Incorporating Land Use Practices into Water Efficiency Plans
Introduction to the Water and Land Use Guidance Addendum
Addendum to 2012 Guidance
Why?

- Water Conservation Act requires filing of water efficiency plans, every 7 years

- Plans must now include a full evaluation of “best management practices for water demand management, water efficiency, and water conservation that may be implemented through land use planning efforts”
Goal of Guidance

• Assist water providers in evaluating land use practices best suited to them

• Help meet Water Plan measurable objective:
  • By 2025, 75% of Coloradans will live in communities that have incorporated water-saving actions into land-use planning
Multiple Benefits

• Initial configuration of development influences future water demand
  • “Water Smart from the Start”

• Another tool in the toolbox for dealing with increased demand and limited supplies

• Enhanced ability to absorb growth and increase resilience
Format & Using the Guidance Addendum
Best Practices for Implementing Water Conservation Through Land Use Efforts

- Foundational Activities
- Targeted Technical Assistance and Incentives
- Ordinances and Regulations
- Education Activities
Case Study: City of Monte Vista

Even small municipalities can thoroughly integrate their water and land use planning activities. In Monte Vista, population 4,500, the senior management team, including the heads of the Public Works and Community Development Departments, meets once or twice a month to discuss new developments and think through “what if” scenarios including water impacts.

Projects:
• Jointly review annexations
• Jointly write the WEP
• Xeriscape demonstration garden
• Outdoor watering restrictions
What we heard from Tuesday’s Workshop
Participant Goals

• Linking land use planning to water was a concern in the Colorado River Basin Implementation Plan

• How to apply guidance to growth patterns on west slope

• Interest in how planning can work better with domestic and agricultural providers
Participant Goals

• Integration of water into comprehensive planning
• Continuing conversations with more guidance, tools and resources
• Learning from other communities and organizations
• Looking for optimism that local government can manage use of our resources enough to avoid our depletion of our water resources
Workshop Takeaways

• Leading by example
• Consistency of information
• Supply, delivery type and use impact incentives for conservation
• Headwaters communities have different values and drivers, including stream health
Workshop Takeaways

• Need a champion

• Need to institutionalize water and land use integration
Needed Steps

• Making sure infrastructure is available to that parcel that will support the growth

• Development review process needs triggers for water provider review if project (and water use) changes substantially
Challenges

• Incentives for efficiency when have sufficient water supply and haven’t seen calls on the river in years?

• Maintaining economics of resort communities with an expectation for an reliance on turf grass

• Where to focus the energy? New vs. existing development
Opportunities

- Incentivizing developers: guide has good references
- Regionalization of education and incentives may provide greatest benefit over cost
Links

CWCB – Water Efficiency Planning
http://cwcb.state.co.us/technical-resources/water-conservation-plan-development-guide/Pages/main.aspx

Colorado Water Plan
https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cowaterplan

Water Efficiency Grant Program
http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-efficiency-grants/Pages/main.aspx

Colorado Water Plan Grants
http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/Colorados-Water-Plan-Grants/Pages/main.aspx
THANK YOU!