

Section 8

Recommendations

With the completion of the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) 2010, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has updated its analysis of the state's water supply needs and recommends Colorado's water community enter an implementation phase to determine and pursue solutions to meeting the state's consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply needs. This will be accomplished through the following recommendations.

These recommendations do not necessarily represent a statewide consensus. The CWCB has deliberated on the information contained in SWSI 2010 and has put forth its view of how to move forward.

1. Actively encourage projects to address multiple purposes, including municipal, industrial, environmental, recreational, agricultural, risk management, and compact compliance needs.
2. Identify and utilize existing and new funding opportunities to assist in implementing projects and methods to meet Colorado's consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply needs.
3. Continue to lead the dialogue and foster cooperation among water interests in every basin and between basins for the purpose of implementing solutions to Colorado's water supply challenges.
4. Support water project proponents and opponents in resolving conflict and addressing concerns associated with implementing identified projects and processes (IPPs) that will reduce the municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply gap. Identify IPPs that could be implemented by 2020.
5. Support meeting Colorado's nonconsumptive water needs by working with Colorado's water stakeholders to help:
 - Promote recovery and sustainability of endangered, threatened, and imperiled species in a manner that allows the state to fully use its compact and decreed entitlements.
 - Protect or enhance environmental and recreational values that benefit local and statewide economies.
 - Encourage multi-purpose projects that benefit both water users and native species.
 - Pursue projects and other strategies, including CWCB's Instream Flow Program, that benefit consumptive water users, the riparian and aquatic environments, and stream recreation.
 - Recognize the importance of environmental and recreational benefits derived from agricultural water use, storage reservoirs, and other consumptive water uses and water management.

6. Help meet Colorado's agricultural water supply needs by incorporating agricultural water needs into the development of water supply portfolios and supporting the implementation of multi-purpose agricultural water supply projects.
7. In order to determine the appropriate combination of strategies (IPPs, conservation, reuse, agricultural transfers, and the development of new water supplies) and portfolios to meet the water supply needs, CWCB will identify what it considers is achievable for each portfolio element and how those portfolio elements could be implemented.
8. Evaluate multi-purpose projects or packages of projects to develop new water supplies for use on the West Slope and the Front Range.
9. Develop and support risk management strategies so that Colorado can fully use its compact and decree entitlements to best balance Colorado's diverse water needs.
10. Support, encourage, and incentivize water providers in planning for and implementing M&I active conservation best management practices and other demand management strategies.
11. Work with water providers to identify opportunities where additional water could be made available by increased regional cooperation, storage, exchanges, and other creative opportunities.
12. Continue the evaluation of Colorado's water supply availability in all basins to help provide water users with viable analysis tools.
13. Help safeguard Colorado's water supply during times of drought by incorporating drought mitigation and response in statewide and local water supply planning.
14. Support local water supply planning.
15. The CWCB, in consultation with other state agencies, shall develop and implement a plan to educate and promote stewardship of water resources that recognizes water's critical role in supporting the quality of life and economic prosperity of all Coloradoans.
16. Establish a 6-year planning cycle for assessing Colorado's long-term consumptive and nonconsumptive water needs and support the implementation of projects and methods to meet those needs.