



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Town of De Beque
Name of Water Project	Town of De Beque Secondary Raw Water Source Well
Grant Request Amount	\$235,967.00
Primary Category	\$235,967.00
<i>Water Storage & Supply</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$214,033.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$214,033.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$0.00
Total Project Cost	\$450,000.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Town of De Beque
Mailing Address: 381 Minter Avenue De Beque CO 81630

Organization Contact: Caré McInnis
Position/Title: Town Manager Email: cmcinnis@debeque.org
Phone: 970-283-5475

Organization Contact - Alternate: Katherine Boozell
Position/Title: Town Treasurer Email: kboozell@debeque.org
Phone: 9702835475

Grant Management Contact: Caré McInnis
Position/Title: Town Manager Email: cmcinnis@debeque.org
Phone: 970-283-5475

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Stephanie Parker
Position/Title: Grant Writer Email: sparker@debeque.org
Phone: 203-470-6747

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Secondary Water Source

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 39.333333
 Longitude -108.214167
 Lat Long Flag Municipal centroid: Coordinates based on centroid of municipal boundary
 Water Source Ground water
 Basins Colorado
 Counties Mesa
 Districts 70-Roan Creek Basin

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Municipal
 Type of Water Project Design & Construction
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 7/1/2025
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction 7/1/2026
 Description
 The Town of De Beque's Secondary Water Source Project seeks to enhance water supply reliability by constructing a new municipal well as a backup raw water source for the Town's Water Treatment Plant, addressing vulnerabilities associated with the Colorado River, the Town's sole current water source, which is prone to high turbidity during spring runoff, natural disasters, or infrastructure failures. The project scope includes hydrogeologic assessment, permitting, design, and construction, beginning with a review of geological records and field visits to evaluate aquifer characteristics and select an optimal well location based on capacity, recharge, and proximity to the WTP. Permitting involves confirming the Town's senior water rights applicability to the groundwater source and preparing applications for the Colorado Division of Water Resources, supported by environmental reviews and technical coordination, with legal costs limited to administrative and regulatory services. Design tasks include topographic and utility surveys, raw water quality analysis for WTP compatibility,

and development of construction drawings and specifications. Construction entails drilling a 250-foot well, installing steel or PVC casing with gravel pack and cement grouting, developing the well using air-lift and surging, and conducting yield and water quality tests. A 3–5 HP submersible pump, piping, well house, site fencing, access road upgrades, and drainage/erosion controls will be installed, with a 10% contingency for unforeseen conditions. The Town has applied for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS), a federal grant capped at 1% of discretionary spending, to fund the \$400,000+ project, but the application is pending due to the competitive nature of CDS and uncertain federal funding availability.

Measurable Results

0	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
100	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
0	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
0	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
0	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
800.00	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
\$25,000	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
0	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
0	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
0	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
0	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
400	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

This project will directly benefit approximately 400 residents of De Beque through improved water supply reliability and public engagement while also delivering broader regional benefits throughout Mesa County. By providing a new groundwater supply estimated at 50–100 acre-feet per year, the project reduces De Beque’s dependence on Colorado River diversions during high-turbidity periods, preserving streamflows for downstream agricultural, ecological, and municipal uses. Approximately 800 linear feet of pipeline will be installed to connect the new well to the existing treatment infrastructure. Although the project involves no direct habitat work, it indirectly supports the health of downstream rivers. Estimated efficiency savings total \$25,000 annually, based on avoided emergency hauling, reduced treatment strain, and increased operational flexibility. These outcomes support regional resilience, reduce potential strain on shared resources, and align with the Colorado Water Plan’s goals for thoughtful storage, meeting future water needs, and efficient, community-scale solutions.

Water Project Justification

The Town of De Beque’s Secondary Raw Water Source Project establishes a new municipal well as a backup raw water supply. It aligns with the 2023 Colorado Water Plan, the Colorado Basin Roundtable’s Basin Implementation Plan (BIP), and related education and outreach efforts, enhancing the reliability and resilience of the water supply. The project supports the Water Plan’s Vibrant Communities and Resilient Planning action areas, specifically the partner action to “implement projects that enhance water storage and supply to meet growing municipal demands” (Colorado Water Conservation Board, 2023, p. 178). By diversifying De Beque’s water portfolio beyond the Colorado River, the well mitigates risks from high turbidity and climate-driven disruptions, advancing the plan’s goal of “planning for climate extremes” (Colorado Water Conservation Board, 2023, p. 178). The project qualifies for Water Storage and Supply grants and aligns with structural improvements for reliable water delivery (Colorado Water Conservation Board, 2024, p. 2). Within the Colorado Basin Roundtable’s BIP, the project addresses the theme of “protecting existing water uses and infrastructure” by ensuring continuity of municipal water service (Colorado Basin Roundtable, 2022, p. 15). It supports Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs) focused on municipal supply reliability, including backup sources (Colorado Basin

Roundtable, 2022, p. 18). The project also tackles the BIP's projected municipal and industrial supply-demand gap by 2050, enhancing resilience against population growth and climate variability (Colorado Basin Roundtable, 2022, p. 12). Legal services to confirm senior water rights and secure a well permit, ensure compliance with state water law, supporting the BIP's emphasis on "predictable permitting outcomes" (Colorado Basin Roundtable, 2022, p. 25). Additionally, the project aligns with education and outreach goals by serving as a model for small-community resilience, supporting the Water Plan's objective to "educate Coloradans about water conservation and resilience" (Colorado Water Conservation Board, 2023, p. 180) and the BIP's aim to "foster a water-conscious community" through public engagement (Colorado Basin Roundtable, 2022, p. 16). By showcasing the project through CBRT outreach, De Beque can enhance public understanding of water management, aligning with the education priorities of both plans (Colorado Water Conservation Board, 2023, p. 180; Colorado Basin Roundtable, 2022, p. 21).

Citations:

Colorado Water Conservation Board. (2023). 2023 Colorado Water Plan Update.

Colorado Water Conservation Board. (2024). CWCB Water Plan Grants.

Colorado Basin Roundtable. (2022). Basin Implementation Plans.

Colorado Basin Roundtable. (2017). Colorado Basin Implementation Plan.

Related Studies

In 2021, JDS Hydro Consultants recommended that the Town secure a second source of raw water in the event the primary intake from the Colorado River fails or becomes compromised.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

The Town of De Beque was De-Bruced by election on 11/05/1996