
Memorandum

To: HANNAH HOLM
From: RYAN SHEPLER
Subject: UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN FORUM ABSTRACT
Date: JUNE 29, 2018

Title: The Cost of Municipal Conservation: Are Municipal Utilities and Environmental Organizations Being Cost-Effective in their Conservation Implementation?

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Preferred Format: Workshop

Abstract: Municipal water conservation is often discussed as an effective way to help meet the growing supply gap throughout Colorado. Our analysis evaluates the cost of different conservation programs that have taken place in Colorado, and the resulting water savings from each program evaluated. Benefits considered within the analysis include the decrease in per capita water consumption, along with other financial benefits such as avoided operation and maintenance costs. The analysis then uses relevant transaction data from Waterlitix, the largest and most comprehensive database of water rights price and sales information, to summarize the price of purchasing water for municipal and environmental uses in the regions where the conservation programs have been conducted. The analysis then compares the findings and assesses the costs and benefits of meeting municipal and environmental water supply goals through both conservation, and through water transfers.

