

**COLORADO**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

**Colorado Water Conservation Board****Water Plan****Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Town of Wellington
Name of Water Project	Town of Wellington Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project
Grant Request Amount	<b>\$440,738.15</b>
Primary Category	\$440,738.15
<i>Conservation &amp; Land Use Planning</i>	
Total Applicant Match	<b>\$440,738.15</b>
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$440,738.15
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	<b>\$0.00</b>
Total Project Cost	<b>\$881,476.30</b>

**Applicant & Grantee Information**

Name of Grantee: Town of Wellington  
Mailing Address: 8225 3rd Street Wellington CO 80549

Organization Contact: Meagan Smith  
Position/Title: Deputy Director of Public Works Email: smithme@wellingtoncolorado.gov  
Phone: 970-217-5749

Organization Contact - Alternate: Kelley Beyers  
Position/Title: Management Analyst Email: beyerske@wellingtoncolorado.gov  
Phone: 9704131698

Grant Management Contact: Meagan Smith  
Position/Title: Deputy Director of Public Works Email: smithme@wellingtoncolorado.gov  
Phone: 970-217-5749

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Kelley Beyers  
Position/Title: Management Analyst Email: beyerske@wellingtoncolorado.gov  
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Engineering Contact: Nathan Ewert  
Position/Title: Deputy Director of Public Works - Engineering Email: ewertna@wellingtoncolorado.gov  
Phone:

**Description of Grantee/Applicant**

Town of Wellington owns and manages three Enterprise Fund utilities, water, wastewater, and storm drainage.

**Type of Eligible Entity**☐

- ☐ Public (Government)
- ☐ Public (District)
- ☒ Public (Municipality)
- ☐ Ditch Company
- ☐ Private Incorporated
- ☐ Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- ☐ Non-governmental Organization
- ☐ Covered Entity
- ☐ Other

### Category of Water Project

- ☐ Agricultural Projects  
*Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.*
- ☒ Conservation & Land Use Planning  
*Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.*
- ☐ Engagement & Innovation Activities  
*Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.*
- ☐ Watershed Restoration & Recreation  
*Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.*
- ☐ Water Storage & Supply  
*Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.*

### Location of Water Project

Latitude	40.704810
Longitude	105.005250
Lat Long Flag	Water provider location: Coordinates based on address of water provider
Water Source	Wellington's drinking water comes from two sources: surface water, primarily from the Cache la Poudre River and Colorado-Big Thompson project via NPIC shares and leases; and groundwater, supplied by historic wells that provide about 25% of potable water.
Basins	South Platte
Counties	Larimer
Districts	3-Cache La Poudre River

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Municipal
Type of Water Project	Construction / Implementation
Scheduled Start Date - Design	6/1/2026
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	7/1/2026
Description	The Town of Wellington is implementing an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system to improve water efficiency, enhance customer transparency, and enable real-time leak detection. Serving more than 12,000 residents through 4,334 connections, the Town has retrofitted 3,315 meters with smart technology. However,

without the necessary communication network and analytics software, these meters currently function like traditional mechanical meters.

To fully activate AMI, Wellington will install the remaining 1,019 meters and radios, construct two networked base stations, and deploy analytics software. Once complete, staff will access continuous water usage data, improving operational efficiency and decision-making. As the customer portal launches, residents will monitor and manage water use in real time. Ultimately, all 4,334 meters will provide continuous data to customers and staff.

The Town participates in the Colorado Water Loss Initiative (CWLI), attended the CWLI New Learner Workshop on 11/18/2025, and plans an AWWA Water Audit in 2026. A fully deployed AMI network will empower residents with leak alerts and informed conservation decisions, positioning Wellington for a more efficient, transparent, and sustainable water future.

Measurable Results	
	New Storage Created (acre-feet) New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet) New Storage Created (acre-feet) Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet) Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet) Efficiency Savings (dollars/year) Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year) Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres) Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
148	
12,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
12,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
Reduction in greenhouse gas footprint by eliminating manual meter reads - 152 kg of CO2 emissions per year.	
Reduction in energy use from decreased water production and distribution - ~39,552 kWh annually, or 30 tons of CO2 emissions per year.	

Water Project Justification
<p>The Town of Wellington's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project directly supports key goals of Colorado's Water Plan (2023) and the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP, 2022) by improving municipal water efficiency, strengthening climate resilience, and advancing data-driven resource management.</p> <p>Alignment with Colorado’s Water Plan</p> <p>Vibrant Communities – The Colorado Water Plan emphasizes the need for “safe, resilient, and sustainable water supplies” and for expanding public communication and education (CWP 2023, Ch. 6.3). The AMI system supports these goals by providing real-time water-use data that improves leak detection, reduces per capita demand, and empowers customers to make informed choices. Wellington’s 2018 Municipal Water Efficiency Plan identifies customer education and leak response as critical strategies; AMI directly enhances both. By reducing unnecessary consumption, AMI helps maintain affordability and operational reliability while mitigating the impacts of growth and climate stressors.</p>

Thriving Watersheds – The Water Plan calls for protecting watershed health and enhancing environmental resilience (CWP 2023, Ch. 6.4). By minimizing water loss and reducing strain on local supplies, AMI supports maintaining stream flows and watershed function. Water conserved through improved metering remains available for environmental and recreational needs—key priorities for the South Platte Basin.

Resilient Planning – The Water Plan highlights the importance of “innovation, data-driven decision-making, and proactive planning” (CWP 2023, Ch. 6.5). AMI provides high-quality data that supports municipal drought planning, scenario modeling, demand forecasting, leak prioritization, and long-term resource management. This aligns with statewide goals to strengthen municipal and industrial efficiency and improve monitoring and analysis.

#### Alignment with the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (2022)

The AMI project directly advances several Basin Implementation Plan goals:

Goal 3: Maintain and improve municipal and industrial water conservation and efficiency (BIP Vol. 1, Sec. 4, Table 4-1). AMI reduces real losses and improves customer-side conservation, addressing one of the region’s primary strategies for closing the municipal supply gap. The Town of Wellington is also part of the Colorado Water Loss Initiative (CWLI). The town has recently participated in the CWLI New Learner Virtual Workshop on 11/18/2025 and plans to complete a AWWA Water Audit in 2026.

Goal 6: Protect and enhance watershed function (BIP Vol. 1, Sec. 4). Reduced withdrawals and minimized waste support healthier watershed conditions.

Goal 11: Broaden South Platte communications, outreach, and education (BIP Vol. 1, Sec. 4). AMI enhances public engagement by giving residents transparent access to their water-use data.

Goal 11 (Data): Support data collection and analysis (BIP Vol. 1, Sec. 4). AMI improves system-wide data accuracy and strengthens Wellington’s capacity for long-range planning and system optimization.

#### Project Benefits

AMI is expected to save approximately 75.65 acre-feet (AF) annually based on the 2018 Wellington Municipal Water Efficiency Plan. When combined with recoverable system losses identified in the 2022–2023 AWWA M36 Water Audit, the project could yield up to 148.5 AF of annual savings. These reductions support community resilience, reduce operational emissions, and improve environmental outcomes.

#### Related Studies

The Town of Wellington has laid essential groundwork for its water metering project. In 2022, partnering with Sensus, the Town completed a propagation study identifying optimal locations for communication base stations and antennas to support an AMI system. The study confirmed that two base stations would provide full coverage. In 2023, a follow-up analysis reaffirmed this requirement and refined implementation strategies.

This project aligns with Wellington’s water-efficiency goals. The Town’s 2018 Municipal Water Efficiency Plan (MWEF), developed by Clear Water Solutions, projects an annual savings of 74.5 acre-feet (AF) through AMI, about 6% of residential water use (~71 AF) and a 3% of commercial use (~3.5 AF), enabled by real-time leak detection and customer engagement. This water savings would have direct customer impact with reduced water bills. Additionally, an AWWA M36 audit for 2022-2023 identified system losses averaging 106 AF per year, with 99 AF as real losses. EPA research indicates up to 75% of real losses are recoverable, suggesting an additional

74 AF savings through improved metering and monitoring. Combined, MWEF estimates and recoverable losses point to potential annual savings of up to 148.5 AF. Completing communications infrastructure and software integration will allow Wellington to fully leverage prior AMI investments, enable real-time system management, and significantly reduce water loss.

The above justification is bolstered by documented results from other utilities deploying AMI:

Western Municipal Water District reduced non-revenue water from ~12% to 3.5% post-AMI, while customers gained real-time usage data, leak alerts, and greater insight into their water consumption. (Neptune)

Columbia Water (Columbia, SC) cut monthly service calls by 96 % and reduced inactive accounts (water used but not billed) by 21 % after deploying AMI with cellular endpoints and software. (Badger Meter)

City of Benicia achieved over 99% read success with its fixed-network AMI, eliminating most truck-based reads, reducing labor, and improving revenue recovery by identifying non-revenue water and apparent losses. (Neptune)

A study published in AWWA Water Science, Advanced Metering Infrastructure: Reducing Water Loss, found AMI data enabled leak detection on both sides of the meter, reducing non-revenue water through real-time monitoring. (AWWA Water Science)

Texas Water Utilities saw nearly 60% non-revenue water reduction after switching from AMR to cellular AMI with pressure/flow monitoring in challenging terrain. (Badger Meter).

By building on completed studies and proven strategies, Wellington's AMI project will deliver measurable water savings, increased operational efficiency, and enhanced customer service.

### **Taxpayer Bill of Rights**

Town staff have reviewed annual revenues from the upcoming fiscal year and confirmed that if the Town of Wellington's enterprise Water Fund is awarded this grant, it will not be at risk of losing its "enterprise" classification under TABOR.