



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Kevin Reidy  
Water Supply Planning Section

**DATE:** September 20, 2018

**AGENDA ITEM:** 27. Colorado Water and Growth Dialogue

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**Staff recommendation:** This item is informational only, with no Board action requested.

**Background:**

The Colorado Water and Growth Dialogue grew out of research and a symposium funded by the CWCB in 2009-2010 that resulted in the report *2010 Colorado Review: Water Management and Land Use Planning Integration*. The Keystone Policy Center and Colorado Water Institute took the ideas generated in those early efforts and worked on creating a “dialogue” around water and growth in Colorado. During the midst of drafting Colorado’s Water Plan, the CWCB rejoined efforts as the Colorado Water and Growth Dialogue formed and assisted with funding the project along with partners such as Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the Gates Family Foundation, the Sonoran Institute, the Walton Family Foundation, Aurora Water and Denver Water.

The goals of the Dialogue were as follows:

- How can we better integrate land and water planning so that water plays a more prominent role in land use choices, while enhancing the economic viability and quality of life for present and future Coloradans?
- Which land use approaches and patterns show the greatest promise for reducing the water footprint from urban and suburban new development and redevelopment?
- What are the most practical and effective strategies for achieving these land use approaches and patterns?

The Dialogue produced a number of deliverables that shed light on these questions which will be detailed during the presentation of this item. The deliverables of the Dialogue are a resource for local governments, land and water planners, developers, policy makers and others to better understand the benefits of integrating land and water planning. The results point to the need for better communication between land and water planners and that integrating land and water planning can substantively decrease water demand in new development. A final report that brings all of these threads together into a cohesive document will be published immediately after this board meeting.

