INCORPORATING WATER CONCERNS INTO COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

2018 ARAPAHOE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LAND USE INSTITUTE • MARCH 2018
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.
2018 ARAPAHOE COUNTY COMP PLAN UPDATE

THE COUNTY’S ROLE IN ADDRESSING WATER

- IDENTIFY ISSUE IN COMP PLAN
  - INCREASE AWARENESS
- FACILITATOR
- REGULATOR
- IMPLEMENTER
2018 ARAPAHOE COUNTY COMP PLAN UPDATE

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