

1 - Welcome and Overview

Purpose

Welcome to the open house. Please sign in and make yourself a name tag.

While not a utility service provider, Larimer County is taking foundational steps on their strategic goals to improve long-term planning for water supply in unincorporated areas, to promote water-sharing strategies to preserve agriculture and sustain water supplies, and to prepare responsive land use policies.

This open house is an opportunity for you to learn and provide input on the County's goals. We need your help to define the vision and goals for future regional water planning work.

Open House Stations

Please progress through the open house stations at your own pace. The stations are organized around these topics:

2. Learning about the Regional Water Existing Conditions Report
3. Identifying Water-Related Regional Efforts
4. Sharing a Vision and Goals for Regional Water Planning
5. Exploring Larimer County's Role in Regional Water Issues

Online Engagement

Read the regional water existing conditions report:
<https://www.larimer.org/planning/water>

Complete the Online Survey:



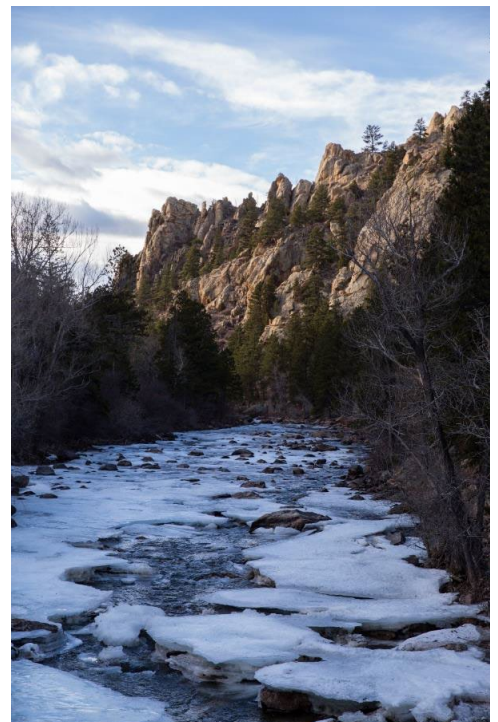
Larimer County 2019-2023 Strategic Plan's Water-Related Goals

*Goal 1,
Objective 3*

*Goal 1,
Objective 4*

Improve long-term planning for water supply in unincorporated areas

Promote water-sharing strategies to preserve agriculture and sustain water supplies



2 – What is in the Regional Existing Conditions Report?

Summary of Contents

- Larimer County Growth Forecast
- Larimer County Water Profile
 - Where does our water come from?
 - How is the water used?
 - How much water are we diverting?
 - What is happening to agricultural land?
 - Who provides water?
 - Are our water supplies sufficient and reliable for current and future needs?
 - Summary of key water risks and vulnerabilities



Water and Growth in Larimer County: By the Numbers

Water Providers	Population Growth	Water Supplies & Diversions
<p>124 Centralized public water systems that provide safe drinking water to residents and businesses</p>	<p>56% Projected growth in total population from 2017 to 2040</p>	<p>43% Water supplies that originate from the Colorado River</p>
<p>385,559 People in and around Larimer County served by centralized public water systems in 2020</p>	<p>343,853 Total population in 2017</p>	<p>57% Water supplies that originate from local watersheds and aquifers</p>
<p>13,090 Water wells</p>	<p>535,756 Projected total population in 2040</p>	<p>228% Increase in water diversions between 1980 and 2020</p>
<p>10,589 Homes reliant on groundwater wells</p>	<p>12% Projected growth in unincorporated areas from 2017 to 2040</p>	<p>308 Structures actively diverting water in 2020</p>

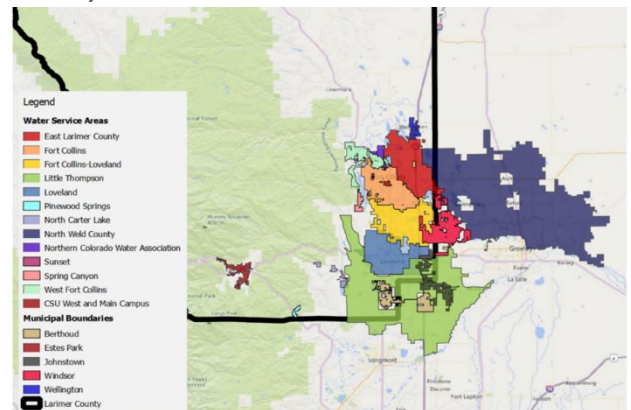
Feedback?



Complete the Online Survey:



Community Water Systems Serving Larimer County



3 – What else is happening in the region related to water?

Sharing and Connecting

There are many water-related projects, policies, programs, and initiatives happening across the northern Colorado region. Sharing information about existing and planned efforts can help increase alignment across jurisdictions and organizations. Better connections between efforts could help improve long-term water supply in unincorporated areas, inform water-sharing strategies to preserve agriculture and sustain water supplies, and shape responsive policies for land use, environmental protection, and more.

What water-related efforts are you working on or involved with in Larimer County?

	Completed	In the Works	On the Horizon
County-led efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larimer County Hazard Mitigation Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Smart Larimer County Larimer County Internal Sustainability/Climate Plan Red Feather Lakes Water & Wastewater Feasibility Study 	
Cooperative Partnerships		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estes Park & Estes Valley Comprehensive Plan Update Cameron Peak Fire Area Recovery Ag-Muni water-sharing and land conservation pilots Cameron Peak Fire Recovery Instream flow rights Demonstration landscapes at the Ranch Extension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larimer County Unspecified IPP Agricultural Transfers Larimer County Augmentation Plan Larimer County Unspecified IPP Grow Into Existing Supply
Led by others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fort Collins CBT, Ag Water Rights Acquisition, & Annexation Dedication Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Foundation Regional Water Strat Op Fort Collins Water Resources Matter Study CPW Evaluation of post flood fish passage Greeley Non-Potable System Expansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) Windy Gap Firing Project Halligan Water Supply Project Milton Seaman Reservoir Enlargement Thornton pipeline Estes Park CBT Transfer Loveland CBT & Ag Water Rights Acquisition Loveland Ag Transfer Water Rights Dedication Policy Loveland Grow Into Existing Supply FCLWD CBT, Ag Water Rights Acquisition, & Annexation Dedication Policy ELCO Water District CBT, Ag Water Rights Acquisition, & Annexation Dedication Policy Timnath Diversion Fish Passage Wellington SWA Wetlands - Planning & Restoration CPW Post project remediation of riparian habitat at temporary barriers and road obliteration Greeley Interruptible Supply Agreements USFS and CPW Poudre Headwaters Greenback Restoration Project Colorado Water Trust Poudre River Instream Flows

Feedback?



Complete the Online Survey:



4 – What are your vision and goals for regional water planning?

Exploring a Regional Vision and Goals

Larimer County is not a utility service provider, nor is it looking to become one. However, with ongoing regional growth and development activity, prolonged drought, and complex water supply and infrastructure conditions, regional water matters are increasingly important issues in the County.

The **vision** will express a shared intention and:

- Embody an ideal that the County will work toward
- Reflect Larimer County’s unique voice and community
- Provide a clear concept that will be used as a focusing tool

Well-defined **goals** are:

- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Realistic
- Time-bound

What vision and goal concepts would you like to see incorporated into regional water planning?

Vision Concepts

Goal Concepts

Feedback?



Complete the Online Survey:



5 – What should the County focus on?

Exploring Larimer County’s Water Role

Though not a water provider, there are many potential roles for the County to play in regional water issues, including leveraging regulatory and policy tools, adopting plans and managing programs, leading and supporting projects, directing funding and incentives, convening and collaborating with stakeholders and partners, and facilitating data and monitoring efforts.

In your opinion, what roles should Larimer County play in regional water matters?

Rules & Policies

Plans & Programs

Projects

Funding & Incentives

Convening & Collaboration

Data & Monitoring

Other Ideas

Feedback?



Complete the Online Survey:



Compiled Input from Open House on May 11, 2022

Station 2 – What is in the Regional Existing Conditions Report?

- Ag – More storage to up retail
- Water quality /H2O
- Drought/fire
- Reduction in rental water
- Ashy H2O can be filled by Ag
- Water cows/feed lots/mountain view – Change from potable to non-potable/have to dechlorinate
- Reuse vs consumptive use
- Encourage dense developments in growth area for water use efficiency
- Work with DNR on water supply adequacy
- Avoid patch work of WSA
- At least build up
- Wastewater districts a lot more but potential for additional over up
- Losing ag not only to irrigation but also buy and dry
- County limited by state and federal guidelines.
- Small vs. big districts distinction between the two
- Standards
- Land Use planning with the County
- Consolidation of regional water providers to lead to improve planning
- Fire/suppression and sprinkler
- Alignment for building codes
- The County could ease local voter challenges by easing 1041 regulations on local water providers
- Greeley – Terry Ranch – 1.2 mileage
- County gets rec benefits with storage
- Balancing storage with env flows
- Ag economy plus local food benefits
- Ag as open space/monoculture vs. valued /low value crops – articulate value
- C-BT risk and exploring alternative water supplies
- Metro district/permit – CDPHE regs look at financials
- Importance of NISP and storage to supplying future demands
- Water rental programs to ag
- Limited water sources to diversify
- Present to Planning Commission
- Convene the providers
- Expand to include wastewater and stormwater
- Convener of regional water conservations

- Community foundation more muni focused than uninc
- Hartford homes/Patrick McMeekan developer and knows H2O/get a developer representation
- Centerra developer
- Brian Zick – Boxelder WW
- Water taps/meter oversized
- County leader in open space and sustain Ag
- Report – make clear measurement is driving
- County acknowledge land use plan drives demands
- Support pipeline/permit to supply demands
- Land use and water resource planning are interrelated
- Supply and infrastructure
- How to stabilize/water issues - buffer from democratic process/council challenges
- Water district governance lacks recourse less strategic, more tactical
- Disconnect between infrastructure and development land use density
- Have district board answerable to County or at least convene/talk
- Water providers not taking more water out of the river, shift of use
- Districts don't care if they grow
- Staff can use ELCO as resource – not much development in unincorporated Larimer
- WSR and development tend to go in phases
- Think curtailment risk is low 60/70 CBT 40/30 native
- Vote for more storage or up carryover

3 – What else is happening in the region related to water?

- Outreach to under-served communities for their thoughts on impact

4 – What are your vision and goals for regional water planning?

- Water Storage – smaller scale project supports (less reg/more collab)
- Coordinate regional water matters (like Arapahoe and Douglas counties)
- Looking at alternative water supplies
- Need regional planning and projects
- Check out
- Poudre open water foundation
- Poudre Basin Information
- Start the conversations
- Water districts share info and aid in regional comp planning
- Convene water providers to enable more cooperation
- Development standards
- Irrigation landscape
- Designing water infrastructure for future climate (inside of current)
- Down snowpack

- Water Banking
- Education and standards for new development (water-wise landscaping)
- Through researching best practices, collaboration and land use polices, promote alternatives to water-intensive development and uses
- Use less water efficiently
- Look and feel of new development and existing development (turf rebate legislative)
- Stop basing all decisions (planning) on the demographic's projections. Decide what kind of a community/county you want and what are the natural resources constraints and plan accordingly thru avoiding the "don't tell people where they can live argument". Water is limited. If your vision includes protecting Ag, it is very limited.

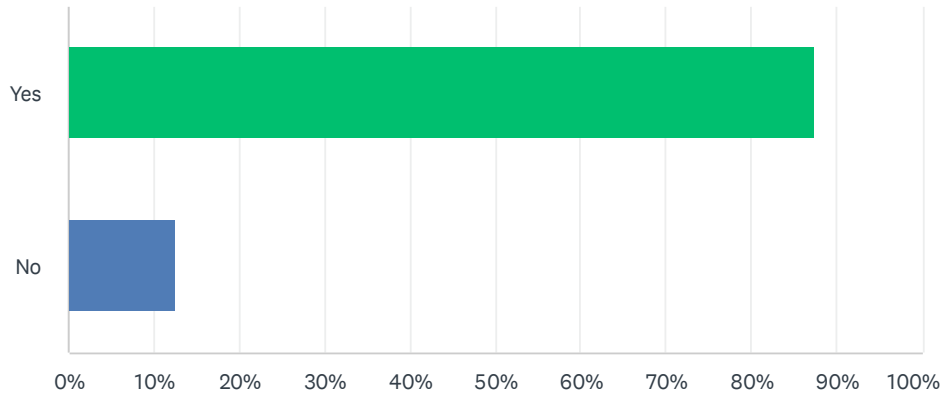
5 – What should the County focus on?

- Consolidate Water and sanitation districts
- Manage Sprawl – water and sewer mains provided by special districts should first be approved by county for compliance with municipal comp. plans otherwise, special districts become sprawl machines.
- Conservation Incentives
- Regarding 1041; try to make smaller water projects easier to complete (without hurting the purpose) Want to promote ideas for solutions
- Currently 1041 written with a discouraging number of requirements loops.
- Want to encourage water projects.
- Already have Federal, State, and Bureau permits.
- Consider where the city has a policy role to set standards: 1 For water and energy efficiency of new development. What should the look and feel of new landscaping be like? 2. The need to retrofit for non-functional turf =D scope the potential for it and engage in the how to and funding.
- Larimer County representation on South Platte Basin Roundtable – for both municipal and environmental representatives.
- Store water in B dams
 - Disagree – The infrastructure needed 50 years from now is not the same form of water management that we have today.
- Support NISP
- Consider the breath of policy options – 1. Voluntary, 2. Or perhaps a phased approach that start with one and ends with three, 3. Mandatory
- Focus quality and quantity
- Water Bank
- Water Asset Mapping
- Do not reinvent the wheel: many organizations are involved in LV planning/Water supply planning: a. Inventory who is doing what, what initiatives are underway and how the city can support. 2. Engage in the reginal conversations (including Weld County)
- Support open data and monitoring data and science – driven decision

- Regional Coordination and Convening
- Eliminate Non-essential turf (i.e. grass turf on medians)
- Consider cross media (air)
- Impacts when making decisions
- Consider development of supportive programs that align with policy goals (i.e. turf rebate programs – partnering with Northern Water to extend the reach of their water efficiency programing).
- Be a leader in supporting open space, sustainable agriculture, and regional planning.

Q1 Do you live or work in Larimer County?

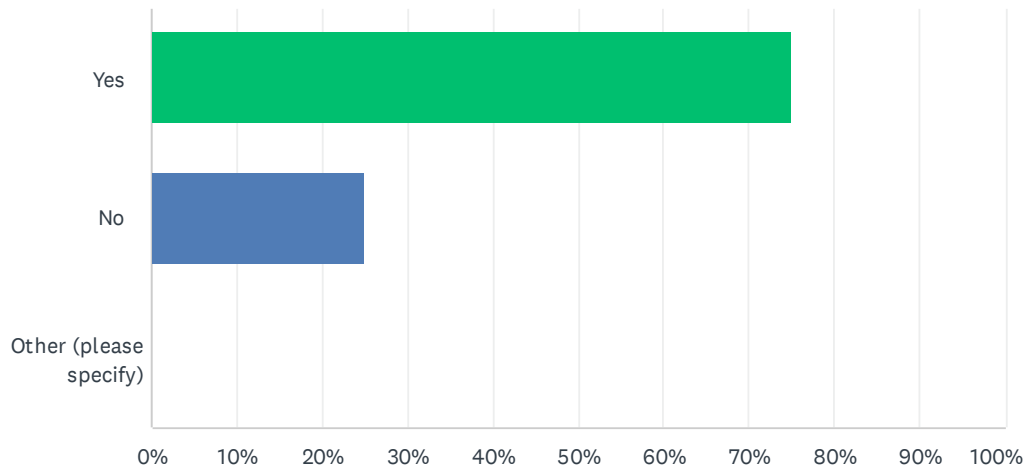
Answered: 8 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	87.50%	7
No	12.50%	1
TOTAL		8

Q2 Do you consider yourself a water professional?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 0

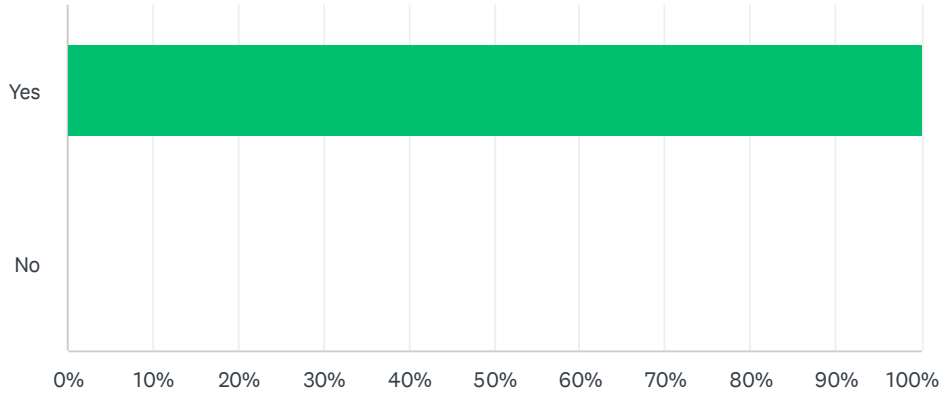


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	75.00% 6
No	25.00% 2
Other (please specify)	0.00% 0
TOTAL	8

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q3 Did you read the regional water existing conditions report for this project?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	8
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		8

Q4 What comments do you have on the regional water existing conditions report?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I think it is important to have the entire region summed up in one place, had not seen that before. A lot of it was from a 3,000 ft view, wouldn't mind to see narrowed down on specifics in the future.	5/17/2022 7:38 AM
2	Accounting for the water use of the 4+ million visitors to Rocky Mountain National Park should be included.	5/11/2022 9:35 AM
3	1. No one ever talks about a possible failure of the CBT system. Is it a mistake to assume there will never be a failure of the system to transport and deliver water to the Front Range? 2. I do not see Water Association of the Rockies mentioned in the report. What happens if Fort Morgan ends the lease? https://waterassnrockies.com/ 3. Many reservoir storage rights don't include the beneficial use of keeping wildlife alive. Can this beneficial use be implemented county-wide without each reservoir company applying for their own decree? 4. Less and less irrigation means fewer people interested in serving on ditch and reservoir boards and taking jobs as ditch riders. What happens when expertise and history are lost due to mounting municipal use?	5/3/2022 11:01 AM
4	My biggest concern is we are not looking far enough into the future. I do not think we can store our way out this issue. Water is a finite resource and we know that the last century was a wet one in the long term picture.	5/2/2022 7:53 AM
5	Re this statement: "Agricultural water rights continue to be converted to municipal water rights, diminishing agricultural lands. While water-sharing pilot projects are occurring, water sharing efforts are needed on a larger scale to overcome buy-and-dry." Water sharing projects - beginning with the ATM on the former Malchow property - seem like a good idea, and certainly are, if that is the only alternative to buy & dry, but the best solution is for ag water rights to run with ag land. If our county - and state - doesn't make water-rich ag land a priority, we are going to lose even more farming. Although fewer of younger generations are staying or returning to the land, bad water policies do not need to exacerbate that. On these water issues the Water Study folks would be well served to work with the ag community, the Ag Advisory Board and the Open Lands Advisory Board.	5/1/2022 11:48 AM
6	1) NISP is not a capital project for ELCO. ELCO is not a NISP participant. 2) It would be helpful to discuss local permitting requirements (Larimer County, Fort Collins) and how those affect and potentially encumber regional water projects.	4/29/2022 9:36 AM

Q5 What other regional water efforts should the county know about?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 6

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Collaboration between municipal and ag is the key, open communication between both important sectors and how to share water. Cities need to prepare for future I get that, but also renting out water to industries is important every year, can't damage everyone one year hoping for the next. Sometimes it will just be hard	5/17/2022 7:38 AM
2	We have to look beyond political boundaries for both water supply, drainage /floodplain design and wastewater treatment and collections	5/2/2022 7:53 AM

Q6 What are your vision and goals for water planning in the region?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I hope there is more water storage. After looking at other communities in CO and other it comes down to how big of a bucket you can utilize. You would feel more safe using more water if you had more water stored.	5/17/2022 7:38 AM
2	Realistic expectation setting for the sustainability of agriculture and continued population growth	5/11/2022 9:35 AM
3	Unsure	5/3/2022 11:01 AM
4	We need to look longer into the future and educate everyone about conserving because we live in a high altitude desert. If education does not work then we move to legislation but that is a last resort	5/2/2022 7:53 AM
5	See #4	5/1/2022 11:48 AM
6	Collaboration, coordination, and understanding between water providers and permitting agencies can really help these processes perform better.	4/29/2022 9:36 AM

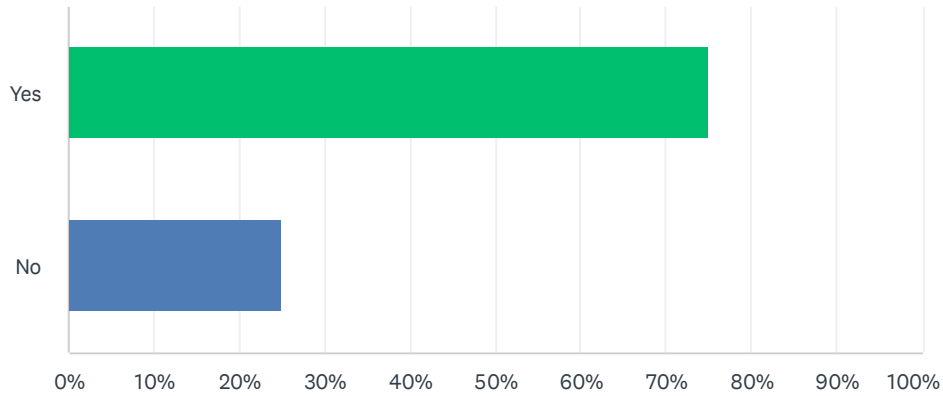
Q7 What role should Larimer County play in regional water issues?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 3

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Since they don't own water, simply fostering an environment where they look at new water projects with an open mind and as solutions. It will take a lot of little solutions to fix this big problem. The county can help encourage solutions by having reasonable steps to follow, not long hard government paperwork/regulations.	5/17/2022 7:38 AM
2	Convener and land use policy guidance	5/11/2022 9:35 AM
3	No one entity helps people with water issues outside of city GMAs. Everyone or every system is left to fend for themselves. Can the County help? I'm not sure.	5/3/2022 11:01 AM
4	Bringing all the players to the table like you are doing now	5/2/2022 7:53 AM
5	See #4	5/1/2022 11:48 AM

Q8 Do you want to be informed about future work the County does related to water?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	75.00% 6
No	25.00% 2
TOTAL	8

#	IF YES, PLEASE SHARE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS:	DATE
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Q9 Do you have any other input or comments on regional water issues?

Answered: 3 Skipped: 5

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	We have reason to be optimistic!	5/17/2022 7:38 AM
2	thanks for doing this	5/2/2022 7:53 AM
3	Thanks!	5/1/2022 11:48 AM