

Regional Water Initiative and Strategic Planning

Water & Sewer Board

March 15, 2023



The NoCO Water Resource Big Picture

✓ Growing regional population

- ✓ Fastest growing region in state – Pop expected to double by 2050
- ✓ Raw water costs limiting housing affordability

✓ Major regional agricultural economy

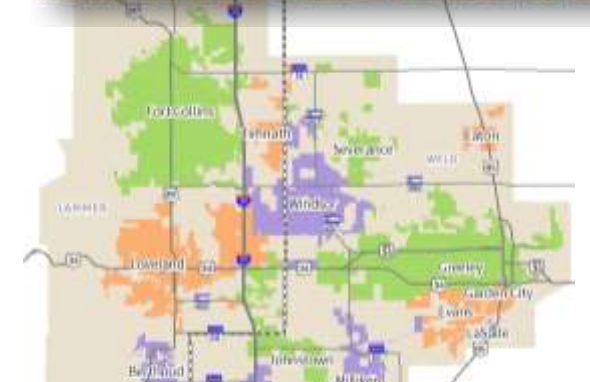
- ✓ Dependent on reliable irrigation water

✓ Finite water supply

- ✓ Region has been water-short since 1930s
- ✓ NoCO remains a target for Denver Metro area water transfers

✓ Water supply challenges

- ✓ Colorado River shortages that will impact NoCO and Front Range
- ✓ Impaired snowpack and water quality from forest fires



Overview of Greeley's Participations in Regional Water Initiatives

- **Regional Water Infrastructure Projects**
 - No. 3 Ditch, C-BT, Windy Gap Firming/Chimney Hollow Reservoir, and Overland Ponds gravel pit storage
- **Colorado Water Congress**
- **South Platte Basin Roundtable and Interbasin Compact Committee**
 - <https://www.southplattebasin.com/> & <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/about-us/interbasin-compact-committee>
- **Norther Colorado Watershed Coalitions**
 - Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed and the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition
- **Upper Cache la Poudre Water Quality Collaborative**
- **North Front Range 208 Water Quality Management Assoc.**
- **NoCO Regional Water Resiliency Initiative (StratOp)**



Review Formation of a Regional Water Resiliency Group:

Fast growing NoCO region with finite water supply

- Competition among municipalities, dairy industry, and Denver suburbs

NoCO Leaders prioritized a regional water issues discussion

- 2019 leadership discussions on water scarcity created a call to action
 - Explore the mission of a regional water resiliency group
 - Define boundaries for a regional water group
 - Consider structure of such an organization



Review of '22 StratOp Work

- ✓ **Incorporate water providers across Weld and Larimer Counties**
- ✓ Bringing new city managers, new utility managers, and new staff at NoCO Community Foundation up to speed on the prior work
- ✓ Acknowledgment of regional issues such as water cost and its impact on housing
 - ✓ Water is a critical natural resource building block for our economic future
- ✓ Evaluation of opportunities and areas of focus that could yield benefit for participants



Greeley's Guiding Principles for Engagement in NoCO Regional Water Group

1. Greeley supports regional water resiliency strategies that prepare the region for water supply uncertainty and emergency situations.
2. Greeley supports a vision for keeping NoCO water supplies in the NoCO region.
 - a. Support current and future economic prosperity and resiliency.
 - b. Greeley does not support anything impairing property rights or creating a regional mill levy.
3. Greeley realizes tangible value from ongoing meetings among the leadership from NoCO municipal water providers.



2023 Work Plan (Strat Op-2023)



Regional Resiliency Initiative

- Revaluation of regional water groups priorities and focus
- Facilitated discussions on mission, vision and priorities
- Consideration of projects
 - Consider value of regional drought emergency response communication
 - Opt in or out structure



Questions?

