



COLORADO
**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**
Department of Natural Resources

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Jared Polis, Governor

Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive Director

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Alexander Funk, Interstate, Federal & Water Information Section

DATE: November 20-21, 2019 Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 12b(3). 2020 Projects Bill
Non-Reimbursable Project Investments - ATM Grant Program

Introduction

The Colorado's Water Plan encourages alternatives to permanent dry-up of irrigated agriculture and to utilize alternative transfer methods (ATMs) to support a sustainable agricultural industry while addressing other water resource challenges. The CWCB's Alternative Water Transfer Methods Grant Program, established in 2007, provides resources to help develop and implement ATM projects, including research. The ATM grant program also provides resources for the "life cycle" costs of ATM projects including project operations and infrastructure. The current focus of the ATM grant program is on implementing projects that will result in or facilitate actual wet-water transfers to support multiple uses, including municipal, industrial, agricultural, environmental, and recreational needs. ATM grants can also be utilized to explore alternative approaches to mandatory curtailment resulting from groundwater administration or compact compliance.

Since the ATM grant program's inception, the CWCB Board has approved 34 grants. Through these ATM grant projects, CWCB and others have studied barriers to alternative water transfer methods and supported several pilot projects across the state. The success of these pilot projects have encouraged further adoption of ATM projects, have provided the water community with valuable information on ATM development, and have influenced the adoption of policy changes to facilitate ATM implementation.

The current balance of the ATM grant program is \$1,223,518. CWCB staff, due to anticipated high demand for program funds in fiscal year 2020, is recommending a refresh of ATM funds of \$750,000 to be included in the 2020 Projects Bill. The demand is a result of more ATM projects being implemented statewide and marketing ATM success stories.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve a \$750,000 Non-Reimbursable Investment for ATM Grant Program to be included in the 2020 Projects Bill.





Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer Methods (ATMs) Grant Program
 Colorado Water Conservation Board
 November 2019 Board Meeting

The following projects have received approval for use of these funds over the years:

CWCB - Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer Methods Grant Program: November 2019

Lower Arkansas Valley WCD, Rotational Land Fallowing & Water Leasing Prog., \$320,000

Colorado Corn Growers Assoc., Measures for Preservation of Colorado Irrigated Agriculture, \$349,650

Farmers Reservoir & Irrigation Company Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer \$202,500

Parker Water & Sanitation District, Lower South Platte Irr. Research & Demo. Project, \$477,500

Colorado River Water Conservation District, Compact Water Bank, \$180,000

East Cherry Creek Valley WCD, Maintaining Ag. Productivity on Formerly Irrigated Lands, \$111,030

Colorado Corn Growers Association, FLEX Market Model Project, \$158,365

Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, Farm Financial Planning Tool, \$31,633

Colorado Water Innovation Cluster, Lake Canal Demonstration Project, \$135,105

Colorado State University, Land Fallowing in the Arkansas, \$78,489

The Nature Conservancy, ATMs to meet nonconsumptive & consumptive needs in the Yampa, \$132,000

Parker Water & Sanitation District, Lower South Platte Irrigation Demonstration Project, \$320,166

Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District, Water Cooperative, \$300,477

Upper Arkansas WCD, Building Accounting & Administrative Tools for Lease Fallowing, \$121,500

Colorado State University, Sub Surface Drip Irrigation Alfalfa, \$8,841

Conejos WCD, ATMs to Increase Supplies for Conejos Basin Ag, Municipal & Enviro Purposes, \$124,124

Colorado State University, Implementation of Deficit Irrigation Regimes; Demo & Outreach, \$124,734

Colorado State University, Poudre Basin Water Sharing Working Group Efforts, \$86,940

Ducks Unlimited, FLEX Water Market - Education & Implementation Phase, \$120,250

Colorado River Water Conservation District, Water Bank Feasibility Study - Phase 2, \$180,000

Lower South Platte WCD, Northeast Colorado Water Cooperative Implementation, \$173,900

Colorado River WCD, No Chico Brush Agricultural Water Research Project, \$173,080

Colorado River Water Conservation District, Colorado Water Bank Working Group, \$180,000

Colorado State University, Agricultural Field Studies and Estimates of Saved Consumptive Use, \$180,000

Lower Arkansas Valley WCD, Rotational Land Fallowing Leasing Catlin Canal Pilot Project, \$173,782

Larimer County, Open Space Pilot Project, \$178,425

Grand Valley Water Users Association, Water Bank Pilot Project, \$200,000

Colorado Open Lands, South Platte River ATM & Conservation Easement, \$284,500

New Cache La Poudre Irrigation Company, New Cache La Poudre Water Marketing Strategy, \$214,957

Heart J Center for Experiential Learning at Sylvan Dale Ranch, Sylvan Dale Ranch Agricultural Water Conservation & ATM Project, \$197,250

Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, Cactus Hill ATM, \$150,000

DWR LFT Tool Data Verification \$50,000

Upper Roaring Fork/City of Aspen ATM \$183,356

Palmer Land Trust - Bessemer ATM Evaluation \$150,00

Total Projects: 34 approved

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$750,000
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	\$750,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Construction Fund
<i>Project Type:</i>	Transfer Grants
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	

L O C A T I O N	
<i>Benefits:</i>	Statewide
<i>Water Source:</i>	Various
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	All Basins