



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Anna Mauss, Chief Operating Officer

DATE: May 17-18, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 26: FY 2023-24 Water Plan Grant Funding by Category

Introduction:

The Water Plan Grant Program will receive \$25.2 million in fiscal year 2023-24 through an appropriation in the 2023 Projects Bill (SB23-177). The bills do 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 recent funding demands.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends budgeting the \$25.2 M for Water Plan Grants as follows:

- Agriculture - \$5.1 million
- Conservation & Land Use Planning - \$5.7 million
- Engagement & Innovation - \$700K
- Water Storage & Supply - \$5.7 million
- Watershed Health & Recreation - \$8.0 million

The amount listed are target numbers and the board retains flexibility to award grants based on actual demands in each funding category.

Background:

In fiscal year 2022 - 23, the Water Plan Grant Program had \$12.6 million available for new grants from the \$8.2 million appropriated in the 2022 Projects Bill and carry over balances and \$12.6 million was awarded. Staff is recommending targeting funding amounts by category for the upcoming fiscal year based on last year's demands and scaling up based on fiscal year 2023-24 available funding, Table 1 summarizes staff's recommendation on targeted funding amount per Water Plan Grant category.



Table 1. Water Plan Grant Targeted Funding Recommendations

Totals by Category	Targeted Available Funding for FY 22-23	Demand by Category	Total FY 22-23 Awards by Category	FY 22-23 Demand vs Targeted Funding	Targeted Available Funding for FY 23-24 ⁽¹⁾
Agricultural Projects	\$1,600,000	\$3,048,324	\$1,698,460	191%	\$5,100,000
Conservation & Land Use Planning	\$1,800,000	\$3,491,749	\$2,821,907	194%	\$5,700,000
Engagement & Innovation Activities	\$500,000	\$464,044	\$267,444	93%	\$700,000
Water Storage & Supply	\$3,400,000	\$3,477,619	\$3,477,619	102%	\$5,700,000
Watershed Health & Recreation	\$4,400,000	\$5,061,211	\$4,374,880	115%	\$8,000,000

(1) Target amounts based on funds available. The board retains flexibility to award grants based on demands in each category.

