

# COLORADO WATER PLAN

## CELEBRATING THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Colorado has experienced unique and disruptive global and local events that have impacted our state. For all the challenges, there is also a lot to celebrate - including the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Colorado Water Plan (Water Plan). The Water Plan highlighted what can be accomplished through collaborative efforts that are so critical to keeping Colorado strong, even in the face of adversity. That spirit of cooperation is at the heart of Colorado's values. Clean streams, healthy forests, thriving farmlands, and vibrant communities shape how Coloradan's live. Read more about the Colorado Water Conservation Board's (CWCB) Water Plan update efforts here or visit [engagecwc.org](http://engagecwc.org).



## PROGRESS ON ACTIONS

- **76%** The CWCB and stakeholders across Colorado have helped initiate or complete approximately 76% of the stated actions in the Water Plan.

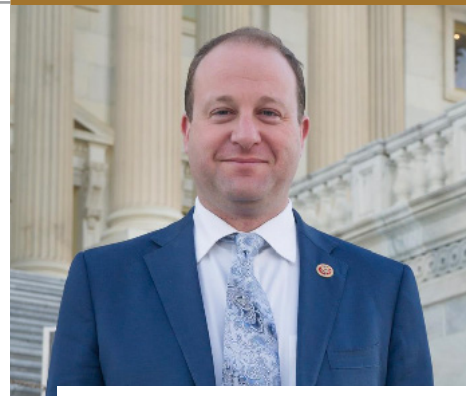
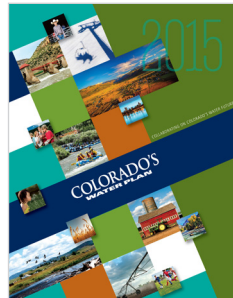
## PROGRESS ON PROJECT FUNDING

- **241** Since 2015, CWCB has helped fund over 241 water projects across the state with various CWCB grant programs.
- **82** Since 2015, CWCB has loaned money to over 82 statewide projects through the Water Project Loan Program.
- **\$63.5M** Since 2015, CWCB grant funded projects have funded more than \$63.5 million for Colorado water projects.
- **\$420M** Since 2015, the CWCB Water Project Loan Program has supported over \$420M for Colorado water projects.

“The Colorado Water Plan provides an actionable vision for protecting Colorado's most precious natural resource - its water. Updating the plan to include the latest science, align with climate planning, and better prepare Colorado for the future is critical to our shared success. This requires our combined efforts to enhance project planning and set bold actions that support all areas of the Water Plan. My administration is proud to be working with you to address our water challenges head on, and find collaborative solutions that work for everyone.”

## 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On November 19, 2015, the CWCB completed the first Water Plan, fulfilling then-Governor Hickenlooper's May 2013 Executive Order. Looking to follow through on a critical goal in the Water Plan to have enhanced project data, Governor Polis announced that one of his Wildly Important Goals (WIG) would challenge basins to identify 500 projects that support all areas of the Water Plan, have good data and are ready to launch.



—JARED POLIS, COLORADO GOVERNOR



**COLORADO**

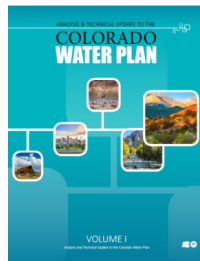
Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

# 7 YEAR UPDATE CYCLE

After completing the 2015 Water Plan, CWCB started the work to update the underlying technical data that ultimately supports the next Water Plan. Keeping to the goals in Chapter 11, the Water Plan update is set to be completed in 2022. Updating the Water Plan involves three major steps which are outlined below:

**The Analysis and Technical Update** - Completed in September 2019, the newly-labeled *Analysis and Technical Update to the Colorado Water Plan* (Technical Update) builds on a legacy of statewide water supply (SWSI) initiatives. The SWSI 2010 update informed the original Water Plan just as the Technical Update will inform the Water Plan update. This time, five future scenarios from the original Water Plan were analyzed and modeled to evaluate potential risks to the agricultural, municipal/industrial, and environmental/recreation sectors in 2050.



**The Basin Plan Updates** - The original Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs) were developed in 2014 by the basin roundtables to identify short and long-term objectives and projects that are critical to understanding and meeting future water challenges. The BIPs are being updated with new projects and strategies that address water needs in the face of an uncertain future.

**The Comprehensive Update** - The comprehensive update of the Water Plan brings together both the technical data and basin planning efforts to form the backbone of the Water Plan. At the same time, it seeks to capture meaningful actions, innovative efforts and recent developments that set the stage for future collaboration and project development.

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Every day, the CWCB is focused on implementing the Colorado Water Plan. Implementation, though, is a statewide effort and we marvel at the actions, great and small, that water stakeholders have accomplished since the Water Plan was issued.

—BECKY MITCHELL, CWCB DIRECTOR



## PLANNING TIMELINE

- ✓ **2004 Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) 1**
- ✓ **2005 Colorado Water for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act**
- ✓ **2007 SWSI 2**
- ✓ **2010 SWSI 2010**
- ✓ **2013 Call for a Water Plan**
- ✓ **2015 Colorado Water Plan & Basin Implementation Plans**
- ✓ **2017 Ripple Effects**  
Water Plan progress report
- ✓ **2019 Technical Update**  
Advances past SWSI efforts
- ✓ **2020 Basin & State Update Kick-off Meetings**
- **2021 Basin Implementation Plan Updates Complete**
- **2022 Colorado Water Plan Update Complete**

## 27 MONTH PHASED PROCESS

While several efforts feed into the Water Plan, the comprehensive update requires its own planning schedule. The CWCB developed the following phased process to allow time for meaningful stakeholder engagement along the way toward a final draft in 2022.

### PHASE 1: SCOPING

**OCTOBER 2020 - JUNE 2021**

Planning, identifying areas for enhancement and targeted public engagement mark this phase. CWCB staff will be scoping the Water Plan update during Phase 1 and conducting outreach activities to gather public input.

### PHASE 2: DRAFTING

**JULY 2021 - MARCH 2022**

Drafting, CWCB Board engagement and legislative updates are key to this phase. CWCB staff will create draft content for the updated Water Plan and will gather input from the CWCB board during the drafting process.

### PHASE 3: FINALIZING

**APRIL 2022 - DECEMBER 2022**

Public comment, editing and plan finalization are the main elements of this phase. The draft Water Plan will be released for public comment by mid 2022. Public comments will be addressed and stakeholder input will help refine the final document.

## STAY ENGAGED!

Want to learn more about the Colorado Water Plan and the update process? Visit [engagewcb.org](https://engagewcb.org) to find out the latest details and how you can participate.



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