

# *Land Use and Colorado's Water Plan*

*2015 Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute Conference*

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*Water Supply Planning*

Colorado Water Conservation Board

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**COLORADO**

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

**COLORADO'S**  
**WATER PLAN**

# *Executive Order Summary*

The Colorado Water Plan is necessary to:

- Ensure Coloradans have a secure supply of water
- Manage Drought
- Preserve our agriculture by minimizing the unacceptable rate of buy and dry of agricultural land
- Ensure water quality
- Protect compact entitlements

# *Executive Order Directives*

The Colorado Water Plan Will:

- Reflect Colorado's values
- Align projects, studies, funding
- Align State's role in project permitting
- Utilize the work of the IBCC and BRTs
- Work with other agencies
- Affirm prior appropriation



# *All of this work will result in a water plan that will support*

- A productive economy that supports vibrant and sustainable cities, viable and productive agriculture, and a robust skiing, recreation, and tourism industry;
- Efficient and effective water infrastructure promoting smart land use; and
- A strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers and streams and wildlife.

## *5 Things Colorado's Water Plan Will NOT Do*

1. Advocate alternatives to the Prior Appropriation Doctrine
2. Infringe upon water rights' status as private property rights
3. Ban the “permanent buy & dry” of irrigated lands
4. Erode, or somehow cede, Colorado's compact entitlements
5. Allow the status quo to drive increased uncertainty and undesired results

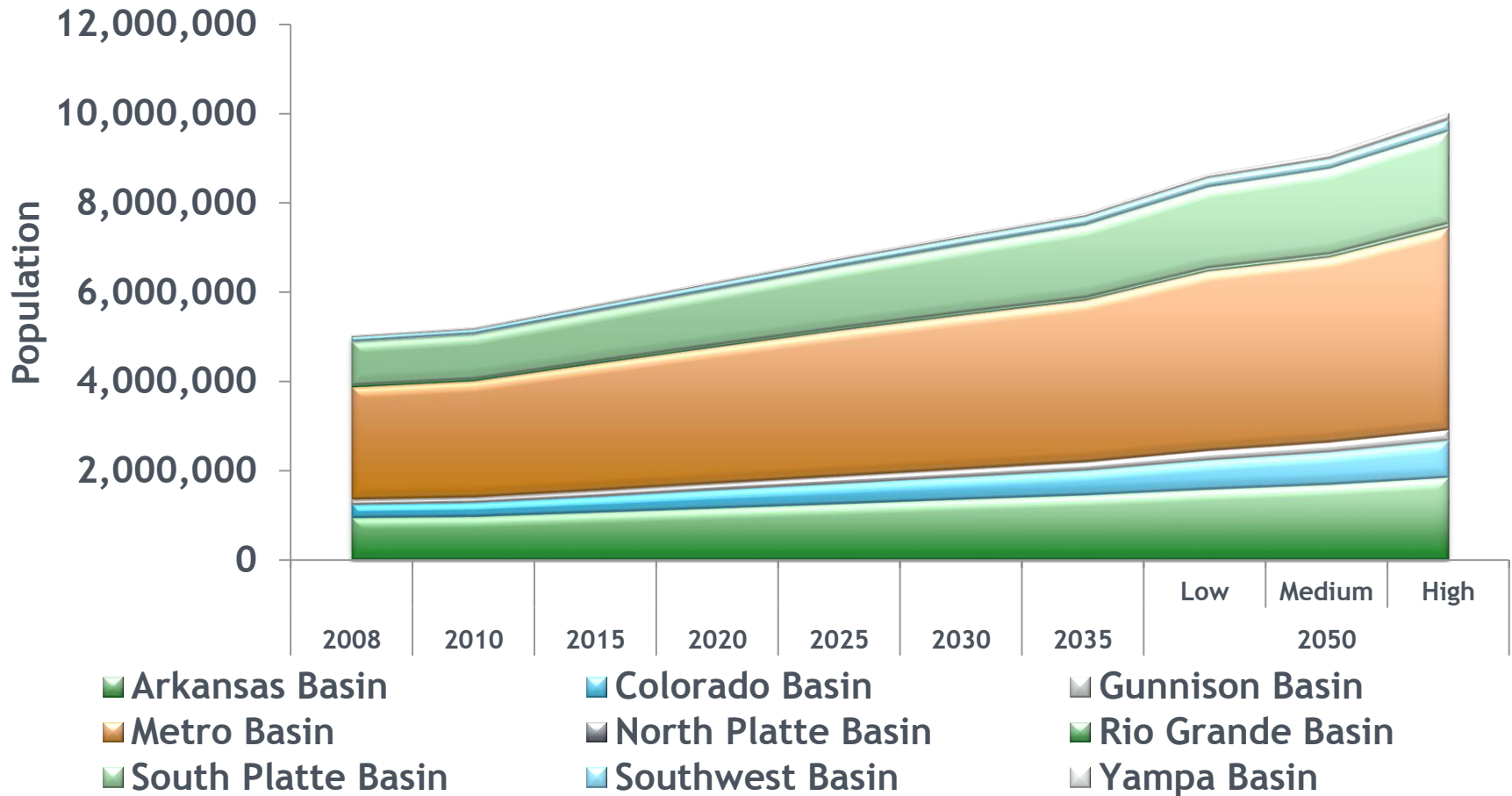




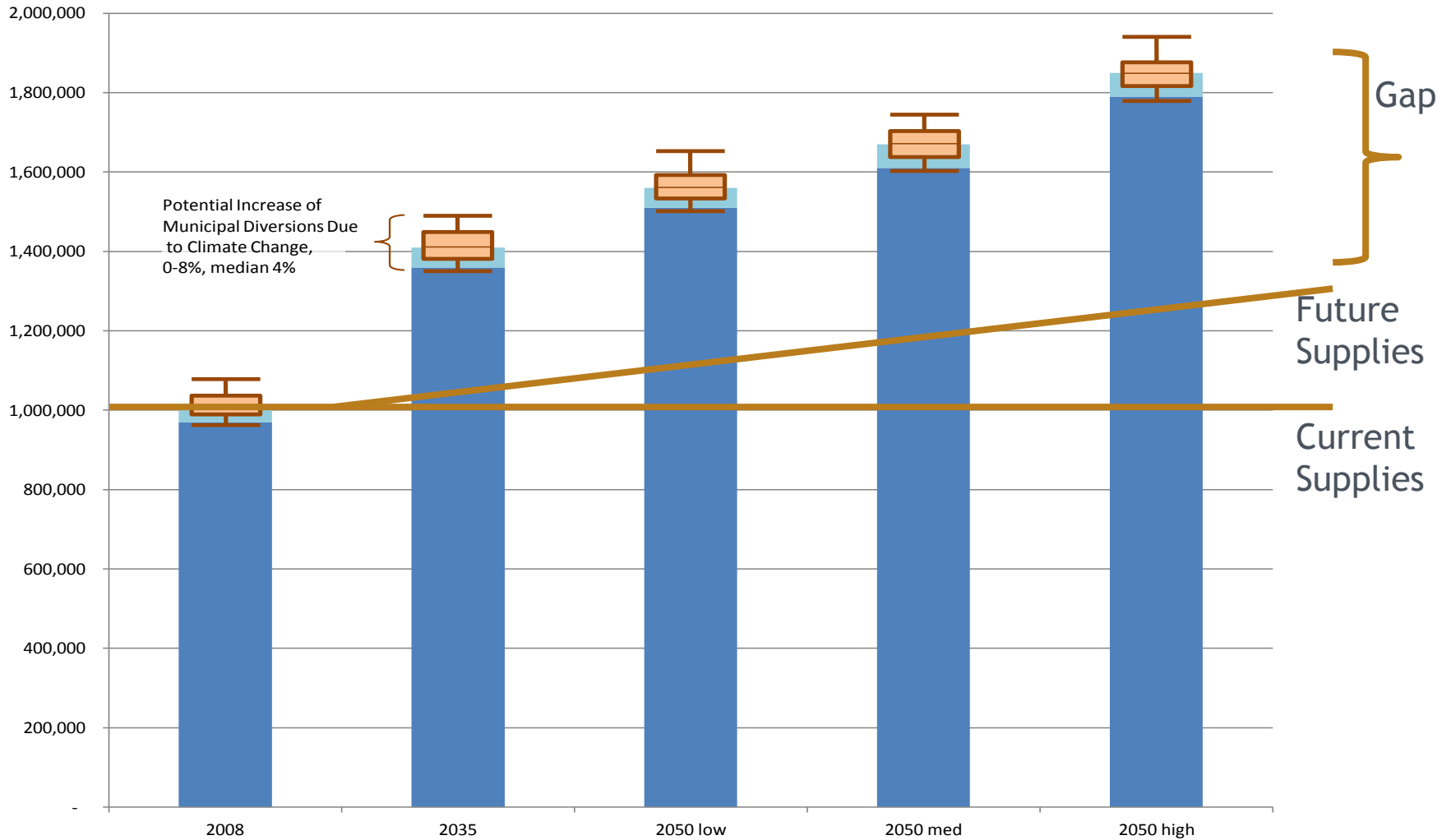
# COLORADO'S

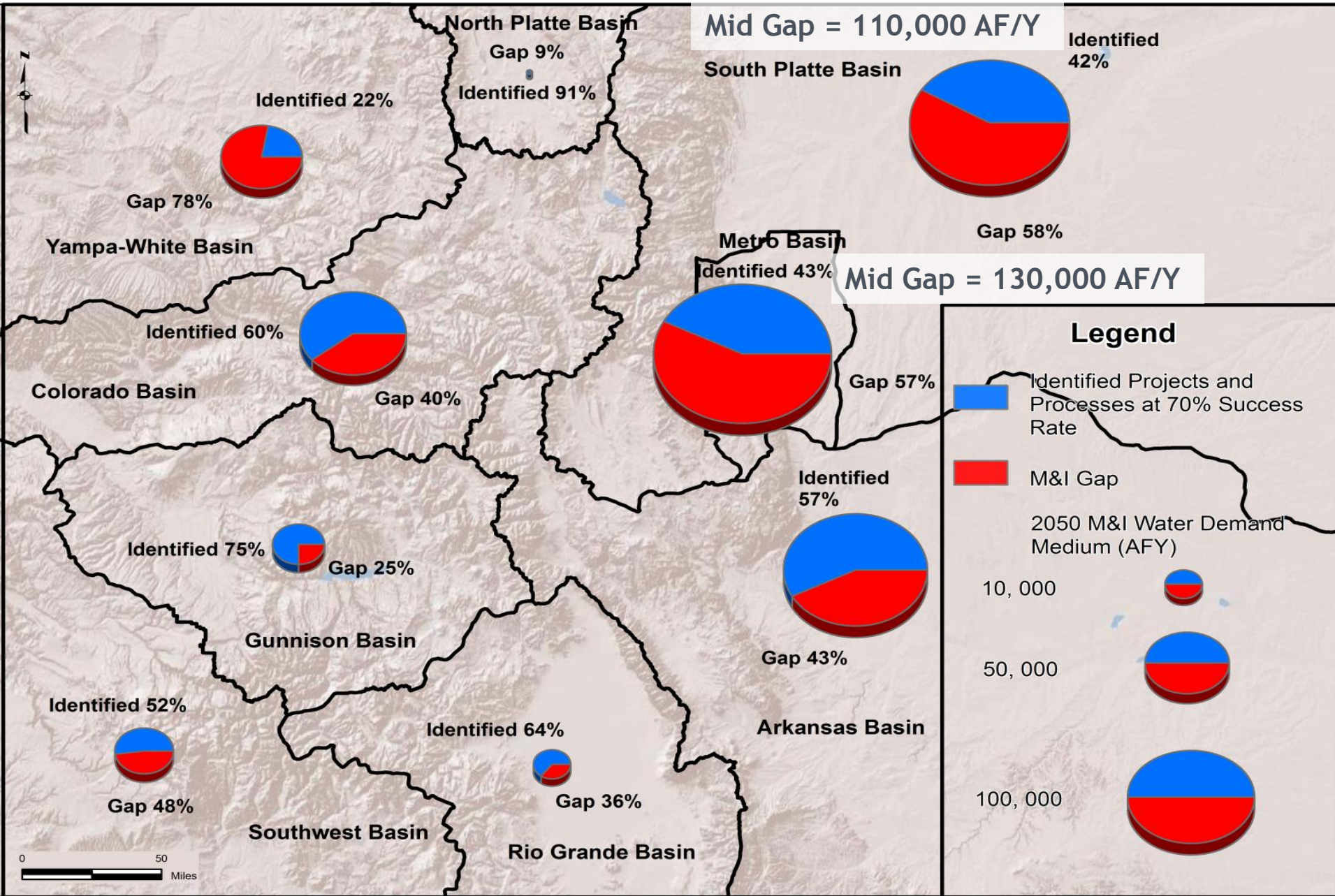
## WATER PLAN

# *By 2050, Colorado's Population is Expected to Nearly Double*

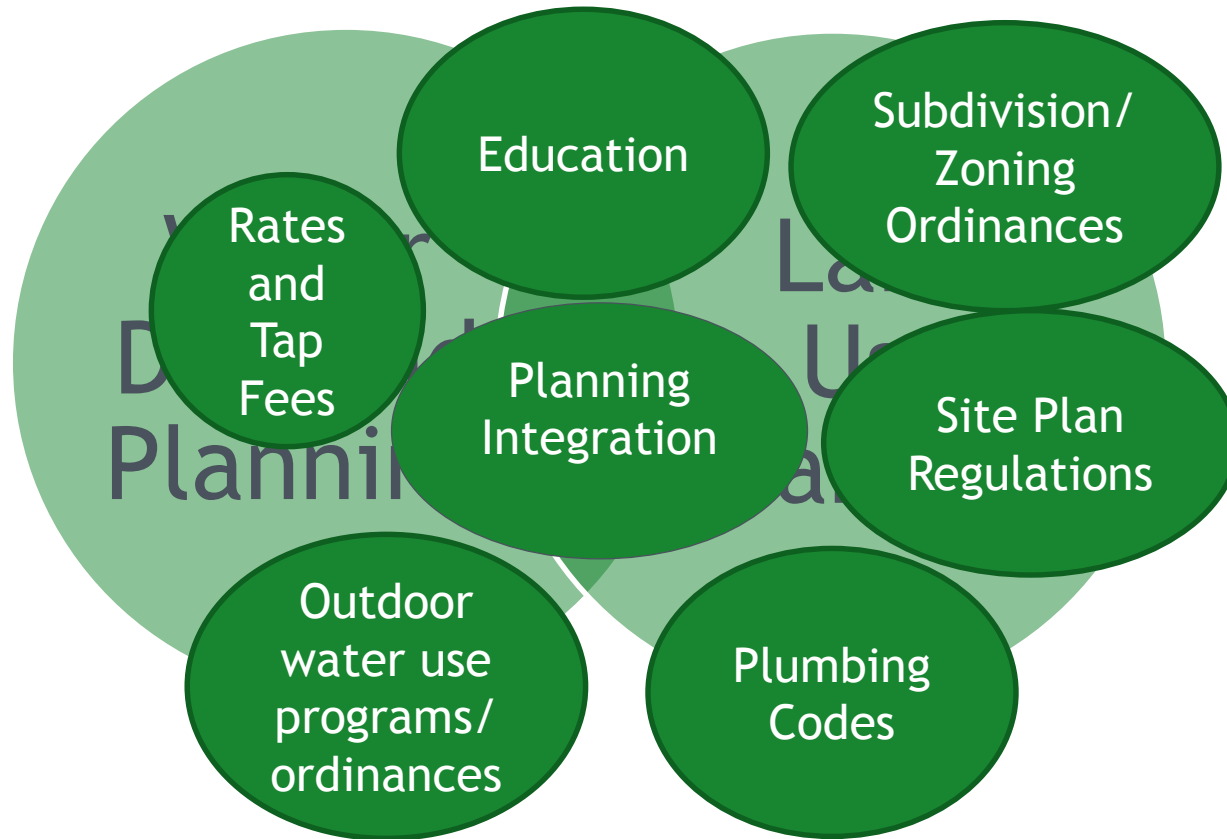


# Municipal & Industrial Gaps





# *Land Use-Water Nexus*



# *Previous CWCB Work in Land Use*

- 2009-*Water and Land Use Planning for a Sustainable Future* conference
- 2010-Published *Colorado Review: Water and Land Use Planning Integration*
- 2010- Created a memo for SWSI 2010 on density and the amount savings possible for development



# *Colorado's Water Plan*

## Chapter 6-Water Supply Management

- 6.3-Water Conservation and Reuse
  - 6.3.1-Municipal Water Conservation
  - 6.3.2-Reuse
  - 6.3.3-Land Use

# *Land Use and Colorado's Water Plan*

- Land use is governed at the local level and Colorado's Water Plan will not change that.
- There may be opportunities, however, where the state can provide incentives or benefits to encourage development to occur in a way that maximizes water efficiency.
- Incentivizing development that is more water-sustainable is one of our tools that can help ensure that Colorado enjoys a secure water future.

# *Land Use and Colorado's Water Plan*

## **Incentives/initiatives**

- Expedited permitting/tax incentives for buildings and developments with high levels of density that incorporate certain water efficiency measures
- Structured impact (tap) fees that are designed to promote water-wise developments and in-fill
- Water budget rate structures to help maintain initial projected water budgets for each site
- Linking comprehensive plans with water supply/demand management plans



# *Land Use and Colorado's Water Plan*

## **Funding**

- Water Efficiency Grant Program and Water Supply Reserve Account grant funds could be used to implement inclusion of demand management strategies in local comprehensive plans
- WEGP funds could be used to study land use patterns to ascertain possible demand reductions associated with certain land use patterns
- WSRA funds could be used for larger regional efforts as they tie more directly into the Basin Roundtables and larger regional projects.

# *Land Use and Colorado's Water Plan*

## **Education/Training**

- The Land Use Leadership Alliance has suggested further education and training on a longer-term basis to help create a culture of collaboration between land use and water supply/demand planning.

# *Land Use and Colorado's Water Plan*

## Partnerships

- Partnerships are necessary for successful integration of water and land use
- Partnerships between local government, state government, academia, NGOs, economic development, development/homebuilding industry among others.



# *Land Use and Colorado's Water Plan*

## Basin Implementation Plans

- Colorado Basin-The goal is to “develop land use policies requiring and promoting conservation.”
- South Platte/Metro Basins- The South Platte/Metro Basins state that there are opportunities that exist today for closer collaboration and reduction in water use through more integrated land use planning.

# *Land Use Initiatives in Colorado's Water Plan*

- DRCOG Metrovision 2035

- Specifically addresses water conservation
- Goal of 10 % increase in density between 2000-2035

- Net Zero Water Initiative

- A concept that mitigates the water quantity and quality impacts through best practices incorporated into the development or management of a site.
- Net Zero Water planning template includes guidebook and toolkit



# *Land Use Initiatives in Colorado's Water Plan*

## Land Use Leadership Alliance Training

- Convened land use and water planners along with city managers, city council members, developers, regional government planning groups, and CWCB staff for four all day sessions focused on the land use and water planning nexus.
- Another round of training is scheduled soon



# *Land Use and Colorado's Water Plan-Current Legislation*

- **SB 15-008-Concerning the promotion of water conservation in the land use planning process**
- Develop and provide free training programs for local government water use, water demand, and land use planners regarding best management practices for water demand management, water efficiency, and water conservation
- Integration of water demand management and water conservation planning into the covered entity's land use planning



# *Project Example:*

## *Colorado Water and Growth Dialogue*

Purpose of the Colorado Water and Growth Dialogue:

- To demonstrate how much water can be saved through the integration of water and land use planning
- To develop a consensus-based set of recommended water saving strategies for communities that can be incorporated into their planning
- To develop and disseminate an implementation plan for these recommendations that includes a demonstration of real water savings that can be achieved through strategic land use planning decisions

# *Funding and Structure*

- Funded by CWCB, Gates Family Foundation, Walton Family Foundation, Denver Water and Aurora Water
- Technical assistance from DRCOG, Lincoln Land Institute, Decision Center for a Desert City (among others) and facilitated by the Keystone Center
- Comprised of a working group, technical subcommittee and a steering committee
- Water professionals, land use planners, developers
- Two year project wrapping up in 2016

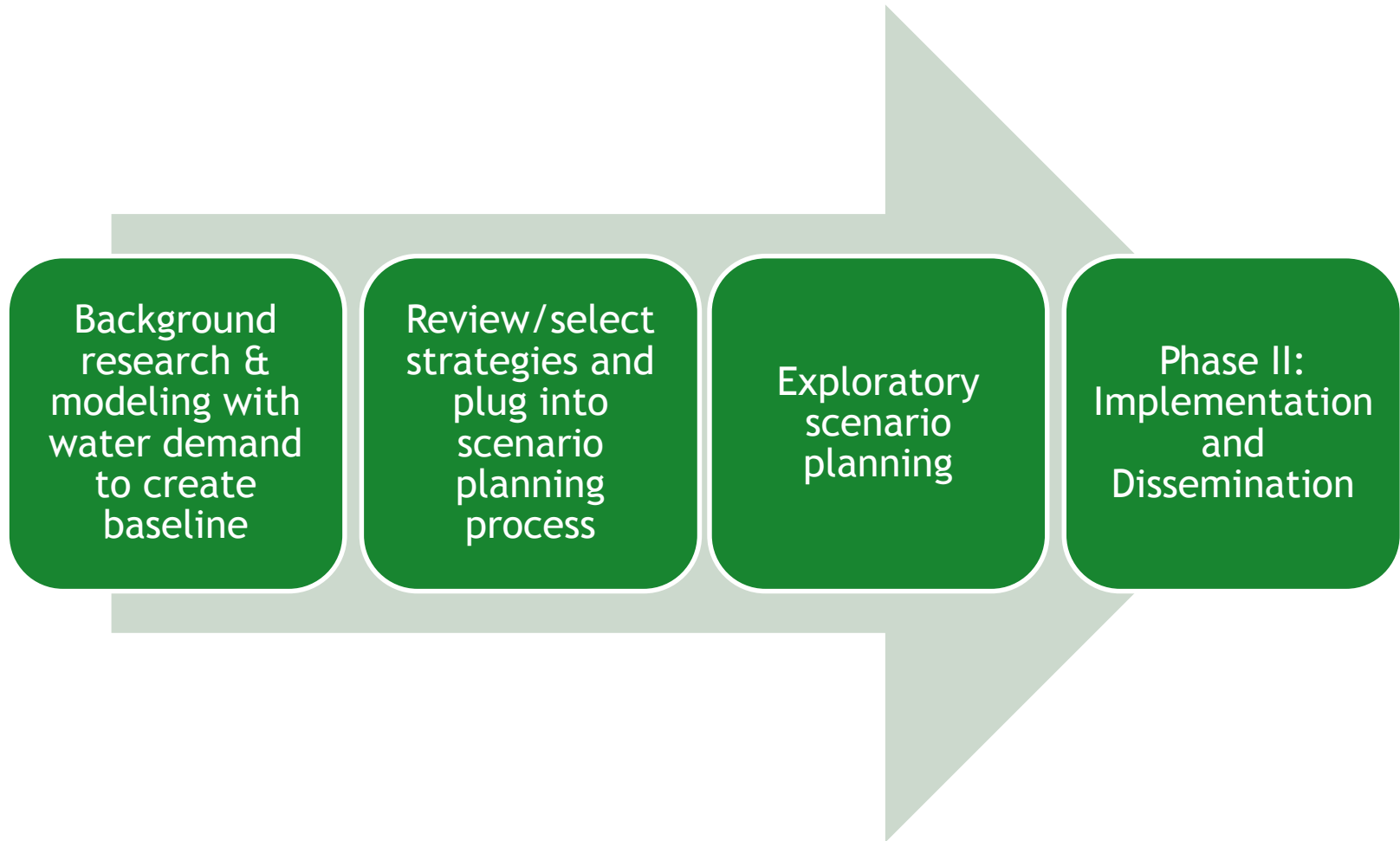
# *Core Questions*

- How can we better integrate land and water planning so that water plays a more prominent role in land use choices?
- Which land use approaches and patterns show the greatest promise for reducing the water footprint from urban and suburban new development and redevelopment?
- What are the most practical and effective strategies for achieving these land use approaches and patterns?

# *Scope of Project*

- The strategies developed will include structural and designed efficiencies that will increase water savings prior to residents moving into homes.
- Phase I: The Working Group and subgroups will develop recommended strategies to reduce the water footprint of new and re-development.
- Phase II-The Working Group will work with Thought Leaders (policy makers, other planners and developers etc.) to determine a dissemination and implementation plan.

# *Phase I*



# *Products and Deliverables*

- Develop and prioritize strategies in research report
- Building a consensus-based report describing:
  - The strategies as well as barriers to their implementation.
  - The findings of the research and scenario planning efforts.
  - A dissemination strategy to get the findings into the hands of key decision makers and stakeholders.
- The Keystone team will facilitate a consensus-building process focused on the following questions:
  - Which land use planning strategies appear most effective?
  - How can policy makers and planners be most effective in helping move Coloradans closer to long-term sustainability between water and growth?
  - What key actions should be taken and by whom?

# *Land Use and Colorado's Water Plan*

- Foster collaboration
- Create tools and resources
- Align funds and resources



# *Land Use and Colorado's Water Plan*

- How do we want to grow and develop? As a state, as local communities?
- How do we integrate water into land use decisions? Vice versa.
- What do our 21<sup>st</sup> century communities look like through the lens of a lower water supply/higher water demand scenario?



# Thank You

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