



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203



August 22, 2016

Dear Interested Party,

Colorado's Water Plan laid out numerous actions needed to ensure secure supplies for cities, the environment, agriculture, and recreation in the decades ahead. One important step called for improving efficiency and coordination in what can be a lengthy water supply permitting process.

To put this into action, the plan called on the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to host a series of Lean events with relevant permitting agencies and stakeholders to examine current processes and determine how to make them more efficient and effective. The State of Colorado and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 jointly convened a Lean event focusing on water supply permitting by bringing together representatives from state, local, and federal water supply agencies. In addition, representatives from water utilities and other stakeholder groups were present to share their individual experiences with large water supply project permitting. The project included a one-day scoping event in February and a three-day Lean event following in March.

Lean is a set of principles and methods for identifying and eliminating waste for any process in order to improve the customer experience. Over the three-day event, the Lean event participants examined the initiation of NEPA and project scoping of water supply permitting projects in Colorado. At the conclusion of the event, the team agreed to put in place several improvements to the process and is working on a set of implementation items to be completed by October 2016. Progress on this effort will be updated on the Colorado's Water Plan website:
<https://www.colorado.gov/cowaterplan>.

We are committed to providing support to advance the team's recommendations and to seek additional improvements to further streamline the water supply permitting process in Colorado.

Sincerely,

James Eklund
CWCB Director

Shaun L. McGrath
EPA Region 8 Administrator

