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MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission
THROUGH: Loretta Daniel, Long Range Planning Program Manager
PREPARED BY: Larry Mugler, Planner/Project Specialist
DATE: November 14, 2023
SUBJECT: Arapahoe County Water Study Update

PURPOSE AND REQUEST

The purpose of the study session is to provide an update by the consultant team on the County's Water Supply Study.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Water Supply Study is to understand present and future conditions of water supply and demand, to identify efficiencies that can be achieved, and to take steps through comprehensive planning, development review, and regulatory processes to encourage best practices for water demand management, water efficiency, and water conservation. The primary objective is to ensure that land use decisions are made based on balancing the efficient use of limited water supplies with the needs of new residents and industry to have a reliable water supply.

The Water Supply Study has a planning horizon of 2050 and expands on the scope of an earlier study. It will update data from the County's 2001 water study and make recommendations for implementing the proposed 300-year rule for groundwater, foster closer partnerships with water districts, and identify options for sustainable water supply, conservation, and reuse.

The Study is being funded through a combination of grants from the Colorado Water Conservation Board and ARPA funding provided by the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC). Last November, a contract was signed with a consultant team led by Forsgren Associates, Inc. and with LRE Water and Michael Baker International to carry out the Study with a maximum budget of \$494,250. The contract identifies 11 tasks and, as of the first of September, four tasks are completed in draft form and work is underway on five others.

At the study session, the consultant team will present the findings from the completed tasks, describe the current activities, and discuss the planned community outreach activities.

The consultant team presented an update on the Water Supply Study to the BoCC on October 31, 2023, for their information.

ALTERNATIVES

The Planning Commission can use this study session to ask questions, suggest areas the Study should explore in more detail, and provide input on the planned community outreach program.

ATTACHMENTS

A copy of the slide presentation is attached.