



COLORADO
Colorado Water
Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

P (303) 866-3441
F (303) 866-4474

Jared Polis, Governor

Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive Director

Rebecca Mitchell, CWCB Director

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Kevin Reidy, Water Supply Planning Section

DATE: November 20-21, 2019 Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 12b(2) 2020 Projects Bill
Colorado Water Loss Initiative Phase II

Introduction

The M36 American Water Works Association (AWWA) methodology is the industry standard for water loss control and management. The primary goal for the Colorado Water Loss Control Initiative is for participating water utilities to learn how to apply the methodology to their water system and to achieve a complete and transparent (as measured by Level 1 validated scores) water loss audit. 116 water providers have been recruited to participate in Phase I with 6 water providers already moving onto more advanced topics. Building on the success and foundation of Phase I, Phase II goes beyond audits and assists the water providers in targeting interventions. With this many engaged water providers it makes sense to begin offering more advanced topics that will build on the foundational knowledge from Phase I. Of note, Colorado is the only state that is conducting statewide water loss training on a voluntary basis. All other states carrying out statewide training are doing so under a legislative mandate.

As part of the coordinated Phase II statewide water loss control training program, the CWCB will reconvene a steering committee which will include (but not limited to) representation from water utilities, AWWA, and the Water Research Foundation (WRF). This steering committee will assist in creating and reviewing the RFP for the project, recruit participants, and assist with the management of the training process as it moves forward. The steering committee for Phase I has been indispensable with recruitment of participants and the members will be asked to continue into Phase II. Phase II will also focus more efforts on smaller, more rural water providers, in order to train these providers on this methodology.

The Water Plan technical update identified water loss as a significant factor in the M&I gap and, as outlined in Colorado's Water Plan, the CWCB will:

Support water management activities for all water providers: ...This will include the use of techniques such as water budgets, smart-metering, comprehensive water loss management programs, savings tracking and estimating tools, and improved data collection on customer water uses. For example, in the next year, the CWCB will fund several regional training workshops about using the American Water Works Association M36 Methodology for Water Audits and Loss Control.

As with the Colorado Water Plan, the drinking water industry identified water loss control as a major topic of interest. With multiple states, specifically many southwestern states, providing statewide water loss control training, the time is right to continue the momentum of statewide training on the industry standard for water loss control and move onto prioritized interventions.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve \$1,000,000 in Non-Reimbursable Investments for the Colorado Water Loss Initiative Phase II to be included in the 2020 Projects Bill.

Attachments: Data Sheets





The initial Phase II scope and process includes the following:

Task 1: Water Audit 101 Workshops & Level I Validation

This task will serve as a refresher for Phase 1 participants and any new employees they have. It will also introduce all necessary content for utilities that did not participate in Phase 1, including Level 1 validation. Additionally, it will introduce participants to the most updated AWWA software (v.6).

- a. 6 workshops
- b. Level 1 Validation of audits
- c. Webinar

Task 2: Level II and III Workshops

This task will focus on more advanced techniques and concepts beyond those covered in Phase I. This task would include mostly participants from Phase I. These include input meter testing, customer meter testing, billing data analysis, real loss component analysis, and economic level of leakage.

- a. 10 workshops
- b. Webinar

Task 3: Ranking and Prioritization for Technical Assistance

This task will identify and prioritize the best hands-on technical assistance area for each participating utility. This prioritization is based on audit results, data validity grades and validation documentation.

- a. Review of all Level 1 validated audits

Task 4: Technical Assistance

This task carries out the technical assistance identified in Task 3. Depending on the water provider, there could be TA in the areas of input meter testing, billing data analysis and prorating, customer meter test design and result analysis, real loss component analysis, and leak detection.

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Cost:	\$1,000,000
NRI Funding Request:	\$1,000,000
Funding Source:	Construction Fund
Project Type:	Grant Program
Type of Grantee:	State Government

LOCATION	
Benefits:	Statewide
Water Source:	Various
Drainage Basin:	All Basins

Colorado Water Loss Initiative PHASE II - Concept

