

City Council Work Session

February 28, 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

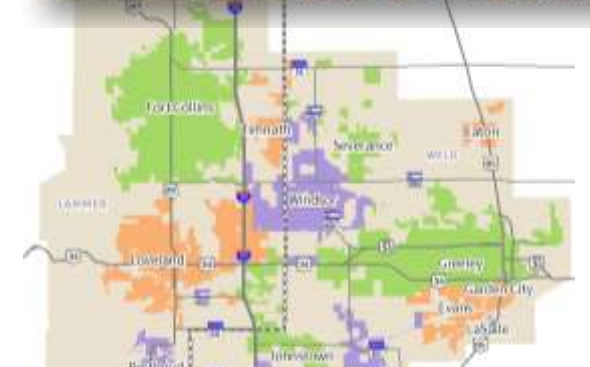
- ✓ Dependent on reliable irrigation water
- ✓ Municipal and agricultural water users compete for supply

✓ Finite water supply

- ✓ NoCO remains a target for Denver Metro area water transfers

✓ Water supply challenges

- ✓ Colorado River shortages will eventually 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**

- C-BT, Windy Gap / Chimney Hollow Reservoir, and Overland Ponds gravel pit storage

- **Colorado Water Congress**

- Advance programs to conserve, develop, administer, and protect Colorado water resources

- **South Platte Basin Roundtable and Inter-basin Compact Committee**

- **Northern Colorado Watershed Coalitions**

- Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed & 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

- 2018 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

The Group Engaged in StratOp process led by the Paterson Center



StratOp Work 2021-2022

- ✓ Navigating COVID-19 and exploring priorities
- ✓ Engaging other water providers across the Weld and Larimer Counties region
- ✓ Bringing new participants and staff new in roles up to speed on the prior StratOp work
- ✓ Acknowledgment of common regional issues
 - ✓ Water is a critical natural resource building block for our economic future – Some is being exported (Thornton & Aurora)
 - ✓ Scarcity, wildfire and Colorado River impact resiliency
- ✓ Evaluation of areas of focus for regional water work that could yield benefit for participants



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.
1. 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.
1. Greeley continues to realize benefits from ongoing meetings among the leadership from NoCO municipal water providers.



2023 Work Plan (Strat Op-2023)



Regional Resiliency Initiative

- Re-evaluation of regional water groups priorities and focus
- Facilitated discussions on mission, vision and priorities
- Consideration of potential projects
 - Regional drought emergency response communication



Questions?

