

Colorado Demand Management Feasibility Investigations

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COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

Overview

- Demand Management in Colorado - Background
- Intrastate Demand Management Feasibility Investigations
 - 2019 Work Plan

CWCB Demand Management Outreach

- Direction of the Board – November 2017/January 2018
- Identify and evaluate possible options for avoiding involuntary compact curtailment
 - Consistent with direction from Colorado's Water Plan
- Focus on Demand Management considerations to inform progress on the interstate and intrastate fronts.
- Thorough and transparent outreach to water users and stakeholder community to provide information about Colorado River issues and DCP evolution

CWCB Demand Management Outreach

- CWCB will continue to speak at forums statewide to:
 - Provide context and updates on Colorado River Basin activities
 - Obtain input and feedback on various demand management considerations
- Workshops and technical outreach
 - Identify specific legal, technical, and policy questions associated with demand management
- **Takeaway: Not developing any position regarding whether and how to develop a demand management program in Colorado in a vacuum. Working with stakeholders and water users to preserve options and opportunities while we seek engagement and input to consider positions moving forward.**

Demand Management Considerations

- Consistency with prior appropriation and state water laws
- Preservation of water rights
- Economic and environmental considerations
- Monitoring and verification of water conservation
- Administration and accounting
- Sideboards/limitations to consider
- Water court involvement
- Parity – benefits and burdens shared
- Funding – who funds the program?
- Many others

CWCB Policy Statement

“Develop the state’s position and approach on whether and how to develop any Upper Basin Demand Management Program that could potentially be implemented within Colorado consistent with state law to avoid or mitigate the risk of involuntary compact curtailment and to enhance certainty and security in the Colorado River water supply.”

INVESTIGATING

VOLUNTARY, TEMPORARY, AND
COMPENSATED

Reducing Use Through Demand
Management



2019 Work Plan

- Purpose
- Tasks
 - Initial Issue Identification
 - Establish Workgroups
 - Conduct Workshops
 - Evaluate and Report
 - Project Management
- Timelines
- Deliverables
- Estimated Resources/Costs

2019 Work Plan: Purpose

- We are **not** setting up a Demand Management program.
- We are **not** exploring the administrative impacts of a compact curtailment.
- We **are** exploring the array of issues that Colorado (and potentially other Upper Basin states) may need to understand to commit to implementation of a demand management program in the future.
- We **are developing a framework for investigating** Colorado's interests and position regarding whether and how any Colorado River Demand Management Program could or should operate within Colorado.
- This position **will** be based on evaluation and consideration of policy, legal and technical aspects with water user/stakeholder input and technical expertise.

Tasks: Initial Issue Identification

- Identify and prioritize issues that Colorado may deem important to evaluate as part of feasibility investigation:
 - Legal
 - Technical
 - Policy
- Working with:
 - Colorado's Commissioner and other Upper Basin state staff
 - Water users and stakeholders
 - Work in progress since January 2018
 - Outreach and public input will inform issue identification.

Tasks: Establish Workgroups

- **To evaluate priority issues regarding demand management feasibility.**
- Guided by criteria in Support and Policy Statement.
- First job: formulate meaningful scopes of work, budgets, and timeline for initial work to be completed in CY 2019.
- **Keeping in mind:** the need for an effective and efficient process.

Tasks: Establish Workgroups

- **Law and Policy**
- **Monitoring and Verification**
- **Water Rights Administration and Accounting**
- **Environmental Considerations**
- **Economic Considerations**
- **Funding**
- **Education and Outreach**
- **Agricultural Impacts**
- **Tribal Interests**

Who's on the Workgroups?

- Subject matter experts in the identified area of investigation.
- Not based on affiliation, employment, membership of an organization. Selected in individual capacity and not as a representative.
- Demonstrated willingness to apply their skills to help assess statewide demand management considerations within Colorado.
- Generally, not already an active voice or in a leadership role in other forums and groups discussing demand management considerations.

Tasks: Conduct Workshops

- CWCB/AG Colorado River team to develop and conduct public workshops to continue outreach on Colorado River issues, specifically the issues associated with demand management feasibility.
 - Open lines of communication.
 - Provide forum for public review of Workgroup process.
 - Receive feedback and input regarding status of DM investigation process.
- Will not take the place of ongoing outreach efforts.
- First workshop – Thursday, August 22nd in Steamboat.

Tasks: Evaluate and Report

- Project Management team to prepare and provide regular reports to CWCB on progress and results of CY 2019 investigations
- Joined by members of Workgroups as appropriate.
- Final status report of CY 2019 scopes of work, progress, and recommended next steps in July 2020.

Project Management Team

- Analogous to CWCB role in curating Colorado's Water Plan.
- Proposed Membership:
 - CWCB staff
 - AGO staff
 - EDO staff
 - DWR staff
 - Colorado's Commissioner for interstate implications
- Primary clearinghouse for facilitating workgroups, comments, input, feedback, and drafting of potential considerations for state positions to vet with water users and interstate partners, and bring to the Board.

Timelines

- June 21 – Upper Colorado River Commission Demand Management Workshop, Salt Lake City
- June 27-28 – Upper Colorado River Commission biannual meeting, Keystone
- July – “All-Hands” Workgroup orientation
- July/Aug – first Workgroup meetings
- August 22nd – first Regional Workshop

Not anticipating completion of feasibility investigations by end of 2019. Simply starting the process.

Questions, comments, guidance:

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Project Management Team

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