



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Lauren Ris, Deputy Director
Anna Mauss, P.E., Chief Operating Officer

DATE: May 17-18, 2022

AGENDA ITEM: 14. FY 22-23 Funding for Water Plan Grant Categories

Introduction:

The Water Plan Grant Program will receive \$8.2 million for fiscal year 2022-23 through an appropriation in the 2022 Projects Bill (HB22-1316). The bill did not specify funding amounts per Water Plan Grant category, allowing the board flexibility to award grants based on applications received and the board’s priorities. In an effort to help guide applicants and grant review committees, staff is recommending target funding amounts per category based on historical appropriations and carryover balances.

Over the past year, some of CWCB’s grant programs were consolidated in order to simplify programs for applicants. This included the Water Efficiency Grant Program, the ATM Grant Program, and the Watershed Restoration Grant Program. The recommendations below consider the historical average funding levels of all of these programs in recommending funding for Water Plan Grant categories.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends budgeting the \$8.2M Projects Bill appropriation for Water Plan Grants as follows:

- Agriculture - \$1.5M
- Engagement & Innovation - \$500K
- Environment and Watershed Health - \$4.2M
- Water Storage & Supply - \$2M

Background:

The following table summarizes the historic funding by Water Plan Grant category and the available fiscal year 2022 - 23 funding based on staff recommendation.

Water Plan Grant Category	Historic Percentage of Overall Funding	Average Funding	Available FY 22 - 23 Funding including carryover balances ⁽¹⁾
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Agriculture	10%	\$1,125,000	\$1.6M
Engagement & Innovation	5%	\$625,000	\$500K
Watershed Health & Recreation ⁽²⁾	40%	\$5,125,000	\$4.4M
Conservation & Land use ⁽³⁾	10%	\$1,550,000	\$2.5M
Water Storage & Supply ⁽⁴⁾	35%	\$4,417,000	\$4.4M

- (1) Target amounts based on funds available. The board retains flexibility to award grants based on demands in each category.
- (2) Formerly the Environment & Recreation Water Plan Grant category and Watershed Restoration Grant Program.
- (3) Consolidation of Conservation & Land Use Water Plan Grants and Water Efficiency Grants.
- (4) Consolidation of Water Storage & Supply Water Plan Grants and Alternative Transfer Method Grant Program.

