



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

## BUDGET FAQ

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the state's budget. As a result, several grant programs managed by the Colorado Water Conservation Board have been impacted. Below is a list of frequently asked questions regarding CWCB's budget repercussions due to COVID-19.

Updated September 30, 2020

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**Q:** I have reviewed the [Program Budget Impacts](#) webpage for background, but where can I find current balances of each fund/program?

**A:** We typically provide fund balances in September. A budget update as of July 2020 is available in the [Board Report](#).

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**Q:** What is going to happen with CWCB operational funding, and what can we anticipate in the upcoming years?

**A:** The legislature has approved the Long Bill for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, including \$9.8 million for CWCB salaries and operations. CWCB staff and leadership will continue looking for efficiencies and will continue to operate at normal levels.

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**Q:** Are there going to be any limitations on CWCB's Water Project Loan Program?

**A:** We do not anticipate any limitations on the [loan program](#) in Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

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**Q:** How are Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) applications being reviewed differently now with budget constraints?

**A:** WSRF grant applications are still being accepted and will be reviewed through the normal process. Due to the lack of severance tax revenue into the basin and statewide WSRF accounts, it is especially important for basins to focus on priority projects, as outlined in Governor's established [Wildly Important Goal](#). Statewide match funding will need to be stretched across the next three years (as opposed to one year), which will constrain CWCB's ability to match funding, depending on the number of applications received.

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**Q:** Will there be any funding spent on in-person meetings and travel for CWCB this year?

**A:** Basin contractors as well as Public Education, Participation, and Outreach and basin roundtable recorders will continue to be funded. However, meetings cannot violate existing Executive Orders and must conform with Public Health Orders as well as best practices for safety (e.g. social distancing, driving alone, etc.). Travel that meets these requirements will continue to be funded. Basin roundtable meetings and food for meetings will not be funded. Additionally, grant applicants/recipients must also adjust their plans in order to meet the same safety requirements.

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**Q:** How is funding for the Demand Management Feasibility Investigation and the 2007 Guidelines renegotiations being affected?

**A:** Executive Order D 2020 050 redirected approximately \$866,000 of the \$1.7 million for Demand Management to help address the General Fund shortfall. Due to travel and meeting restrictions associated with COVID-19, CWCB has been able to save funding by doing more work in-house and spending less on traveling and meeting expenses. CWCB does not expect any significant impacts to these efforts. View the [latest update](#) on the Demand Management Feasibility Investigation for more information on the project's status.

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**Q:** What is the status of sports gambling and how will the Colorado Water Plan be impacted with a lack of revenue from this source?

**A:** Proposition DD technically legalized sports gambling in Colorado as of May 2020. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, no revenue has come in from sports to help support the Water Plan. It is still uncertain how pandemic-related closures will impact funding from sports betting in the near future; however, CWCB is working on finding creative solutions to fund the Water Plan and expects to move forward with awarding grants for projects that support the Plan.

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**Q:** How do budget reductions due to COVID-19 compare to downturns in 2008?

**A:** The current economic situation is 2 - 3 times worse than what was seen in 2008, although specific impacts vary. Longer or repeated periods of reduced economic activity to control the spread of COVID-19 may cause more severe and longer-lasting impacts.

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**Q:** Is CWCB anticipating any furloughs?

**A:** On September 23, 2020, the Governor made the decision to order mandatory furloughs for state employees. As a result, many state offices, including CWCB, will be closed on November 27, 2020 (the day after Thanksgiving). More information on the Furlough Executive Order is available through the [Colorado Division of Human Resources](#).