
10. Critical Action Plan

10.1 Colorado's Water Values

Colorado's Water Plan hinges upon three primary values:

- 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; and
- A healthy environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers, streams, and wildlife.

These values shape the goals and actions of each section in the plan. The purpose of Chapter 10 is to further describe each of these values, and then describe the goals and critical actions needed to meet them. These high-impact actions are a subset of a broader set of actions found throughout the plan in chapters six through nine, and eleven.

1. **Colorado's Water Plan values a productive economy that supports vibrant and sustainable cities, viable and productive agriculture, and a robust skiing, recreation and tourism industry:** Colorado will continue to face natural stressors such as deep droughts, destructive wildfires, and catastrophic floods. The best science available indicates that these conditions will only get worse with climate change. Past events in Colorado, as well as recent droughts in Texas and California, serve as important warnings that these challenges harm Colorado's economy and way of life. As Colorado's economy continues to grow with the influx of new residents and industry, water planning for the future must reflect careful deliberation and balancing of the many municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses throughout the state. Critical actions must recognize the value of water to Colorado's economy, and identify options for maintaining a viable agricultural industry. Coloradans at all levels – individually, locally, regionally, and statewide – must work proactively to best mitigate for and respond to these inevitable natural pressures so that Colorado can continue to flourish. In addition, these natural pressures can create uncertainty for interstate compact compliance, and Colorado must work to reduce risks associated with meeting Colorado's compact obligations.

2. **Colorado's Water Plan values efficient and effective water infrastructure:** Beyond addressing underlying natural pressures, Colorado must contend with the growing and changing needs of our communities, farms, and ranches. Colorado is one of the fastest growing states in the country, and growing cities could mean the significant loss of agriculture if Colorado continues on its current path. Innovative solutions and additional conservation and efficiency are needed to stretch Colorado's water supplies and maintain aging reservoirs, canals, and distribution systems. New water systems that address several needs and involve multiple partners will also be necessary. Colorado's Water Plan uses a grassroots approach to formulate projects and methods to close water gaps with more agile, informed, and responsible water management. By doing so, Colorado will

achieve its long-term objective to meet the needs of municipalities, industry, agriculture, the environment, and recreation in a balanced manner.

3. **Colorado's Water Plan values a strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers, streams and wildlife:** Colorado's identity includes the grand snowy mountains and sweeping rivers, majestic valleys and easy access to all of this raw beauty. Underlying Colorado's natural splendor are populations and communities of fish, birds, amphibians, and wetland plants. Colorado is home to endangered and imperiled species along with exemplary pristine ecosystems. It is important to protect and restore Colorado's natural environment with the most effective tools available. A resilient natural environment is the long-term goal of the critical actions which address this value.

10.2 Measures of Success and Adaptive Management

Colorado's Water Plan is a living document. The Plan and the supporting work of the Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs) and the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) will need to be updated periodically to respond to changing conditions and improved information. Part of this work will require measuring success for each action and adapting over time. Future iterations of Colorado's Water Plan will evaluate the progress made and identify or refine future actions.

As stated in Chapter 11, Colorado's Water plan will be updated as values, conditions, or data warrant. The CWCB will determine when the next version of Colorado's Water Plan will be completed within the next five to ten years, based on progress of the BIPs and SWSI.

10.3 Strategic Goals and Actions

The State of Colorado intends to take the following actions to address Colorado's water challenges and seize its water opportunities. Additional information and context for each of the critical actions is further explained in the referenced section. Each action is labeled as one of the following types:

- **Legislation:** Legislative actions require the Colorado General Assembly to pass a bill changing or adding language in the Colorado Revised Statutes. Prior to developing legislative proposals necessary to implement Colorado's Water Plan, the Department of Natural Resources will conduct a thorough review of input provided by the Water Resources Review Committee, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and interested stakeholders. Any legislative recommendations in the Action Plan will be evaluated in light of administration priorities and the state budget. To the extent that legislation is necessary to execute Colorado's Water Plan, legislative recommendations will be offered in concert with the phased implementation of the plan over subsequent years.
- **Programmatic:** Programmatic actions can be accomplished within existing authority and existing state programs. Changes only need to be made at the programmatic level to accomplish these actions. These changes may have resource impacts that will need to be addressed prior to accomplishing the action.
- **Board Policy:** Board policy actions can be accomplished through a rule-making or other formal approval process by the Colorado Water Conservation Board to give CWCB staff the authority to accomplish these actions. Other state agencies may also need to adopt policies,

as is noted below. Resources to develop and implement the policy changes will need to be identified.

- **Process:** Process actions indicate actions that will involve several parties or sub-committees developing a plan or making recommendations to the CWCB or other appropriate authority. Process actions can be accomplished within existing statutory authority.

I. Develop a Multi-purpose Funding Plan

- a. **Align Existing Funding:** Align state funding policies and promote coordination among state agencies to strategically support the values identified throughout Colorado’s Water Plan, such as the need for multi-purpose and multi-partner projects and methods.

Critical Actions to Align Funding	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Seek an amendment to expand the CWCB loan program’s authority to fund treated water supply, reuse, conservation, environmental, and recreation projects and methods.	9.2, 6.3.2, 6.3.1	CWCB, DNR, General Assembly	Near-term ^a	Legislation
2. Create a public private partnership center of excellence that models how to develop P3 agreements and explores financial incentives for regionalization.	9.2	CWCB & Funding Committee	Near-term	Programmatic
3. Develop a common grant inquiry process coordinated across agencies for environmental and recreational projects and methods.	9.2	CWCB, CPW, DNR, CDPHE	Near-term	Programmatic
4. Encourage regional and multi-purpose projects and methods by providing financial incentives such as an interest rate reduction or extended loan repayment periods.	9.2	CWCB, Water & Power Authority	Near-term	Board policy
5. Continue to provide \$1 million annually to support stream management and watershed plans.	9.2	CWCB & General Assembly (Projects Bill)	Near-term	Legislation

^a Near term is defined as occurring within three years following the finalization of Colorado’s Water Plan.

Critical Actions to Align Funding	Section	Partners	When	Type
6. Investigate the potential for the CWCB to become a project beneficiary through an arranged partnership for projects that are central to fulfilling the goals of Colorado's Water Plan.	9.2	CWCB	Mid-term ^b	Programmatic

- b. **Assess Funding:** Assess funding needs across multiple sectors using the BIPs and other resources as a guide (e.g., municipal, environmental, industrial, recreational, agricultural, conservation, education and outreach, among others).

Critical Actions to Assess Funding	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Develop a sustainable funding plan that integrates a guarantee repayment fund, green bonds, and additional support grants and loans for the Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA), education, conservation, alternative transfer methods (ATMs), and agricultural viability.	9.2	CWCB & Funding Committee	Near-term	Process
2. Assess funding needs across multiple sectors as part of SWSI, using the BIPs and other resources as a guide.	9.2	CWCB	Near-term	Programmatic
3. Determine the economic benefits and impacts of meeting or not meeting Colorado's future water needs as part of SWSI.	9.2	CWCB	Near-term	Programmatic

- c. **Explore New Funding Opportunities:** Develop near-term funding opportunities that maximize the smallest amount of funds possible to have the greatest benefit to implementing Colorado's Water Plan.

^b Mid-term is defined as occurring within six years following the finalization of Colorado's Water Plan.

Critical Actions to Explore New Funding	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. In order to support the integrated funding plan, identify and determine a path to develop a new viable public source of funding, such as through a container fee ballot initiative.	9.2	CWCB & Funding Committee	Near-term	Process, possible legislation & ballot initiative
2. Establish a state repayment guarantee fund.	9.2	CWCB & General Assembly	Near-term	Legislation
3. Develop issuance and repayment strategies needed to establish a green bond program to provide a funding source for large environmental and recreational projects.	9.2	CWCB & General Assembly (Projects Bill)	Near-term	Legislation
4. Fund a water education and outreach grant program based on basin roundtable education action plans and the initiatives indicated in Colorado's Water Plan.	9.2, 9.5	CWCB & General Assembly (Projects Bill)	Near-term	Legislation
5. Provide additional statewide account funds to the WSRA program.	9.2	CWCB & General Assembly	Near-term	Possible legislation
6. Modify Colorado's statutes to clearly allow for public private partnerships for water projects (§C.R.S. 43).	9.2	CWCB, DNR, WRRRC	Near-term	Legislation
7. Explore a tax credit for homeowners who install efficient outdoor landscapes and irrigation as part of the integrated funding plan.	9.2, 6.3.1	CWCB & Funding Committee	Mid-term	Process

II. Promote Multi-purpose Initiatives

- a. **Improve Permitting Processes:** Advocate for more effective and efficient permitting in which state agencies work together to complete their work early in the permitting process. This will provide the opportunity for state endorsement without being pre-decisional.

Critical Actions to Improve Permitting	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Conduct a series of lean events with permitting agencies and stakeholders to determine how to make permitting more efficient and effective.	9.4	CWCB (host), local, state, federal, & partners	Near-term	Process

Critical Actions to Improve Permitting	Section	Partners	When	Type
2. Create a permitting handbook to guide applicants and other interested parties through the permitting process.	9.4	State and federal permitting agencies	Near-term	Programmatic
3. Relevant state agencies will actively participate as a cooperating agency in federal NEPA permitting processes at the outset of the regulatory process to engage in scoping, developing alternatives, determining methodologies and data gaps, and developing mitigation and enhancement plans.	9.4	All state agencies w/ permitting authority on a project	Near-term	Programmatic
4. Where more than one state agency has jurisdiction over a particular issue (e.g., fish health), a lead state agency will be identified.	9.4	State agencies w/ permitting authority	Near-term	Programmatic
5. Explore options for adding resources to support a more efficient and effective permitting process.	9.4	State agencies w/ permitting authority	Near-term	Possible legislation
6. Determine how Colorado will endorse a project after preliminary or contingent 401 certifications and fish wildlife mitigation plans are completed.	9.4, 6.3.1	State agencies w/ permitting authority, local governments,	Mid-term	State policies, possible legislation

- b. **Promote Protection and Restoration of Water Quality:** The protection and restoration of water quality should be a key objective when planning for Colorado’s current and future consumptive, recreational, and environmental water needs.

Critical Actions to Address Water Quality	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Integrate water quality and quantity management by evaluating water quality impacts from BIP proposed projects and methods, exploring graywater and reuse potentials, and supporting green infrastructure.	7.3	CDPHE, CWCB, other state agencies	Mid-term	Programmatic, Board policy, Process

Critical Actions to Address Water Quality	Section	Partners	When	Type
2. Support policy initiatives which relate to quality and quantity integration, such as appropriate modification of regulation and guidance documents, creative and solution-oriented actions, and greater understanding of stormwater and wastewater impacts.	7.3, 7.2	CDPHE, CWCB, other state agencies	Mid-term	Programmatic
3. Continue and expand financial support of water quality related programming, such as nonpoint source pollution management efforts and watershed-based water quality improvement planning.	7.1, 7.2, 7.3	CDPHE, CWCB, other state agencies	Mid-term	Programmatic, Process
4. Support stakeholder and public outreach efforts to meet the integration goal, encouraging a watershed approach for engagement on water quality issues and monitoring public opinion on water quality issues.	7.3	CDPHE, CWCB, other state agencies	Mid-term	Programmatic, Process

- c. **Facilitate Alternative Transfer Methods:** Respect property rights and the contributions of the agricultural industry by maximizing options for alternatives to permanent farmland dry-up to share 50,000 acre-feet annually within the next decade.

Critical Actions to Water Sharing	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Support the maximum use of water rights by exploring opportunities to create more flexibility for various types of water transfers	6.4	CWCB, DWR, Stakeholders	Near-term	Process
2. Organize and conduct regional workshops with partners or co-sponsors to share lessons learned on actual ATM projects, and to garner additional interest in the pilot program by discussing benefits.	6.4	CWCB, partners	Near-term	Programmatic

Critical Actions to Water Sharing	Section	Partners	When	Type
3. Explore expanded grant funding that supports implementing actual ATM projects, related infrastructure, or entities that would help facilitate alternative transfer methods.	6.4	CWCB, BRTs, DWR, Stakeholders	Mid-term	Process

- d. **Meet Colorado’s Water Gaps:** Use a grassroots approach to formulate projects and methods that avoid some of the undesirable outcomes of the supply-demand gaps. The plan addresses the gap from multiple perspectives (e.g., water storage, reuse, recycling, integrated water management, restoration and conservation).

Critical Actions to Meet Water Gaps	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Support and assist the basin roundtables in moving forward the municipal, industrial, environmental and agricultural projects and methods identified in their BIPs through technical, financial and facilitation support when requested by a project proponent.	6.5, 6.6	CWCB, BRTs	Near-term	Programmatic
2. Develop guidelines for basin roundtable WSRA grants to help facilitate the implementation of the BIPs.	11	CWCB, BRTs	Near-term	Programmatic

- e. **Promote Additional Storage and Infrastructure:** Assess and promote opportunities for multi-purpose and multi-partner storage projects that address strategic needs.

Critical Actions to Promote Storage	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Provide financial support to technical and practical innovations in the use of aquifer storage and recovery where it is practicable.	6.5	CWCB	Ongoing	Programmatic
2. Assess storage opportunities to determine where existing storage can and should be expanded or rehabilitated to prepare for climate change, improve sharing and use of conserved water, and meet Colorado’s compact obligations.	6.5	CWCB, DWR, local partners	Near-term	Programmatic

Critical Actions to Promote Storage	Section	Partners	When	Type
3. Prioritize grants and loans to support the implementation of BIP identified multi-purpose projects and methods, taking into consideration locally identified geographic and/or seasonal gaps.	6.5, 6.6	CWCB, BRTs	Near-term	Funding
4. Explore and support opportunities to increase benefits to environmental and recreational values associated with existing and planned storage and infrastructure projects and methods.	6.5, 6.6	Project sponsors, CWCB, BRTs	Mid-term	Programmatic

III. Promote Vibrant and Sustainable Cities

- a. **Increase Municipal Conservation and Efficiency:** Reduce Colorado’s projected 2050 municipal water demands by 400,000 acre-feet through active conservation, while preserving the contribution of urban landscape to vibrancy and sustainability.

Critical Actions to Increase Conservation	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Require water providers to conduct comprehensive integrated water resource planning using the water conservation best practices at the high customer participation levels where possible, as defined in SWSI.	6.3.1, 9.4	CWCB, other permitting agencies, stakeholders	Near-term	Policy
2. Provide funding, technical support, and training workshops to assist water providers with managing systems more efficiently, including techniques such as water budgets, smart metering, comprehensive water loss management programs, and improved data collection.	6.3.1	CWCB, CDPHE, CWAPA, water providers, conservation professionals	Near-term	Programmatic
3. Support legislation that would require retailers to only sell irrigation technologies that meet WaterSense specifications by providing technical details on the potential savings and hosting a stakeholder process.	6.3.1	CWCB, DNR, General Assembly, stakeholders	Near-term	Process, possible legislation

Critical Actions to Increase Conservation	Section	Partners	When	Type
4. Adopt a stretch goal to encourage demand-side innovation that places Colorado at the conservation forefront. Support a stakeholder process that examines options for local water providers to establish targets consistent with the stretch goal and the amount of savings possible given past work and local opportunities.	6.3.1	CWCB, stakeholders	Near-term	Board policy, programmatic
5. Host a stakeholder process to explore financial incentives for outdoor water conservation measures, such as a tax credit program to incentivize retrofitting higher water landscapes with lower water landscapes and more efficient irrigation systems.	6.3.1, 9.2	CWCB, stakeholders	Mid-term	Process

- b. **Encourage Reuse:** Encourage the development of regional reuse solutions to maximize fully consumable water supplies.

Critical Actions to Encourage Reuse	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Conduct a technical review of regional reuse options and provide grants to support regional reuse plans and projects	6.3.2, 7.3	CWCB, water providers, reuse experts	Near-term	Programmatic
2. Examine the amount of water being reused, the potential to increase reuse, and the amount of water providers plan to reuse.	6.3.2, 7.3	CWCB, water providers, stakeholders	Near-term	Programmatic
3. Improve the regulatory environment to foster permanent growth in the reuse of limited water supplies, while protecting public health and the environment.	6.3.2, 7.3, 9.4	CDPHE, CWCB, stakeholders	Near-term	CDPHE policy, potential legislation
4. Proactively seek applicants to use WSRA grant funds for expanded research and innovation related to the technical challenges and solutions of reuse.	6.3.2	CWCB, BRTs, reuse experts, water providers	Near-term	Programmatic

- c. **Integrate Land Use and Water Planning:** Initiate the use of local land use tools, where appropriate, to reduce water demands for municipalities, and the need to urbanize agricultural lands.

Critical Actions to Integrate Land Use	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Through voluntary trainings for local governments, encourage the incorporation of best management practices in land use for water demand management, water efficiency, and water conservation.	6.3.3	CWCB, DOLA, stakeholders	Near-term	Programmatic
2. Develop new guidance to require the incorporation of land use practices into water conservation plans.	6.3.3	CWCB, DOLA	Near-term	Programmatic
3. Examine barriers in state law for integrating water and land use solutions, such as for gray water, green infrastructure, and green buildings.	6.3.3, 7.3	CWCB, DOLA, State Plumbing Board, stakeholders	Mid-term	Programmatic

IV. Address Agricultural Viability and Efficiency

- a. **Maintain Agricultural Viability:** Maintain Colorado’s agricultural productivity, support of rural economies, and food security (through meaningful incentives and grassroots efforts).

Critical Actions to Maintain Ag.	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Establish an education and assistance program for farmers and ranchers to help realize more transactions that allow for water sharing and for new Colorado farmers to own land.	6.5	CWCB, Colorado Dept. of Agriculture	Near-term	Programmatic
2. Host a stakeholder group to help develop a framework for an evaluation of agricultural transfers from a technical and legal perspective.	6.5	CWCB (host), local government, ag. producers, municipalities, environmental interests	Near-term	Process

Critical Actions to Maintain Ag.	Section	Partners	When	Type
3. Encourage ditch-wide and regional planning to explore system-wide conservation and efficiency opportunities, the potential for water sharing, and long-term infrastructure maintenance needs.	6.5, 6.3.4	CWCB, agricultural partners, BRTs	Near-term	Programmatic
4. Update and improve Colorado's aging agricultural infrastructure, especially where improvements could benefit other sectors.	6.5	CWCB, BRTs, agricultural partners, other stakeholders	Mid-term	Programmatic

- b. **Support Agricultural Conservation and Efficiency:** Support Colorado's agricultural industry to make it more efficient, resilient, and able to reduce water consumption without impacting agricultural productivity.

Critical Actions to Support Ag. Conservation and Efficiency	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Develop a strategic education program to promote agricultural water conservation and soil health initiatives.	6.3.4, 6.5	CWCB, BRTs, Colorado Energy Office, CDA, NRCS, CSU extension, ag. partners	Near-term	Programmatic
2. Provide grants, loans, and technical support to refurbish diversions and ditches to generate saved water and reduce losses where there are benefits to recreation, the environment, and other consumptive water users.	6.3.4	CWCB, ag. partners, local environmental groups, BRTs	Near-term	Programmatic
3. Develop model voluntary flow agreement language, facilitation, and technical support to encourage the use of these agreements when paired with irrigation efficiency practices.	6.3.4	CWCB, DWR, agricultural partners, environmental groups, BRTs	Near-term	Programmatic, state agency policies

Critical Actions to Support Ag. Conservation and Efficiency	Section	Partners	When	Type
4. Support the management and removal of invasive phreatophytes with a newly established grant program.	6.3.4	CWCB, local partners	Near-term	Programmatic
5. Explore the development of administrative means to track and administer agricultural conserved water for the purposes of marketing these waters.	6.3.4	DWR, CWCB	Mid-term	Process

V. Support a Strong Environment and a Robust Recreation Industry

- a. **Recover Imperiled Species:** Promote restoration, recovery, and resiliency of endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic and riparian dependent species and plant communities.

Critical Actions to Recover Imperiled Species	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Support and participate in collaborative approaches to Endangered Species Act issues to prevent listings, promote the sustainability of endangered, threatened and imperiled aquatic and riparian-dependent species and communities (e.g., recovery programs, cooperative agreements, and other efforts).	6.6	CWCB, CPW, other agencies and stakeholders	Ongoing	Programmatic
2. Establish and achieve measurable outcomes for federally and state listed endangered, threatened, and imperiled species by developing a plan that compiles and develops near-term projects and methods. At the same time, the CWCB will support the strategic implementation of currently identified projects with technical and financial assistance.	6.6	CWCB, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, BRTs, other agencies, and stakeholders	Near-term	Programmatic

- b. **Enhance Environmental and Recreational Economic Values:** Protect and enhance economic values to local and statewide economies derived from environmental and recreational water uses, such as fishing, boating, waterfowl hunting, wildlife watching, camping, and hiking.

Critical Actions to Enhance Economic Values	Section	Partners	When	Type
Develop a plan that compiles and develops near-term projects and methods to support economically important water-based recreation.	6.6	CWCB, BRTs, interested stakeholders	Mid-term	Programmatic

- c. **Protect Healthy Environments:** Understand, protect, maintain, and improve conditions of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian and wetland habitat to promote long-term resiliency.

Critical Actions to Protect Environments	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Develop stream management plans for priority streams identified in a BIP or otherwise as having environmental or recreational value. As part of this work, the CWCB will provide guidelines and templates for developing stream management plans, and will conduct ongoing analyses through SWSI.	6.6, 7.1, 9.2	CWCB, BRTs, other stakeholder groups	Beginning near-term	Programmatic
2. Institute policies, criteria, and programmatic approaches to proactively developing projects and methods that strategically address important aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats with existing programs.	6.6	CWCB, other state agencies, BRTs, other interested stakeholders	Near-term	Programmatic
3. Develop common metrics for assessing the health and resiliency of watersheds, rivers, and streams.	6.6	CWCB, CPW, other state agencies, BRTs, stakeholders	Mid-term	Programmatic

VI. Prepare for an Uncertain Future

- a. **Plan for the Future:** Coordinate and sequence updates to SWSI, the BIPs, and future iterations of Colorado’s Water Plan to represent the most up-to-date technical, stakeholder, and policy information available.

Critical Actions to Plan for the Future	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Monitor critical drivers of water supply, demand, and other stressors through future SWSI updates and other technical work.	6, 7, 8, 9	CWCB, other state agencies, BRTs	Mid-term	Programmatic
2. Support BIP updates of basin roundtable policies, public input, and project and method updates in a sequenced schedule through funding and technical support.	6.2, 6.5, 6.6, 8	CWCB, other state agencies, BRTs, IBCC, Coloradans	Mid-term	Programmatic, Board policy
3. Continue to use and promote scenario planning and the use of adaptive strategies.	6.1, 6.2	CWCB, other state agencies, BRTs, IBCC	Mid-term	Programmatic
4. Continue development of Colorado’s Decision Support Systems to be the most up-to-date and technically sound resource for data-driven planning and decision making.	6.1	CWCB, other state agencies	Mid-term	Programmatic

- b. **Protect and Restore Critical Watersheds:** Protect and restore watersheds critical to water infrastructure, environmental, or recreational areas.

Critical Actions for Watersheds	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Provide technical and financial support to local stakeholder groups to develop watershed master plans for watersheds critical to consumptive or nonconsumptive water supply and quality.	6.6, 7.1, 7.3	CPW, CDPHE, CWCB	Near-term	Programmatic
2. Prioritize and implement projects identified in master planning efforts.	6.6, 7.1	CPW, CDPHE, CWCB & local coalitions	Ongoing	Programmatic

- c. **Prepare for and Respond to Natural Disasters:** Colorado’s Water Plan promotes water resource resilience from natural disasters through strategic preparedness and response.

Critical Actions for Natural Disasters	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Provide tools and resources to actively encourage local communities to develop drought preparedness plans.	7.2	CWCB	Near-term	Programmatic
2. Implement the actions identified in the Colorado Resiliency Framework to build communities that are more resilient to natural disasters	7.2	Local communities, CWCB, Colorado Recovery & Resiliency Office	Near-term	Programmatic

- d. **Protect Compact Entitlements and Manage Risks:** Protect Colorado’s ability to fully develop compact entitlements, and continue to support agreements that strengthen Colorado’s position in interstate negotiations while ensuring the long-term viability of Colorado’s interstate compacts and relationships. Focus planning efforts on maintaining healthy systems and avoiding a Colorado River Compact deficit rather than on responding to compact curtailment.

Critical Actions to Protect Compacts and Manage Risk	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Protect the ability to fully develop Colorado’s compact entitlements by working with federal, state, and local stakeholders and maintaining the litigation fund.	8, 9.1	CWCB, AGO, DWR, downstream states, federal agencies	Ongoing	Programmatic, Board policy
2. Continue to comply with Colorado’s compacts and equitable apportionment decrees and support strategies to proactively manage compact obligations.	9.1	CWCB, AGO, DWR, downstream states, federal agencies	Ongoing	Programmatic, Board policy

Critical Actions to Protect Compacts and Manage Risk	Section	Partners	When	Type
3. Work with federal agencies to assure that their responsibilities are implemented in a way that respects Colorado's compact and decree entitlements and authorities to administer waters within the State.	9.1	CWCB, AGO, DWR, downstream states, federal agencies	Ongoing	Programmatic, Board policy
4. Monitor the ongoing conceptual framework discussion and consider adopting the conceptual framework	8	CWCB	Near-term	Board policy
5. Prioritize the development of a programmatic approach to prevent a Colorado River Compact deficit.	8, 9.1	CWCB, other Upper Division States, stakeholders	Near-term	Programmatic, policy, and funding

e. **Prepare for Climate Change:** Respond to, monitor, and prepare for climate change.

Critical Actions for Climate Change	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Promote scenario planning and the use of adaptive strategies to monitor, mitigate, prepare for and respond to climate change.	6.1	CWCB	Mid-term	Programmatic
2. Work with utilities and federal and state agencies to proactively identify and address regulatory barriers to climate preparedness and adaptation.	7.2	CWCB, CDPHE, utilities, federal and other state agencies, stakeholders	Mid-term	Process
3. Incorporate the potential effect of climate change on municipal, industrial, environmental, and agricultural projects and methods.	6.5, 6.6	CWCB, IBCC & Providers	Mid-term	Programmatic
4. Work with regulators to modify existing water quality standards to factor in climatic change.	7.3	CDPHE	Mid-term	CDPHE policy

VII. Advance Education and Outreach

Advance Education and Outreach: Inform Coloradans about water issues to encourage engagement in determining Colorado’s water future.

Critical Actions to Advance Education	Section	Partners	When	Type
1. Create a new outreach, education, and public engagement grant program to fund basin roundtable education action plans and initiatives indicated in the water plan.	9.5, 9.2	CWCB, General Assembly	Near-term	Possible legislation
2. Conduct a water education assessment to help develop a plan that addresses critical gaps in water education, advances efforts in Colorado’s Water Plan, and supports basin roundtable work.	9.5	CWCB, BRTs, education partners	Mid-term	Programmatic