

# INCORPORATING WATER CONCERNS INTO COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

2018 ARAPAHOE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LAND USE INSTITUTE • MARCH 2018



ARAPAHOE COUNTY  
COLORADO'S FIRST

# 2018 ARAPAHOE COUNTY COMP PLAN UPDATE

**WHY ADDRESS WATER?** THE LANDSCAPE HAS CHANGED SINCE 2001 COMP PLAN:

- DROUGHT OF 2002; HIGHER AVERAGE TEMPERATURES.
- ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING DETERMINATION OF ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY.
- STATE ENGINEER DIRECTIVES TO PLANNING DEPARTMENTS STATE-WIDE.
- PROPOSED LEGISLATION LINKING WATER SUPPLY AND LAND USE PLANNING.
- PREPARATION OF COLORADO'S STATE WATER PLAN, ADDRESSING THE WATER GAP FORECASTED IN 2050 AND EMPHASIZING COLLABORATION BETWEEN WATER PROVIDERS AND PLANNERS.
- ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION PROHIBITING THE SALE LOW-EFFICIENCY WATER FIXTURES.
- MOVEMENT AWAY FROM SOLE RELIANCE ON NON-RENEWABLE SOURCES (AQUIFERS) AND DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE SOURCES (SURFACE WATER, CONSERVATION AND RE-USE) BY COUNTY WATER PROVIDERS.



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## THE COUNTY'S ROLE IN ADDRESSING WATER

- IDENTIFY ISSUE IN COMP PLAN
  - INCREASE AWARENESS
- FACILITATOR
- REGULATOR
- IMPLEMENTER



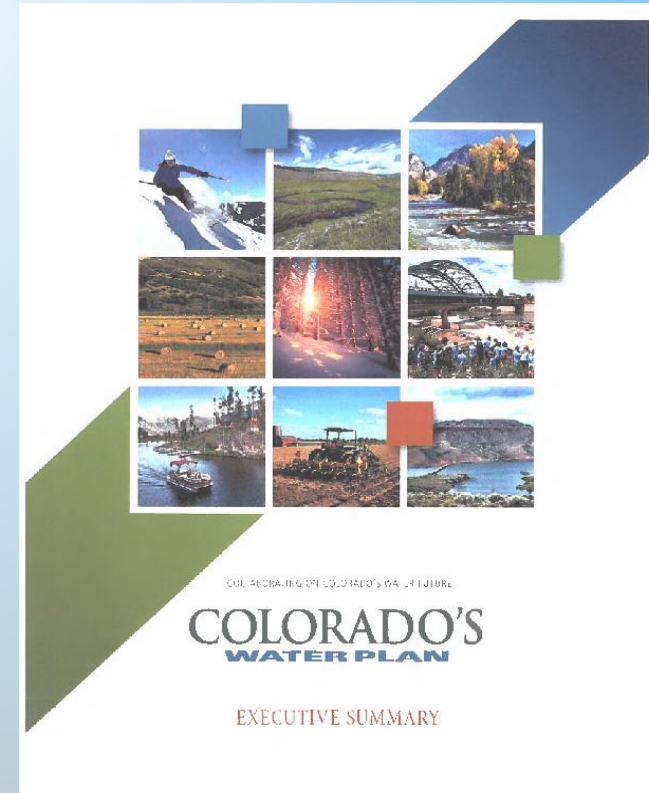
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## APPROACH

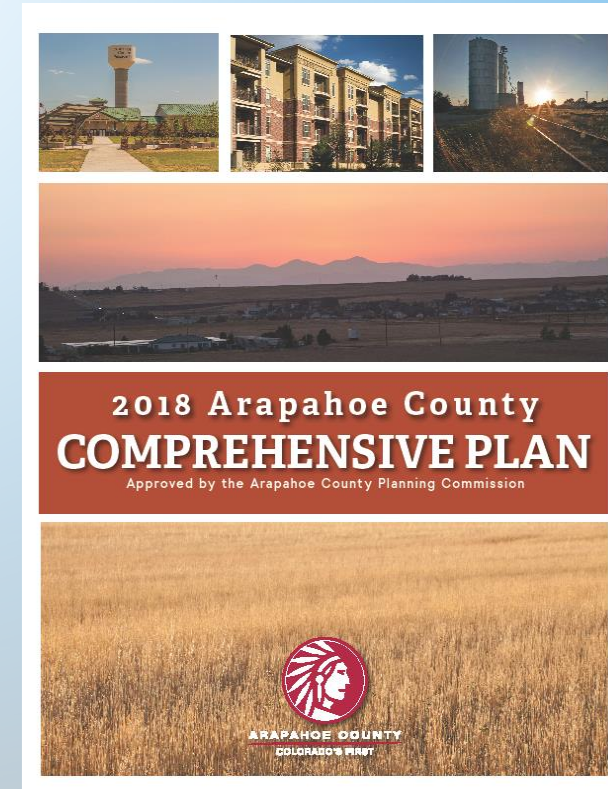
- USED COLORADO'S WATER PLAN AS A GUIDE
- RESEARCHED WATER PROVIDER PRACTICES
- WATER RESOURCE STUDY EASTERN ARAPAHOE COUNTY
- WATER CONCERNS ADDRESSED IN THREE SECTIONS:
  - PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY
  - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
  - WATER QUALITY
- DEVELOPED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



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- TOPICS ADDRESSED:
  - SUPPLY AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT
  - CONSERVATION
  - REUSE
  - STORMWATER QUALITY
- POLICIES AND STRATEGIES IDENTIFIED FOR:
  - WATER (AND SANITATION) PROVIDERS
  - INDIVIDUAL CONSUMERS
  - COUNTY (AS FACILITATOR, REGULATOR AND CONSUMER)



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## OPPORTUNITIES

- PLANNING COMMISSION CONCERN
  - 300-YEAR SUPPLY
  - LIMIT USE OF AQUIFERS
  - CONSERVATION
- CURRENT PRACTICES OF WATER PROVIDERS
  - SOUTH METRO WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY (WISE PROJECT – RENEWABLE SUPPLY)
  - RE-USE SYSTEMS FOR IRRIGATION
- PLANNER AWARENESS
- BUILDING CODE ALLOWING GRAYWATER

## CHALLENGES

- TIMING OF ADEQUACY DETERMINATION
  - ZONING VS. FINAL PLAT
- COUNTY IS NOT A PROVIDER – LITTLE LEVERAGE WITH EXISTING DISTRICTS
  - “ENCOURAGE” AND “SUPPORT” VS. REQUIRE
- CAPABILITIES OF PROVIDERS VARIES
  - URBAN VS. RURAL DISTRICTS
- USE OF TERMINOLOGY
  - CLIMATE CHANGE
  - GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE





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## IMPLEMENTATION

- LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE REVISIONS
  - 300-YEAR WATER SUPPLY REQUIREMENT
  - TIMING OF WATER SUPPLY ADEQUACY DETERMINATION
  - MODIFY LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS
    - REDUCED TURF AREAS
    - WATER WISE DEVELOPMENT
    - USE OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
    - LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT
- COUNTYWIDE WATER SUPPLY OPTIONS
  - BRINGING TOGETHER DIVERSE DISTRICTS
- ENCOURAGE WATER-SAVING DEVELOPMENT
  - REVIEW AND REVISE RESIDENTIAL ZONE DISTRICT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (LOT SIZES, % OPEN SPACE)
  - APPROVE COMPACT, HIGH DENSITY, MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT
  - ENCOURAGE NET ZERO WATER PRACTICES
- COUNTY LEADERSHIP
  - MODIFY LANDSCAPING AND IRRIGATION AT COUNTY FACILITIES
- PUBLIC EDUCATION
  - IN CONCERT WITH WATER PROVIDERS

