



October 21, 2022

Barbara Biggs, Chair
Metro Roundtable
Barbara@roxwater.org

Re: Request for Letter of Support, Colorado Water Conservation Board Grant Application

Dear Barbara:

Thank you for the information about how to submit our request for a letter of support for the next round of Colorado Water Conservation Board Grant funds.

Arapahoe County has made a bold statement in support of landscape irrigation reduction with its 2022 project to replace approximately 3 acres of Kentucky Bluegrass with non-irrigated native at its most visible location. While it is too early to validate outcomes and savings, early indications are that we will meet our target to reduce landscape irrigation by at least 1.5 million gallons/year at the site. Through this project, County has had an opportunity to participate in development of Colorado Native Grass Manual, has been the subject of tremendous press about irrigation water reduction through collaborative efforts with Denver Water, and is being used as a case study for native grass conversions.

Through modifications at two other sites (also aided by the 2022 CWCB grant), a strong focus on finding and correction irrigation system issues, and active monitoring of our water flows we have seen tremendous impact on irrigation water usage in 2022.

For 2023 we are hoping to continue to accelerate our landscape water reductions by proposing design and implementation of major modifications at four more of Arapahoe County's larger sites.

The attached document summarizes our proposed project(s) and the County's overall efforts toward landscape water reduction.

I am grateful for your efforts and willingness to consider our request. We are striving to set very public positive examples of irrigation water conservation actions.

Sincerely,

Lisa L VanderHeyden, Senior Project Manager
Arapahoe County Facilities & Fleet

ARAPAHOE COUNTY COLORADO

PROPOSED LANDSCAPE WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS for CWCB Conservation and Land Use Planning Grant Application 2022-12-01

Project Description: Design, plan and implementation of water conserving design at four County facilities, each with a **minimum** target reduction of 13% over baseline year 2019. County projects are being designed as studies to help us to learn from, expand on and share landscape best practices for permanent landscape irrigation reduction. All sites proposed have or will have flow meters with alarms, which have proven absolutely invaluable in eliminating irrigation waste through unexpected flows.

- **County Administration, 5334 S Prince St., Littleton CO.** Plan and implement a site modification at east side of facility to reduce irrigation to what is currently approximately 3 acres of Kentucky Bluegrass. County is engaged in planning a stakeholder engagement process to evaluate the occasional recreational use by occupants and community and develop site alternatives. Site plan will demonstrate an alternative to the 2022 native prairie grass conversion implemented on facility's west side.
- **Centrepont Plaza, 14980 E Alameda Ave., Aurora CO.** Plan and transform site to bring within City of Aurora water use guidelines and target irrigation reduction while maintaining important aesthetic appeal. Site currently consists of approximately 1.8 acres turf and 1.2 acres xeric. County has begun the application process with City of Aurora's native/landscape design and water conservation program for design assistance and anticipates reduction/elimination/transformation of nonfunctional turf and landscape islands and modification of species for green spaces that remain.
- **Arapahoe County Justice Center Campus, 7305-7325 S Potomac St., Centennial CO.** Site consists of approximately 4.23 acres of non-recreational turf, many areas struggling from impacts of salt/sand. November 2022 County is beginning redesign of site to plan features that maintain aesthetic without wasting water on struggling ornamental turf. Anticipate replacement of many Kentucky bluegrass spaces with native landscape elements. Target no less than 13% irrigation reduction over baseline year 2019.
- **Lima Campus, 6904-6984 S. Lima St., Centennial CO.** Site consists of approximately 2.6 acres of mixed irrigated vegetation, approximately 1.6 acres of which is small areas of non-recreational turf. Project will redesign site to eliminate or significantly reduce nonfunctional turf, replacing with native vegetation and features. Target no less than 13% irrigation reduction over baseline year 2019.

We thank you for your consideration.