

**The Southwestern Water Conservation District**  
**The West Building, 841 E Second Avenue**  
**Durango, CO 81301**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN  
A Regular Board Meeting of the  
Southwestern Water Conservation District  
will be held via teleconference on

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

**8:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

**Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

**8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Video:** [Click here to join Zoom](#)

**or**

**Phone Number: (346) 248 7799**

**Meeting ID: 852 4669 2513**

**Passcode: 931249**

Posted and Noticed December 4, 2020

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**Tentative Agenda**

*Please text 970-901-1388 if you have difficulty joining the meeting.*

*Please raise your hand to be recognized by the chair. To raise your hand by phone, dial\*9. To raise your hand by computer, please use Alt+Y (Windows) or Option+Y (Mac). To mute and unmute by phone, dial \*6.*

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

- 1.0 Call to Order – Roll Call, Verification of Quorum (8:00 a.m.)**
- 2.0 Review and Approve Agenda (8:03 a.m.)**
- 3.0 Executive Session (8:05 a.m.)**
  - 3.1** General Manager Hiring Process—Conduct Interviews and Continue Deliberations regarding Candidates for the General Manager Position
  - 3.2** San Miguel River Basin Water Supply Planning
  - 3.3** Southwestern Water Conservation District’s Application for Finding of Diligence and to Make Part in Absolute, Case No. 20CW3034, Division 7
  - 3.4** Southwestern Water Conservation District’s Application for Finding of Diligence, Case No. 20CW3035, Division 7
- 4.0 Report from Executive Session (10:15 a.m.)**
- 5.0 Questions and Comments from Audience (10:17 a.m.)**
- 6.0 Approve and/or Remove Consent Agenda Items (10:20 a.m.)**
- 7.0 Consent Agenda (10:25 a.m.)**

- 7.1 Approval of Minutes (Oct 13-14; Nov 2; Nov 11-12; Nov 18; Nov 23)
- 7.2 Approval of Treasurer's Report (November 2020)
- 7.3 2020 Audit Engagement Letter with Haynie & Company

**8.0 Reports (10:30 a.m.)**

- 8.1 Director Reports
- 8.2 Board Committee Reports
- 8.3 Hydrologic Conditions Update
- 8.4 Office Update
  - 8.4.1 Direction to Finance Committee re. Certificates of Deposit Maturing January 2021
  - 8.4.2 Review of Cumulative Staff Time Allocation October 2019-October 2020
  - 8.4.3 2021 CSD Property and Liability Coverage and Premiums
  - 8.4.4 Requests for 2020 SWCD Grant Extensions through 2021

**9.0 Old Business (11:00 a.m.)**

- 9.1 Update on General Manager Hiring Process
- 9.2 2021 Proposed WIP Independent Contractor Agreement
- 9.3 Colorado River matters - Interstate and intrastate matters, including exploration of demand management
- 9.4 Southwest Basins Implementation Plan Update
- 9.5 2021 CWCB Instream Flow Program Recommendations

**10.0 New Business (11:15 a.m.)**

- 10.1 Colorado Ag Water Alliance Update - Regulation 85 & the Water Plan (Greg Peterson, 11am)

**11.0 Engineering Report (11:35 a.m.)**

- 11.1 Upper Colorado & San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs

**12.0 General Counsel Legal Report (11:40 a.m.)**

- 12.1 October Water Court Resume Review (Divisions 3, 4, 7)

*Recess at 11:45 a.m. until Wednesday, December 9th at 8:00 a.m.*

**Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

**13.0 Call to Order – Roll Call, Verification of Quorum (8:00 a.m.)**

**14.0 Review and Approve Agenda (8:03 a.m.)**

**15.0 New Business (8:05 a.m.)**

- 15.1 FY2021 Budget Hearing & Adoption
  - 15.1.1 Discussion of Proposed FY2021 Budget
  - 15.1.2 Proposed 2021 Budget Message
  - 15.1.3 Budget Hearing & Public Comment
  - 15.1.4 Resolutions to Adopt Budget, Set Mill Levy & Appropriate Sums of Money
- 15.2 Proposed Assignment of a Portion of the FY2020 Year-End Fund Balance

**16.0 Executive Session (9:00 a.m.)**

- 16.1 General Manager Hiring Process—Conduct Interviews and Continue Deliberations regarding Candidates for the General Manager Position

**17.0 Report Out from Executive Session (12:00 p.m.)**

**18.0 Questions and Comments from Audience (12:05 p.m.)**

**19.0 New Business (continued) (12:10 p.m.)**

**19.1** Prioritization of 2021 Aerial Snowpack Monitoring in Southwestern Colorado

**20.0 Executive Session (if needed)**

**21.0 Adjournment (12:30 p.m.)**

**Upcoming Meetings**

January 19, 2021	Special Board Meeting via Teleconference
February 3, 2021	Special Board Meeting via Teleconference
February 10-11, 2021	Regular Board Meeting

*Except the time indicated for when the meeting is scheduled to begin, the times noted for each agenda item are estimates and subject to change. The Board may address and act on agenda items in any order to accommodate the needs of the Board and the audience. Agenda items can also be added during the meeting at the consensus of the Board.*

*Agenda items may be placed on the Consent Agenda when the recommended action is non-controversial. The Consent Agenda may be voted on without reading or discussing individual items. Any Board member may request clarification about items on the Consent Agenda. The Board may remove items from the Consent Agenda at their discretion for further discussion.*

2021

## SWCD BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

## JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## FEBRUARY

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28						

## MARCH

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28	29	30	31			

## APRIL

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## MAY

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30	31					

## JUNE

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## JULY

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## AUGUST

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29	30	31				

## SEPTEMBER

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26	27	28	29	30		

## OCTOBER

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## NOVEMBER

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30				

## DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Holiday Closure

Regular Board Meeting

Other Meetings

## ADOPTED 10-13-20

FRI, JAN 1: NEW YEARS DAY

MON, JAN 18: MLK DAY

TUES, JAN 19: BOARD TELECONFERENCE

WED, FEB 3: BOARD TELECONFERENCE

FEB 10-11: REGULAR BOARD MEETING (GRANTS)

MON, FEB 15: PRESIDENTS DAY

WED, FEB 24: BOARD TELECONFERENCE

WED, MARCH 10: BOARD TELECONFERENCE

WED, MARCH 24: BOARD TELECONFERENCE

THURS, APRIL 1: REGULAR BOARD MEETING

FRI, APRIL 2: ANNUAL WATER SEMINAR

WED, APRIL 14: BOARD TELECONFERENCE

WED, APRIL 28: BOARD TELECONFERENCE

WED, MAY 5: CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL

MON, MAY 31: MEMORIAL DAY

JUNE 9-10: REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MON, JULY 5: INDEPENDENCE DAY (OBSERVED)

AUG 11-12: REGULAR BOARD MEETING (TOUR TBD)

MON, SEPT 6: LABOR DAY

WED, SEPT 8: BUDGET WORKSHOP

OCT 13-14: REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOV 25-26: THANKSGIVING

DEC 8-9: REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DEC 23-24: CHRISTMAS

# Southwestern Water Conservation District

## Budget Comparison Summary January through November 2020

	Jan - Nov 20	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
<b>4 · SWCD INCOME</b>				
4.1 · Property Tax	1,582,957	1,620,102	(37,145)	98%
4.2 · Specific Ownership Tax	121,537	100,000	21,537	122%
4.3 · Interest, PILT & Other Taxes	37,681	35,500	2,181	106%
<b>4.4 · Other Income</b>				
4.4.1 · Interest Earned	51,445	40,000	11,445	129%
4.4.2 · Loan Interest	275	275	0	100%
4.4.3 · Miscellaneous Income	4,731	5,000	(269)	95%
4.4.4 · Water Seminar Registration	0	6,000	(6,000)	0%
4.4.5 · ALP/WIP Cost Sharing	70	200	(130)	35%
4.4.7 · SJRBRIP Water User Committee	50,873	50,873	0	100%
4.4.8 · Stream Gaging Reimbursement	18,613	32,481	(13,868)	57%
4.4.9 · Water Info Program	36,769	37,850	(1,081)	97%
<b>Total 4.4 · Other Income</b>	<b>162,777</b>	<b>172,679</b>	<b>(9,902)</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>Total 4 · SWCD INCOME</b>	<b>1,904,951</b>	<b>1,928,281</b>	<b>(23,330)</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,904,951</b>	<b>1,928,281</b>	<b>(23,330)</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>1,904,951</b>	<b>1,928,281</b>	<b>(23,330)</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>5 · SWCD EXPENSES</b>				
<b>5.01 · Water Management &amp; Development</b>				
5.1.1 · SWCD Grant Program	232,828	400,000	(167,172)	58%
5.1.2 · Previously Committed Grants	0	85,694	(85,694)	0%
5.1.3 · Project Reserve Fund	0	350,000	(350,000)	0%
5.1.4 · SJRBRIP Water User Committee	76,975	101,746	(24,771)	76%
5.1.5 · SWCD Project Water Rights	0	10,000	(10,000)	0%
5.1.6 · Weather Modification	28,340	117,000	(88,660)	24%
5.1.7 · Emergency Reserve Fund	0	500,000	(500,000)	0%
<b>Total 5.01 · Water Management &amp; Development</b>	<b>338,143</b>	<b>1,564,440</b>	<b>(1,226,297)</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>5.02 · Data Collection</b>				
5.2.1 · Center for Snow & Avalanche	7,000	7,000	0	100%
5.2.2 · Stream Gaging - Federal	26,979	108,500	(81,521)	25%
5.2.3 · Stream Gaging - Colorado	0	2,640	(2,640)	0%
5.2.4 · Water Quality Studies	9,200	13,000	(3,800)	71%
5.2.5 · SW Colorado Permanent Radar	0	10,000	(10,000)	0%
<b>Total 5.02 · Data Collection</b>	<b>43,179</b>	<b>141,140</b>	<b>(97,961)</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>5.03 · Ongoing Organizational Support</b>				
5.3.1 · Event Sponsorships	1,000	6,000	(5,000)	17%
5.3.2 · Dues & Memberships	22,879	22,350	529	102%
5.3.3 · Bonita Peak CAG	5,000	5,000	0	100%
5.3.4 · Water Bank Working Group	11,000	17,500	(6,500)	63%
5.3.5 · Demo CSU Farm/Water Efficiency	10,000	10,000	0	100%
<b>Total 5.03 · Ongoing Organizational Support</b>	<b>49,879</b>	<b>60,850</b>	<b>(10,971)</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>5.04 · Water Education</b>				
5.4.1 · Water Info Program	52,597	72,095	(19,498)	73%

# Southwestern Water Conservation District

## Budget Comparison Summary January through November 2020

	Jan - Nov 20	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
5.4.2 · Water Seminar	880	18,000	(17,120)	5%
5.4.3 · Water Education Colorado	10,500	10,500	0	100%
5.4.4 · Water Leaders Scholarship	3,500	5,000	(1,500)	70%
5.4.5 · Children's Water Festival	758	9,500	(8,742)	8%
5.4.6 · Watershed Education Program	6,000	6,000	0	100%
<b>Total 5.04 · Water Education</b>	<b>74,235</b>	<b>121,095</b>	<b>(46,860)</b>	<b>61%</b>
<b>5.05 · Technical Support</b>				
5.5.01 · Attorney Fees - General Counsel	150,103	140,000	10,103	107%
5.5.02 · Travel Exps - General Counsel	1,152	15,000	(13,848)	8%
5.5.03 · Litigation - General Counsel	38,505	30,000	8,505	128%
5.5.04 · Co River Litigation- General Co	0	40,000	(40,000)	0%
5.5.05 · Attorney Fees - Special Counsel	28,621	10,000	18,621	286%
5.5.06 · Attorney Exps - Special Counsel	0	5,000	(5,000)	0%
5.5.07 · Lobbying Fees	50,000	50,000	0	100%
5.5.08 · Lobbying Expenses	708	5,500	(4,792)	13%
5.5.09 · Engineering - General	31,216	45,000	(13,784)	69%
5.5.10 · Engineering - Special Projects	578	25,000	(24,422)	2%
5.5.11 · Technical Other Expenses	15,541	50,000	(34,459)	31%
<b>Total 5.05 · Technical Support</b>	<b>316,424</b>	<b>415,500</b>	<b>(99,076)</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>5.06 · District Staff</b>				
5.6.1 · Wages - Executive Director	71,794	146,450	(74,656)	49%
5.6.2 · Wages - Programs Coordinator	47,225	50,393	(3,168)	94%
5.6.4 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	9,519	17,716	(8,197)	54%
5.6.5 · Wages - Retirement Benefit	5,691	11,811	(6,120)	48%
5.6.6 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	20,274	46,260	(25,986)	44%
5.6.7 · Wages - ED Bonus	0	0	0	0%
5.6.8 · Wages - Coordinator Bonus	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total 5.06 · District Staff</b>	<b>154,503</b>	<b>272,629</b>	<b>(118,126)</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>5.07 · Meetings &amp; Travel</b>				
5.7.1 · Director Fees	16,775	21,000	(4,225)	80%
5.7.2 · Director Travel	5,383	31,000	(25,617)	17%
5.7.3 · Registration Fees	6,348	8,500	(2,152)	75%
5.7.4 · Meeting Expenses	1,165	10,000	(8,835)	12%
5.7.5 · Staff Travel	8,150	35,000	(26,850)	23%
<b>Total 5.07 · Meetings &amp; Travel</b>	<b>37,820</b>	<b>105,500</b>	<b>(67,680)</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>5.08 · Administration</b>				
5.8.01 · Audit	8,200	8,400	(200)	98%
5.8.02 · Accounting	2,779	500	2,279	556%
5.8.03 · Capital Outlay	15,260	15,000	260	102%
5.8.04 · Casual Labor	0	200	(200)	0%
5.8.05 · Manager's Discretionary Budget	759	2,000	(1,241)	38%
5.8.06 · Equipment Leasing	1,650	1,800	(150)	92%
5.8.07 · Insurance - General Liability	6,734	6,000	734	112%
5.8.08 · Legal Notices	228	600	(372)	38%
5.8.09 · Miscellaneous	97	500	(403)	19%
5.8.10 · Office Expenses	4,324	7,500	(3,176)	58%
5.8.11 · Postage	1,637	1,000	637	164%
5.8.12 · Rent	29,476	30,796	(1,320)	96%
5.8.13 · Staff Training/Development	0	2,500	(2,500)	0%
5.8.14 · Telecommunication	2,754	3,500	(746)	79%
<b>Total 5.08 · Administration</b>	<b>73,896</b>	<b>80,296</b>	<b>(6,400)</b>	<b>92%</b>

**Southwestern Water Conservation District**  
**Budget Comparison Summary**  
**January through November 2020**

	Jan - Nov 20	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
5.09 · County Treasurer Fees	46,368	52,668	(6,300)	88%
5.10 · TABOR Reserve	0	84,424	(84,424)	0%
5.11 · Contingency Reserve	0	96,414	(96,414)	0%
<b>Total 5 · SWCD EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,134,447</b>	<b>2,994,956</b>	<b>(1,860,509)</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,134,447</b>	<b>2,994,956</b>	<b>(1,860,509)</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>770,504</b>	<b>(1,066,675)</b>	<b>1,837,179</b>	<b>(72)%</b>

Southwestern Water Conservation District  
**Bank Account Summary**  
As of November 30, 2020

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	<u>Nov 30, 20</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
100 · SWCD Checking	243,392.72
101 · SWCD Credit Card	(895.07)
102 · SJRBRIP Checking	45,184.97
103 · WIP Checking	121,690.12
105 · COLOTrust Project Reserve	285,384.91
106 · COLOTrust Emergency Reserve	165,034.34
107 · COLOTrust General	52,878.89
123 · CD - January 2022	1,552,902.47
159 · CD - January 2021	415,573.15
160 · CD2 - January 2021	101,981.14
166 · CD - July 2021	501,387.58
167 · CD - July 2022	501,577.00
	<hr/>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	3,986,092.22
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
131 · Bauer Lake Loan	5,573.59
	<hr/>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	5,573.59
	<hr/>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	3,991,665.81
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<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>3,991,665.81</u></b>
	<hr/>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	0.00



12:00 PM

12/02/20

## Southwestern Water Conservation District

## Check Detail

October through November 2020

Num	Date	Name	Memo	Account	Original Amount
VISA	10/01/2020	Amazon.Com	Office thermometers	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-72.88
			Office thermometers	5.8.10 · Office Expenses	72.88
TOTAL					72.88
Bill.com	10/01/2020	Elaine Chick Consulting	Sept 2020 Contract Coordination	103 · WIP Checking	-5,875.86
			Sept 2020 Contract Coordination	54111 · WIP Contract Coordination	5,875.86
TOTAL					5,875.86
VISA	10/02/2020	Pagosa Springs Sun	BRT Election Notice	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-21.73
			BRT Election Notice	5.8.08 · Legal Notices	21.73
TOTAL					21.73
Bill.com	10/02/2020	Don Schwindt	Mtg 9-9-20	100 · SWCD Checking	-100.00
			Mtg 9-9-20	5.7.1 · Director Fees	100.00
TOTAL					100.00
VISA	10/02/2020	Basin Printing	SWCD Diagram Prints v.6	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-108.42
			SWCD Diagram Prints v.6	5.8.10 · Office Expenses	108.42
TOTAL					108.42
VISA	10/04/2020	Charter Spectrum	August 2020	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-69.99
			August 2020	5.8.14 · Telecommunication	69.99
TOTAL					69.99
ACH	10/05/2020	Laura E Spann	09/21-10/4/20	100 · SWCD Checking	-1,299.07
			09/21-10/4/20	5.6.2 · Wages - Programs Coordinator	1,938.40
			09/21-10/4/20	5.6.6 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	-143.74
			09/21-10/4/20	221 · 457 Withholding	-116.30
			09/21-10/4/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-154.00
			09/21-10/4/20	5.6.4 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	120.18
			09/21-10/4/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			09/21-10/4/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			09/21-10/4/20	5.6.4 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	28.11
			09/21-10/4/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.11
			09/21-10/4/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.11
			09/21-10/4/20	216 · State W/H Tax Payable	-77.00
TOTAL					1,299.07
ACH	10/05/2020	Lincoln Financial Group	09/21-10/4/2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-232.60
			09/21-10/4/2020	221 · 457 Withholding	116.30
			09/21-10/4/2020	5.6.5 · Wages - Retirement Benefit	116.30
TOTAL					232.60
VISA	10/05/2020	US Postal Service	Mail GM Apps, Budget	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-184.45
			Mail GM Apps, Budget	5.8.11 · Postage	184.45
TOTAL					184.45
Bill.com	10/05/2020	Robinson, Waters & O'Dorisio	September 2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-240.00
			September 2020	5.5.05 · Attorney Fees - Special Counsel	240.00
TOTAL					240.00
ACH	10/05/2020	Bank of Colorado	October Wire Transfer (Montrose Cty Depos...	100 · SWCD Checking	-5.00
			October Wire Transfer (Montrose Cty Deposit)	5.8.02 · Accounting	5.00
TOTAL					5.00
Bill.com	10/06/2020	Robert Wolff	Mtgs 8/31-9/23/20	100 · SWCD Checking	-900.00
			Mtgs 8/31-9/23/20	5.7.1 · Director Fees	900.00
TOTAL					900.00

12:00 PM

12/02/20

## Southwestern Water Conservation District

## Check Detail

October through November 2020

Num	Date	Name	Memo	Account	Original Amount
Bill.com	10/06/2020	Silverton Standard	BRT Election Notice	100 · SWCD Checking	-12.70
			BRT Election Notice	5.8.08 · Legal Notices	12.70
TOTAL					12.70
VISA	10/07/2020	US Postal Service	Bd Packets October	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-184.45
			Bd Packets October	5.8.11 · Postage	184.45
TOTAL					184.45
ACH	10/07/2020	Bill.com	September 2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-130.35
			September 2020	5.8.02 · Accounting	130.35
TOTAL					130.35
VISA	10/09/2020	ImageNet	October 2020	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-150.00
			October 2020	5.8.06 · Equipment Leasing	150.00
TOTAL					150.00
Bill.com	10/12/2020	Van Vurst Law	September 2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-18,984.00
			September 2020	5.5.01 · Attorney Fees - General Counsel	15,510.00
			September 2020	5.5.03 · Litigation - General Counsel	3,474.00
TOTAL					18,984.00
ACH	10/14/2020	United States Treasury	September 2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-901.14
			September 2020	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	308.00
			September 2020	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	240.36
			September 2020	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	240.36
			September 2020	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	56.21
			September 2020	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	56.21
TOTAL					901.14
Bill.com	10/15/2020	Colorado Employer Benefit Trust	November 2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-1,560.17
			November 2020	5.6.6 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	1,560.17
TOTAL					1,560.17
Bill.com	10/15/2020	Russell Hinger	Mtgs 10/13-14/20	100 · SWCD Checking	-200.00
			Mtgs 10/13-14/20	5.7.1 · Director Fees	200.00
TOTAL					200.00
Bill.com	10/15/2020	J R Ford	Mtgs 10/13-14/20	100 · SWCD Checking	-200.00
			Mtgs 10/13-14/20	5.7.1 · Director Fees	200.00
TOTAL					200.00
ACH	10/18/2020	Laura E Spann	10/5-18/20	100 · SWCD Checking	-1,315.45
			10/5-18/20	5.6.2 · Wages - Programs Coordinator	1,938.40
			10/5-18/20	5.6.6 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	-143.74
			10/5-18/20	221 · 457 Withholding	-96.92
			10/5-18/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-156.00
			10/5-18/20	5.6.4 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	120.19
			10/5-18/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.19
			10/5-18/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.19
			10/5-18/20	5.6.4 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	28.10
			10/5-18/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.10
			10/5-18/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.10
			10/5-18/20	216 · State W/H Tax Payable	-78.00
TOTAL					1,315.45
VISA	10/19/2020	Fredrick Zink & Associates	September 2020	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-382.50
			September 2020	5.8.02 · Accounting	382.50
TOTAL					382.50

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## Southwestern Water Conservation District

## Check Detail

October through November 2020

Num	Date	Name	Memo	Account	Original Amount
ACH	10/19/2020	Lincoln Financial Group	10/5-18/20	100 · SWCD Checking	-193.84
			10/5-18/20	221 · 457 Withholding	96.92
			10/5-18/20	5.6.5 · Wages - Retirement Benefit	96.92
TOTAL					193.84
Bill.com	10/20/2020	Christopher Treese	September 2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-1,500.00
			September 2020	5.5.11 · Technical Other Expenses	1,500.00
TOTAL					1,500.00
VISA	10/20/2020	Blue Channel	Web domain mgmt swwcd.org	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-25.00
			Web domain mgmt swwcd.org	5.8.10 · Office Expenses	25.00
TOTAL					25.00
VISA	10/22/2020	Dove Creek Press	FY2021 Budget Notice	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-10.56
			FY2021 Budget Notice	5.8.08 · Legal Notices	10.56
TOTAL					10.56
Bill.com	10/27/2020	The West Building	November 2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-2,424.51
			November 2020	5.8.12 · Rent	2,424.51
TOTAL					2,424.51
VISA	10/27/2020	Montrose Daily Press	FY2021 Budget Notice	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-25.92
			FY2021 Budget Notice	5.8.08 · Legal Notices	25.92
TOTAL					25.92
VISA	10/27/2020	Pagosa Springs Sun	FY2021 Budget Notice	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-19.78
			FY2021 Budget Notice	5.8.08 · Legal Notices	19.78
TOTAL					19.78
Bill.com	10/27/2020	Douglas Stowe	Mtgs 6/11-10/14/2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-700.00
			Mtgs 6/11-10/14/2020	5.7.1 · Director Fees	700.00
TOTAL					700.00
Bill.com	10/28/2020	Robert Wolff	Mtgs 10/1-22/20	100 · SWCD Checking	-700.00
			Mtgs 10/1-22/20	5.7.1 · Director Fees	700.00
TOTAL					700.00
Bill.com	10/28/2020	Fort Lewis College	2020 FLC Grant Invoice #2	100 · SWCD Checking	-2,431.72
			2020 FLC Grant Invoice #2	5.1.1 · SWCD Grant Program	2,431.72
TOTAL					2,431.72
VISA	10/29/2020	Verizon	September 2020	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-159.40
			September 2020	5.8.14 · Telecommunication	159.40
TOTAL					159.40
VISA	10/29/2020	Amazon Prime	Shipping Thermometers	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-13.44
			Shipping Thermometers	5.8.10 · Office Expenses	13.44
TOTAL					13.44
ACH	10/30/2020	Colorado Department of Reven...	3Q2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-486.00
			3Q2020	216 · State W/H Tax Payable	486.00
TOTAL					486.00

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## Southwestern Water Conservation District

## Check Detail

October through November 2020

Num	Date	Name	Memo	Account	Original Amount
ACH	10/30/2020	Colorado State Treasurer	3Q2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-34.93
			3Q2020	217 · State Unemployment Tax	34.93
TOTAL					34.93
ACH	11/02/2020	Laura E Spann	10/19-11/1/20	100 · SWCD Checking	-1,315.45
			10/19-11/1/20	5.6.2 · Wages - Programs Coordinator	1,938.40
			10/19-11/1/20	5.6.6 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	-143.74
			10/19-11/1/20	221 · 457 Withholding	-96.92
			10/19-11/1/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-156.00
			10/19-11/1/20	5.6.4 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	120.18
			10/19-11/1/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			10/19-11/1/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			10/19-11/1/20	5.6.4 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	28.11
			10/19-11/1/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.11
			10/19-11/1/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.11
			10/19-11/1/20	216 · State W/H Tax Payable	-78.00
TOTAL					1,315.45
ACH	11/02/2020	Lincoln Financial Group	10/19-11/1/20	100 · SWCD Checking	-193.84
			10/19-11/1/2020	221 · 457 Withholding	96.92
			10/19-11/1/2020	5.6.5 · Wages - Retirement Benefit	96.92
TOTAL					193.84
Bill.com	11/02/2020	Elaine Chick Consulting	October 2020	103 · WIP Checking	-4,120.47
			October 2020	54111 · WIP Contract Coordination	4,120.47
TOTAL					4,120.47
VISA	11/02/2020	Colorado Mesa University	Upper Colorado Forum Schwindt Registrati...	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-54.67
			Upper Colorado Forum Schwindt Registration	5.7.3 · Registration Fees	54.67
TOTAL					54.67
Bill.com	11/02/2020	Water Consult	August 1-October 30, 2020	102 · SJRBRIIP Checking	-18,265.50
			August 1-October 30, 2020	5.1.4 · SJRBRIIP Water User Committee	18,265.50
TOTAL					18,265.50
VISA	11/03/2020	Office Depot	Restock paper, staples, supply box	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-159.44
			Restock paper, staples, supply box	5.8.10 · Office Expenses	159.44
TOTAL					159.44
VISA	11/03/2020	Kroegers	Restock dish soap, dish towels	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-20.54
			Restock dish soap, dish towels	5.8.10 · Office Expenses	20.54
TOTAL					20.54
VISA	11/03/2020	Silver World Publishing	FY2021 Budget Notice	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-17.60
			FY2021 Budget Notice	5.8.08 · Legal Notices	17.60
TOTAL					17.60
VISA	11/04/2020	Charter Spectrum	October 2020	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-69.99
			October 2020	5.8.14 · Telecommunication	69.99
TOTAL					69.99
VISA	11/05/2020	ImageNet	November 2020	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-150.00
			November 2020	5.8.06 · Equipment Leasing	150.00
TOTAL					150.00
VISA	11/05/2020	Durango Herald	FY2021 Budget Notice (Cortez, Dgo)	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-27.30
			FY2021 Budget Notice (Cortez, Dgo)	5.8.08 · Legal Notices	27.30
TOTAL					27.30

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## Southwestern Water Conservation District

## Check Detail

October through November 2020

Num	Date	Name	Memo	Account	Original Amount
ACH	11/05/2020	Bank of Colorado	Wire Fee, Montrose Cty Deposit	100 · SWCD Checking	-5.00
			Wire Fee, Montrose Cty Deposit	5.8.02 · Accounting	5.00
TOTAL					5.00
ACH	11/09/2020	Bill.com	October 2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-135.64
			October 2020	5.8.02 · Accounting	135.64
TOTAL					135.64
VISA	11/09/2020	Telluride Daily Planet	FY2021 Budget Notice	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-10.37
			FY2021 Budget Notice	5.8.08 · Legal Notices	10.37
TOTAL					10.37
VISA	11/10/2020	Silverton Standard	FY2021 Budget Notice	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-38.50
			FY2021 Budget Notice	5.8.08 · Legal Notices	38.50
TOTAL					38.50
VISA	11/10/2020	Bitdefender	2020-2021 Anti-virus subscription (3 compu...	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-37.26
			2020-2021 Anti-virus subscription (3 computers)	5.8.10 · Office Expenses	37.26
TOTAL					37.26
Bill.com	11/11/2020	Kogovsek & Associates, Inc.	1Q2020 Retainer Adjustment	100 · SWCD Checking	-250.00
			1Q2020 Retainer Adjustment	5.5.07 · Lobbying Fees	250.00
TOTAL					250.00
ACH	11/13/2020	United States Treasury	October 2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-903.16
			October 2020	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	310.00
			October 2020	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	240.37
			October 2020	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	240.37
			October 2020	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	56.21
			October 2020	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	56.21
TOTAL					903.16
ACH	11/16/2020	Laura E Spann	11/2-15/20	100 · SWCD Checking	-1,315.45
			11/2-15/20	5.6.2 · Wages - Programs Coordinator	1,938.40
			11/2-15/20	5.6.6 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	-143.74
			11/2-15/20	221 · 457 Withholding	-96.92
			11/2-15/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-156.00
			11/2-15/20	5.6.4 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	120.18
			11/2-15/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			11/2-15/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			11/2-15/20	5.6.4 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	28.11
			11/2-15/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.11
			11/2-15/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.11
			11/2-15/20	216 · State W/H Tax Payable	-78.00
TOTAL					1,315.45
ACH	11/16/2020	Lincoln Financial Group	11/2-15/20	100 · SWCD Checking	-193.84
			11/2-15/20	221 · 457 Withholding	96.92
			11/2-15/20	5.6.5 · Wages - Retirement Benefit	96.92
TOTAL					193.84
Bill.com	11/16/2020	Christopher Treese	October 2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-900.00
			October 2020	5.5.11 · Technical Other Expenses	900.00
TOTAL					900.00
Bill.com	11/16/2020	Van Vurst Law	October 2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-21,105.11
			October 2020	5.5.01 · Attorney Fees - General Counsel	14,036.00
			October 2020	5.5.03 · Litigation - General Counsel	7,069.11
TOTAL					21,105.11

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## Southwestern Water Conservation District

## Check Detail


October through November 2020

Num	Date	Name	Memo	Account	Original Amount
Bill.com	11/16/2020	Harris Water Engineering, Inc	July-October 2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-8,505.00
			July-October 2020	5.5.09 · Engineering - General	8,505.00
TOTAL					8,505.00
VISA	11/27/2020	Verizon	October 2020	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-159.40
			October 2020	5.8.14 · Telecommunication	159.40
TOTAL					159.40
ACH	11/30/2020	Laura E Spann	11/16-29/20	100 · SWCD Checking	-1,315.46
			11/16-29/20	5.6.2 · Wages - Programs Coordinator	1,938.40
			11/16-29/20	5.6.6 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	-143.74
			11/16-29/20	221 · 457 Withholding	-96.92
			11/16-29/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-156.00
			11/16-29/20	5.6.4 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	120.18
			11/16-29/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			11/16-29/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			11/16-29/20	5.6.4 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	28.10
			11/16-29/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.10
			11/16-29/20	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.10
			11/16-29/20	216 · State W/H Tax Payable	-78.00
TOTAL					1,315.46
ACH	11/30/2020	Lincoln Financial Group	11/16-29/20	100 · SWCD Checking	-193.84
			11/16-29/20	221 · 457 Withholding	96.92
			11/16-29/20	5.6.5 · Wages - Retirement Benefit	96.92
TOTAL					193.84
Bill.com	11/30/2020	Colorado Employer Benefit Trust	December 2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-1,560.17
			December 2020	5.6.6 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	1,560.17
TOTAL					1,560.17
Bill.com	11/30/2020	The West Building	December 2020	100 · SWCD Checking	-2,526.72
			December 2020	5.8.12 · Rent	2,526.72
TOTAL					2,526.72
VISA	11/30/2020	Durango Discount Blinds	Deposit on blinds for GM, conf room doors	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-150.00
			Deposit on blinds for GM, conf room doors	5.8.10 · Office Expenses	150.00
TOTAL					150.00



1221 W. Mineral Avenue, Suite 202  
Littleton, CO 80120

 303-734-4800

 303-795-3356

 [www.HaynieCPAs.com](http://www.HaynieCPAs.com)

October 23, 2020

Board of Directors  
Southwestern Water Conservation District  
841 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Durango, CO 81301

To the Members of the Board:

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for Southwestern Water Conservation District (District) for the year ended December 31, 2020.

### **Audit Scope and Objectives**

We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund, including the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of Southwestern Water Conservation District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020.

Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement Southwestern Water Conservation District's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to Southwestern Water Conservation District's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

The following RSI is required by generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- 1) Management's Discussion and Analysis.

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with GAAP; and report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and will include tests of your accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the government's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected customers, creditors, and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement.



### **Audit Procedures—Internal Control**

We will obtain an understanding of the government and its environment, including internal control relevant to the audit, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies in internal control. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards.

### **Audit Procedures—Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of Southwestern Water Conservation District's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

### **Other Services**

We will also prepare the financial statements of Southwestern Water Conservation District in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles based on information provided by you. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statement services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including monitoring ongoing activities; for the selection and application of accounting principles; and for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management is responsible for making drafts of financial statements, all financial records, and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers). You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about the financial statements and related matters.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements of each opinion unit taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws and regulations.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities for the financial statement preparation services and any other nonattest services we provide; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services; and accept responsibility for them.

### **Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other**

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

Our fee for these services will not exceed \$8,700 for the 2020 audit. All audit fees include expenses. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable upon presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 60 days or more overdue and will not be resumed until your account is paid in full. Accounts in excess of 30 days will accrue finance charges at 1.5% per month. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures through the date of termination.

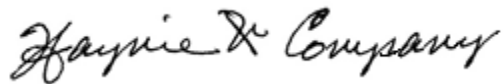
Nick Warnick is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report. We expect to begin our audit in April 2021 and to issue our report no later than July 17, 2021.

## Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of Southwestern Water Conservation District's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Board of Directors of Southwestern Water Conservation District. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or withdraw from this engagement.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

Sincerely,



Accepted and agreed to:

Southwestern Water Conservation District

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Officer signature

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Title

---

Date

# Office & Hydrologic Report December 2020

## Southwestern Water Conservation District



### OFFICE UPDATE

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#### **DIRECTOR TERMS EXPIRE**

As noted at the October meeting, board terms will expire in January 2021 for Bob Wolff (La Plata County), David Guilliams (Hinsdale County), and Charlie Smith (San Juan County). These counties will be notified of these terms expiring and that they will need to make an appointment by January. If not, the director will serve until an appointment is made.

#### **REPORT OUT ON SWCD-FLC VIRTUAL EVENT**

At the final tally, at least 120 people attended the virtual event “Water Connections: SW’s Virtual Water Cooler,” hosted jointly with Four Corners Water Center at Fort Lewis College in mid-October. A mere 15 people participated in the survey, which is attached to this report. As you can see by the results, attendees had wide ranging perspectives on the virtual event format but overall deemed the event worth their time. From my view, the event was a success in bringing together our water community and providing relevant information. The partnership with Fort Lewis College was especially enriching and well-timed. If SWCD hosts another virtual event this spring, we can apply the lessons learned this fall in planning a valuable program for our constituents. The event recording is available on SWCD’s website if you missed it the first time.

#### **USGS STREAMGAGING**

Confirmed! La Plata County has committed \$5,150 towards annual operations for the USGS Hermosa Creek near Hermosa gage, matching SWCD’s \$5,150 and Reclamation’s \$2,575. That change in income has been incorporated into the draft 2021 budget.

#### **FOR THE LOVE OF COLORADO COALITION**

The *For the Love of Colorado Coalition*, which endeavors to fund and implement the Colorado Water Plan, met on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The Coalition heard updates from state agencies regarding water funding availability. Of note, the CWCB is not planning to request funding for the Colorado Water Plan Implementation Grant Program in the 2021 Projects Bill. Governor Polis has established a Wildly Important Goal for water, which involves working with the Basin Roundtables to develop a list of 500 water projects that are either shovel-ready (Tier I) or needing further evaluation (Tier II). This topic generated a lot of discussion and questions regarding how the list will be generated and used. Finally, the Coalition heard a summary of the two successful 2020 campaigns to pass ballot measures to increase local taxpayer funding for the Colorado River Water Conservation District and the St. Vrain and Left-Hand Water Conservancy District.

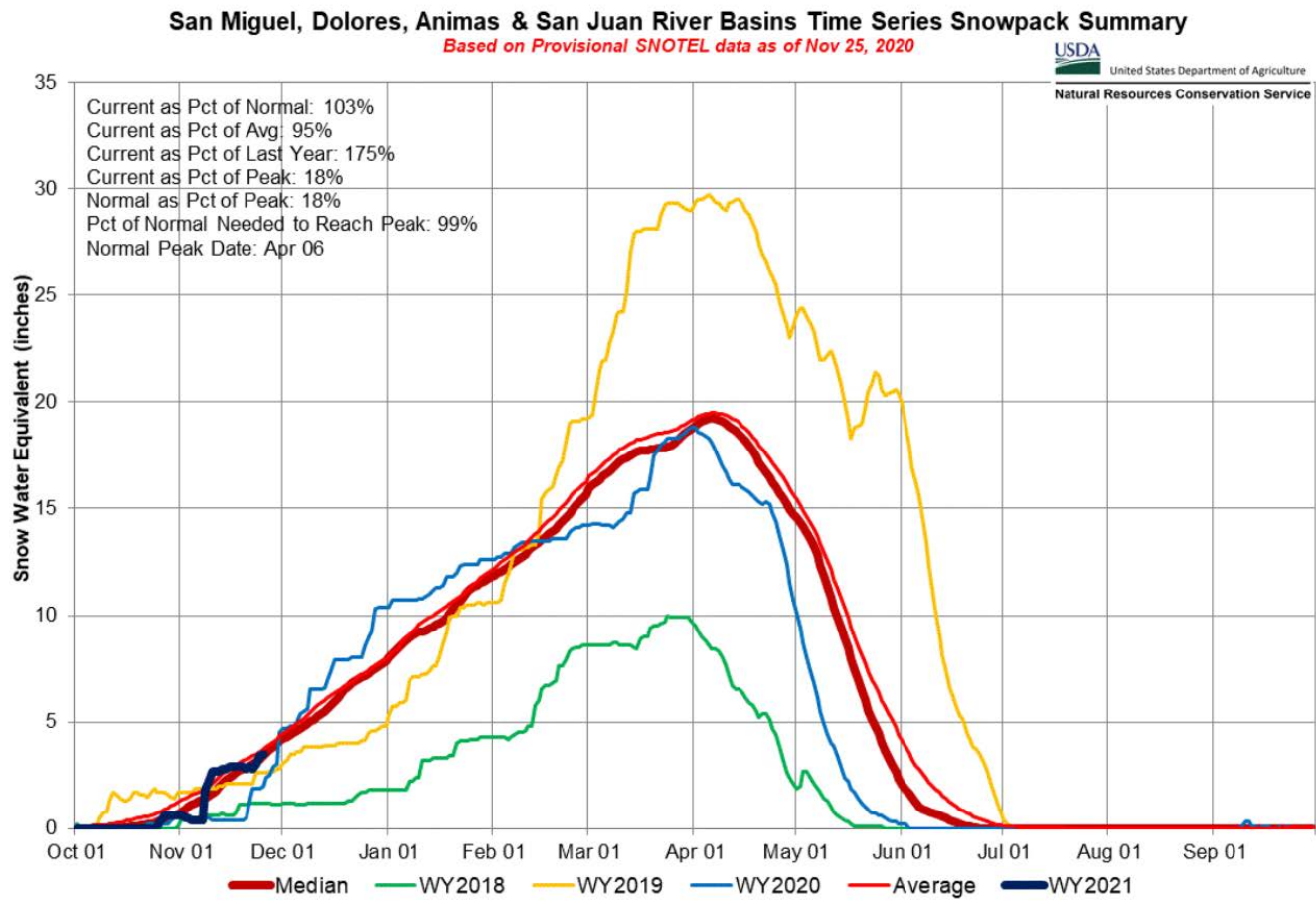
SWCD and other interested parties have received a request from the *For the Love of Colorado Coalition* to sign on as a member entity, support the coalition’s November 2018 recommendations, and provide our logo to share on the website. The request had no deadline, so the board will hear more about it at a future meeting.

#### **WATER EDUCATION COLORADO**

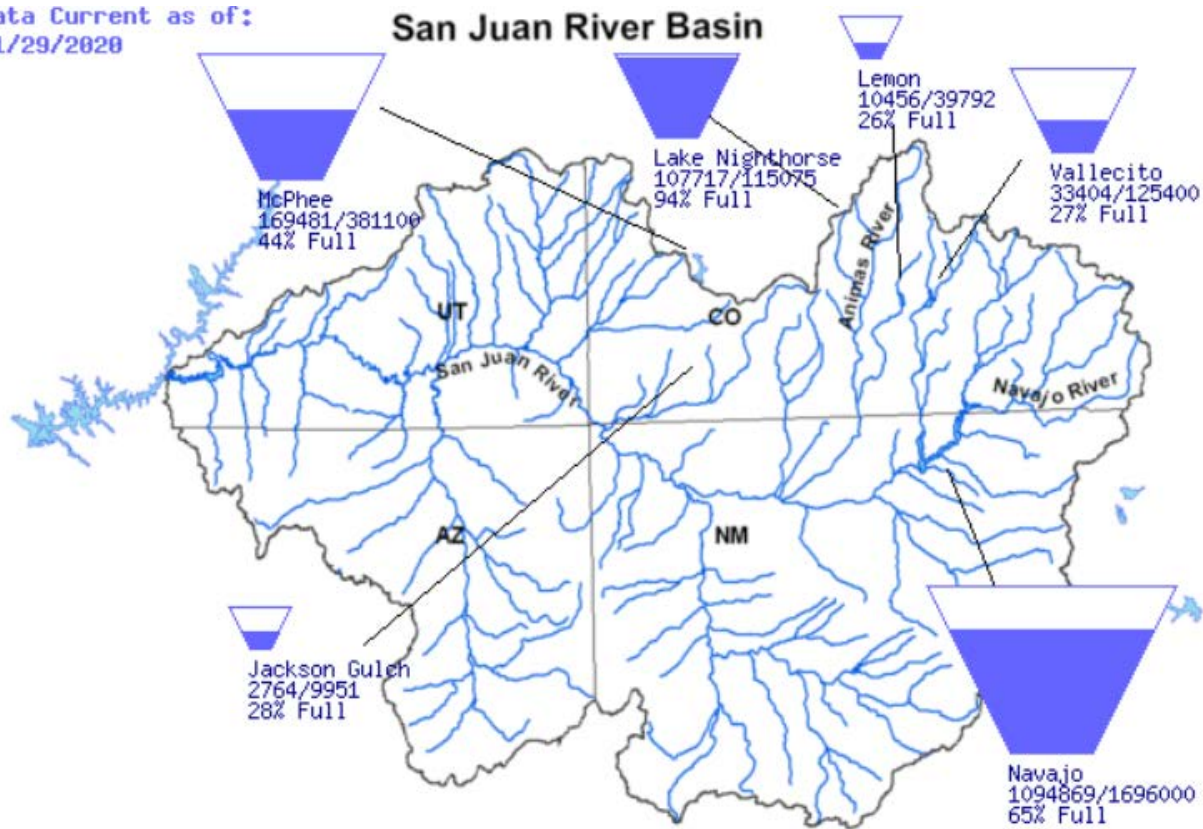
The Fall 2020 *Headwaters* issue is included in your board packet and focuses on the role of land trusts in water management. Laura will attend a WEco Program Committee in mid-December and WEco Board Meeting in mid-January.

# HYDROLOGY SNAPSHOT

Also included with this update is DNR’s most recent drought update.



Data Current as of:  
11/29/2020



### STREAM FLOWS ON 11/30/20

San Juan at Pagosa Springs – 52.6 cfs  
Piedra at Arboles – 58.6 cfs  
Pine near Ignacio – 5.74 cfs  
Animas at Durango – 114 cfs (record low)  
La Plata at Hesperus – 4.23 cfs  
Mancos near Towaoc – Seasonal gage  
McElmo Creek near Cortez – Ice

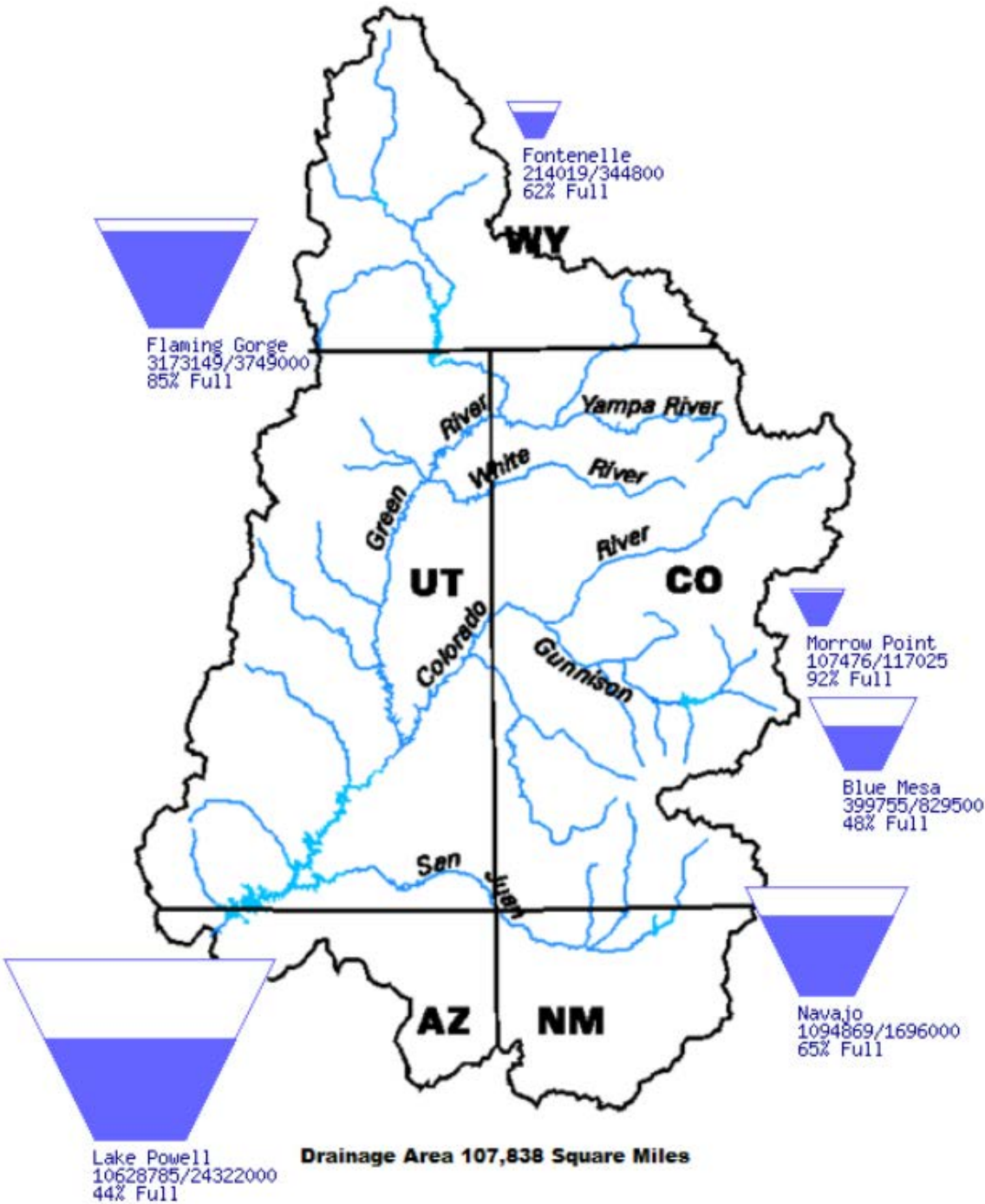
## THE COLORADO RIVER

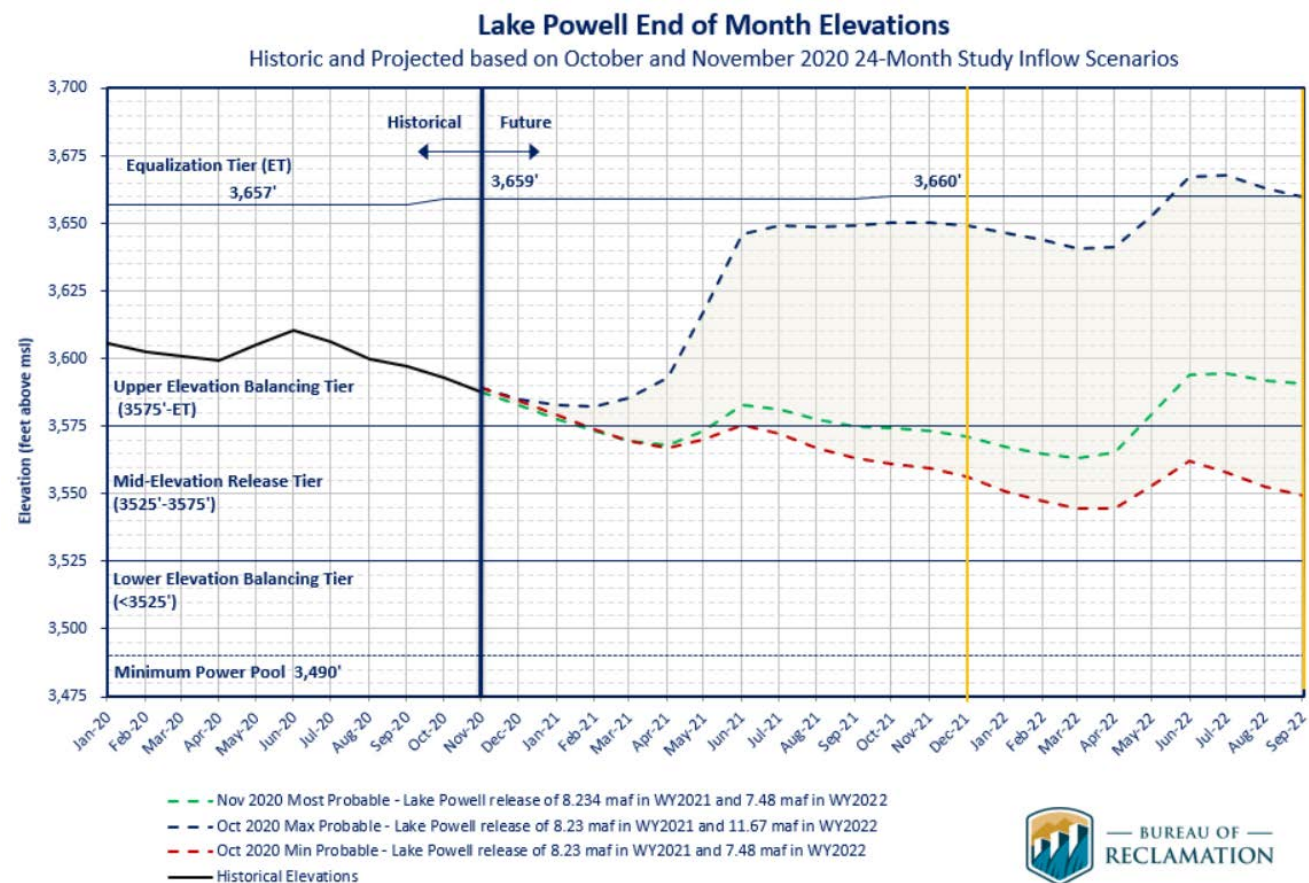
**COLORADO RIVER HYDROLOGY & STORAGE CONDITIONS** The period 2000-2019 was the lowest 20-year period since the gates were closed at Glen Canyon Dam in 1963, with only 4 of the 19 years yielding above average hydrology. **Lake Powell** levels were at 44% of capacity with 10.62 maf in storage on November 29<sup>th</sup> and the content at **Lake Mead** was 39% of capacity with 10.09 maf in storage. **For Water Year 2020**, coordinated reservoir operations are in the Upper Elevation Balancing Tier. Under this Tier the initial annual water year release volume is 8.23 maf.



Data Current as of:  
11/29/2020

# Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin

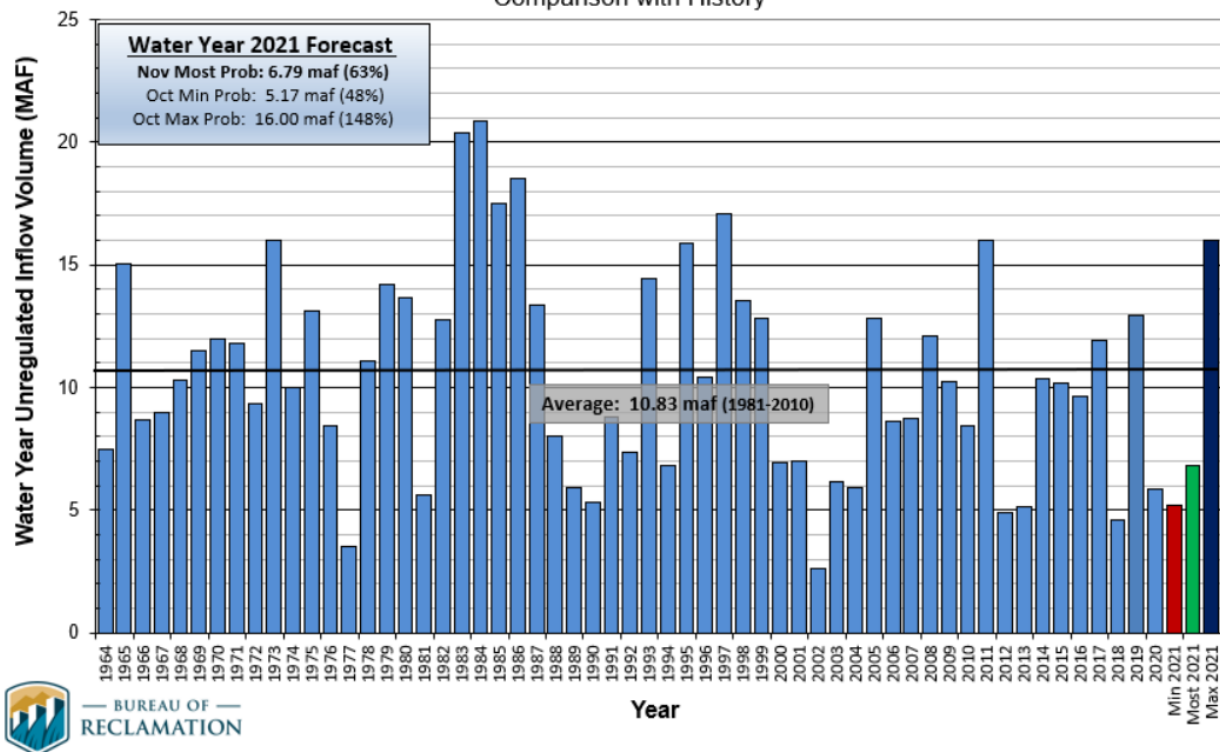




### Lake Powell Unregulated Inflow

#### Water Year 2021 Forecast (issued November 2)

Comparison with History



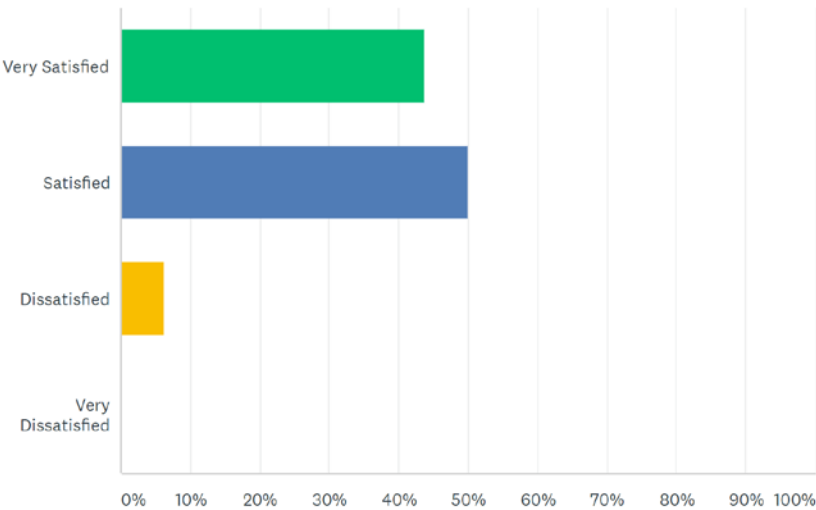


# WATER CONNECTIONS

## VIRTUAL EVENT SURVEY RESULTS

How satisfied were you with the level of engagement during the event? Did we hold your attention?

Answered: 16    Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Satisfied	43.75%	7
Satisfied	50.00%	8
Dissatisfied	6.25%	1
Very Dissatisfied	0.00%	0
TOTAL		16

- ☐ The moderators did a great job, especially considering the zoom bombing. I was impressed with how fluid everything was. The moderators should be commended. The content was diverse and interesting.  
10/30/2020 9:38 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#)
- ☐ The variety of speakers was great--so glad you mixed it up a bit.  
10/27/2020 9:56 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#)
- ☐ Very little engaging content, zoom fatigue, very little interactions with speakers.  
10/27/2020 9:19 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#)



Good pace and good topics

10/26/2020 7:49 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼



Having a harder and harder time with everything being "virtual".

10/26/2020 6:40 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼



It was very well done and had great speakers!

10/26/2020 7:58 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼

## Q2

Please share your feedback on the content and presentations.

Answered: 6   Skipped: 10



Would like to have an update of operation and maintenance of the ALP. Will releases be made for NM anytime soon? What was going on at the intake? Etc.

11/8/2020 11:33 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼



The presentations were good, but they were very quick. There was a lot of content, but not a lot of time to digest the content and ask questions.

10/30/2020 9:38 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼



Speakers pretty good, material somewhat relevant, but not particularly news.

10/27/2020 9:19 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼



They were well prepared

10/26/2020 7:49 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼



A lot of great information in a short period of time.

10/26/2020 10:50 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼



The presentations were interesting and informative

10/26/2020 7:58 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

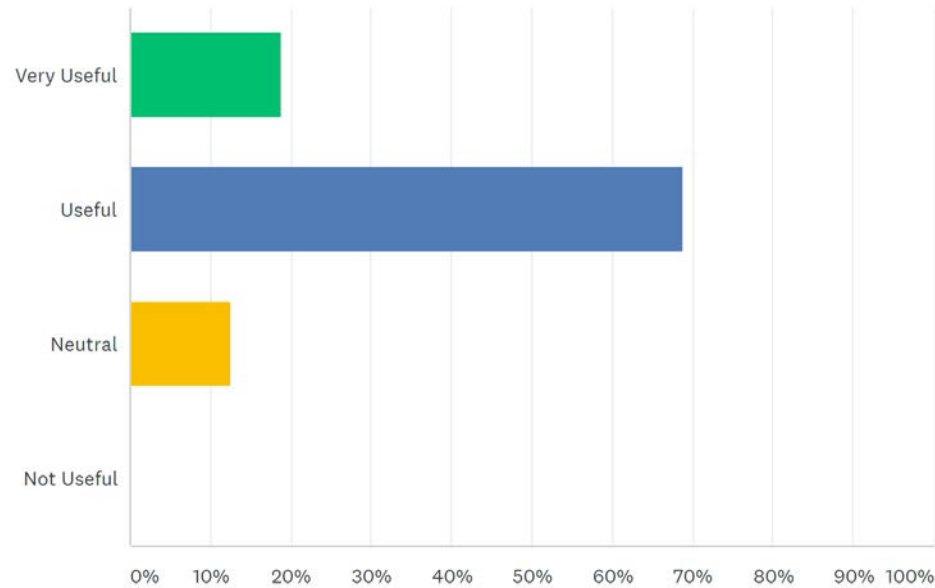
[Add tags](#) ▼

Q3



# Overall, how useful was the event for you?

Answered: 16    Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Useful	18.75%	3
Useful	68.75%	11
Neutral	12.50%	2
Not Useful	0.00%	0
TOTAL		16

- ☐ It was something to keep people engaged in what is going on with our water and infrastructure.  
11/8/2020 11:33 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#)
- ☐ I do not know a lot about the Southwestern basin, so I learned a lot.  
10/30/2020 9:38 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#)
- ☐ Appreciated all the different perspectives.  
10/27/2020 9:56 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#)
- ☐ confirmed my data  
10/26/2020 10:01 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#)

☐ Lots of good information.

10/26/2020 8:05 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼

Q4

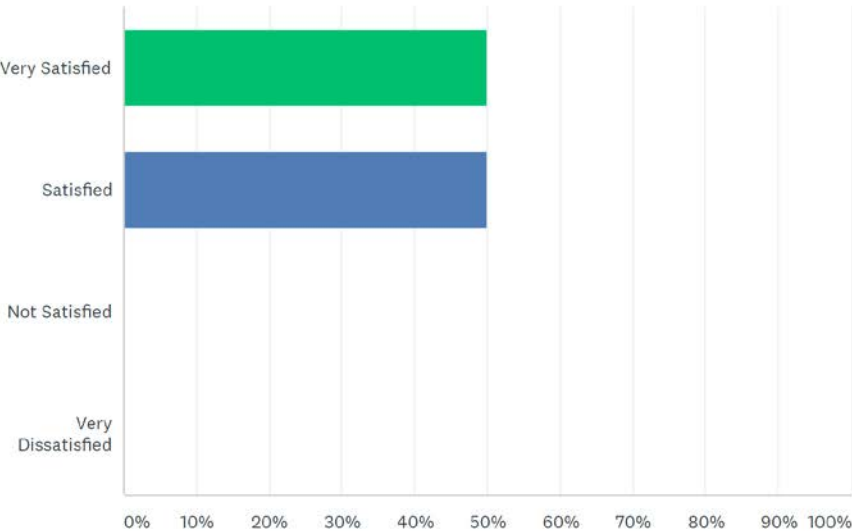


Customize

S

How satisfied were you with the registration process and Zoom format?

Answered: 16    Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Satisfied	50.00%	8
Satisfied	50.00%	8
Not Satisfied	0.00%	0
Very Dissatisfied	0.00%	0
TOTAL		16

☐ It worked just fine. Better than most Zoom events.

11/8/2020 11:33 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼

☐ It was great.

10/30/2020 9:38 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼

☐ It went very smoothly for the most part. A short, 5 minute break would have been nice.

10/27/2020 9:56 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼

☐ Getting used to Zoom.

10/26/2020 8:05 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼

Q5



What are your suggestions for improving future online water events?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 9

- ☐ Have them possibly quarterly.  
11/8/2020 11:33 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- ☐ Maybe less speakers and longer time slots.  
10/30/2020 9:38 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- ☐ More content (especially new content like research findings, new policy proposals, etc.)  
10/27/2020 10:48 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- ☐ Don't do it if not in person  
10/27/2020 9:19 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- ☐ Have them in person again when the pandemic ends  
10/26/2020 7:49 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- ☐ shorter presentations, more to the point quicker. it's hard to pay attention virtually when presenters drone on and have a circuitous train of thought.  
10/26/2020 6:40 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- ☐ None at the moment  
10/26/2020 10:50 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼

Q6

What are your suggestions for future presentation topics?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 9

- ☐ State water plan update the real story not just political wishes.  
11/8/2020 11:33 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- ☐ I would appreciate a bigger emphasis on climate change. That's on the forefront of everyone's minds, and we are interested to hear experts speak on the topic.  
10/30/2020 9:38 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- ☐ What are the chances a rubber duck can successfully float from Grand Lake to Baja California? But more seriously, I think the community could benefit from new info/research as it related to water in the SW US. This could from many different disciplines - socio-economic issues, water policy change proposals, climate change related issues, water conservation updates (the one from the Ute Farm about changes in crops, cover crops and sprinkler/irrigation change probably woke up a few people), changes in ag crops related to a "reduced water future." I think the WCooler could be a forum to help people see that perhaps "what they always thought and believed might not be relevant/informed/correct anymore, or won't be for much longer.  
10/27/2020 10:48 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- ☐ Try to engage Tribes  
10/27/2020 9:19 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- ☐ feasibility of pulling H2O from the Missouri river. Nearly the same distance to run pipe as the flaming gorge plan.  
10/26/2020 6:40 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- ☐ Keep it varied  
10/26/2020 10:50 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- ☐ include more about plastic use and its affect on life in the water - its not just the oceans that are suffering. I see plastic bags flying along the roads, etc.  
10/26/2020 10:01 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼

## Q7

Please include any other comments you'd like to share.

Answered: 3   Skipped: 13

- ☐ Laura and all you did nice work getting this together with all the turmoil within the SWWSD.  
11/8/2020 11:33 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- ☐ Overall, it was great. I really enjoyed learning about the Southwestern basin.  
10/30/2020 9:38 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- ☐ Instead of stream flow stats, have Div. Eng Rob Genualdi speak about administration of those rivers on call.  
10/27/2020 9:19 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼





# COLORADO

Department of  
Natural Resources

## November 2020 Drought Update

Water Year 2020 has concluded as the 12th warmest water year on record in Colorado since 1895. The winter months presented near normal temperatures with warmer temperatures occurring throughout summer months. Water Year 2020 was the [third driest water year on record](#), trailing only 2002 (driest) and 2018 (2nd driest). October temperatures were above normal and precipitation was below average for the majority of the month, despite a strong cold snap that hit the state just before Halloween. So far in November, eastern Colorado has experienced above average temperatures that are likely to continue, while several decent storms blanketed the mountains, resulting in average snowpack for this time of year in western Colorado. On November 30th, [Governor Polis activated Phase 3](#) of the State Drought Mitigation and Response Plan along with a Municipal Water Impact Task Force to help water providers coordinate and prepare for a potential multi-year drought.

A critically hot spring, high winds, dry summer, and multiple monsoon seasons with poor to no moisture have contributed to 2020's record breaking fires. The three largest wildfires in Colorado history occurred in the summer and fall of 2020. Historically, Colorado's largest wildfires occur in June following poor winter snowpack and an early springtime melt out. However, the Cameron Peak and East Troublesome fires experienced rapid and intense expansion in October - a completely unprecedented phenomenon.

The Nov. 25 [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) logged 27% of the state in D4 (exceptional) drought conditions; D3 (extreme) drought in 47% of the state; D2 (severe) covering 19%; and D1 (moderate) drought covering 6% of the state.

The 90-day [Standardized Precipitation Index](#) (SPI) (August 19 to Nov 16) values continue to show drier than normal conditions across the state.

The ENSO forecast predicts that moderate La Niña conditions will last through the winter. La Niña generally means an increase in moisture to the north and less to the south. Historically this pattern leads to snowier winters in the northern Rockies and less precipitation to the south.

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center [three month outlook](#) maps indicate an increased chance for above average temperatures over the winter with an equal chance (e.g. unclear trend) of precipitation.

Statewide reservoir storage is currently at 82% of average. Storage in the northern half of the state is near average while the southern basins range from 59% to 80% of average. Many irrigation reservoirs have low storage.

Municipal water providers continue to report increased demands and most municipalities report normal to slightly below normal storage. Water providers are closely monitoring conditions due to the likelihood of extended drought to prepare for a dry spring.

### Next Water Availability Task Force Webinar:

**JANUARY 21, 2021 9:30a - 11:30a**

Co-Chairs: Megan Holcomb, CWCB & Tracy Kosloff, DWR

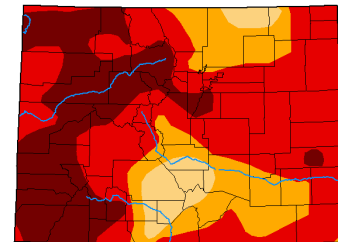
Questions? Contact [ben.wade@state.co.us](mailto:ben.wade@state.co.us)

Additional info at [cwcb.colorado.gov/drought](http://cwcb.colorado.gov/drought)

### U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

November 24, 2020  
(Released Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

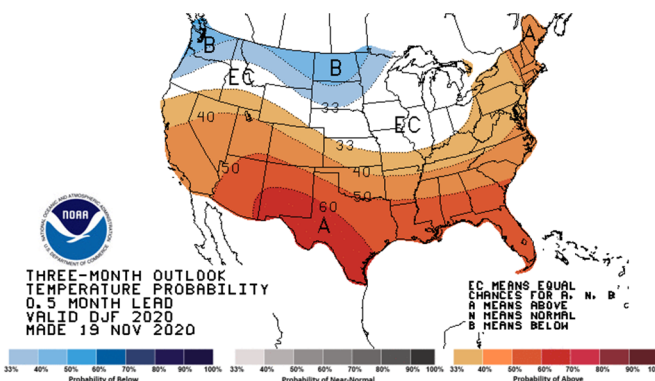
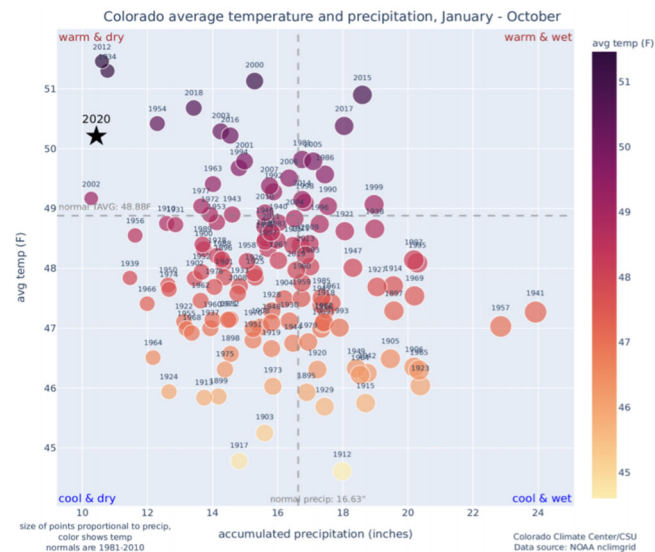
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.71	14.63	27.22
Last Week (11-17-2020)	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.71	14.68	27.22
3 Months Ago (08-25-2020)	0.00	100.00	98.26	93.29	36.52	0.36
Start of Calendar Year (1-1-2020)	31.72	68.28	51.19	20.11	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (10-1-2019)	0.00	100.00	99.29	88.35	52.88	2.64
One Year Ago (11-24-2019)	54.00	75.92	61.85	32.29	0.00	0.00



**Intensity:**  
None D2 Severe Drought  
D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought  
D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>

Author:  
Richard Heim  
NCEI/NOAA



# MEMO

Southwestern Water Conservation District

**From:** Laura Spann  
**To:** SWCD Board of Directors  
**Date:** November 30, 2020  
**Subject:** Recommendation regarding 2021 Crime Coverage

Below is a description of the crime portion of SWCD's coverage through Colorado Special District's Property and Liability Pool.

## CRIME COVERAGE OVERVIEW

Overview	What does it cover?	Districts that need this:
Our Crime Coverage Program fulfills the state's requirement for bonds by covering the actions or inactions of district officials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Costs associated with the harmful actions of an employee or board member (fraud, embezzlement, etc.)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All districts</li></ul>
Loss Scenario	What does it cover:	
An employee transfers funds at the request of someone posing as a board member.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The lost funds up to the scheduled limit or \$250,000</li></ul>	
A manager embezzles money from the district for years, covering their tracks until the amounts became impossible to conceal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The lost funds up to the scheduled limit</li></ul>	

I recommend increasing SWCD's crime coverage from \$5,000 to \$250,000, which increases the 2021 annual crime premium from \$135 to \$851. Should one of the loss scenarios occur, \$5,000 hardly seems sufficient.

For your reference, I have included the one-page invoice summary of property and liability coverage for 2021, which includes this proposed crime coverage increase. I have also included the crime coverage declaration. The total 2021 premium is estimated at \$6,674, which compares to \$6,302 in 2020 and \$5,872 in 2019. This amount is within the proposed 2021 budgeted amount for General Liability Insurance of \$7,300, which includes another \$600 in estimated premiums for SWCD's worker's compensation policy.



**Named Member:**

Southwestern Water Conservation District  
841 E. 2nd Avenue  
Durango, CO 81301

**Broker of Record:**

NO BROKER

Coverage No.	Entity ID	Effective Date	Expiration Date	Invoice Date
POL-0005690	54698	1/1/2021	EOD 12/31/2021	11/17/2020

Coverage	Contribution
Hired Auto Physical Damage	\$ 65.00
Non-Owned Auto Liability	\$ 132.00
Property	\$ 400.00
No-Fault Water Intrusion & Sewer Backup	\$ 524.00
Crime	\$ 851.00
Public Officials Liability	\$ 572.00
General Liability	\$3,237.00
Excess	\$ 893.00
Pollution	\$ 0.00
Volunteer Accident	\$ 0.00

<b>Total Contribution</b>	<b>\$6,674</b>
---------------------------	----------------

Estimated Annualized Contribution (for budgeting purposes only) \$6,674.00

***Please note: where included above, Hired Auto Physical Damage and Non-Owned Auto Liability are mandatory coverages and may not be removed. No-Fault Water Intrusion & Sewer Backup coverage may only be removed with completion of the No-Fault Opt Out Endorsement.***

***The following discounts are applied (Not applicable to minimum contributions):***

*11.39% Continuity Credit Discount*

*10% Direct Discount*

**Please include a copy of the invoice with your check.**

**Please Remit Payment to:**

Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool  
PO Box 1539  
Portland, OR 97207-1539

**Payment Due Upon Receipt**

**Payment evidences acceptance of this coverage. NOTE: Terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement require timely payment to prevent automatic cancellation of coverage. Only the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool Board of Directors can extend the cancellation provision.**

**Crime Certificate Holder Declaration****Master Coverage Document Number:****Certificate Number:** POL-0005690**Named Member:**Southwestern Water Conservation District  
841 E. 2nd Avenue  
Durango, CO 81301**Insurer:****Coverage Period:** 1/1/2021 to EOD 12/31/2021**Broker of Record:**

NO BROKER

**Covered ERISA Plan:****Covered Designated Agent(s):****Coverage Limits:****Public Employee Dishonesty Coverage:**

\$250,000

Limit is Per Loss

Faithful Performance of Duty

Officers, Directors, and Trustees

Welfare and Pension Plan ERISA Compliance if Covered Plan is shown

Volunteer Workers as Employees

**Forgery or Alteration Coverage:**

\$250,000

**Theft, Disappearance, and Destruction Coverage:**

\$250,000

Inside Premises

Outside Premises

**Computer and Funds Transfer Fraud Coverage:**

\$250,000

**Debit, Credit or Charge Card Forgery Coverage:**

\$250,000

**Money Orders and Counterfeit Paper Currency Coverage:**

\$250,000

**Fraudulent Impersonation Coverage:**

\$250,000

**Crime Deductible:**

\$1,000

**Fraudulent Impersonation Deductible:**

20% of Fraudulent Impersonation Limit

**Contribution:**

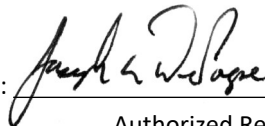
\$851

**Policy Forms:**

Government Crime Policy (Discovery Form)

This Certificate Holder Declaration is made and is mutually accepted by the CSD Pool and the Named Member subject to all terms which are made a part of the Master Crime Policy. This Certificate represents only a brief summary of coverages. Please refer to the Master Policy Document for actual coverage, terms, conditions, and exclusions.

Countersigned by:



Authorized Representative

# MEMO

Southwestern Water Conservation District

**From:** Laura Spann  
**To:** SWCD Board of Directors  
**Date:** December 2, 2020  
**Subject:** Requests for Grant Extensions through 2021

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Enclosed with this memo are four written grant extension requests. I have provided a summary of each request with my recommendation below.

The following 2020 grant recipient has requested an extension through 2021:

- ❖ **Redmesa Reservoir & Ditch Company, \$75,000**, Reservoir Enlargement Final Engineering
  - Reason for request: COVID-19 impacts to state funding consideration delayed CWCB grant approval until September. Redmesa has now posted an RFP for final engineering and is in the process of applying for a CWCB loan. Redmesa anticipates the final engineering in 2021, but unfortunately not before the zero-storage restriction goes into effect on March 1, 2021.
  - Recommendation: Given the progress, urgency, and unavoidable delays, I recommend the board approve Redmesa Reservoir & Ditch Company's grant extension request through 2021.

We also have several grant recipients that have submitted a second extension through 2021. As a reminder, the SWCD grant guidelines state that:

*“Applicants requesting an extension will not be given preferential treatment over other applicants and will be handled on a case by case basis. Grant extensions are usually limited to one year, and any additional extensions may require submittal of a new application.”*

The following 2019 grant recipients have requested a second extension through 2021.

- ❖ **High Desert Conservation District, approved \$6,000 total (with local match), requesting extension for unused balance of \$5,056**, Nozzle Package Upgrade & Irrigation Water Management Project for FSA Irrigators
  - Reason for 2019 extension request: 2 cooperators participated in 2019. After the fall 2019 presentations, HDCD expects additional interest in these efficiency tools for spring 2020.
  - Reason for 2020 extension request: In 2020, 9 cooperators participated, and 200 nozzles were replaced. High Desert would like to continue nozzle replacement and education through 2021 given the slow start in 2019.
  - Recommendation: Given that the applicant has secured local match from the Dolores Water Conservancy District of \$5,000 in 2020 but had low irrigator participation in 2019, I would recommend the board approve this grant extension request through 2021.
- ❖ **La Plata Water Conservancy District, \$11,238**, Long Hollow Reservoir Recharge Pits
  - Reason for 2019 extension request: Initial sites for easements became untenable, but a new site has been identified and pits should be complete in July 2020.
  - Reason for 2020 extension request: Landowner easements have been obtained and a carrier contract with the Joseph Freed Ditch has been approved. The construction contract is being reviewed by the contractor, but construction will not be underway until 2021.
  - Recommendation: Given the progress, I recommend the board approve La Plata Water Conservancy District's grant extension request through 2021.

❖ **Town of Ophir, 50% of final project cost up to \$51,000, Infiltration Gallery Design & Construction**

- Reason for 2019 extension request: Delay with engineering required for CDPHE review.
- Reason for 2020 extension request: COVID-19 caused challenges with staff time, contractor engagement, and material acquisition.
- Recommendation: Further board discussion

I would ask the board to discuss this final extension request further. From my perspective, this is a large grant amount to set aside for a third year without significant progress toward project completion, especially in the context of the proposed 50% reduction to SWCD's grant program in 2021. It might seem unfair to applicants competing for fewer 2021 grant dollars.

That said, the pandemic's impacts on a small mountain community's staff capacity are certainly extenuating circumstances. Upon my request, the Town has provided a draft of the Ordinance that would secure the Town's match. That proposal is to be considered for adoption this month. That might be one sign of forward progress.

I also might suggest this grant extension approval fits into the board's broader budgetary considerations, as it is a large amount.

---

*Redmesa Reservoir and Ditch Company*

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November 17, 2020  
Laura Spann, Programs Coordinator  
Southwestern Water Conservation District  
841 E. Second Avenue  
Durango, CO 81301

RE: Redmesa Reservoir and Ditch Company's Request for an Extension to Use its Approved  
2020 Southwestern Water Conservation District Grant in 2021

Dear Ms. Spann and Southwestern Water Conservation District Board Members:

The Redmesa Reservoir and Ditch Company (RR&DC) greatly appreciates the ongoing support from the Southwestern Water Conservation District as we work towards rehabilitating the Redmesa Reservoir's narrow spillway and aging outlet works to comply with the current Colorado Office of the State Engineer's (SEO) dam safety requirements. We are excited to report that the RR&DC has posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) in November 2020 to complete the final engineering to rehabilitate the dam and spillway. A copy of the RFP was submitted to you by SGM. In addition to rehabilitating the dam, spillway, and outlet works, RR&DC seeks to enlarge Redmesa Reservoir to provide an additional supply for the Division Engineer to help meet Colorado's obligations under the La Plata River Compact with New Mexico and to support native fisheries in the La Plata River during the non-Compact season.

RR&DC and our consultant, SGM, originally anticipated submitting a Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) application to the Southwest Basin Roundtable in April 2020. However, given the COVID Pandemic and the resulting fiscal impacts to the State of Colorado's budget, the Southwest Basin Roundtable didn't accept WSRF grant applications until its July 2020 Roundtable meeting. RR&DC's \$25,000 Basin WSRF and its \$250,000 Statewide WSRF grants were approved by the CWCB Board at its September 2020 Board Meeting. RR&DC has since started the contracting process with CWCB and will prepare our CWCB Water Project Loan Application this month to fully fund the upcoming final engineering, geotechnical analysis, and permitting requirements to comply with the SEO's engineered submittal and ultimately construct the improvements.

Now that all of the funding pieces for the project have been approved, RR&DC anticipates selecting an engineer to complete the final design beginning in January 2021. Given the identified challenges and changes to schedule, RR&DC was not able to spend its SWCD approved 2020 grant funds this year. Therefore, the RR&DC Board respectfully asks that the SWCD Board consider giving RR&DC a one-year extension to use the approved grant funds of \$75,000 in 2021. The Dam Safety Branch of the SEO has placed a zero-storage restriction on Redmesa Reservoir beginning March 1, 2021 if engineered plans and specifications are not submitted for its review. Unfortunately, given the scheduling challenges, the RR&DC does not believe it can meet the March 1, 2021 deadline. As identified in the RFP, RR&DC's proposed schedule has identified a milestone to have complete submittal to the SEO by November 12, 2021. With the grants approved in 2020, RR&DC is confident a selected engineering firm can complete the final engineering in 2021.

As a recap, RR&DC's 2020 SWCD Grant application identified the following project components and projected costs to complete the engineering, geotechnical analyses, and permitting for the reservoir rehabilitation and enlargement.

#### Anticipated Project Costs

Task 1 encompasses the engineering portion of the project, which includes four phases:

- Phase 1 - schematic design to verify site accommodation - (\$13,500)
- Phase 2 - determine spillway classification hazard classification - (\$23,500)
- Phase 3 - surveying and geotechnical field investigations - (\$149,400)
- Phase 4 - design process - (\$281,000).

**Sub-total: \$467,400**

Task 2 encompasses the permitting portion of the project, which includes 2 phases:

- Phase 1 – Section 404 Permitting - (\$55,000)
- Phase 2 – NEPA Compliance - (\$60,000)

**Sub-total: \$115,000**

**Total: \$582,400**

#### Project Funding

Including the SWCD's generous grant of \$75,000 in 2020, RR&DC has received approval of \$350,000 in grants and will commit a total of \$50,000 cash towards the completion of this portion of the project. Based on our discussions with CWCB staff, RR&DC will be able to obtain a low-interest CWCB Water Project Loan to cover the remaining costs, anticipated to be \$182,4000. SWCD's 2020 grant approval of \$75,000 is a significant portion of our project budget and will help the RR&DC keep its loan amount as low as possible, which will bolster RR&DC's ability to secure construction funds in the next few years. We greatly appreciate your support and consideration to approve our use of 2020 grant funds in 2021.

Sincerely,



Mardi Gebhardt, Board Member  
Redmesa Reservoir and Ditch Company

Attachments: Draft Redmesa Reservoir Request for Proposals

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Redmesa Reservoir and Ditch Company (RR&DC) is requesting proposals from qualified consulting engineering firms (hereinafter called "Consultants") to review existing reports and studies and perform the final engineering design of Redmesa Reservoir Enlargement and Spillway Project.

One (1) electronic copy of each proposal must be submitted no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday December 18, 2020, to Mardi Gebhardt at [Mardi.Geb@gmail.com](mailto:Mardi.Geb@gmail.com)

Redmesa Reservoir is an on-channel reservoir located in La Plata County, Colorado on Hay Gulch, tributary to the La Plata River. The water supply stored within Redmesa Reservoir is used for the irrigation of crops by four Reservoir Ditches below Redmesa Reservoir.

Please refer to the RFP for project description, proposal requirements, selection criteria, project schedule, scope of services and interview process and selection. The contractor shall direct all questions to Mardi Gebhardt.

An electronic copy of the RFP documents will be available on November 16, 2020 and can be accessed using the following link:

[https://sgm118-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/bholiday\\_sgm-inc\\_com/EnyCpmVSg4RGj8ICRzoLYTkBQmFyIMAVO-illvM0WEq\\_OQ?e=WGXXda](https://sgm118-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/bholiday_sgm-inc_com/EnyCpmVSg4RGj8ICRzoLYTkBQmFyIMAVO-illvM0WEq_OQ?e=WGXXda)

All interested firms are requested to R.S.V.P for a Mandatory Pre-Proposal Meeting to Mardi Gebhardt by email at [Mardi.Geb@gmail.com](mailto:Mardi.Geb@gmail.com), by noon on Tuesday, December 1, 2020. A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held in Durango, Colorado on December 2, 2020, at the office of SGM, 555 River Gate Lane, Suite B4-82, Durango, CO. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude in early afternoon, after a site visit.



628 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cortez, CO 81321  
970.529.8368

info@highdesertconservation.org  
HighDesertCD.org

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*Planting Seeds of Inspiration to Promote Conscious Stewardship of our Natural Resources*

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16 November 2020  
Southwestern Water Conservation District  
841 East Second Avenue  
Durango CO 81301

RE: Request for Extension of Grant-2020 Nozzle Exchange Program

Dear Laura,

The 2020 Nozzle exchange program was another rousing success. We worked with 9 side-roll irrigators in the Dolores Water Conservation District (DWCD) Full Service Area (FSA), replacing worn and, often inefficiently sized nozzles on 16 quarter-mile long side-rolls for commercial hay producers. Additionally, we offered the program to a few Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company (MVIC) side-roll irrigators in 2019. We replaced nozzles for 2 irrigators on 2 side-rolls.

The summary for 2020 is that we replaced almost 600 nozzles, resulting in a savings of nearly 100 acre feet of water to be re-purposed or left in the carry-over pool for future use. Combined with the 2019 water savings, this program has conserved over 300 acre feet in 2 years! Results have been presented 2020 at the DWCD Farmer Advisory Meeting in October and the DWCD Board of Directors meeting in November.

In 2020, High Desert Conservation District (HD CD) spent \$4,251.37 on new nozzles for these irrigators out of match secured from the Colorado State Conservation Board. We also secured \$5,000.00 in match from Dolores Water Conservancy District for staff time. We have secured an additional \$5,000.00 for 2021 from the Colorado State Conservation Board. We have been fortunate to provide this service to every FSA irrigator that has signed up. While we have not spent all of your funds yet, I anticipate this will change in 2021 as we circle back to do more side-rolls for large FSA irrigators as well as an expanded offering to MVIC irrigators.

HD CD respectfully requests an extension to the Nozzle Exchange program for 2021 for FSA and MVIC irrigators through 2021 to continue this effective program for the unspent balance of your original grant, which is \$5,056.12. Thank you for your past support and consideration of this extension request.

Regards,

Greg Vlaming  
District Manager-High Desert Conservation District



**LA PLATA WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**  
**PO Box 71**  
**Marvel, CO 81329-0071**

Email: [HuntingtonRanch@hotmail.com](mailto:HuntingtonRanch@hotmail.com)

November 10, 2020

Southwestern Water Conservation District  
Bob Wolff, Board of Directors President  
841 E. Second Ave.  
Durango, CO 81301

RE: Grant Funding Extension – Long Hollow Reservoir Recharge Pits

The La Plata Water Conservancy District (LPWCD) is requesting an extension of the grant period for the 2019 Long Hollow Reservoir Recharge Pits project. The proposed project is the construction of groundwater recharge facilities within the La Plata River Basin. The Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board of Directors approved a grant request for the amount of \$11,238 in February 2018. The grant was extended through the end of 2020 due to initial challenges in establishing agreeable easements with the landowners of the proposed location for the pits.

Social distancing requirements associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have created additional challenges to working with landowners and obtaining the necessary legal documents in 2020. Regardless, easements have successfully been obtained from the landowners and a carriage easement with the Joseph Freed Ditch has been approved. A construction contract is being reviewed by the contractor. Once the contract has been finalized, construction of the pits and lateral can proceed. It is not expected that construction of the recharge pit project will be completed by the end of 2020. Therefore, an extension for the period of the grant funding through 2021 is being requested. None of the grant funds have been spent, and we are not requesting a change in the funding amount. Please let me know if this is acceptable with SWCD and if there is any additional information needed from LPWCD.

Sincerely,

*Dan Huntington*

Dan Huntington, President  
LA PLATA WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Cc: Eric Bikis  
Laura Spann ([lauras@swwcd.org](mailto:lauras@swwcd.org))



December 1, 2020

Southwestern Water Conservation District  
West Building-841 East Second Avenue  
Durango, Colorado 81301

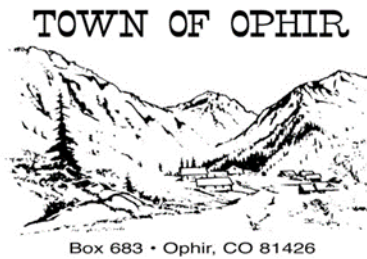
Dear District Board,

I am contacting the District Board regarding the matching grant you provided us in February 2019 for our Werner Infiltration Gallery Rehabilitation project. Unfortunately, we were severely affected by COVID-19 in that we had challenges with staff time, contractor and material acquisition, therefore we were not able to implement the project this year. We have the identified the matching funds and are presenting the Ordinance (attached) to appropriate the funds this month.

We are requesting that the funds be allocated for the project in the 2021 year. Please contact me with any guidance or you if you need additional information.

Thank you,

Ken Haynes, Town Manger



## ORDINANCE NO. 2020 - 7

### AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOCATE FUNDS TO MATCH SOUTHWEST WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT GRANT FOR WERNER SPRING INFILTRATION SYSTEM REPLACEMENT.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Ophir, Colorado (Town), is a home-rule town and political subdivision of the State of Colorado, duly organized and operating under the Constitution and laws of the State and the Ophir Town Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town is authorized under its general policy powers and C.R.S. Section 31-15-401 to adopt regulations in furtherance of the public health, safety and welfare of its animals, residents, visitors and the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ophir water system needs a reliable secondary water supply, and the current secondary water supply has reached its' end of life cycle; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of has received a grant from the Southwest Water Conservation District up to fifty percent match / maximum of \$51,000 and the Town required match of a minimum of twenty-five percent up to fifty percent; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 10 of Article VI of the Ophir Home Rule charter requires transfer, appropriation and transfers of funds for contingencies to occur by ordinance: and

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 Ophir Enterprise Water and Enterprise Fund has not allocated funds for the upgrade; and

**Section 1.** Werner Spring Infiltration System Replacement. The foregoing recitals are adopted as findings of the Ophir General Assembly.

**Section 2.** Budget Transfer and Appropriation. Transfer and appropriate from the General Fund up to \$51,000.00 for the replacement of the Werner Spring Infiltration System.

**Section 3. Publication** - After final adoptions, a public notice shall be published which notice shall contain the num and title of this ordinance, a brief description of the ordinance, it's effective date and notice a copies are available for inspection at the Town Hall office.

**Section 4. Severability** If any one or more sections or parts of this Ordinance is adjudged unenforceable or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remaining provisions of this Ordinance, the intention being that the various provisions herein are severable.

**Introduced, Read and Approved on First Reading by the General Assembly of the Town of Ophir on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.**

**Approved and Adopted on Second and Final Reading by the General Assembly of the Town of Ophir on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.**

**By: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Attest:**

**Corinne Platt, Mayor**

**Sydney Roop, Town Clerk**

**Approved as to Form: Steve Johnson, Town Attorney**

**Demand Management Feasibility Investigation Step II Work Plan**  
November 18, 2020

**1) Purpose and Need for this Work Plan**

The Colorado Water Conservation Board's (CWCB) mission is to conserve, develop, protect, and manage Colorado's water for present and future generations. In carrying out this mission, the CWCB is considering whether a Demand Management program as contemplated in the Demand Management Storage Agreement may provide additional protection to Colorado water users and the state as a whole.

In Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the CWCB conducted the initial stage of the Demand Management Feasibility Investigation as directed by the CWCB Board of Directors' November 2018 Support and Policy Statement and the 2019 Work Plan. The CWCB has completed the work of the 2019 Work Plan, and hereby adopts this Step II Work Plan, designed to guide the next steps in Colorado's investigation.

The CWCB will continue to implement the strategies and policies as initially adopted in the November 2018 Support and Policy Statement, attached here and fully incorporated herein.

While the 2019 Work Plan was designed to identify and analyze key threshold issues associated with a potential Demand Management program in Colorado, this Step II Work Plan will analyze key outstanding questions and priority issues. This effort will rely and build on work completed under the 2019 Work Plan, including but not limited to information contained in the July 2020 Update to the Board.

The CWCB Board and staff recognize that Demand Management is one potential element of the broader Colorado River state strategy. It is yet to be determined whether Demand Management will be a feasible tool to help maintain compliance with compact obligations. The Demand Management investigation continues in parallel with many other projects, programs, and discussions regarding the Colorado River Compact. This Work Plan, however, is limited to the Demand Management Feasibility Investigation within Colorado.

**2) Background:**

Under the terms of the Colorado River Compact, the Upper Division States (Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah) are required to not deplete the Colorado River below 75 million acre-feet over 10 years at Lee Ferry, Arizona. If the Upper Division States fail to meet this obligation, it could be asserted that the Upper Division States are in violation of the Compact. Compact administration could result in mandatory water usage cutbacks throughout the Upper Division States, including Colorado.

Looking for solutions to help avoid or mitigate impacts from a Compact administration scenario and add additional security to the system, in 2019 the Upper Division States adopted a Drought Contingency Plan for the Colorado River Basin which includes the authorization of a potential 500,000-acre-foot water storage account in Lake Powell. As part of the

agreement, the Upper Division States agreed to explore the feasibility of a potential Demand Management program for the purpose of creating a storage pool of water that may be used to ensure ongoing Compact compliance or mitigate the risks associated with Compact administration.

While it is yet to be determined whether a Demand Management program will be developed in Colorado, the CWCB is the steward of the state's water policy and therefore the agency with the authority to consider the feasibility of and potentially implementation of a Demand Management program within Colorado. As part of its core mission of protecting Colorado's water, the CWCB is dedicated to protecting the very people that rely on Colorado's water (water users) for their livelihoods and wellbeing. The Board has directed that staff consider the feasibility of a potential Demand Management program that would be voluntary, temporary, compensated, and equitable. Exploring the opportunities of such a program, however, requires a great deal of water-user input, data gathering, legal expertise, and ultimately approval from all of the Upper Division States, the Upper Colorado River Commission, and the U.S. Secretary of Interior if a program is to be established in the Upper Basin.

### **3) Step II Work Plan Overarching Goals**

- a) The goals below are all intended to support the ultimate goal of determining whether Demand Management is feasible from Colorado's perspective. The feasibility determination is specifically contemplated and defined in the Demand Management Storage Agreement (DSMA)<sup>1</sup> and implicates several related questions for the state, including: whether Demand Management is achievable, whether it is worthwhile from Colorado's perspective, and whether it is advisable to make a feasibility determination. Each of these inquiries is meant to inform the ultimate feasibility determination.
  - i) Achievable: Determine whether Demand Management would be achievable from Colorado's perspective.
    - (1) This goal is focused on the question of whether it would be achievable for Colorado to implement a Demand Management program pursuant to the terms of the Demand Management Storage Agreement, and in compliance with state and federal law. Such a determination implicates issues of funding, beneficial use, administration and accounting of the water, verifying conserved consumptive use, and similar questions that relate to the on-the-ground operation of a program and potential projects.
    - (2) The first stage of the feasibility investigation, largely focused on identifying and considering threshold issues, provided a large body of useful information in considering whether it may be achievable to establish a Demand Management program. This work will provide the baseline and foundational information for the further achievability analysis, and will assist in analyzing the question identified in (ii), of whether a Demand Management program is worthwhile for Colorado. Additionally, the System Conservation Pilot Program and other efforts and studies

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<sup>1</sup> The DMSA is available at <https://www.usbr.gov/dcp/docs/final/Attachment-A2-Drought-Managment-Storage-Agreement-Final.pdf>

have helped to inform some questions associated with the achievability issue. This and other related work will be incorporated in this analysis.

ii) Worthwhile for Colorado: Determine whether a Demand Management program is worthwhile for Colorado.

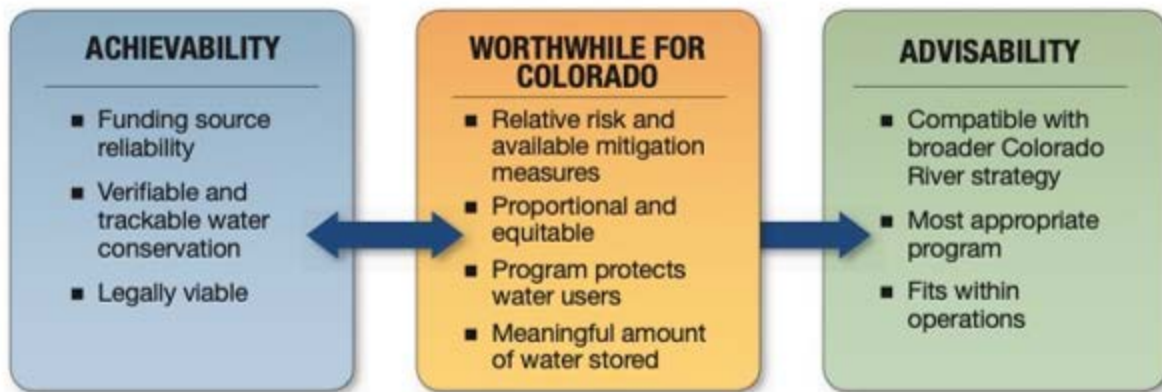
- (1) This goal is focused on whether - assuming it is possible to establish a Demand Management Program that complies with and satisfies the elements of the Demand Management Storage Agreement and applicable law- it can be done in a way that is palatable and beneficial to the state from a Colorado perspective. For example, this raises questions of how secondary impacts and benefits may be identified, tracked, and mitigated, and whether a program can be set up in an equitable and proportional way.
- (2) Goals (i) (Achievability) and (ii) (Worthwhile for Colorado) may inform each other. For example, although it may be determined in considering the Achievability goal that it is *possible* to verify conserved consumptive use and track the water to the state line, this will raise the question of whether the procedures and mechanisms necessary to accomplish this are too costly or too onerous so as to not make it worthwhile for Colorado when balanced against the amount of security provided to the state by a potential program. This analysis will be considered in contrast to the option of taking no action and reacting to circumstances as they arise, which could risk potential Compact administration and the additional costs, uncertainty, litigation, and potential intrastate controversies associated with it.

iii) Advisable: Determine whether it would be advisable to make a feasibility determination relating to Demand Management.

- (1) This question contemplates whether Demand Management may be the most appropriate tool for Colorado to utilize to create additional security and provide protection to water users. As there may be several ongoing discussions and issues that may change over time, this question must be addressed at the time a feasibility determination is under consideration by the CWCB. Therefore, the first two questions of whether a program may be achievable and whether it would be worthwhile for Colorado should be answered before the advisability question is addressed.

Below is a visual representation of these steps.

## Determining Demand Management Feasibility



### 4) Engagement and Process Considerations

- a) The CWCB leads the Demand Management feasibility investigation on behalf of the state. The tasks outlined in the remainder of this Work Plan are designed to help the Board consider outstanding issues and open questions to be analyzed in the Demand Management feasibility investigation. This section addresses process issues to ensure the Board continues to lead this investigation and is fully informed on the full range of Demand Management issues and efforts across the state.
- b) Board engagement
  - i) Stakeholder briefings: Throughout the course of this Work Plan, the Board will invite key stakeholder groups, conservancy districts, conservation districts, Tribal Nations, non-governmental organizations, and others to present to and dialogue with the Board at its regularly-scheduled meetings. These briefings will provide the Board with varying perspectives across the state on Demand Management issues. The Project Management Team will assist and advise the Board in coordinating these discussions.
  - ii) Workshops: The Board will hold workshops periodically throughout the course of this Work Plan as warranted to provide opportunities for more in-depth discussion and review of specific issues raised in and associated with the feasibility investigation.
- c) Progress reports
  - i) Throughout the course of this Work Plan, the Project Management Team will provide regular progress reports to the Board, seeking input, clarification, and guidance as appropriate. These updates may inform the Board's determinations to hold workshops, make policy findings, or complete additional tasks.
  - ii) In addition to these reports, the Project Management Team will also update the Board on progress made on specific tasks referred to in this document.
- d) Public outreach and engagement
  - i) Public outreach and engagement continue to be an important element of the Demand Management Feasibility Investigation.



- ii) As part of this Work Plan, the Project Management Team, with assistance from the consultant team, will develop a communications tool kit designed to assist in general Demand Management messaging for feasibility and potential pilot program phases of the investigation. Regular updates will be provided to the Board on these efforts.
- iii) Additionally, the Project Management Team will work with the consultant team, key stakeholders, and others across the state to better understand communications networks and how varying types of media outlets are used across the state. This work is intended to provide additional information regarding how various water users, stakeholders, and others with interest in a potential Demand Management Program, receive information and provide input. The Project Management Team will use the information gathered in this analysis to adjust the communications strategies as needed and consider implementing additional communications tools and methods.
- iv) In the meantime, CWCB staff will utilize existing communications mechanisms to provide regular public updates on the Demand Management Feasibility Investigation, potentially including but not limited to:
  - (1) Public workshops (held virtually as needed).
  - (2) Utilization of social media and CWCB website to provide regular updates and seek feedback throughout the course of the Work Plan.
  - (3) Regular updates will be provided proactively and as requested to key stakeholders, water users, and others across the state, including but not limited to the Basin Roundtables, Interbasin Compact Committee, and the Public Education Participation and Outreach Workgroup.
- e) Ongoing discussions with Tribal Nations
  - i) The Project Management Team will continue to engage with the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Tribes on a government-to-government basis.
  - ii) As the above tasks are completed, the Project Management Team will consult with the Tribal Nations on framework development and potential demonstration projects.
- f) Interbasin Compact Committee engagement
  - i) Project Management Team will request feedback from the Interbasin Compact Committee on the following issues:
    - (1) Substantive equity and proportionality issues and potential solutions to create more equity and proportionality relating to a draft framework.
    - (2) Process-related mechanisms for ensuring equity and proportionality within the draft framework.
    - (3) Potential equity and proportionality issues relating to specific projects, programs, or efforts relating to Demand Management.

## 5) Tasks

- a) Develop a draft strawman framework of a Demand Management program.
  - i) The Project Management Team will work with the consultant team and staff to develop a draft framework, which is intended to provide an analysis of potential Demand Management program structure and design.
  - ii) This framework will be based on and incorporate work completed by the workgroups, consultant team, and others throughout the course of the 2019 Demand Management

Work Plan adopted by this Board. The progress made to date will form the basis and serve as the starting point of the framework.

- iii) The Project Management Team will provide regular updates and incorporate feedback from the Board on this effort.
- iv) After developing an initial draft framework, the Project Management Team will seek feedback from workgroup members, IBCC members, Tribal Nation representatives, stakeholders, and others as appropriate, on elements of the framework.
- v) In developing this draft framework, the elements below may be considered, including but not limited to:
  - (1) Program and process design and timeframe for contribution to a potential Demand Management pool.
  - (2) Equity in program design and processes.
  - (3) Analysis of potential costs of a program and feasible funding sources.
  - (4) Project-specific and local impacts and benefits, as well as resources available to assist in identifying those impacts and benefits.
  - (5) Potential procedures and guidelines for monitoring and verification of program participation.
  - (6) Environmental, recreational, and other potential benefits and impacts of a program.
- b) Analyze and learn from existing, ongoing, and/or new programs and projects.
  - i) The Project Management Team will work with CWCB staff and others to identify outstanding questions, issues, and research needs that may be assessed through existing efforts and projects, including but not limited to Alternative Transfer Method arrangements that may inform the Demand Management Feasibility Investigation and report on information gathered. The Project Management Team will also identify issues associated with existing efforts that may benefit from additional analysis and research and will prioritize and conduct or direct this analysis to be completed through use of existing funding sources.
  - ii) The information gained in this process and throughout development of the framework will help inform potential implementation of projects aimed at addressing key data gaps and outstanding questions.
  - iii) The identification of remaining questions and issues warranting further analysis will be based on work done to date by the workgroups and others throughout the course of the 2019 Demand Management Work Plan, and the specific questions identified by the workgroup members as outlined in the July 2020 Demand Management Feasibility Investigation Update and attachments thereto. These issues may include but are not limited to:
    - (1) Understanding the various impacts, benefits, and issues associated with a diversity of demand management activity in varying locations and under varying conditions
    - (2) Best management practices relating to potential conservation activity to mitigate potential on-farm impacts and increase benefits; and
    - (3) Identification and measurement of potential impacts and benefits associated with various types of conservation activities.
- c) Ongoing assessment of potential larger-scale pilot program
  - i) Based on work completed in the above tasks, on an ongoing basis, consider whether it may be appropriate to develop a programmatic-scale Demand Management pilot

- program, potentially in collaboration with the other Upper Division States, should they wish to participate.
- d) In addition to regular progress reports, the Project Management Team will issue a report to the Board summarizing the key findings of this step in the feasibility investigation upon its completion.

## **6) Summary of Step II Work Plan**

- i) Consistent with its mission to conserve, develop, protect, and manage Colorado's water for present and future generations, the CWCB enters the second step of analyzing the feasibility of a Demand Management program. With the approval of Step II, CWCB moves steadily forward with determining the feasibility of a Demand Management program, with particular focus on the questions of whether it would be achievable, worthwhile for Colorado, and advisable.



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street  
Denver, CO 80203

P (303) 866-3441

F (303) 866-4474

John Hickenlooper, Governor

Bob Randall, DNR Executive Director

Rebecca Mitchell, CWCB Director

November 15, 2018

## **SUPPORT AND POLICY STATEMENTS**

### **REGARDING COLORADO RIVER DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLANS, DEMAND MANAGEMENT AND COMPACT ADMINISTRATION**

Since 2000, the certainty and security of the Colorado River water supply have been called into question. The entire Colorado River Basin is currently in the worst hydrologic cycle in the historic record. Between 2000 and 2018, the Basin has experienced the driest year on record (2002), and the driest consecutive two-year period on record (2012 and 2013). It has also experienced above-average runoff only five out of 19 years, and withstood a decline in storage levels at the two largest reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin - Lake Mead and Lake Powell - to less than half of full capacity. Further, recently published data indicate a likely continuation of the trend of reduced flows and increased demand throughout the Colorado River Basin. Regardless of whether this is an extended drought or the new normal hydrology, the potential impacts to the state and its citizens could be significant.

The importance to Colorado of its namesake river cannot be overstated. Originating as snowfall high in the Colorado mountains, water from the Colorado River is put to wide range of uses by agricultural, municipal, tribal, industrial, and non-consumptive water rights holders across the state. The Colorado River is an irreplaceable resource for the entire state.

Continued drought or worsening water supply conditions in the Upper Colorado River Basin could increase the risk of: (a) Lake Powell storage declining below critical elevations to maintain operational functionality; and (b) mandated curtailment of the exercise of water rights to maintain compliance with the Upper Colorado River Basin and Colorado River Compacts. Both risks could have serious implications for Colorado.

Faced with this reality, Colorado's Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission and staff at the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Attorney General's Office have been working with the other Colorado River Basin States, the Federal Government, and relevant stakeholders to develop a Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) that can help minimize and mitigate the risks associated with consistently below average water supplies in the Colorado River Basin. The DCP is comprised of several agreements, involving the Secretary of Interior, the Upper Basin states, the Upper Colorado River Commission, and the Lower Basin states. The DCP as a whole establishes the provisions and framework within which the seven Basin States may act in conjunction with the Secretary of the Interior to mitigate risks of extended drought, while protecting their respective rights and interests consistent with the "Law of the Colorado River."



The DCP documents were posted in final review draft form on the CWCB's website on October 9, 2018. The seven basin states and the Department of Interior are currently in the process of vetting the DCP agreements with the public. Before the DCP agreements would be implemented in either the Upper or Lower Colorado River Basin, it is anticipated that they would be authorized by Congress and executed by the relevant signatory parties.

The Upper Basin DCP includes, among other things, a Drought Response Operations Agreement and a Demand Management Storage Agreement. The Drought Response Operations Agreement directs management of the Initial Units<sup>1</sup> consistent with existing operational permitting, and is intended to reduce the risk of Lake Powell declining below minimum power pool elevation. If Lake Powell were to drop below minimum power pool elevation, it would become financially and physically difficult to maintain existing water uses, compact compliance obligations, and hydropower generation. The Demand Management Storage Agreement is intended to help assure compact compliance and reduce the risk of mandatory curtailment by securing the ability to store water at the Initial Units at no charge for compact compliance purposes.

The Upper Basin DCP agreements do not certify, warrant or otherwise guarantee that a demand management program will be established in the Upper Basin. The agreements only provide an opportunity for the Upper Division States (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming) to use available storage space at the Initial Units only if an approved Upper Basin demand management program is established. Such use would be free of charge and the water stored would not be subject to release under the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Before any demand management program could be implemented in the Upper Basin, each state and the Upper Colorado River Commission must evaluate the feasibility of demand management concepts, reach agreement on a number of key points, and provide formal approvals.

Demand management activities that could be promoted in Colorado as a result of the DCP would likely involve intentionally reducing consumptive uses from the Colorado River System, and storing the conserved water at the Initial Units to help assure the Upper Basin's continued compact compliance. Any such actions require careful consideration of the impacts to individuals, communities, and local economies.

As the agency authorized to consider and establish the state's water policy, the Colorado Water Conservation Board has a responsibility to evaluate and implement mechanisms for the effective management and wise administration of the Colorado River within Colorado. Specifically, it is the express responsibility and within the purview of the Board to:

- i. devise and formulate methods, means, and plans for bringing about the greater utilization of the waters of the state (C.R.S. 37-60-106(1)(c) (2017));
- ii. gather data and information looking toward greater utilization of the waters of the state (C.R.S. 37-60-106(1)(d));

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<sup>1</sup> The Initial Units refer to the units authorized under the Colorado River Storage Project Act, including Glen Canyon Dam, Flaming Gorge, Aspinall Unit (comprised of Blue Mesa, Morrow Point and Crystal Reservoirs), and Navajo Reservoir.



- iii. cooperate with the other states and Federal Government for the purpose of bringing about the greater utilization of the waters of the state of Colorado (C.R.S. 37-60-106(1)(e));
- iv. formulate and prepare drafts of state and federal legislation designed to assist in securing greater beneficial use and utilization of the water of the state and protection from flood damages (C.R.S. 37-60-106(1)(g));
- v. investigate and assist in formulating a response to the plans, purposes, procedures, requirements, law, proposed laws, or other activities of the federal government and other states which affect or might affect the use or development of water resources of this state (C.R.S. 37-60-106(1)(h)); and
- vi. foster the conservation of the water of the state by the promotion and implementation of sound measures to enhance water use efficiency in order to serve all the water needs of the state and to assure the availability of adequate supplies for future uses, and that necessary water services are provided at a reasonable cost. (C.R.S. 37-60-106(i)(r)).

In fulfilling its statutory obligations, the Board also recognizes that water rights holders and other stakeholders have a vital interest in understanding the elements and conditions of any possible demand management program in Colorado, as well as the state's intentions in investigating and potentially pursuing such a program within Colorado, in order to ensure that their rights, respective interests, and communities are valued and protected.

At the January 2018 meeting, the Board directed staff to proactively engage in a state-wide discussion regarding demand management. Since that time, CWCB staff has initiated outreach with interested water rights holders and stakeholders and robust discussions about the concept of demand management, and has developed a greater understanding of various perspectives, concerns, and considerations regarding demand management within Colorado.

The Board has also heard directly from interested water rights holders and stakeholders on demand management considerations via letters and public testimony at its September 2018 meeting.

With this contextual background, the Colorado Water Conservation Board sets forth the following Support and Policy Statements Regarding Colorado River Drought Contingency Plans, Demand Management, and Compact Administration.

#### **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

The Colorado Water Conservation Board expressly endorses the collective efforts of the seven Colorado River Basin States and Federal Government to plan and prepare for drought contingencies in the Colorado River Basin. Furthermore, the Board joins with Colorado's Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission to present its full support for finalizing the Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan documents in substantial conformance with the final review draft documents posted on the CWCB website on October 9, 2018, and for obtaining appropriate Congressional authorization of the DCP.



## DEMAND MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT

In consideration of the past, present and potential future hydrologic conditions confronting the Colorado River Basin, and in light of the above considerations, it will be the Colorado Water Conservation Board's policy to:

- (1) Develop the state's position and approach on whether and how to develop any Upper Basin Demand Management Program that could potentially be implemented within Colorado consistent with state law to avoid or mitigate the risk of involuntary compact curtailment and to enhance certainty and security in the Colorado River water supply.

Furthermore, in formulating the state's demand management position, it will be the Board's strategy to:

- (2) Convene a process to identify and evaluate the issues the state must address as part of any potential demand management program to be considered in Colorado and the Upper Basin.
- (3) Operate within, and subject to, the terms and conditions of the interstate Upper Basin Demand Management Storage Agreement (Agreement Regarding Storage at Colorado River Storage Project Act Reservoirs Under an Upper Basin Demand Management Program), including, but not limited to, the express understandings that:
  - a. Any water conserved under an Upper Basin Demand Management Program will be stored at the Initial Units without charge;
  - b. Any water conserved and stored under an Upper Basin Demand Management Program will be solely for the purpose of helping assure compliance with the Colorado River Compact;
  - c. Any water conserved and stored under an Upper Basin Demand Management Program shall not be released from Lake Powell except at the request of the Upper Colorado River Commission for the exclusive purpose of helping assure compact compliance; and
  - d. Any water conserved and stored under an Upper Basin Demand Management Program will be subject to evaporation assessments and volumetric limitations.
- (4) Engage in activities that further the goals expressed in Colorado's Water Plan, with specific consideration given to the principles and collaborative efforts set forth in Chapter 9.1 and Principle 4 of the Conceptual Framework in Chapter 8.
- (5) Investigate voluntary, temporary, and compensated reductions in consumptive use of waters that otherwise would deplete the flow of the Upper Colorado River System for the specific purpose of helping assure compact compliance. Consistent with the Upper Basin Demand Management Storage agreement, the Board may also join the UCRC and other Upper Basin States in any evaluation of importing of waters from outside the natural Colorado River watershed to augment the Upper Colorado River System for compact compliance purposes.



- (6) Prioritize avoidance of disproportionate negative economic or environmental impacts to any single subbasin or region within Colorado while protecting the legal rights of water rights holders. The Board will work with water rights holders and stakeholders to assess the feasibility of and promote mechanisms for obtaining roughly proportionate contributions of water consumptively used from the Colorado River System to a Demand Management program over a given timeframe from participants on each side of the Continental Divide.
- (7) Comply with applicable state law, including, but not limited to, the requirement that no action related to demand management cause material injury to other water rights holders.
- (8) Consider and be fully informed by the input and considerations of water rights holders and stakeholders potentially impacted by application of demand management strategies within Colorado, and institute a public review process for any such proposed demand management program.
- (9) Work with Colorado's Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission to cooperate with the other Upper Division States of Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico, as well as the Department of the Interior, to investigate and potentially develop a regional demand management program that considers and incorporates Colorado's demand management approach, and to ensure that water conserved within Colorado under any demand management program is not diverted and consumptively used by any other state.

#### **COMPACT ADMINISTRATION POLICY STATEMENT**

The Board understands that:

- 1) Investigation and development of an Upper Basin Demand Management Program will require resolving numerous technical, legal, economic, and policy questions with multiple water rights holders and stakeholders over an extended period of time; and
- 2) Continuation of the current trend in the Colorado River Basin's hydrologic cycle could hasten the time when formal action may be needed to accomplish compliance with the Colorado River Compact,

If the quantity of conserved water made available through the demand management strategies described in this policy is not sufficient to ensure Colorado's compliance with the Colorado River Compact, it will be the Board's policy to:

Encourage and collaborate with the Division of Water Resources to engage in timely and extensive public outreach regarding development of any alternative measures or rules for compact compliance administration to fully inform and seek input from intrastate water rights holders and stakeholders with interests in the Colorado River. Such process would be with the goal, but not the requirement, of achieving general consensus within the state, without constraining the Division of Water Resources' lawful administration of water rights in order to meet Colorado's compact obligations.





November 10, 2020

Kevin Rein, State Engineer  
Colorado Division of Water Resources  
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 821  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
kevin.rein@state.co.us

Dear Mr. Rein:

We write on behalf of Western Resources Advocates, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, National Audubon, and American Rivers regarding the Homestake Reservoir State Line Delivery Pilot Release Project ("Pilot Project") recently undertaken by the Division of Water Resources ("DWR") in coordination with the Front Range Water Council ("FRWC").

As organizations who care deeply about Colorado's rivers and support more flexible water management in the state, we want to commend DWR and FRWC for the intent behind the Pilot Project.

As we understand it, and as explained in advance on several weekly conference calls attended by dozens of water managers (the so-called Historical User Pool calls), the Pilot Project involved the release of 1,800 acre-feet stored in Homestake Reservoir and made available for the Pilot Project by the City of Aurora, Colorado Springs Utilities, and Pueblo Board of Water Works. This water was released from Homestake Reservoir into the Colorado River system (at varying flow rates) and shepherded to the Colorado/Utah border over several days in late September.

We understand the purpose of the Pilot Project was to study whether and to what extent sufficient legal and institutional frameworks are in place to successfully release, account for, and shepherd water at different flow rates from Colorado headwaters storage reservoirs to the Colorado/Utah state line. Operation of the Pilot Project thus allowed DWR to gather real world data about the technical feasibility of shepherding similar reservoir releases for compact compliance purposes.

We watched the Pilot Project with great interest and want to commend DWR and FRWC for taking this proactive approach to gather data necessary for Colorado to administer water as may be necessary to comply with the State's inter-state water delivery obligations. We anticipate the need for innovations in water management will only increase as population continues to grow and we experience additional impacts from climate change.

This and similar pilots help the State of Colorado and water users study whether and how existing measuring devices and river administration enable Colorado to address compact

compliance under different hydrologic conditions. They may also provide data on whether other uncertainties (such as stream loss and inefficient intake structures) may affect future compliance and implementation. In short, studies like the Pilot Project help Colorado plan for our water future.

We recognize that pilots such as the Homestake Release Pilot Project can create concern among water users with respect to when and how they are carried-out and whether they might result in reductions to the amount of water that otherwise would be available for diversion in priority. We expect additional protocols or “sideboards” for project operations and outreach efforts to potentially affected water users and other stakeholders would address such concerns in the future.

We appreciate DWR’s efforts, aided in this instance by FRWC, in preparing to address important Colorado River administration issues and we look forward to working more closely with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Bart Miller  
Western Resource Advocates

Drew Peternell  
Trout Unlimited

Melinda Kassen  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Taylor Hawes  
The Nature Conservancy

Abby Burk  
National Audubon

Matt Rice  
American Rivers

cc: Front Range Water Council  
Colorado River Water Conservation District  
Southwestern Water Conservation District

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## CWCB Notice of Recommended 2021 Instream Flow Appropriations in Water Divisions 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7

3 messages

rob.viehl@state.co.us <rob.viehl@state.co.us>  
To: rob.viehl@state.co.us

Fri, Nov 6, 2020 at 2:22 PM



1313 Sherman Street, Room 718, Denver, Colorado 80203  
Phone: (303) 866-3441 \* Fax: (303) 866-4474  
[www.cwcb.state.co.us](http://www.cwcb.state.co.us)

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Pursuant to ISF Rule 5c. of the Rules Concerning the Colorado Instream Flow and Natural Lake Level Program, this notice identifies the streams to be considered for instream flow (ISF) appropriations in 2021. At the January meeting of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), staff may request that the Board form its intent to appropriate ISF water rights for the streams listed on the Instream Flow Recommendation List below.

Information submitted to the CWCB is available for review by the public during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) at the Colorado Water Conservation Board's office, located at [1313 Sherman Street, Room 718, Denver, Colorado, 80203](#). This information is also available online at:

<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/2021-isf-recommendations>

In addition to the ISF Recommendations and Appendices, staff may rely on any additional data, exhibits, testimony, or other information submitted by any party as part of the Official CWCB Record to support the ISF Recommendations.

It should also be noted that, pursuant to the [ISF Rules](#):

5d. (3)

(a) The Board may change flow amounts of contested ISF appropriations based on information received during the public notice and comment period.

(b) Staff will maintain, pursuant to Rule 5e.(3), an ISF Subscription Mailing List for each water division composed of the names of all persons who have sent notice to the Board Office that they wish to be included on such list for a particular water division. Any person desiring to be on the ISF Subscription Mailing List(s) must send notice to the Board Office.

(c) Any meetings held between Staff and members of the public will be open to the public. Staff may provide Proper Notice prior to any such meetings and may provide notice to persons on the ISF Subscription Mailing List(s).

(d) Any Notice to Contest must be received at the Board office no later than March 31, 2021, or the first business day thereafter. All Notices of Party status and Contested Hearing Participant status must be received at the Board office no later than April 30, 2021 or the first business day thereafter.

(e) Staff will announce its Final Staff ISF Recommendation concerning contested appropriations at the September 2021 Board meeting and will send notice of the Final Staff Recommendation to all persons on the Contested Hearing Mailing List.

(f) The Board may take final action on any uncontested ISF appropriations at the May 2021 Board meeting.

The schedule set forth in (d), (e), and (f) above will apply to streams on which the CWCB declares its intent to appropriate water rights in January 2021.

Note that section 37-92-102 (3) (b), C.R.S. (2020) provides: “Any such appropriation shall be subject to the present uses or exchanges of water being made by other water users pursuant to appropriation or practices in existence on the date of such appropriation, whether or not previously confirmed by court order or decree.” For more information on whether this provision applies to specific undecreed uses of water in or above the proposed instream flow segments, and potential recognition of such uses in the CWCB’s water court decree, contact Rob Viehl at the address set forth above or via email to [rob.viehl@state.co.us](mailto:rob.viehl@state.co.us).

Should you wish to comment on the proposed ISF Recommendations, you may do so by writing Rob Viehl of the Board’s staff at the address or email given above. Your appearance at any meeting is welcome, but not necessary. If you request, staff will submit your written comments to the Board. If you are not currently on the Board’s Instream Flow Subscription Mailing List and you would like to be, please contact the Board’s Office at the address given above.

#### Instream Flow Recommendations 2021

Water Div.	Stream Name (Segment Upper/Lower Termini)	Recommending Entity	County	Length (miles)
1	Dry Gulch (headwaters to the confluence with Clear Creek)	CPW	Clear Creek	2.83
1	North Fork Little Thompson River (confluence Beartrap Gulch to the confluence Little Thompson River)	CPW, Larimer County	Larimer	4.51
1	Redstone Creek (headwaters to the confluence with Buckhorn Creek)	CPW, Larimer County	Larimer	16.33
2	East Fork Arkansas River (headwaters to confluence Chalk Creek)	BLM	Lake	6.46
4	Cottonwood Creek (Increase) (Hawkins Ditch headgate to confluence Roubideau Creek)	BLM	Delta, Montrose	23.3
4	Cow Creek (confluence with Nate Creek to the confluence with the Uncompahgre River)	CPW	Ouray	8.54
4	Elk Creek (headwaters to the confluence with Coal Creek)	HCCA	Gunnison	2.66
4	Gold Creek (Tarkington Ditch headgate to the confluence with Quartz Creek)	HCCA	Gunnison	0.45
4	Monitor Creek (U.S. Forest Service Property Boundary to confluence with Potter Creek)	BLM	Montrose	9.44
4	Potter Creek (Increase) (U.S. Forest Service Property Boundary to confluence Monitor Creek)	BLM	Montrose	8.1
4	Potter Creek (Increase) (confluence with Monitor Creek to confluence with Roubideau Creek)	BLM	Montrose	1.72
4	Spring Creek	BLM	Montrose	7.47

	(headwaters to Crabtree Ditch headgate)			
4	Wildcat Creek (outlet of Green Lake to the confluence with Coal Creek)	HCCA	Gunnison	2.48
6	Watson Creek (confluence with Moody Creek to the Hardscrabble Ditch headgate)	BLM	Routt`	5.86
7	Rincon La Vaca (headwaters to the confluence with the Los Pinos River)	CPW	Hinsdale	4.47

BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CPW = Colorado Parks and Wildlife; HCCA = High Country Conservation Advocates

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22K



**COLORADO AG WATER QUALITY**  
Nutrient Management Resources For Producers

# Reducing Nutrients in Water: What's in it for Colorado Ag Producers?

**Colorado agricultural producers can influence what happens next with state regulation of nutrients and water quality.**

## BACKGROUND

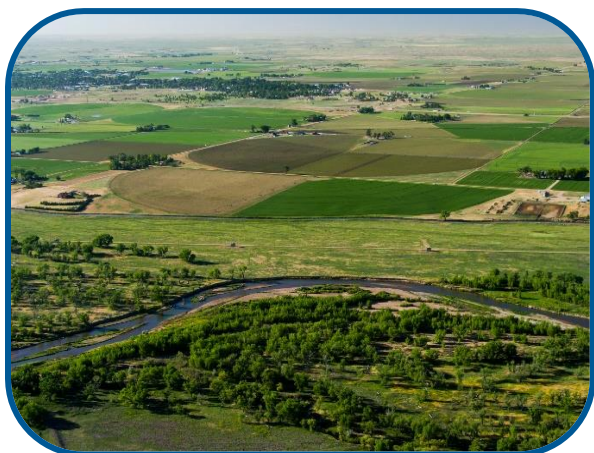
In Colorado and across the United States, agriculture is being identified as one source of nutrient pollution. Nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus run off farmlands and accumulate in surface waterways, causing water quality issues. Most agricultural nutrient pollution is considered “nonpoint source,” or difficult to trace to a particular origin.

## NUTRIENTS

Nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) are two major essential elements required for crop growth. When lacking in soils, nutrients may be supplemented with fertilizers.

Excess nitrogen and phosphorus that runs off farmland and enters surface water and groundwater can cause:

- algal blooms
- reduced dissolved oxygen content
- harm to aquatic plants and animals
- impaired drinking water supplies



## REGULATION 85

Starting in 2012, Regulation 85 began more stringent regulation of “point source” nutrient dischargers, such as wastewater treatment plants. Nonpoint sources, including most of agriculture, are discussed in the regulation, but mandatory requirements are currently not implemented. Instead, nonpoint sources are encouraged to adopt best management practices that can help reduce nutrient pollution in surface waterways.

### VOLUNTARY ACTION NOW MAY PREVENT FUTURE REGULATION

Regulation 85 sets a 2022 deadline for evaluation of a voluntary approach for reducing nutrient pollution.

Nonpoint sources, including agriculture, and their contributions to nutrient levels will be assessed.

Additional regulations may be considered, depending on the success of voluntary efforts.

## WHAT ARE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES?

Best management practices (BMPs) can include improvements in the management of fertilizer, irrigation, manure handling, and soil erosion. BMPs improve water quality and have agronomic and economic benefits. Examples include:

- Optimizing fertilizer usage through rate, placement, timing and source
- Reducing runoff through improved irrigation systems and scheduling
- Minimizing erosion through conservation tillage
- Installing buffer strips near waterways



## WHAT'S THE BENEFIT TO AGRICULTURE?

Widespread adoption of best management practices:

- allows landowners to make the most of their soil and water resources without government intervention
- increases the efficiency of fertilizer and water application
- maintains or improves the land's productivity by reducing runoff and erosion
- reduces nutrient pollution to avoid the need for future regulation



## WHAT CAN PRODUCERS DO?

Many agricultural producers already utilize BMPs that reduce agricultural nonpoint source pollution. In addition, producers are encouraged to take an active role by:

- continuing to adopt best management practices
- participating in projects to monitor and collect water quality data
- attending Water Quality Control Division meetings
- encouraging fellow producers to become involved and stay engaged

## POINT AND NONPOINT SOURCES

A point source is a single, easily identifiable source of pollution. Examples include:

- pipe or drain
- industrial discharge
- wastewater treatment plant

A nonpoint source is diffuse and more difficult to pinpoint. Examples include:

- most agriculture
- forestland
- some urban stormwater areas

## WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE FOR PRODUCERS TO ADOPT BMPS?

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers technical and financial assistance. Contact a local NRCS office or visit [nrcs.usda.gov](http://nrcs.usda.gov).

Colorado State University Extension offers numerous publications and factsheets on best management practices for Colorado agriculture. Contact your local county extension office or visit [ColoradoAgNutrients.org](http://ColoradoAgNutrients.org).

## COLORADO AG WATER QUALITY

Colorado Ag Water Quality is an outreach and education program produced by:



**Colorado State University**  
EXTENSION



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment



## Regulate Runoff from Farms? Regulation 85 and Agriculture

Phil Brink

November, 2020

Agricultural producers have used conservation practices for decades to increase yields, improve soil health and reduce losses of precious soil, water and nutrients. Recently, the results of a large modeling project confirmed the effectiveness of a few conservation practices commonly used in Colorado. Modeled practices included irrigation upgrades – sprinkler and drip irrigation – as well as reduced tillage and field buffer strips.

The impetus for the study was Regulation 85; a state regulation designed to reduce discharges of total nitrogen and phosphorus from both point sources and nonpoint sources of pollution. Examples of point sources of pollution include public wastewater treatment plants and factories that discharge treated wastewater. Agricultural fields are considered “nonpoint sources of pollution,” along with forest land, rangeland and essentially anything else that is not considered to be a “point source.”

When Regulation 85 was put into place in 2012, it gave nonpoint sources of pollution 10 years to voluntarily implement best management practices that reduce pollutant discharges. If, by May 31, 2022, the Water Quality Control Commission determines that voluntary practices have not been sufficient to reduce nutrient runoff, “the Commission may consider adopting control regulations specific to agricultural practices.”



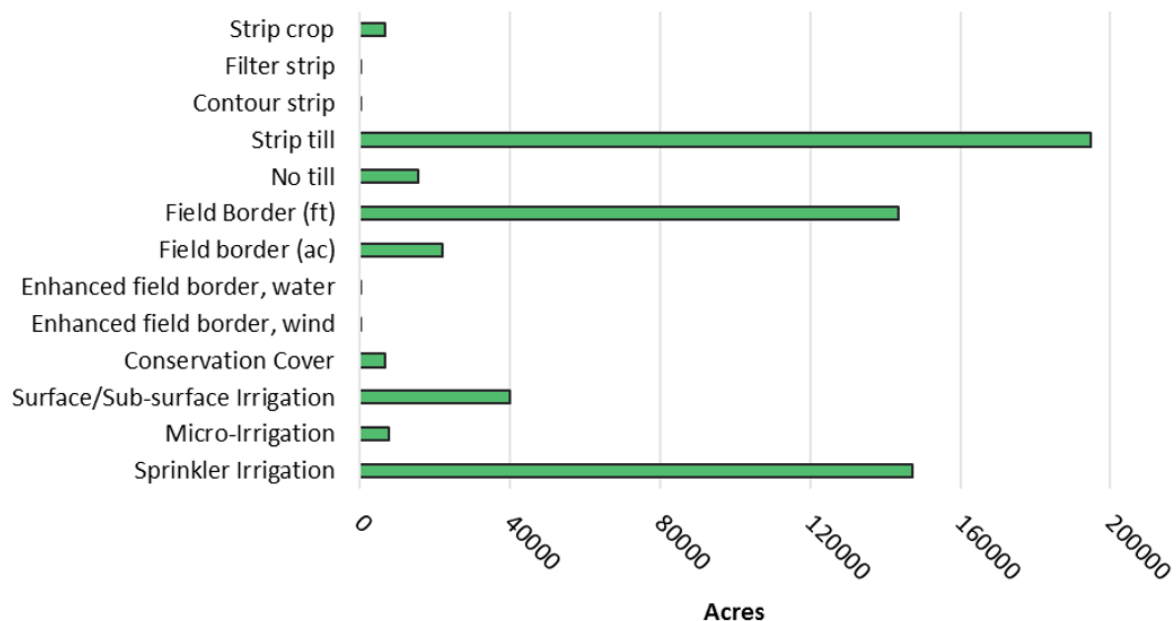
Reduced tillage and sprinkler irrigation, Morgan County, CO. Photo: Phil Brink

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Commission held a triennial review to hear input from stakeholders representing agriculture and other nonpoint pollution sources about progress on reducing discharges of nutrients to surface waters. A modeler from Colorado State University – Tyler Wible - and I presented the results of a collaborative effort that quantified how certain conservation practices have affected nitrogen and phosphorus losses from the edge of fields. CSU's new Edge of Field Conservation Tool was used to model irrigated fields in the South Platte, Republican, Arkansas and Rio Grande River Basins – about 1.75 million acres total - before and after specific conservation practices were installed.

Existing USDA – NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) conservation practice data was used in the model. The data represented selected practices installed from 2008 to 2018. The chart below shows the acreage associated with each of the practices modeled.



Table 1: Conservation Practices Modeled and Associated Acreages



#### Modeling Results:

Both Total Nitrogen (TN) and Total Phosphorus (TP) were reduced the most through irrigation upgrades (7.1% reduction in TN and 33.5% reduction in TP). Strip tillage and No-till each reduced TN losses by 6.9%. Total Phosphorus was also greatly reduced with vegetative Field Borders (30.1% reduction), followed by strip till and no-till practices (29.6% and 24.4% respectively).

Table 2: Conservation Practice Effects on Total Nitrogen and Phosphorus

EQIP-Funded Conservation Practice	% Reduction of Total Nitrogen	% Reduction of Total Phosphorus
Baseline	-	-
Irrigation (Sprinkler and Drip)	7.1	33.5
Field Border	6.3	30.1
Strip Till	6.9	29.6
No Till	6.9	24.4
Strip and No Tillage Combination	6.4	23.4

Chart by Tyler Wible, CSU CLEAN Center

The modeling study is the result of the ag industry's interest in demonstrating that its use of voluntary BMPs are reducing nutrient discharges from fields. Funding for the study came from Colorado Corn, Colorado Livestock Association, Colorado Pork Producers Council, Colorado Public Health and Environment, and Colorado Water Conservation Board.

The study results are available at:

[http://onewatersolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EQIP\\_Report\\_Sept\\_2020\\_FINAL.pdf](http://onewatersolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EQIP_Report_Sept_2020_FINAL.pdf)

Phil Brink owns Brink, Inc., which provides conservation and environmental compliance services. He is also the consulting coordinator of Colorado Cattlemen's Ag Water NetWORK ([www.agwaternetnetwork.org](http://www.agwaternetnetwork.org)).