



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	City of Alamosa
Name of Water Project	Comprehensive Plan Update
Grant Request Amount	\$100,000.00
Primary Category	\$100,000.00
<i>Conservation & Land Use Planning</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$100,000.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$100,000.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$200,000.00
<i>DOLA - EIAF</i>	\$100,000.00
<i>DOLA - HPLN</i>	\$50,000.00
<i>OEDIT - Prop123</i>	\$50,000.00
Total Project Cost	\$400,000.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: City of Alamosa
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 419 Alamosa CO 81101

Organization Contact: Rachel James
Position/Title: Development Services Director Email: rjames@alamosa.gov
Phone: 719-589-6631

Grant Management Contact: Rachel James
Position/Title: Development Services Director Email: rjames@alamosa.gov
Phone: 719-589-6631

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Beata Ramza
Position/Title: Email: planning@alamosa.gov
Phone: 719-589-6631

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

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 37.476570
 Longitude -105.877662
 Lat Long Flag Municipal Center: Coordinates based on center point of municipal boundary
 Water Source 10 groundwater wells and two ditches, the Excelsior Ditch and the Independent Ditch.
 Basins Rio Grande
 Counties Alamosa
 Districts 20-Rio Grande

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Municipal
 Type of Water Project Planning
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 3/1/2026
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction

Description

Currently, a variety of the City of Alamosa's plans need to be updated. In order to increase efficiency and maximize our public outreach efforts, the Comprehensive Plan process includes a number of specific plans incorporated throughout.

Like all jurisdictions our size, statutorily we are required to have a strategic growth component, a water supply plan, and updates to our Housing Needs Assessment and Housing Action plan. However, these issues are pressing - whether required by statute or not. We will also include an update to our trails master plan with an added recreation element, a climate resiliency component, and a limited update to our downtown plan.

Furthermore, our water efficiency plan also needs review and updating. Water critically influences many aspects of these plans and will be key to specific sections of the comprehensive plan. We will hire a firm through a

competitive process to conduct a thorough review of existing conditions and craft plans that will feel authentic to Alamosa while being consistent with our desire to conserve water.

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)
 10,000 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
 450 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
 Other

The above only allows numerical answers here are some of the responses we have to the above questions. Our current Storage is sufficient. There are no plans for new wells. However, our last WEP goal of 100 GPD was reached this year, so new goals will need to be established through the planning process. Regular maintenance on municipal water storage systems. There will be a variety of new water-centric goals, informed by the needs of our community and our public outreach efforts. The plans will include acre-foot-specific water conservation goals to ensure that the results of our work is measurable. The plan elements will include acreage-specific data to ensure that the results of our work is measurable. Habitat preservation is a very relevant part of the recreation, trails, and downtown plans. The number 450 is the amount of people reached in the last 3 years with WEP water educational outreach. We hope to contact more during our comprehensive planning process.

Water Project Justification

The City of Alamosa is requesting funding to update our Comprehensive Plan, a process that includes a necessary update to our Water Efficiency Plan (WEP). When our previous WEP was completed in 2020, the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) would not be updated for another two years. Updating our plans now allows us to integrate new data, adopt basin-wide goals, and utilize current best practices to ensure our municipal efforts are fully aligned with regional priorities.

This project directly supports the Rio Grande BIP in several areas; Goal 3, Subcategories 3 and 4 emphasize the need for robust municipal water planning, while subcategories 5 and 6 prioritize natural hazard mitigation and public water education. In accordance with Goal 5, we intend to weave water-smart principles and climate resilience throughout the entire planning process. By considering water at every step—from project kickoff to final adoption—we aim to instill a culture of conservation across the community. Further, as the hub of the San Luis Valley, Alamosa faces the dual challenge of population growth and increasing aridification; section 5 speaks to making sure the region is prepared for water supply needs and conservation. Given that Alamosa County accounts for one-third of the basin's baseline demand, our planning is vital for regional stability. Our active participation in the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable (RGBRT) ensures our messaging remains consistent with regional efforts, and helps to ensure all of our outreach efforts are in line with those across the SLV, which is the BIP's Section 8 goal.

We are currently developing our third Master Utility Plan (MUP) focused on stormwater, addressing infrastructure

upgrades cited in Volume 2, Section 4 of the BIP. Funding this request will allow us to connect these infrastructure findings with our Comprehensive Plan and WEP, creating a holistic roadmap for smart growth and long-term water security.

The Colorado Water Plan understands that all water plans need to be adaptive and represent many different sectors: legal, policy, education, projects, innovation, agricultural, municipal. Underpinning our Comprehensive Plan update is the desire to inform and create resilient plans that include water as a critical component across all these sectors.

Our Comp Plan will help us meet the water supply and smart growth elements set forth in SB24-174. One of the most exciting components of this new plan will be the formation of climate resiliency strategies. The SLV is the largest alpine desert in the world, with only 7" of precipitation a year. Increasing aridification in a region dependent on agriculture presents a growing threat for the economic viability of future generations. Strategic planning to strengthen our climate and economic resilience today will be the deciding factor between Alamosa's growing prosperity or its potential decline.

Related Studies

Comprehensive Plan
Water Efficiency Plan
Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan
Downtown Plan
Parks and Rec Trails Master Plan
Alamosa City Ranch Plan
3-Mile Annexation Plan

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

No Tax Bill of Rights provided