportunity to make progress on the Water Plan's objectives and that are in alignment with the grant program's guidelines. Funding categories include: Agricultural Projects, Conservation & Land Use Planning, Engagement & Innovation, Water Storage & Supply and Watershed Health & Recreation Projects.

The appropriation includes new sports betting tax revenue collected in FY 2024-25, as well as earned Treasury interest on the WPIF. The recommended amount in the Projects Bill already accounts for program administration costs. Staff recommends including an appropriation of \$37.7M million for Water Plan Grants in the 2026 Projects Bill.

