

# Worksession Agenda Summary

May 10, 2022

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## Title:

Regional Water Advocacy and Resiliency StratOp Group

## Background:

Since 2014, leadership representatives of the municipalities in Northern Colorado have been meeting quarterly to discuss matters of regional importance. In 2019 the NoCO regional leadership group identified water as a critical issue. The group committed to intentionally invest in understanding regional water challenges and collaborative opportunities, and to consider how a regional water advocacy organization could benefit the region. That group of municipal agencies agreed to share costs and participate in a strategic planning effort known as the Northern Colorado Regional Water StratOp to further develop an understanding of aligned interests and values.

The Northern Colorado Regional Water StratOp convened and with support from the Peterson Center and Northern Colorado Community Foundation, facilitated strategic planning in December 2020. The StratOp outcomes were reported back to the regional leadership group and 2021 follow up meetings of the ad hoc group of municipal water providers discussed a regional water group or water authority concept that could advance the aligned goals of the Northern Colorado communities within the framework of, and compliance with, Colorado water law.

The Parties have a shared conviction that a regional approach to water resources management in the Cache la Poudre River Basin and Big Thompson River Basin can yield resiliency, economic and resource efficiency, economies of scale, effective legislative advocacy on water and wildfire matters, and regional drought or Colorado River shortage response; and the Parties believe that further joint inquiry and action is warranted.

In late 2021, the regional leadership group gave the ad hoc committee of water provider representatives direction to continue with the work, refine the proposed scope of work for the regional water group and come back with a recommendation for what type of group is best suited to the work. The ad hoc group of water providers developed a work plan for 2022, and a nominal funding commitment from each participant to support the next phase of strategic facilitated work.

**Strategic Work Program Item or Applicable Council Priority and Goal:**

**Infrastructure & Growth:** Establish the capital and human infrastructure to support and maintain a safe, competitive, appealing and successful community.

**Economic Health & Development:** Foster and maintain public and private investment in business development.

**Attachments:**

Plan on a page – NoCO Water Strat Op  
Council Presentation Slides