



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

Arapahoe County Water Supply Study and Grant Application

Board of County Commissioners
Study Session, September 13, 2021



Purpose

Request to apply for grant funding from the:

- **Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)** for the Arapahoe County Water Supply Study
- **Sonoran Institute** for policy updates and implementation related to water-efficient landscapes

Background

2000 Water Study

- Completed as part of the 2001 Comprehensive Plan, focused on east county
- Recommendations have influenced decisions on land development (e.g., 200-year requirement for groundwater)
- Planning horizon of 2020 has now expired

Need for updated Water Study:

- 2018 Comprehensive Plan identified change to 300-year requirement for groundwater, emphasized more sustainable approach to water resources
- Need to update water resource data, County policies and regulations to reflect Comprehensive Plan
- Proposed Water Supply Study would integrate land use and water resource planning

Proposed Water Supply Study Tasks



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1	PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
2	MAPPING AND DATA DEVELOPMENT
3	LAND USE AND SOCIOECONOMIC
4	GROUNDWATER ANALYSIS
5	DEMAND AND SUPPLY ANALYSIS
6	DEVELOPMENT OF WATER CONSCIOUS LANDSCAPING STANDARDS
7	DEVELOPMENT OF WATER CONSERVATION MODELS OR GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS
8	WATER REUSE
9	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PLAN AND/OR REGULATORY MODIFICATION
10	IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS



Background



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Since 2020,

- County assembled team with east county water providers and City of Aurora to attend the Growing Water Smart Workshop hosted by the Sonoran Institute in May 2021. Result was an Action Plan and an exchange of information.
- Received supplemental funding for the water resource study for the Watkins-Bennett Area Vision Study to analyze water demand and supply for the area.
- Following direction from the Executive Budget Committee, explored grant opportunities to fund the proposed Water Supply Study. Identified the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) programs as the most suitable grants.



Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Grant Programs

Grants to be submitted to two programs. Grants are competitive.

- **Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) program**
 - Focuses on projects/studies in a basin
 - Applications to be submitted to South Platte Basin Roundtable and Metro Basin Roundtable, and if approved, forwarded to the CWCB for final approval
- **Water Plan Grant program**
 - State-wide focus, reflecting actions identified in the Colorado Water Plan
 - Application to be submitted to CWCB
- **Match:** both grant programs require min. 25% match
- **Application deadlines:** October for WSRF grants and December for Water Plan Grant

CWCB Grant Applications

- **Proposing three Grant Applications:**

\$50,000 Water Supply Reserve Fund grant from the Metro Basin Roundtable

\$50,000 Water Supply Reserve Fund grant from the South Platte Basin Roundtable

\$50,000 Water Plan Grant from the CWCB

\$150,000 Total

- **Grants are competitive.** Last year's awards were max. of \$25,000, but possible increase for 2021
- **HB 21-1260 was** approved in June and provided additional funds to CWCB for grants to implement Colorado Water Plan. Additional funds provided to the roundtables.

CWCB Grant Applications

Timeline for CWCB:

- CWCB reviews grant applications from December to March 2022
- CWCB Board decides on award of grants in mid-March
- CWCB contracts with County, funding could be available in May-June

Estimated Timeline for Water Supply Study:

- Issue RFP for study in June, followed by consultant selection process
- Notice to Proceed issued in August - September
- Study duration estimated to be about 12 – 18 months, completion in late 2023

Completion date:

- Projects using funds from the HB21-1260 source must be completed by mid-2025. Otherwise, completion dates are confirmed in the contract with CWCB

Fiscal Impact



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- Estimated cost of Water Supply Study is \$288,000. (May be reduced \$10,000 to \$15,000 due to water study for the Watkins/Bennett Area Vision Study. Funding for this water study was part of supplemental budget request approved on August 31)
- **Potential Grant funding ranges and County costs:**
 - If \$50,000 request for each grant was approved with total of \$150,000 grant award, the County would fund \$123,000 to \$138,000
 - If \$25,000 request for each grant approved with total of \$75,000 grant award, the County to fund \$198,000 to \$213,000
 - The County funding meets the min. 25% match requirement
- County decision on funding in December



Fiscal Impact

Grant funding distributed by CWCB:

- Based on terms of the contract between CWCB and County
- Invoices submitted to CWCB regularly for reimbursement, based on progress
- Progress reports due to CWCB every 6 months
- Final payment made to County after CWCB approves the final study

Sonoran Institute – Technical Assistance Grant



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- **Eligibility:** only participants in Growing Water Smart Workshops can apply. County attended the Growing Water Smart workshop in May 2021.
- **Grant Amount:** up to \$10,000 for consultant assistance, are competitive grants
- **Suitable for the County:** provides consultant expertise for new policies and regulations for water conservation and landscaping
- **Match:** no match is required
- **Application deadline:** October 15
- **Completion date:** projects must be complete by December 2022



Staff Recommendation



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Recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve submitting grants to the CWCB and the Sonoran Institute





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QUESTIONS?

