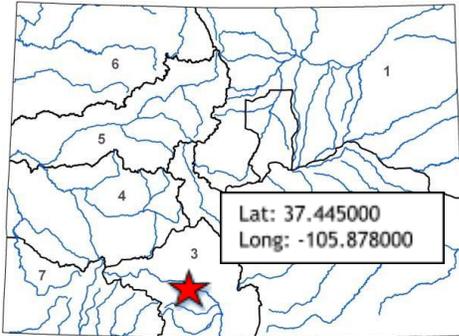




Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Alamosa
Drainage Basin:	Rio Grande

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$400,000
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$100,000
Recommended amount:	\$100,000
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$150,000
Applicant Match:	\$150,000
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use
Measurable Result:	16,746 Coloradans impacted by incorporating water-saving actions into land use planning and related engagement activities

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support Alamosa County in hiring a consultant to update their 2008 comprehensive plan with a specific focus on how dwindling water supplies will change land use practices in the San Luis Valley. Project activities include designing the planning process, engaging the community, drafting the comprehensive plan update, and securing its adoption by the County Commission.



This funding request was spurred by Alamosa County’s participation in the 2022 Growing Water Smart (GWS) Workshop hosted in the San Luis Valley. The GWS Alamosa working group emerged with some key understandings of local and immediate needs, including intentional collaboration between the city and county at the interface of municipal and rural planning, especially within the areas that the city identifies as probable for annexation and connection to the municipal water system. In their letter requesting a county budget appropriation for this comp plan update, the Alamosa County Planning Commission stated:

We firmly believe that the continued availability and quality of water will have a tremendous impact on the growth and development potential of Alamosa County, yet this is not adequately discussed in our current plan. Not only does increased growth threaten a precious and limited resource, we expect our existing agricultural heritage will continue to be challenged with alternative uses for existing water resources, from both within and outside the San Luis Valley.

Alamosa County expects their comprehensive plan update process to engage voices and perspectives across the county around local, state, and regional water issues to sustain and enhance a vibrant and livable community based not only on agriculture, but also recreation, housing, and emerging economies. Alamosa County hopes to provide a template for other San Luis Valley communities to prioritize water in land use planning.

Alamosa County has secured a Colorado Department of Local Affairs grant for \$150,000 to support the comprehensive plan update. This project advances the Colorado Water Plan goal to have 75% of Coloradans living in communities that have incorporated water-saving actions in land using planning—and has the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable’s support.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$100,000 to Alamosa County for the Alamosa County Comprehensive Plan Update.