



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Alexander Funk, Program Manager
Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer Methods Grant Program (ATM)
Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section

DATE: July 15th, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 7 (a-c). Alternative Transfer Method Grant Program

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the following ATM grant applications:

- \$219,914 for the Colorado Water Trust McKinley Ditch Deficit Irrigation Study
- \$40,000 for the Manassa Land and Irrigation Historic Consumptive Use Analysis
- \$51,682 for the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (Subdistrict No. 6) Alamosa River ATM Pilot Project

Background:

The Colorado 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 voluntary, temporary, and compensated approaches to groundwater sustainability and compact compliance.

The current ATM balance is \$1,142,747. If the above grant requests are approved and come under contract, the remaining balance will be \$831,151.

Staff's review of ATM applications involves the following steps:

- 1) Applications are reviewed for completeness based on the information requirements, which are primarily outlined in the ATM Grant Criteria and Guidelines (C&G).
- 2) Applications are reviewed to verify that the water activity meets the eligibility requirements in the C&G.
- 3) Staff then prepares the Water Activity Summary Sheet, which documents the outcome of the review process and contains staff's recommendations.

Staff concludes these ATM Grant applications are complete, and the proposed activity meets the eligibility requirements in the C&G. The Water Activity Summary Sheet, ATM Grant Application, Statement of Work, and Budget and Schedule are attached.