

COLORADO'S WATER PLAN

◎ COLORADO'S WATER PLAN IS A LIVING DOCUMENT

◎ The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) delivered Colorado's Water Plan in November 2015 as a result of Governor Hickenlooper's May 2013 executive order. The 567-page plan represents the collective effort and vision of thousands of stakeholders. This included dozens of state agencies, providers from each of Colorado's eight major river basins, input from the nine basin roundtables, thousands of meetings, and over 30,000 public comments.

COLLABORATIVE WATER MANAGEMENT

Colorado's Water Plan is built on decades of evolving water policy and unprecedented collaboration, but the plan is just a start. Our water challenges demand united focus and innovation. The institutional system governing how much water Colorado can use and consume within its boundaries is based on nine interstate compacts, two equitable apportionment decrees, Colorado

◎ water law (called prior appropriation), and local city and county control. Colorado's Water Plan is premised on these elements which, over decades, have fashioned enduring relationships between sister states and across regional divides. That spirit of collaboration is embodied by over 150 actions and three core values in Colorado's Water Plan.

1 A **productive economy** that supports vibrant and sustainable cities, agriculture, recreation and tourism.

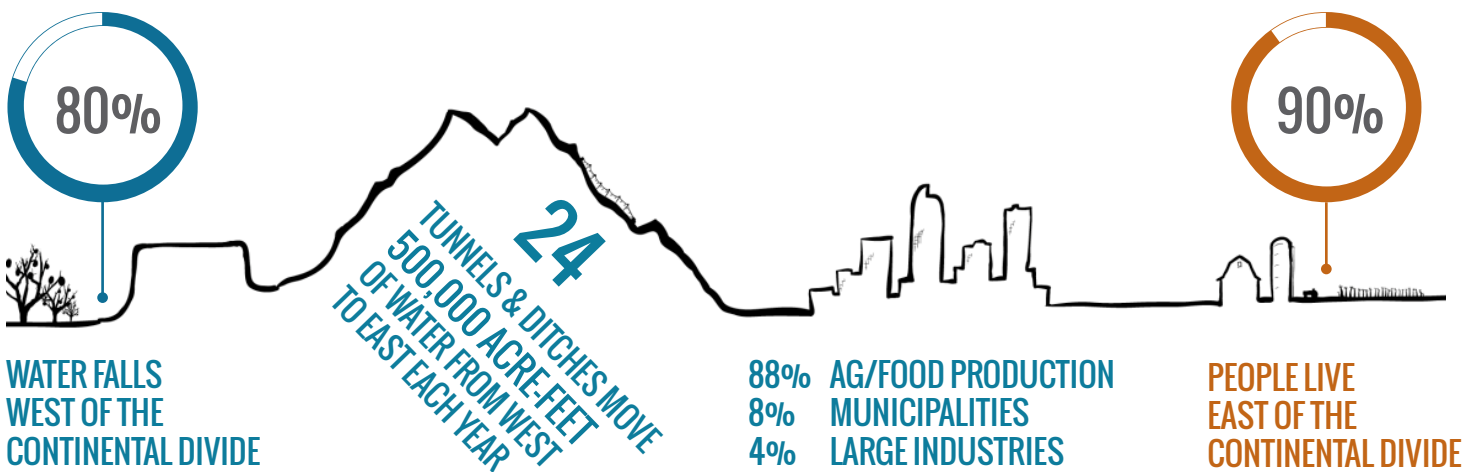
2 **Efficient** and effective water infrastructure.

3 A **strong environment** with healthy watersheds, rivers, streams and wildlife.

MOVING FORWARD

Colorado faces drought, wildfire, flooding, climate variability and change, and extraordinary growth. Reconciling the rising imbalance between diverse water demands and our variable water supply remains a complex bipartisan effort. The objectives

◎ and actions in Colorado's Water Plan will be updated periodically as part of a robust planning cycle to evaluate our state's changing conditions. This includes technical data analysis to evaluate water needs and targeted project implementation planning which will ultimately inform future updates to Colorado's Water Plan.



8 **BASINS**
where major rivers flow
◎

9 **COMPACTS**
guide western water sharing
◎

9 **ROUNDTABLES**
collaborate on local needs
◎

15 **MAJOR INDUSTRIES**
depend on water for growth and success
◎

5.6 **MILLION PEOPLE**
use water to live, work and play in Colorado
◎

COLORADO'S WATER PLAN

DIVERSE PLAN OBJECTIVES KEEP COLORADO STRONG



SUPPLY

Reduce the projected 2050 municipal and industrial gap from 560,000 acre-feet to zero by 2030.



AGRICULTURE

Support agricultural economic productivity and share 50,000 acre-feet using alternative transfer methods by 2030.



FUNDING

Sustainably fund the water plan by raising \$100 million in revenue annually starting in 2020 (\$3 billion by 2050).



CONSERVATION

Achieve 400,000 acre-feet of municipal and industrial conservation of water by 2050.



LAND USE

Ensure 75 percent of Coloradans live in water-saving communities by 2025.



STORAGE

Attain 400,000 acre-feet of water storage to manage and share conserved water by 2050.



EDUCATION

Improve the level of public awareness by 2020, and engage Coloradans on key water challenges by 2030.



WATERSHED

Cover 80 percent of all prioritized watersheds and rivers with a management plan by 2030.



ADDITIONAL

Respond to and prepare for natural disasters, climate change, and energy needs while protecting interstate matters.

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD SUPPORTED ACTIONS CREATE RIPPLE EFFECTS

◎ SUPPLY planning efforts like the Statewide Water Supply Initiative help identify water needs.

◎ FUNDING efforts like the Colorado Water Plan grants help implement objectives and actions in the plan.

◎ LAND USE grants to groups like the Sonoran Institute help bring together water and planning professionals.

◎ OUTREACH through Water Education Colorado and new programs like "TAP-IN" inspire learning and innovation.

◎ DROUGHT PLAN updates help communities plan, prepare and respond to shifts in weather and climate variability.

◎ AGRICULTURAL projects like the Point of Rocks Water Company show how voluntary water leasing can benefit farms and businesses.

◎ CONSERVATION efforts are reviewed and tracked through ongoing Water Efficiency Plan updates as well as annual water use and efficiency reporting.

◎ STORAGE efforts include local efforts like the Windy Gap Firing Project and interstate management of compact agreements.

◎ WATERSHED planning across the state bring together diverse interest groups to set holistic environmental and recreational goals.

To learn more and explore the links in this document visit www.colorado.gov/cowaterplan.



COLORADO
Colorado Water
Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources