



CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S
MASTER PLAN TO INCLUDE POLICIES TO IMPLEMENT STATE WATER
PLAN GOALS AS A CONDITION OF DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS.

Bill Summary: HB20-1095 authorizes a local government master plan to include goals specified in the state water plan and to include policies that condition development approvals on implementation of those goals.

WATER CONSERVATION IS ESSENTIAL

Water is a necessary resource to support communities and sustain development in Colorado and is limited in availability. APA Colorado supports inclusion of a water element in local master plans, ~~LRUGHUR~~ improve local jurisdictions' ability to support growth and their economy. Linking land use planning with water planning will better facilitate and enable communities to meet their goals of developing projects sustainably, resulting in connected state and local efforts for water planning and conservation, and ultimately continued implementation of the Colorado Water Plan.

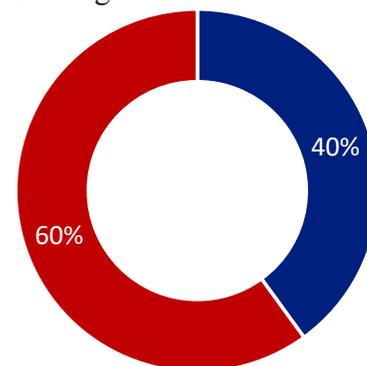
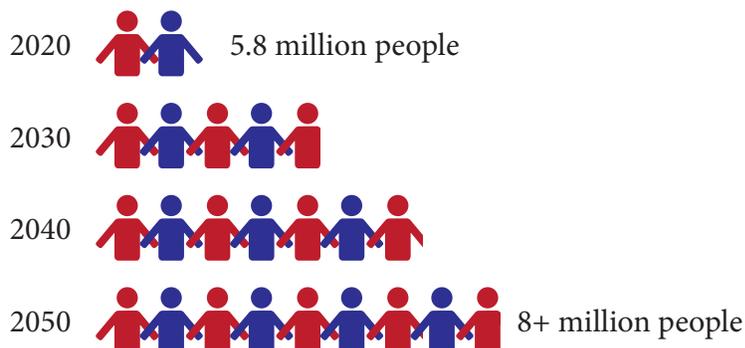
The Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association Supports HB 20-1095 regarding the authority of a local government's master plan to include policies to implement the state water plan goals as a condition of development approvals for the following reasons:

- **Support Communities:** HB20-1095 will support communities in their role of ensuring the long-term health of Colorado's economy, environment, industry, and quality of life.
- **Colorado Water Plan:** Colorado's Water Plan includes the following objective: "By 2025, 75 percent of Coloradans will live in communities that have incorporated water-saving actions into land-use planning." Incorporating water conservation policies into master plans (visionary, comprehensive land use plans prepared by communities), as proposed in HB20-1095, will assist in achieving this objective.
- **Complementary Effort:** There have been a variety of significant efforts by cities, towns, counties, Colorado Water Conservation Board and Department of Local Affairs to advance water conservation and water planning. HB20-1095 is not a stand-alone solution, but rather, is a complimentary effort to include water conservation and water planning guidance in the county and municipal master plan statutes.
- **Population Growth:** The State Demographer is projecting that the Colorado population will increase by nearly 40% in the next 30 years. The time to better coordinate land use with water planning is now.
- **Local Control:** HB20-1095 follows the tradition of local control in Colorado. It facilitates counties and municipalities inclusion of water conservation and water planning goals in their master plans and encourages a comprehensive approach to long-term planning. The nature and extent of those goals are determined by each local jurisdiction as they deem appropriate.
- **Master Plan Updates:** Master Plans are generally updated every 5-10 years. The intent of this legislation is to promote awareness and consideration of water planning as a component of master plans to better coordinate land use with water planning over the next 10 years. Additionally, this legislation will provide educational tools and technical resources to local governments to assist in their coordination of water and land use planning efforts.

FACTS & FIGURES

The Challenge

Our population, currently 5.8 million, is projected to increase to over 8 million by 2050¹. However, the majority of communities do not plan for water in coordination with their plans for growth.



- Water Element
- No Water Element

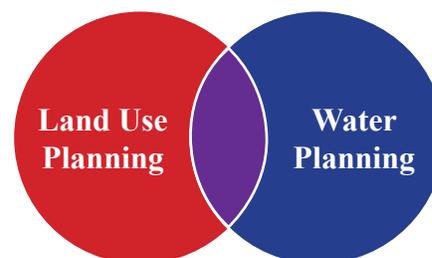
The Babbitt Center for Land and Water policy reviewed 200 master plans in Colorado (i.e. all plans available online from all 333 municipalities and counties). Preliminary findings² indicate that only 40% had a section dedicated to water policy or management.

The Opportunity

Master plans, which are long-range plans that reflect the goals and aspirations for a municipality or county's development, are a key opportunity to better align local water and land use planning processes.

The Solution

Master plans should include planning for water. With integrated water planning in master plans Colorado will be better prepared to prosper in spite of limited water supplies, while leaving the control and decision making power in the hands of the local communities.



¹Population Totals for Colorado and Sub-State Regions, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, State Demography Office. Accessed Jan 2020. <https://bit.ly/304Rd1e>

²"Review of Comprehensive Plans in Colorado: Preliminary Findings." October 2019. Babbitt Center for Water & Land Policy. Phoenix, AZ. (for more information visit: bit.ly/water-in-comp-plans)

Note: The terms master plan and comprehensive plan are interchangeable as they are functionally the same

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APA Colorado: APA Colorado, an organization of approximately 1,500 members statewide, represents the planning profession in Colorado. It is the Colorado Chapter of the 40,000 member national American Planning Association. Our mission is to provide leadership and advocate for excellence in planning and public policy, promoting professional development, and providing education and citizen empowerment for those who are working to protect and enhance the natural and built environment. The APA Colorado membership has consistently identified water planning as an important planning topic, and among the top three planning topics over the last five years.