



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Snowmass Water and Sanitation District
Name of Water Project	Comprehensive Outdoor Water Budget Program
Grant Request Amount	\$410,275.00
Primary Category	\$410,275.00
<i>Conservation & Land Use Planning</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$414,625.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$343,125.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$71,500.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$0.00
Total Project Cost	\$824,900.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Snowmass Water and Sanitation District
Mailing Address: 0177 Clubhouse Dr Snowmass Village CO 81615

Organization Contact: Darrell Smith
Position/Title: Water Resources Manager Email: dsmith@swsd.org
Phone: 970-923-2056

Organization Contact - Alternate: Kit Hamby
Position/Title: District Manager Email: khamby@swsd.org
Phone: 970-923-2056

Grant Management Contact: Darrell Smith
Position/Title: Water Resources Manager Email: dsmith@swsd.org
Phone: 970-923-2056

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Kit Hamby
Position/Title: District Manager Email: khamby@swsd.org
Phone: 970-923-2056

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 39.220894
 Longitude -106.922930
 Lat Long Flag Water provider location: Coordinates based on address of water provider
 Water Source Snowmass Creek, East Snowmass Creek
 Basins Colorado
 Counties Pitkin
 Districts 38-Roaring Fork River Basin

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Municipal
 Type of Water Project Planning
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 12/1/2025
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction 3/1/2026
 Description
 The project would establish a comprehensive outdoor water budget program that would include:

1. Calculating each property's specific irrigation needs based on landscape area and plant type.
2. Educating customers and contractors on the customer's specific monthly watering needs.
3. Offering limited-time rebates and on-site irrigation assessments to accelerate system upgrades.
4. Implementing a billing structure that creates meaningful financial incentives for staying within water budgets.
5. Adopting code updates to align land use planning with long- term conservation goals.

The first phase of this program has been broken into the following two tasks:

- Task 1: Program development and Outreach
 - o Developing the water budgets for each account based on irrigated area by planting type
 - o Educating customers, property managers, and contractors
 - o Performing a comprehensive rate study to develop a billing structure that assigns real financial consequences for exceeding water budgets
 - o Evaluate code changes to limit plantings of high-water-use plants and/or increases in customers' water budgets.
- Task 2: Pilot Program Implementation - This task will implement the water budget for the pilot program group of 100-200 customers with a target of 20-30% irrigation reduction annually.
 - o Provide rebates for upgraded irrigation system controls and in-ground improvements
 - o Provide hands-on irrigation management support for select customers

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)
 3,000 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
 3,000 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
 Other
 No additional measurable results provided

Water Project Justification

The Snowmass Water and Sanitation District's Comprehensive Outdoor Water Budget Program directly advances the Colorado Water Plan and the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) by integrating water conservation, education, and land-use planning into a framework for outdoor water efficiency.

Under the Water Plan's Partner Action Areas, this project strongly supports the Vibrant Communities action area, which emphasizes that "holistic water management is essential for creating vibrant communities that balance water supply and demand needs". The District's approach—combining customized water budgets, tiered rate structures, customer engagement, and irrigation technology upgrades—is an identified partner action of Water Wise Use by implementing water-saving measures and a water budget rate structure.

It also will be an example of the Meeting Future Water Needs partner action by allowing the district to optimize it's "investments in infrastructure and increase efficiency and conservation" and establishing accurate measurement and analytics to "monitor water use and reduce water loss." Upgrading meters, improving data quality, and aligning irrigation practices with real landscape demand directly implement this partner action.

Equally important, this initiative relies on effective Engagement and Education to residents and local businesses to implement these partner actions. The water plan specifically directs to “coordinate public education and awareness campaigns that focus on topics like water efficiency.” The District’s outreach campaign and homeowner education materials will empower residents to understand their budgets, adjust controllers, and adopt lasting water-saving behaviors.

At the basin scale, the project is not only an identified project within the Roaring Fork region, it also advances several Colorado Basin Roundtable priorities identified in the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan (BIP):

- Theme: Secure Safe Drinking Water – Supports Goal D, to “protect drinking water supplies from natural impacts such as extended droughts, forest fires, and climate change” by reducing summer outdoor demand during the lowest-supply periods. The District is aiming to conserve 150 to 200 AF per year by the end of the full implementation of a water budget.
- Theme: Encourage a High Level of Basin-Wide Conservation – Advances Goal B, promoting municipal conservation through measurable, community-wide outdoor water reductions.
- Theme: Develop Local Water-Conscious Land Use Strategies – Implements Goals A and B by updating District codes to integrate water budgets and discourage high-water-use landscapes in future developments.

This project is consistent with activities outlined in the Basin Implementation Plan (2015/rev 2022) as well as the Roaring Fork Water Efficiency Plan (2015). The Comprehensive Water Budget Project is part of the District’s ongoing conservation efforts and will build upon the project CO-2015-0290, identified in the BIP. The District aims to conserve 150–200 acre-feet of water per year once the full Water Budget Program is implemented after four years. This estimate is based on modeling using 2024 customer data and is considered conservative. Modeling also suggests that savings could be even higher in dry years such as 2025.

Together, these efforts demonstrate how local, data-driven actions can fulfill statewide goals for sustainable water management. By pairing measurable outdoor water savings with public engagement and code modernization, the District’s program provides a replicable model that embodies the spirit and intent of both the Colorado Water Plan and the Colorado Basin Roundtable BIP.

Citations:

Colorado Water Conservation Board. 2023. Colorado Water Plan (pp. 178-180).

https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/CWCB/0/edoc/219188/Colorado_WaterPlan_2023_Digital.pdf (Accessed: 11/18/2025)

Colorado Basin Round Table. January 2022. Colorado Basin Implementation Plan Update Volume 2 (pp. 52, 138). https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/cwcbsearch/0/edoc/216708/Colorado_BIP_Volume2_2022.pdf (Accessed: 11/18/2025)

Related Studies

This project complements the Turf Replacement program for which the District has previously received a grant (2025). The District is in the process of implementing the Turf Replacement Program across its service area.

Outdoor water-budget programs—when implemented comprehensively with customer education, targeted rebates, and supportive rate structures—have delivered consistent, measurable results across Colorado. ET Irrigation, the consultant partnering with SWSD to design our program, highlights several successful examples on its website: <https://etirrigation.com/case-studies-results/>.

A summary of the recent results:

Castle Pines Metro District (3-year average): 100 MG or 25% of water production
Tallyn's Reach Metro District (4-year average): 18 MG or 37% of water production
Coal Creek Villages HOA (5-year average): 2 MG or 25% of water consumption
River Ranch HOA @ Arrowhead (1-year vs prev 4 year average): 1.7 MG or 43% of water consumption

This project will align with the District's water efficiency priorities as mentioned in the August 12, 2015 Roaring Fork Watershed Regional Water Efficiency Plan.

https://www.roaringfork.org/media/1567/wep_rfreional_plan_20150812.pdf

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

TABOR issues do not impact this application.