



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

**Water Plan**

**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Dominion Water & Sanitation District	
Name of Water Project	Water Efficiency – Regulations and Planning	
Grant Request Amount		<b>\$41,600.00</b>
Primary Category		\$41,600.00
<i>Conservation &amp; Land Use Planning</i>		
Total Applicant Match		<b>\$52,924.00</b>
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>		\$29,660.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>		\$23,264.00
Total Other Sources of Funding		<b>\$0.00</b>
Total Project Cost		<b>\$94,524.00</b>

**Applicant & Grantee Information**

Name of Grantee: Dominion Water & Sanitation District  
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**Description of Grantee/Applicant**

Dominion Water & Sanitation District, Sterling Ranch Community Authority Board, and Sterling Ranch Development Company are excited for the opportunity to implement the state's first rainwater harvesting project at Sterling Ranch. After collecting data for over a decade associated with the Sterling Ranch Rainwater Harvesting Pilot Program, it is time to move forward with the implementation of an actual project to harvest rainwater on a regional scale. Dominion and its partners are seeking a Water Plan grant for the initial feasibility study, operational plan defining the legally allowable harvest, and design and construction of the rainwater collection and distribution system to be retrofitted into the existing stormwater system.

### Type of Eligible Entity

- Public (Government)
- Public (District)
- Public (Municipality)
- Ditch Company
- Private Incorporated
- Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- Non-governmental Organization
- Covered Entity
- Other

### Category of Water Project

- Agricultural Projects  
*Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.*
- Conservation & Land Use Planning  
*Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.*
- Engagement & Innovation Activities  
*Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.*
- Watershed Restoration & Recreation  
*Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.*
- Water Storage & Supply  
*Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.*

### Location of Water Project

Latitude	39.485993
Longitude	-105.069815
Lat Long Flag	Water district centroid: Coordinates based on centroid of water district boundary
Water Source	Contractual water deliveries
Basins	Metro
Counties	Douglas
Districts	8-South Platte Cheesman to Denver Gage

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Municipal
Type of Water Project	Planning
Scheduled Start Date - Design	9/1/2023
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	

Description  
Dominion is the wholesale water provider to Sterling Ranch, who is a model for high standard water efficiency in the State. Dominion is developing water efficiency Rules and Regulations (Rules) to define its foundational roles and responsibilities and those of its Retail Districts. The Water Efficiency Plan (Plan) will build on the Rules,

providing guidance on water efficiency measures at both the retail and wholesale level. Questions that will be explored during the Plan and Rules development include:

1. How can Dominion and its Retail Districts continue to elevate the practice of water efficiency and model innovation to others?
2. How can Dominion leverage the water efficiency practices at Sterling Ranch as its service area develops beyond Sterling Ranch?
3. What is the appropriate balance between regulatory measures and incentives?
4. How can water efficiency be implemented in a fair and equitable manner among established Retail Districts that range from less efficient traditional practices to a Retail District with sophisticated cutting-edge efficiency practices?
5. How can strategies provide water efficiency benefits while also fostering resiliency with a warming climate?

Grant funds will be used for the development of the Plan and update the water efficiency Rules.

### Measurable Results

	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
30,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
30,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
	Water savings are not quantifiable at this point in time (water savings will be addressed with the Plan development)

### Water Project Justification

Dominion's Water Efficiency Plan and Rules and Regulations support the goals of the Colorado Water Plan and accompanying Technical Update as well as the South Metro/Metro Basin Implementation Plan and State's education efforts. This is described in further detail below.

#### South Platte/Metro BRT Basin Implementation Plans

The following items highlight the goals in the South Platte/Metro BIP that specifically related to Dominion's Water Efficiency Plan and Rules and Regulations. Applicable BIP strategies for each corresponding goal are parenthetically cited.

Goal 1: Encourage implementation of projects - Dominion's water supply includes Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency Partnership (WISE) water. Dominion is also continuing efforts to develop a Regional Rainwater

Harvesting Storage Project and collaborating on a South Metro Water Supply Authority ASR Project. All three projects are on the Metro/South Platte BRT identified projects list. A critical component to Dominion's overall water resources strategy is to collaborate with regional water providers to implement these identified projects and support appropriate project funding sources while also using supplies in an efficient and sustainable manner. This "efficiency component" will be addressed through Dominion's water efficiency planning. (Strategies 1.A, 1.B).

Goal 2: Maximize development of native South Platte supplies – Dominion's planned future water supplies include multi-purpose projects, entailing full utilization of native South Platte supplies through direct diversion, exchange and capture of return flows from all supplies through indirect potable reuse. Dominion continues to advance use of groundwater in an effective manner for firming developing a true conjunctive use fully optimizing the use of Dominion's native South Platte supplies. Dominion's water efficiency efforts will focus on developing best practices that will further extend Dominion's native South Platte water supplies and conjunctive use in a sustainable manner (Strategies 2.A, 2.B, 2.C).

Goal 3: Maintain and promote municipal and industrial conservation and efficiency – Dominion's vision stated in its Drought and Water Shortage Rules and Regulations is as follows: Vision: DWSD is committed to providing a sustainable and reliable water supply to its Retail Districts, working closely with each Retail District and regional partner to promote the efficient use of this valuable limited resource. Water efficiency is a critical component to Dominion's water supply portfolio and future development within its service area. This water efficiency planning effort will develop the policy and Plan necessary to accomplish its vision.

Key areas in where Dominion's Plan will intersect with the Goal 3 BIP strategies include the following:

- o During the Plan development, Dominion will explore how indoor and outdoor water budgets established for Sterling Ranch may be incorporated into new Retail Districts and how customer water use may be measured and compared to these budgets. Such information is informative to developing regional baselines that assess the potential of future efficiency improvements (Strategy 3.A).
- o Dominion's Plan will address and promote the distribution of educational water efficiency materials to Retail District customers (Strategy 3.B).
- o Dominion aims to remain at the forefront of water efficiency practices and innovation. This will be reflected throughout Dominion's Plan and Rules (Strategy 3.C).
- o There are a range of benefits associated with urban landscapes and green spaces. Dominion's Plan will address these benefits through the following actions areas defined in Colorado's Water Plan: vibrant communities, thriving watersheds, and resilient planning (Strategy 3.D).
- o Dominion's Plan will be structured in a manner to promote implementation of wise land use planning strategies that provide a desirable quality of life while minimizing demand for water (Strategies 3.E and 3.F).

Goal 4: Maintain and promote reuse – Reuse is a critical component to Dominion's future water supply portfolio. This will be addressed in the Plan (Strategy 4a).

Goal 6: Protect and improve water quality throughout the watershed - Dominion's water efficiency planning effort will identify opportunities where watershed health benefits can be coupled with water efficiency measures. For example, urban landscaping can be both water wise and fire resistant. Also, educational outreach on water efficiency can be coupled with practices to address watershed health (Strategies 6.A.3, 6.A.4, 6.A.5).

Goal 8: Protect and enhance recreational attributes – Dominion's service area includes open space and areas of aquatic habitat. Urban parks are also a critical component to existing and future development. Discussions will be

held to address potential policy opportunities of integrating water with land use planning considering recreational attributes (Strategy 8.A).

Goal 9: Support collaborative development and management of supply options outside of the South Platte Basin – Dominion relies on regional collaboration for a large portion of its water supplies to include WISE and therefore has a vested interest in collaborative strategies between water providers on both the east and west slope. We support communities at the cutting edge of municipal water efficiency and view this continual support as a significant contribution to the east/west collaborative effort (Strategy 9.A).

Goal 11: Broaden South Platte communications, outreach, and education programs – Dominion's Plan will provide a framework for communications between Dominion and its Retail Districts as well as provide guidelines on the communication between Dominion's Retail Districts with their end-use customers. Through these avenues, Dominion can take an active role in collaborating with the Metro and South Platte BRT's on mutually beneficial educational efforts and filter such efforts to the customer level. Dominion also participates in many dialogues pertaining to water efficiency in the South Platte Basin and throughout the western United States further supporting the municipal water efficiency practice (Strategies: 11.E, 11.F).

### Colorado Water Plan

Dominion's water efficiency planning efforts coincide with many aspects of the Colorado Water Plan's vision and action area. The following discussion describes and calls out the specific partner action categories that Dominion's Plan and Rules will address.

Vibrant Communities - Dominion's vision and core principles of their current Retail District, Sterling Ranch, was founded upon coincides with many aspects of the Colorado Water Plan's vibrant communities action area. Dominion and Sterling Ranch are currently at the "cutting edge" of municipal water efficiency, modeling some of the highest water efficiency standards in the State. Dominion's water efficiency planning efforts will explore opportunities to remain at the forefront of municipal efficiency as it serves new Retail Districts. This water efficiency planning effort will also explore one-water concepts and identify multi-beneficial opportunities such as green infrastructure, climate appropriate resilient landscapes that are healthy, and vehicles for engaging and educating stakeholders (Partner action categories: meeting future water needs, water wise use, healthy lands, engagement and education).

Resilient Planning – Dominion views water efficiency as one of the primary vehicles necessary for sustainable and resilient communities. Sterling Ranch incorporated water efficiency at the land use development planning stage, and therefore has an extremely low water footprint on a per unit basis. Dominion will explore how to incentivize similar proactive processes of incorporating water efficiency into land use planning as its service area develops. Additionally, Dominion will investigate ways in which water efficiency can mitigate the vulnerability of natural hazards; identify multi-pronged solutions that support water efficiency and other critical elements of sustainability (e.g. clean energy goals, local food, natural hazard planning, economic vitality, human health, etc.); and identify opportunities for elevating education on water efficiency and its multi-benefits at the Retail District level, customer end-use level, as well as within the overall professional practice of municipal water efficiency within the Western U.S (Partner action categories: meeting future water needs, water wise use, healthy lands, engagement and education).

Thriving Watersheds – As Dominion's service area continues to develop, wise water use and natural and climate appropriate landscapes and maintenance practices will play a key role in overall watershed health. Dominion's Water Efficiency Plan will address this critical intersection, promoting low water use landscapes that provide benefits to the watershed. The Plan will also promote education practices that emphasize the watershed and

community benefits of sustainable water-wise landscaping (Partner action categories: water wise use, healthy lands, engagement and education).

### Related Studies

Related studies and supporting documents include:

2013. Agreement and Declaration of Water Conservation Covenants for Sterling Ranch.

2013. Sterling Ranch Water Plan.

CWCB. 2012. Municipal Water Efficiency Plan Guidance document.

CWCB. 2019. Best Practices for Implementing Water Conservation & Demand Management Through Land Use Planning Efforts.

DWSD. 2023. Drought Mitigation and Response Plan.

This project is complementary to CWCB's efforts in providing technical assistance to municipalities on water efficiency planning. The Plan will be aligned with CWCB's municipal water efficiency planning guidelines. The Plan will also utilize the CWCB template and the worksheets provided in the guidelines.

### Taxpayer Bill of Rights

N/A