



COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members
FROM: Alexander Funk, Interstate, Federal, and Water Information
DATE: 11/21/2019

AGENDA ITEM: 21. Alternative Transfer Method Program Development and Planning Project

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

Background:

Since 2007, the CWCB has promoted alternative transfer methods (ATMs) as a framework for allowing water rights to be transferred to a new type of use while minimizing permanent dry-up of agricultural lands. To date, the CWCB has provided approximately \$5.3 million in grant funding to support a variety of ATM projects aimed at better understanding, evaluating, promoting, and implementing non-traditional water transfers. The Colorado Water Plan also sets an objective of sharing 50,000 acre-feet through voluntary alternative transfer methods by 2030. These efforts have provided useful information and resulted in successful projects, but widespread interest and adoption of ATM solutions have yet to occur.

In advance of the Colorado Water Plan update, the CWCB will work to evaluate progress made to date on ATMs and develop a strategic framework for promoting ATMs more efficiently and effectively. In particular, this project will assess current metrics for ATM evaluation, conduct outreach to ATM participants, consider new approaches such as in-depth ATM training workshops for water providers, and assess ATM applicability to other Colorado Water Plan priorities.

CWCB will present an overview of the project scope of work, the issues/concepts regarding ATMs that may be explored in more detail during the course of the project, and how the project will be conducted in coordination with the Basin Implementation Plan and Colorado Water Plan update.

