

# An introduction to the Partnership Project Funding Program

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**COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT**

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937



To lead in the **protection, conservation, use and development** of the water resources of the Colorado River basin for the welfare of the District, and to safeguard for Colorado all waters of the Colorado River to which the state is entitled.







# **The Partnership Project Funding Program started at the ballot box.**

- Ballot Measure 7A
  - 72% of voters supported 7A
- Implementation plan directs 86% of funds raised to the Partnership Project Funding Program
  - About \$4.2 million available annually
- Funding starting in 2021







# Program purpose

## Partnership Funding Program

- Not a traditional grant program
- Investing in projects which further our community's resiliency amid increasing temperatures and declining flows
- Strategic focus on investments to allow the West Slope economy to adapt and thrive
- Collaborative projects with local support







# Program purpose

## Partnership Funding Program

Investments of our taxpayer dollars through:

- Grants
- Investments
- Loans



# Program purpose



## Partnership Funding Program

- Will never be sole source of funding
- Project proponents must contribute funding
- District funding is a catalyst or incubator to bring in other funds
- Multiply our taxpayer funding with state, federal and private dollars





**Productive agriculture**



**Conservation and efficiency**



**Healthy rivers**



**Watershed health and water quality**



**Infrastructure**



# **Productive agriculture projects could include:**

- **Multiple-use storage that addresses regional priorities**
- **Developing innovative and functional water leasing**
- **Suitable agriculture efficiency and conservation approaches**
- **Technical assistance and technological innovation**
- **Dedicated resources for increasing community literacy about irrigated agriculture**
- **Supporting agricultural market growth**
- **WILL NOT pay for the temporary or permanent fallowing of irrigated agriculture**





# **Infrastructure projects could include:**

- Upgrading aging infrastructure while incentivizing new storage and delivery projects that collaboratively address multiple needs
- Improved flows to meet demands, stream and watershed health, and habitat quality
- Multi-purpose projects and storage methods that are supported in the Water Plan and Basin Implementation Plans





# **Healthy rivers projects could include:**

- Those identified in stream management plans or similar projects
- Projects that support and sustain fish and wildlife, healthy aquifer conditions as they connect to healthy streams
- Economically important water-based recreation
- Wetland habitat
- Fish passage construction for new or revised water diversion structures
- Stream restoration projects
- Environmental and recreational enhancements for new or revised water supply projects





# **Watershed health and water quality projects could include:**

- **Projects identified in collaborative and science-based watershed management plans that reduce the risk from and increase resilience to fires and/or floods, rehabilitate streams, or make landscapes resilient to climate change**
- **Science-based mechanical forest treatments and prescribed fire**
- **Projects that address drinking water quality for under-resourced communities**
- **Projects that address pollutants such as selenium, salts, and others, as well as mine remediation activities**



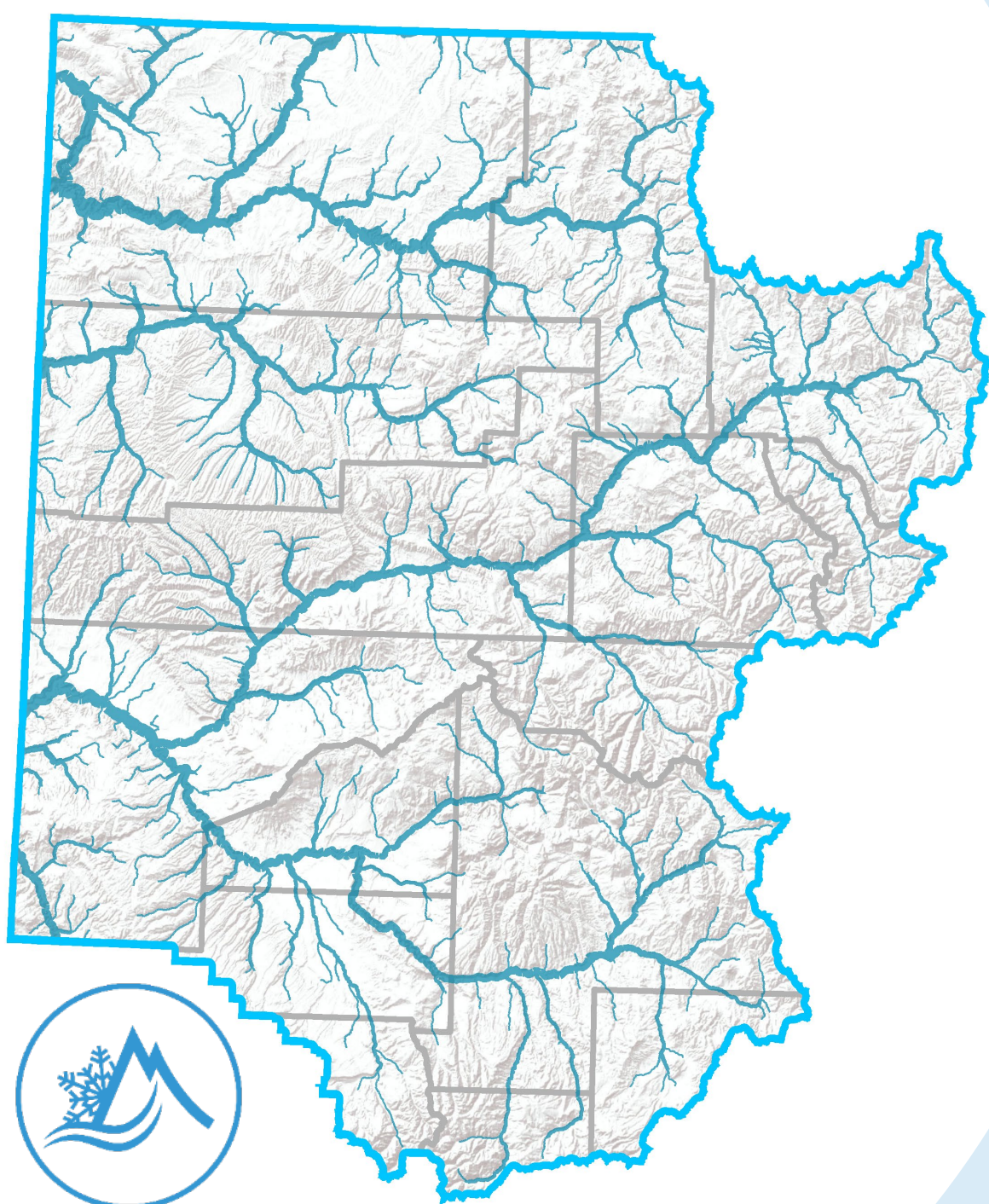


# **Conservation and efficiency projects could include:**

- **Supporting agricultural water infrastructure that increases reliability and efficiency**
- **Municipal and industrial projects that promote efficiency, water conservation, green infrastructure, and outdoor landscaping to reduce consumptive use**
- **Increased leak detection for infrastructure repair and replacement**
- **Assisting communities with water-smart community development and water conservation programs**
- **Targeting smaller, fast-growing, and communities with older infrastructure with strategic, incentive-based investments**







# **Geographic equity over time**

Equity in geographic distribution: Funding projects across the Western Slope





# **Approximately equal funding over time**

- Commitment to fund project categories equally over time
- Funding award for every project will be allocated among the categories
- Funding will be tracked
- Five-year running average





# What we're looking for:

- Alignment with Colorado River District's mission and Board policies
- Multi-benefit projects
- Collaborative projects with local support
- Alignment with project categories
- Project proponent contributions
- Leverage of District funds





# Application process





# PARTNERSHIP PROJECT FUNDING PROGRAM

[HOME](#) » [PARTNERSHIP PROJECT FUNDING PROGRAM](#)

## Program Overview

The Colorado River District's Partnership Projects Funding Program was created in 2021 to fund multi-purpose water projects on the Western Slope in five project categories: productive agriculture, infrastructure, healthy rivers, watershed health and water quality, and conservation and efficiency. Funding for the program was approved by Western Colorado voters as part of ballot question **7A in November 2020**. These funds provide a catalyst for projects that are priorities for residents in the District to receive matching funds from state, federal and private sources.



## RECENT NEWS



**CRWCD News Drop 02/08**

*February 8, 2021*



**CRWCD News Drop 02/04**

*February 4, 2021*



**Learn more about the Colorado River District's Partnership Project Funding Program at upcoming webinar**

*February 4, 2021*



**CRWCD News Drop 02/01**

*February 1, 2021*



**2021 State and Federal Policy Updates: State legislature faces COVID**



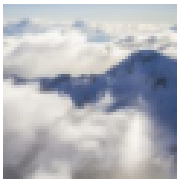
Who can apply?	▼
<p>A project proponent within the District's 15-county boundaries is eligible to apply for the Partnership Project Funding Program. Project proponents include stakeholders such as individuals, local governments, corporations, private entities such as mutual ditch companies, non-profit corporations, and partnerships. Completed projects are not eligible for the Partnership Project Funding Program.</p>	
What types of projects qualify for funding?	>
Application process	>
Application deadlines	>

The Partnership Project Funding Program is a rolling program, and therefore, applications and requests for partnership funding can be submitted at any time. Applicants should anticipate four to six weeks for internal applications review, analysis and funding recommendation, contingent upon receiving a complete application.

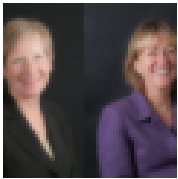
For funding requests that require Board approval, a completed application and all supporting materials must be submitted no later than six weeks prior to the next regularly scheduled District Board meeting. The River District’s regularly scheduled quarterly meetings fall on the third Tuesday of January, April, July, and October.



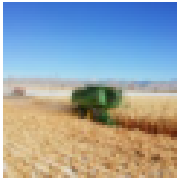
**Western Water programs**  
*January 26, 2021*



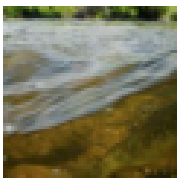
**Stopgap funding approved for cloud seeding program**  
*January 26, 2021*



**Board makes history in officer elections; adds two new members**  
*January 26, 2021*



**Recent Reports Highlight Wall Street’s Renewed Interest in West Slope Water**  
*January 26, 2021*



**Colorado River District launches Partnership Project Funding Program**  
*January 26, 2021*



**Brendon Langenhuizen Joins River District Team**  
*January 26, 2021*





# Application review



- Pre-application consultation
- Submit applications by e-mail to [partnerfunding@crwcd.org](mailto:partnerfunding@crwcd.org)
- Colorado River District review
- Approval or rejection
  - Funding requests <\$50,000 can be reviewed by general manager.
  - Larger funding requests will go before the Board of Directors.





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**@ColoradoWater**



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