

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Department of Natural Resources

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Statewide Water Supply Initiative Project Overview Fact Sheet



Introduction

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is the state agency responsible for:

- Aiding in the protection and development of the waters of the state for the benefit of the present and future inhabitants of the state
- Gathering data and information to achieve greater utilization of the waters of the state
- Establishing policies to address state water supply issues
- Identifying and recommending water development projects to the General Assembly

Objective

The overall objective of the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) is to help Colorado maintain an adequate water supply for its citizens and the environment. SWSI is not intended to take the place of local water planning initiatives. Rather, it is a "forum" to develop a common understanding of existing water supplies and future water supply needs and demands throughout Colorado, and possible means of meeting those needs. CWCB, through the SWSI and future efforts, will help support and/or identify solutions to these water supply needs.

Examples of potential solutions include: conservation, rehabilitation of existing water supply facilities, enlargement and/or more efficient use of existing water supply facilities, as well as new water supply projects. To help attain this goal, SWSI will summarize by river basin, at a reconnaissance (general overview) level, existing water supplies and demands and projected demands up to 30 years into the future, and a range of potential options, including environmental mitigation, to meet existing and future demands. This will help local communities and water providers manage and use Colorado's surface and groundwater resources.

In many basins, local planning entities have completed studies, identified projects, and are capable of implementing those projects. SWSI will document and summarize these situations. In other basins, entities may need assistance with planning, and/or may need assistance implementing identified projects. In these cases SWSI will address planning and implementation needs, identify projects for possible implementation, and develop strategies for project implementation including potential cooperative and collaborative efforts.

By taking both a basin and statewide perspective, SWSI will identify issues and water supply needs and projects that may require coordination by more than one planning entity, or that may be beyond the capabilities of a single entity. Through the SWSI effort, the CWCB will identify if, when, or where this situation might arise, and present possible solutions to achieve a cooperative and collaborative initiative.

The project schedule is depicted below.

Phase		DATE																	
		2003							2004										
		Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
I	Objectives and Public Involvement																		
II	Statewide Basin Inventories																		
III	Alternatives Development and Evaluation																		
IV	Develop Implementation Strategies																		
V	Documentation																		

Statewide Water Supply Initiative Project Schedule

The project scope is identified by five phases:

Phase 1 – Develop Project Objectives and Initiate Public and Basin Roundtable Participant Involvement Process

Phase 2 – Conduct Statewide and Basin Inventories

Phase 3 – Alternatives Identification and Evaluation Tasks

Phase 4 – Develop Implementation Strategies

Phase 5 – Documentation

Stakeholder Process and Public Involvement

The public information and basin roundtable participant involvement activities are intended to provide a mechanism and forum for the CWCB to solicit and exchange information, which is essential to the success of the project. In fact, over 80 public meetings will be held throughout the state. The Basin Roundtables, with the support of and input from the CWCB Board, will define overall objectives, associated performance measures to meet these objectives, and develop alternatives. Information exchange is expected to occur at a minimum of four levels:

General public outreach – is intended to provide a forum specifically for presenting information to and obtaining feedback from the general public. A series of Public Meetings are intended for each basin.

Basin Roundtables – is where local interests (water providers, water users, local governments, representatives of federal and state agencies, environmentalists, recreationalists, etc.) will meet and exchange ideas, review and present water supply and demand data, summarize planning initiatives, and help guide the development of water supply and demand objectives and strategies for achieving the objectives. The focus will primarily be on a consensus building process to address specific issues within each river basin. A portion of the meeting will also be devoted to obtaining information and comment from the public. Four Basin Roundtable meetings are planned for each basin.

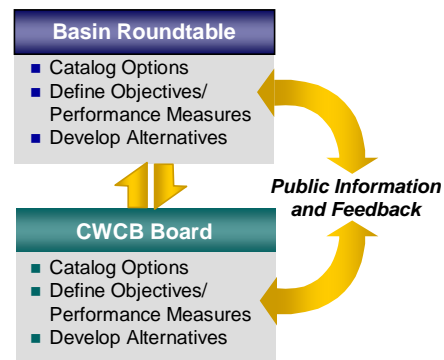
Colorado Water Conservation Board – meets every 2 months to discuss and resolve water issues and to support water planning in Colorado. The CWCB has representatives from each river basin as well as key state policymakers. During the SWSI process, the entire CWCB (including ex officio members) has committed to

dedicating significant time at the regularly scheduled meetings to facilitate and support the implementation of SWSI. The CWCB will review information from the public and Basin Roundtables, and provide input on the development of water supply and demand objectives, and the strategies for achieving those objectives. The CWCB will support the efforts of each individual basin and also focus on identifying and resolving potential conflicts among basin objectives and strategies. Opportunity for basin roundtable participant and public input will be provided at each meeting.

CWCB Steering Committee – This committee will consist of four CWCB board members, senior DNR and CWCB management and staff, and the Consultant - CDM. The focus of this group will be on the detailed implementation and management of the SWSI.

Flow of Information – Information on the SWSI will be available during the project on the CWCB website and through other communications media. Feedback from the public is encouraged throughout the study period. More detailed and technical communication will occur at the local basin level through a unique assembly of basin advisors and through the Basin Roundtable meetings.

The overall flow of information for the study process is depicted generally in the following diagram.



The objective of this task is to inform local interests and the general public about the project. This will be accomplished by providing information to the public on the water supply and

water demand management issues, the study process, and involving local interests in the Basin Roundtable discussions. Another goal of this task is to develop public support for the consensus-building and public involvement process by developing and providing information, improving general knowledge, broadening the discussions, and making all information available statewide.

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