



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Town of Telluride	
Name of Water Project	Stillwell Water Facility Management Plan	
Grant Request Amount		\$66,000.00
Primary Category		\$66,000.00
Conservation & Land Use Planning		
Total Applicant Match		\$24,800.00
Applicant Cash Match		\$24,800.00
Applicant In-Kind Match		\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding		\$0.00
Total Project Cost		\$90,800.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Town of Telluride
Mailing Address: PO Box 397 Telluride CO 81435

Organization Contact: Darin Garber
Position/Title: Sustainability and Grant Administrator Email: dgraber@telluride.gov
Phone:

Organization Contact - Alternate: Amie Martell
Position/Title: Water/Wastewater Division Manager Email: amartell@telluride.gov
Phone:

Grant Management Contact: Darin Garber
Position/Title: Sustainability and Grant Administrator Email: dgraber@telluride.gov
Phone:

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Amie Martell
Position/Title: Water/Wastewater Division Manager Email: amartell@telluride.gov
Phone:

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Town of Telluride currently operates wastewater and domestic/potable water provision utilities.

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 37.941769
 Longitude -107.810152
 Lat Long Flag
 Water Source
 Basins Southwest
 Counties San Miguel
 Districts 60-San Miguel River Basin

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Municipal
 Type of Water Project Planning
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 5/1/2026
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction

Description

The Town of Telluride will hire a technical firm to assess the status of the Stillwell water treatment and storage facility and evaluate its best future use within the Town's water provision system. This assessment will evaluate if and how the Town should continue to repair, upgrade, and operate Stillwell, which will prepare the way for a system-wide Comprehensive Water Management Plan.

The Stillwell facility originated during Telluride's early mining boom, and its continued use attests to staff's work to maintain it. Because its storage tanks can be fed from other facilities, Stillwell provides backup water supply for peak visitor periods or when one of the other water treatment facilities requires maintenance. These other facilities, Mill Creek and Pandora, are located above 9,200 feet along unpaved service roads, so that performing maintenance and repairs entails extensive time and costs—including avalanche mitigation in winter. Additionally,

given the impacts of climate change, they will endure increasing wildfire, rockfall, and flooding risks over time. Thus, Telluride has kept Stillwell online as a backup water provision facility for improved system resilience. Finally, the proposed grant assistance will aid Town's goal of providing quality essential services without further increases to full-year residents' living costs.

Measurable Results

2	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)
3,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
No additional measurable results provided	

Water Project Justification

This project will serve both the "Vibrant Communities" and "Resilient Planning" action areas of the Colorado Water Plan, because it will ensure that an effective future management plan for the Stillwell water treatment and storage facility in Telluride continues to function within the three-facility water provision system, providing resilience in the face of increased climate change risks including floods, mud/rockslides, wildfire, and droughts and providing flexibility for the community of Telluride, which is home to 2,607 full-time residents but hosts up to 20,000 visitors on peak ski season and summer festival weekends and holidays. Rather than continue to treat Stillwell as a single facility, this project will prepare Telluride to view Stillwell's management in a holistic view of the water provision system, preparing the Public Works Department's path for the upcoming Comprehensive Water System Plan project that will follow. Secondly, by laying the groundwork for the Comprehensive Water System Plan, this project will ensure that a systemic view is taken to resilience planning, water security planning, and local partnerships.

This project will directly serve the identified Southwest Basin Implementation Plan's goals of balancing all needs and reducing conflict and meeting municipal and industrial water needs. The balancing of needs comes from the Town of Telluride's water system's provision of water for full-time residents and for outsized influxes of visitors in peak periods, which includes outsized consumption of treated water. With the Stillwell facility management plan in place, Telluride will be ready to create its Comprehensive Water System Plan to ensure that this balance of needs and uses can be accommodated. In a very direct way, because Stillwell currently functions as a backup (even emergency) treated water source via its storage tanks, this proposed Stillwell facility management plan will serve the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan's goal to meet municipal and industrial water needs (p.21). By more holistically viewing the facility in terms of its best future role in the larger system, this goal will be served. Furthermore, in the San Miguel watershed portion of the Southwest Basin plan, an identified and significant annual gap between water supply and demand addressed in Section 5., p. 40, means that Telluride's planning efforts to increase efficiency and resilience--which will be enabled by this Stillwell facility management project--are directly in service to the Southwest Implementation Plan's identified goals and needs. While the

Stillwell project itself will not entail community engagement and education on water conservation and efficiency, it will prepare the way for the Comprehensive Water System Plan, which will feature a robust campaign of this nature.

Related Studies

This project is related to the Town of Telluride's water efficiency plan, which is on file with CWCB. The completion of the proposed Stillwell water treatment and storage facility management plan will be a key accomplishment that enables the Town of Telluride to go forward with its planned Comprehensive Water System Plan. This comprehensive plan will update the water efficiency plan to be filed with CWCB, as well as integrate updated climate change and drought mitigation and adaptation planning.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

Telluride debruced in 1994 and is able to accept the proposed funds.