

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	City of Alamosa
Name of Water Project	City of Alamosa Water Efficiency and Comprehensive Plan Updates
Grant Request Amount	\$100,000.00
Primary Category	\$100,000.00
<i>Conservation & Land Use Planning</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$25,000.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$25,000.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$150,000.00
<i>DOLA</i>	\$100,000.00
<i>Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)</i>	\$50,000.00
<i>Housing Planning Grant (HPLN)</i>	
Total Project Cost	\$275,000.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: City of Alamosa
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 419 Alamosa CO 81101

Organization Contact: Rachel James
Position/Title: Development Services Director Email: rjames@alamosa.gov
Phone: 719-589-6631

Organization Contact - Alternate: Rachel James
Position/Title: Development Services Director Email: rjames@alamosa.gov
Phone: 719-589-6631

Grant Management Contact: Rachel James
Position/Title: Development Services Director Email: rjames@alamosa.gov
Phone: 719-589-6631

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Beata Ramza
Position/Title: Email: planning@alamosa.gov
Phone: 719-589-6631

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

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	37.475460
Longitude	-105.879480
Lat Long Flag	Municipal centroid: Coordinates based on centroid of municipal boundary
Water Source	10 groundwater wells and two ditches the Excelsior Ditch and the Independent Ditch.
Basins	Rio Grande
Counties	Alamosa
Districts	20-Rio Grande

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Municipal
Type of Water Project	Planning
Scheduled Start Date - Design	10/1/2025
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	
Description	
City of Alamosa Water Efficiency and Comprehensive Plan Updates	

Measurable Results

0	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive

0	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)
10,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
10,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
There will be a variety of new water-centric goals, informed by the needs of our community and our public outreach efforts	

Water Project Justification

Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) goals

Goal 3: Vibrant and resilient agriculture, recreation, municipal, and industrial economies that support thriving communities.

Sub 3-6 Municipal related water activities pg. 22-23

Goal 5: Engaged and informed citizens who understand the scope and urgency of local, state, and regional water issues and participate in robust and diverse educational opportunities. pg. 24

Section 5: Demand, Supply, and Potential Water Needs pg. 25-30

Section 8: Education and Outreach pg 55

Volume 2: Section 4, Basin needs Table 4 pg.62

We are requesting funds to update our Water Efficiency Plan (WEP) as well as the water supply and climate resilience portions of our new Comprehensive Plan, these goals are directly stated in the BIP in Goal 3, subcategories 3-6. Subcategories 3 and 4 speak to making sure municipalities have proper plans for their municipal water. Subcategories 5 and 6 discuss natural hazard risk mitigation and water education for the public. Our previous WEP was researched and completed in 2020 before the BIP was released in 2022. Updating our plans will benefit from integrating their data and best practices to ensure our efforts are better aligned moving forward.

Goal 5 of the BIP does not specify municipalities. However, by having an updated WEP and information about water in our comprehensive planning process we will be communicating the importance of water conservation to the public as well as weaving water smart principles and climate resilience goals throughout our comp plan. We are active in the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable (RGBRT) with a city staff member attending meetings and working with RGBRT staff to ensure our water messaging is consistent with all other water education efforts. This effort is a goal expressly stated in Section 8: Education and Outreach. Finally, Section 5 of the BIP speaks to making sure the area is prepared for water supply needs and changes. Alamosa County is one-third of baseline demand. As the principal city in Alamosa County as well as the largest community in the San Luis Valley (SLV), the City of Alamosa planning for our water needs and population growth in a region facing increasing aridification is of the utmost importance.

We are also currently creating a Master Utility Plan (MUP) for stormwater. It is our third MUP after water and sanitary sewer but is vital for the nearly 12% population growth we experienced between the 2010 and 2020 Census. Volume 2, Section 4 of the BIP specifically mentions the infrastructure upgrades needed for the City of

Alamosa. Some of these upgrades have been made since the BIP was completed. Updated plans will account for what has been done already and what the priorities should be in the future. Funding to help connect these issues into our comprehensive plan and WEP will create a holistic road map for smart growth, water conservation, and climate resilience in our growing community.

Colorado Water plan goals

Colorado Water Plans Partner Actions 8 pages - resilient planning and vibrant communities are two of the four interconnected areas

Pg. 12 of the Executive Summary - discusses past success

Pg. 20 of the Executive Summary - iterative advancement

The Colorado Water Plan understands that all water plans need to be adaptive and a representation of many different sectors: legal, policy, education, projects, innovation, agricultural, municipal. The hope with our WEP and Comp Plan update is that they can inform each other and create resilient plans that include water as a critical component across these sectors.

To know how to move forward we need to understand what has been accomplished from the 2020 WEP so far and what didn't work. The 2020 WEP was our first water plan and although it statutorily meets the requirements of a water plan we have struggled with real world implementation. So much so that we have sought supplemental funding from the Sonoran Institutes Water Smart program and other funders to create small supplemental plans to implement specific water goals like fixture upgrades and turf removal. There are many examples of best practice in other Colorado communities and utilizing that precedent research and scaling it to our community will help us create a better, more efficient WEP.

Our comp plan will help us meet the statutory requirements set forth in SB24-174 with the water supply and smart growth elements. One of the most exciting components of this new plan will be the climate resiliency strategies. The SLV is the largest alpine desert in the world with only 7" of precipitation a year. Increasing aridification in a region dependent on agriculture is a dangerous combination for the economic viability of future generations. Planning strategically now to increase and diversify our resiliency, both climate and economic, is the difference between Alamosa continuing to grow or becoming a ghost town.

Related Studies

Water Efficiency Plan
Comprehensive Plan
Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan
Downtown Plan
Parks and Rec Trails Master Plan
Alamosa City Ranch Plan
3-Mile Annexation Plan

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

N/A