



5-9-2023

Fort Collins Water Storage Overview

Kendall Minor – Utilities
Executive Director

Jason Graham – Utilities Water
Director

Current Halligan Dam and
Reservoir



1. Provide information and facilitate a discussion on current and future water storage challenges for the Fort Collins community.
2. Seeking feedback on the level of engagement with Northern Water on the Northern Integrated Water Supply Project (NISP).
 - We will present two options detailing next steps and how to proceed.
 - Looking for feedback, guidance and discussion from Council.



3.1 Collaborate with local and regional partners to achieve economic resilience in Northern Colorado.

3.5 Invest in and maintain utility infrastructure and services while ensuring predictable utility rates.



4.4 Provide a resilient, reliable and high-quality water supply

4.6 Sustain and improve the health of the Cache la Poudre River and all watersheds within Fort Collins



5.5 Provide and maintain reliable utility services and infrastructure that directly preserve and improve public health and community safety

- Fort Collins Water System Overview
- Water Supply and Challenges
- Regional Partnerships
- Water Storage Projects
- Discussion and Questions



Cache la Poudre River

Water System Overview

Cache la Poudre River

Michigan Ditch

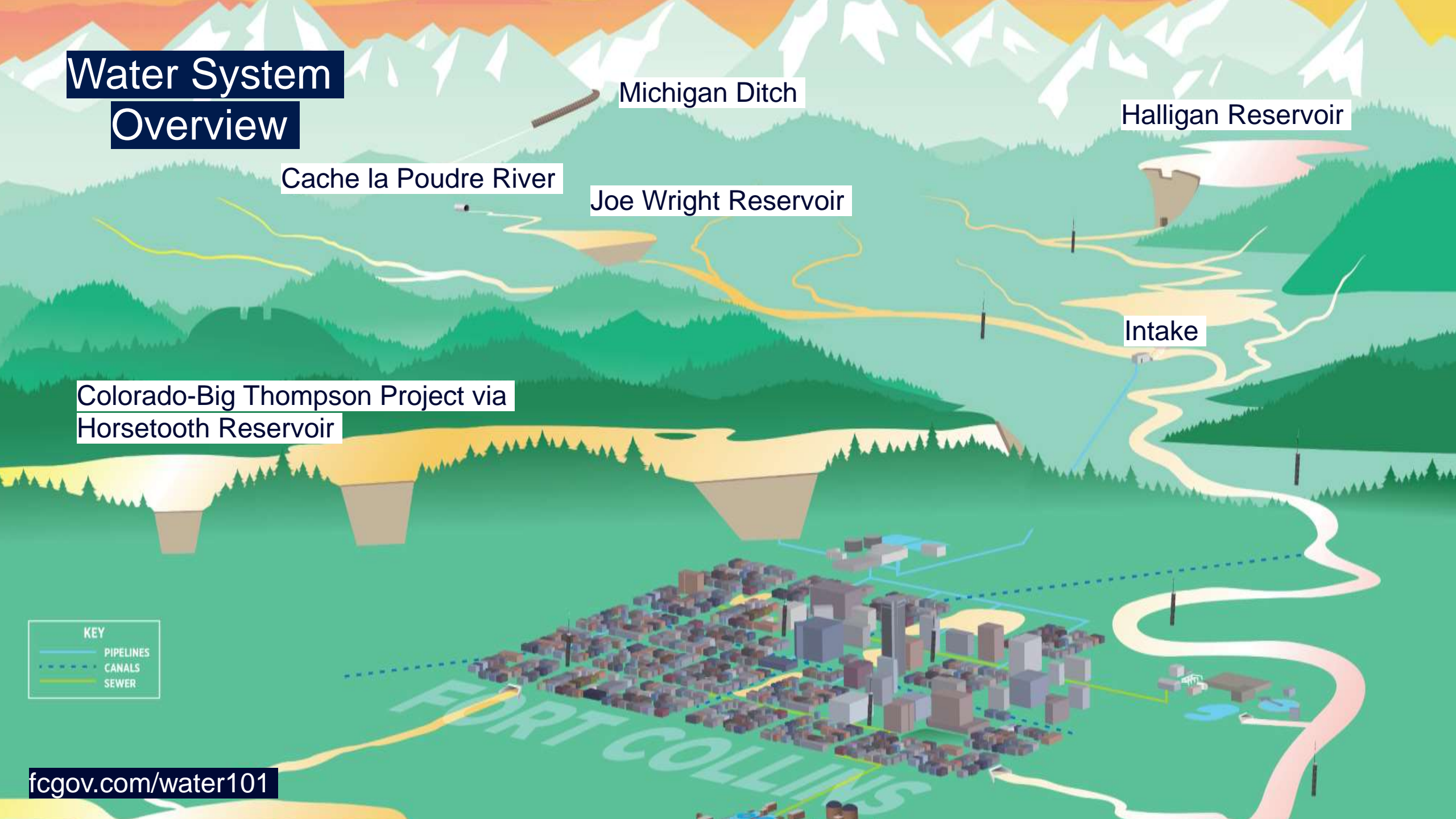
Halligan Reservoir

Joe Wright Reservoir

Intake

Colorado-Big Thompson Project via
Horsetooth Reservoir

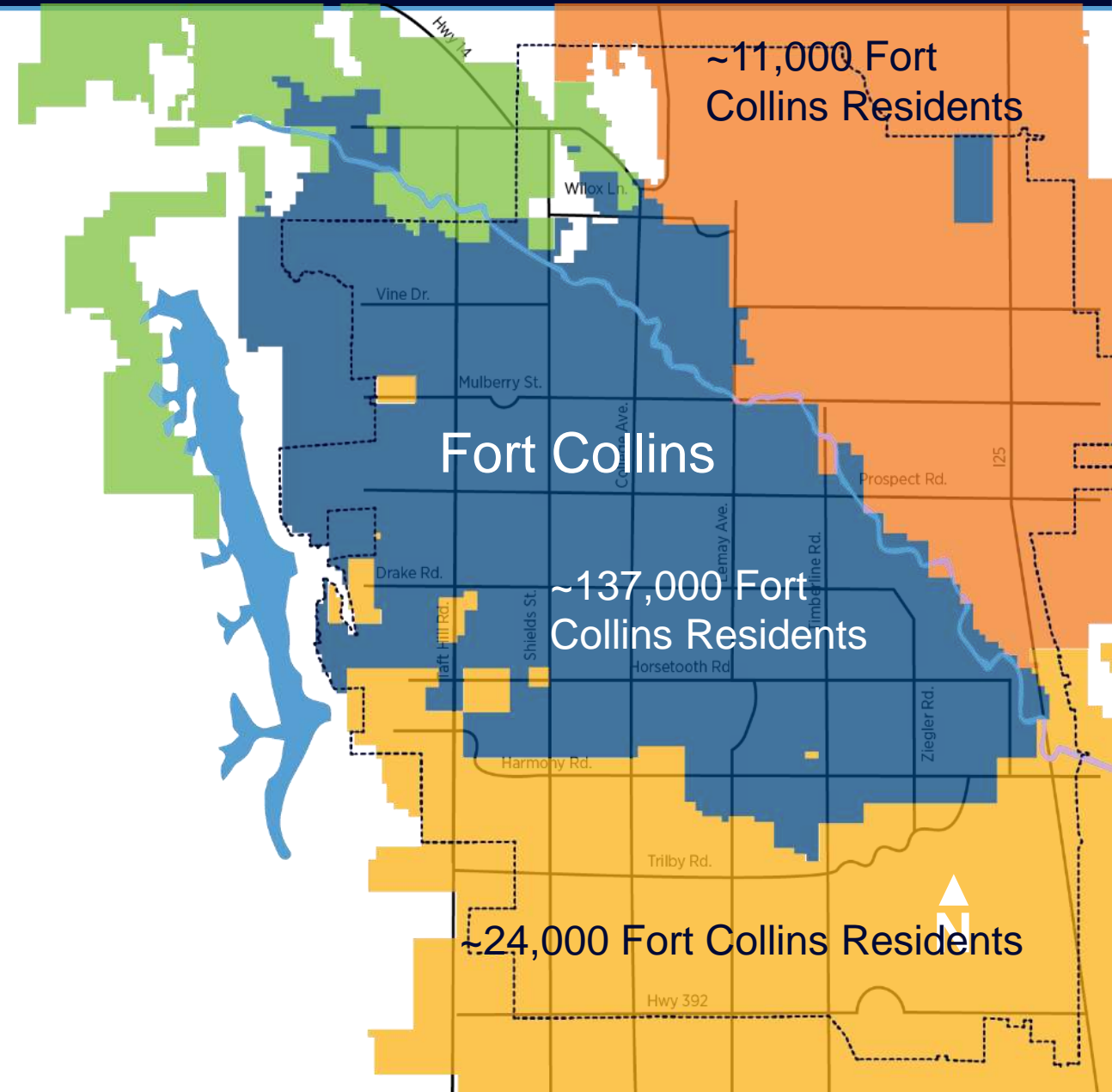
KEY
— PIPELINES
- - - CANALS
— SEWER

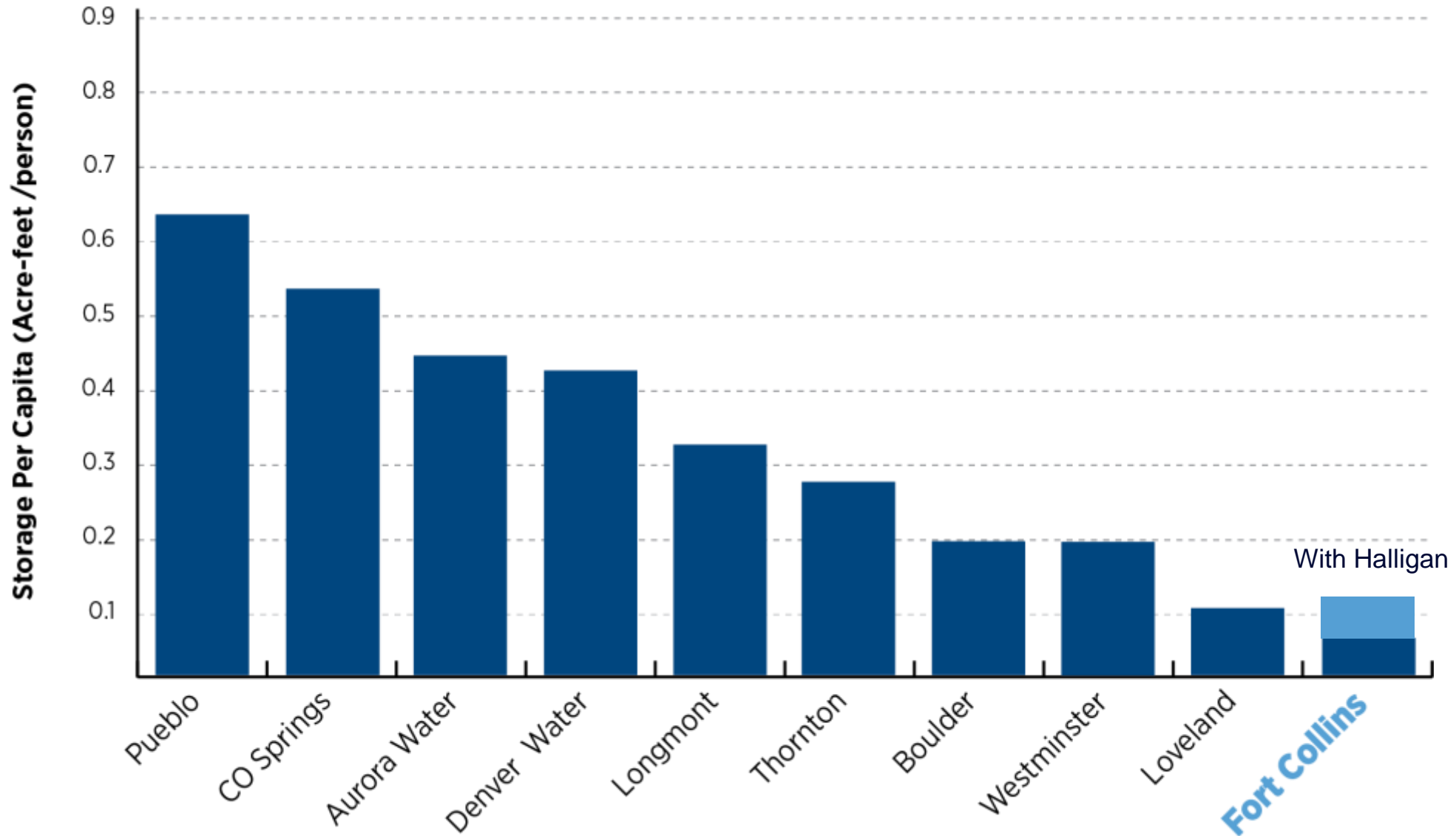


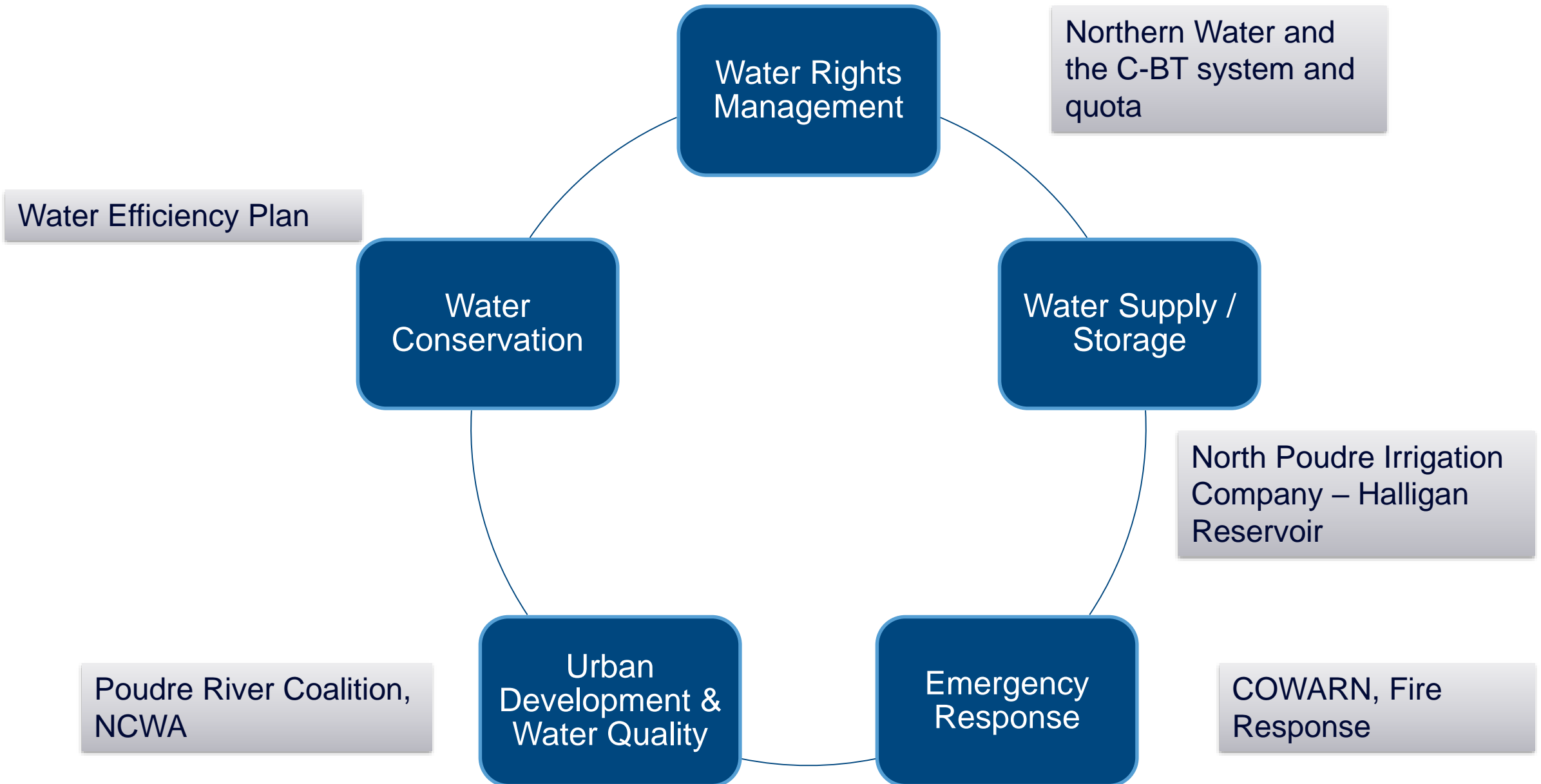
- Growth of Fort Collins and the Front Range
 - Fort Collins population is expected to grow by 24% by 2065.
 - Annual storage needs to increase ~7400 acre-feet to meet growth projections.
- Colorado River Compact
 - CO River divided between 7 states and Mexico
 - 15 million acre-feet split between upper and lower states – far exceeds water in the system
 - Impacts the amount and management of water in the C-BT system (Horsetooth)



- Growth Management Area (GMA)
- Fort Collins Utilities – Cache la Poudre and C-BT water
~50/50
- ELCO Water District – Cache la Poudre and
C-BT water
~30/70
- Fort Collins-Loveland Water District –
Cache la Poudre and C-BT
~10/90
- West Fort Collins Water District – C-BT
Unknown ratios







- Northern Colorado Water Alliance
 - Northern Colorado water service providers
 - Collaboration team started in 2014, Alliance formalized in 2019-2020
 - Regional leadership (City Manager's office and Water Executives)
 - Build relationships, understand challenges, collaboratively identify solutions
 - Provides the opportunity to advocate regionally and preserve water rights in Northern Colorado
- Draft Mission: Collaborating and education for the protection of resilient communities and water systems for the future of Northern Colorado.



Halligan Water Supply Project

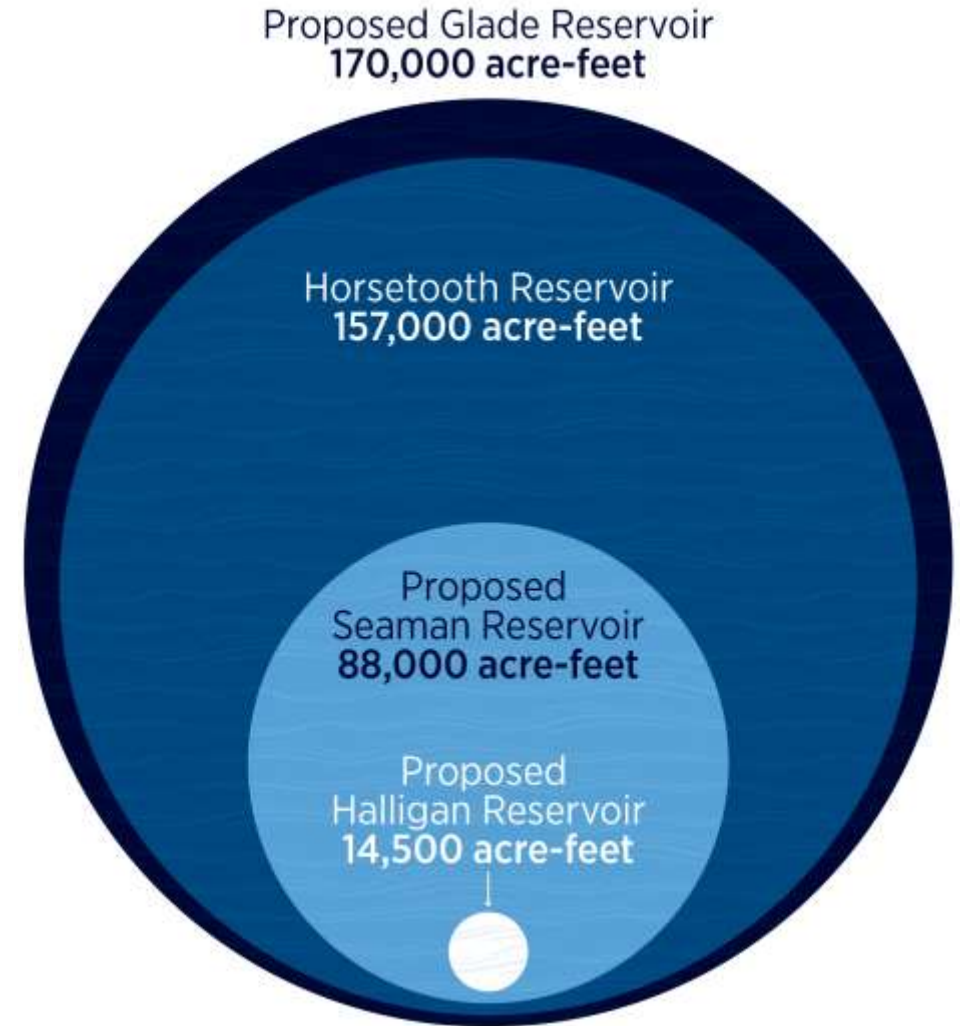
Halligan

8,200
acre-feet

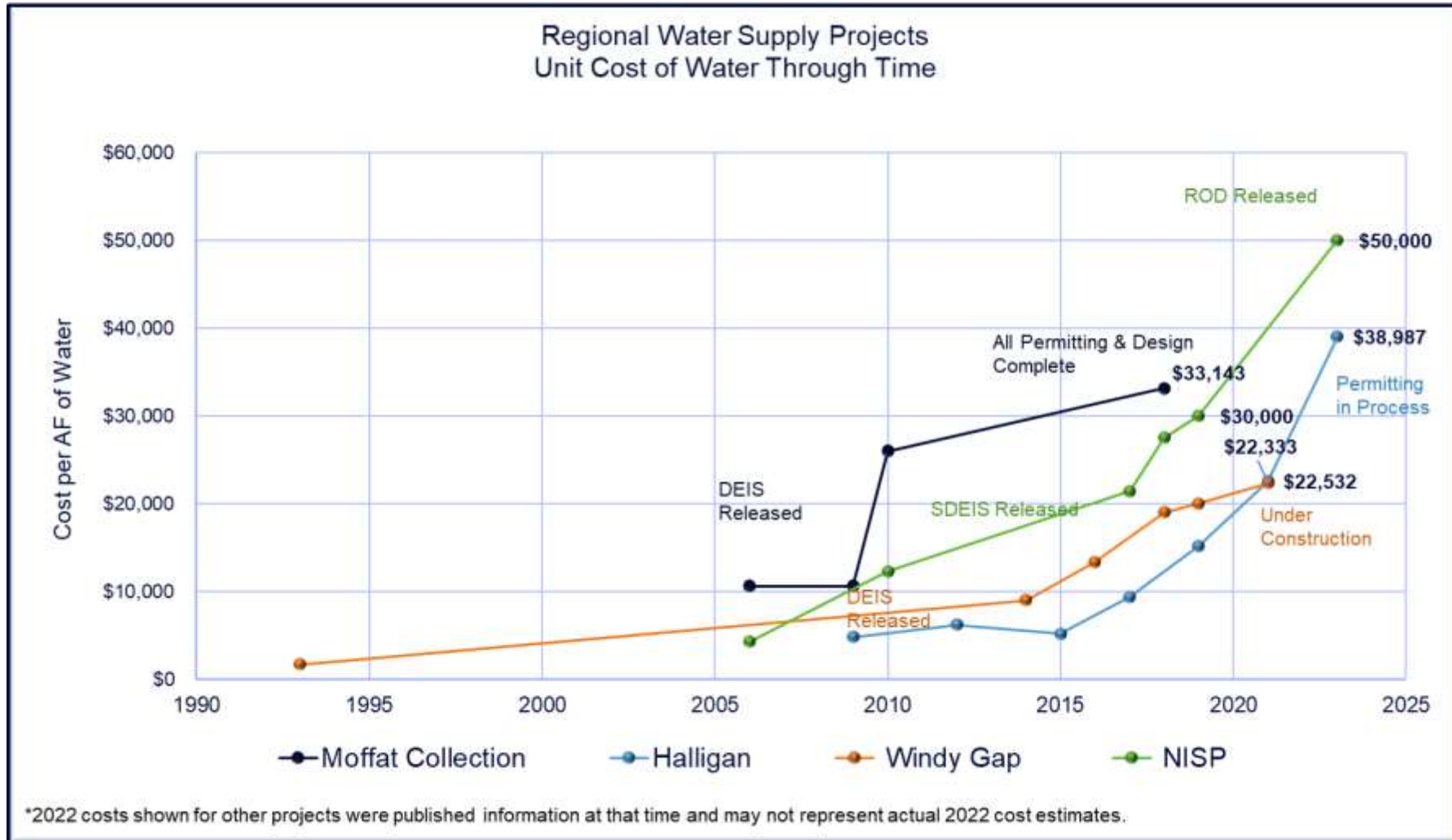
Halligan Water Supply Project would enlarge Halligan Reservoir by approximately 8,200 acre-feet to provide storage for City of Fort Collins-owned water to **serve City water customers.**

Need

- 1) Growth
- 2) Resiliency / Drought
- 3) Water Rights



The Halligan Project remains the most environmentally responsible and cost-effective solution for our water customers.



Northern Integrated Water Supply Project

- Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Northern Water) is pursuing NISP.
- It will serve various northern Front Range communities, including many in the Northern Colorado Water Alliance such as Fort Collins – Loveland Water District (FCLWD), which serves south Fort Collins and the GMA.
- NISP received all required federal, state, and county approvals and will be moving forward.
- NISP provides greater water security for water providers with Cache la Poudre River water rights, like FCLWD. Critical resiliency for those who rely on C-BT water due to future uncertainty of the Colorado River.



Aerial view of proposed Glade Reservoir location (courtesy of Northern Water)



Nokhu Crags - Cache la Poudre River
Watershed



Option 1

Do Councilmembers agree with City staff further engaging with Northern Water on NISP and its mitigation projects to continue alignment with City environmental and river goals?

Option 1

Engagement with Northern in the necessary elements of NISP going forward. City of Fort Collins has been invited to be part of the process. The process will proceed with or without the City of Fort Collins.

- NISP Adaptive Management Plan –
 - Scope - Diversion to South Platte confluence
 - Stream Channel and Habitat Improvement Plan / Process – SCHIPP
 - CPW, Riverwide Master Plan
 - Water Quality Aspects – E.Coli and Nutrient mitigation
 - CDPHE
 - Potentially CPW, Windsor, Greeley and others



Option 2

Do Councilmembers agree with City staff negotiating with Northern Water on potential collaborative agreement related to NISP, the City's water storage issues, and the City's environmental and river goals?

Option 2

(includes everything in Option 1 and potentially the following):

- Pursue if-and-when available water storage options to store water in Glade Reservoir.
 - If storage is available in Glade after the participants – the City would be permitted to store CLPR water rights in Glade.
 - Better utilization of all CLPR water rights, providing more resiliency.
- Explore additional ideas to mitigate NISP impacts to Natural Areas including evaluating the long-term operations of the Mulberry Water Reclamation Facility (MWRF).
 - Explore opportunities to run water further down the CLPR.
 - MWRF is a key variable in this conversation.
- Continue to develop watershed and flow improvements in addition to what is required through the NISP Adaptive Management Plan.

1. Do Councilmembers have any questions or comments on the City's water storage situation?
2. What level of staff engagement is expected as NISP progresses?
 - Option 1 – Do Councilmembers agree with City staff further engaging with Northern Water on NISP and its mitigation projects to continue alignment on City river and environmental goals?
 - Option 2 – Do Councilmembers agree with City staff negotiation with Northern on potential collaborative agreement related to NISP, the City's water storage issues, and the City river and environmental goals?

THANK YOU!

