

# EL PASO

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# COUNTY

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PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
CRAIG DOSSEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**TO: El Paso County Planning Commission**  
**Jim Egbert, Chair**

**FROM: Craig Dossey, Executive Director**  
**Mark Gebhart, Deputy Director**

**RE: MP-18-001 -- Adoption of a Water Master Plan as an element of the**  
**County Master Plan**

**Commissioner District: All**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| First Planning Commission Hearing Date:     | 12/04/2018 |
| Second Planning Commission Hearing Date:    | 12/18/2018 |
| Board of County Commissioners Hearing Date: | N/A        |

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The El Paso County Planning and Community Development Department requests adoption of a Water Master Plan as an element of the El Paso County Master Plan. The Water Master Plan and associated maps are a long-range water plan for El Paso County. The planning area includes all land within El Paso County located outside the incorporated boundaries of the various municipalities.

This is the second of two Planning Commission hearings scheduled for this item. The first public hearing occurred on December 18, 2018. A copy of the draft Water Master Plan has been available since November 6, 2018, on the County's website:

<https://epcdevplanreview.com/Public/ProjectDetails/110995>

### A. REQUEST/AUTHORIZATION

**Request:** Adoption of the Water Master Plan (PCD file no: MP-18-001).

### B. EFFECT OF APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER PLAN

Colorado Revised Statute § 30-28-106 et. seq. provides that it is the duty of the Planning Commission to make and adopt the County Master Plan. The Statute requires careful studies to be made prior to plan adoption.

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If adopted by the Planning Commission, the Water Master Plan will amend the El Paso County Master Plan, for this specific topical element (water planning) of the County. The County Master Plan presently consists of the Policy Plan and a total of approximately 50 small area plans, topical elements, sketch plans, drainage basin plans, and other documents and maps.

The County Master Plan is legally considered to be advisory only. The review criteria for many of the land use applications processed by the Planning and Community Development Department include a requirement that the application be in general conformance with the El Paso County Master Plan.

**C. APPLICABLE RESOLUTIONS**

|             |        |
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| Approval    | Page 3 |
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**D. GENERAL LOCATION**

The planning area of the Water Master Plan encompasses all of the unincorporated areas of El Paso County.

**E. BACKGROUND**

El Paso County initiated this master plan process in 2017 in an effort to better understand the present and projected future conditions of water supply and demand. The intent is to create a comprehensive plan that would be considered during the development review process and, through that process, would have the effect of encouraging best management practices for water demand management, water efficiency, and water conservation. Ultimately, the objective in developing the Plan is to help ensure that all existing residents have a reliable water supply and that all new development in the County be appropriately considered within the context of water supply at an earlier stage of the overall development process. This is important in the review of development proposals considering that the County is not a water provider, but requires coordination with the applicable water provider(s). The Plan will also provide guidance in the review of 1041 and utility permit applications and may assist in the implementation of locally applicable aspects of Colorado's Water Plan (2015).

The Water Master Plan would be a topical element to the El Paso County Master Plan, similar to other topical elements (e.g., El Paso County Major Transportation Corridors Plan, etc.). Efforts to update the overall El Paso County Master Plan are presently underway.

The Water Master Plan includes seven (7) chapters devoted to understanding water supplies, identifying available supplies and needs, and closing the gap for the future based upon population projections. A steering committee of wide

interests was engaged throughout the process and provided excellent assistance in developing and presenting various components of the Plan.

Background information was developed through a survey regarding the 50+ water providers operating within the County, including cities, special districts, private water suppliers, and small developers. Through the public involvement process a web based online survey was developed (MetroQuest) to identify the public's interest and involvement in water supply matters. The survey was advertised in a number of locations including online postings at the County and various water districts, notices to customers, announcements at public meetings (Planning Commission, Board of County Commissioners, water districts, community groups, and development groups). 374 independent responses were provided and over 1000 viewers visited the website. In addition, staff provided updates to the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners throughout the drafting process. After completion of a draft of the Plan, a public open house was held where input was provided by those in attendance. Approximately 60 members of the public engaged with staff and steering committee members in face-to-face dialogue at each of the open house-style stations. The review agencies and members of the public have been invited to review and comment on the draft Plan via the online development review process (EDARP) and at hearing(s). The El Paso County Public Information Office also posted a video on the County's main page in an effort to provide additional notice to the public of the County's development of the Plan and as an additional means of providing notification of the date, time, and location of the associated open house event.

Developing an understanding of what existing water supplies are available on a provider-by-provider basis required making contact with each of the various water providers, but also required identifying where additional population growth would occur and to quantify projected future water supply demands. The future water supply demand for the overall County are projected to be in excess of available water supplies. The difference between the available supplies and the projected demand is considered to be the "gap", which is discussed in greater detail in this Plan as well as Colorado's Water Plan. Identifying ways to close the "gap" is a desired outcome of this planning process.

The Plan identifies practices for improving water efficiency and provides specific implementation measures such as modifications to landscaping standards and implementation of water reuse. Regional water supply plans that have been developed by various providers have been recognized within the Plan, including many of the recommendations of those plans for achieving renewable water supplies through creating incentives and via potential regulatory modifications. If this Water Master Plan is adopted by the Planning Commission as an element of the County Master Plan, then all future land use and 1041 Permit applications that are reviewed for consistency or general conformance with the County Master

Plan will also be reviewed for consistency or general conformance, as appropriate, with the Water Master Plan.

The Water Master Plan will be incorporated into the update to the overall Master Plan as that effort proceeds forward.

**F. STATUS OF MAJOR ISSUES**

There are no major issues that should reasonably keep this amendment to the El Paso County Master Plan from being adopted at this time.

**G. APPROVAL CRITERIA**

**1. EL PASO COUNTY MASTER PLAN CONSISTENCY AND POLICY PLAN COMPLIANCE**

Colorado Revised Statutes 30-28-106 et. seq. provide that the Planning Commission may adopt the Water Master Plan as an element of the Master Plan as a topical element.

The Water Master Plan enhances the El Paso County Policy Plan (1998) by providing a more thorough analysis of water issues and as a reinforcement of policies in the Policy Plan.

**2. SMALL AREA MASTER PLAN COMPLIANCE**

The Water Master Plan is generally consistent with goals and policies of the various small area plans and in some ways utilizes and enhances the goals and policies of those plans. Aspects of this Plan will replace portions of the small area plans where there may be inconsistencies in the small area plans with the Water Master Plan. The population numbers utilized in developing the Water Master Plan are consistent with those that were used in developing the Major Transportation Corridors Plan (MTCP) which are also generally consistent with the population growth control totals developed by the State Demographer and Pike's Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG), which is the local Metropolitan Planning Organization.

**3. COMPLIANCE WITH COUNTY PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

The procedures performed in completion of the Water Master Plan are consistent with documented County policies and guidelines. Notice to neighboring jurisdictions has been provided in accordance with statute, and notice to military bases was provided in conformance with C.R.S. § 29-20-105.6. Additionally, several planners from the military bases located within the County participated in the process of developing the Plan either as a member of the steering committee or through other interactions with County staff.

#### **4. OTHER FACTORS**

The Colorado Revised Statutes 30-28-106 et. seq. govern adoption of a County Master Plan. The statutes allow the Planning Commission to adopt new or amended County Master Plans “in whole or in parts.” El Paso County has traditionally broken its Master Plan adoption process into sub-area and topical elements. As mentioned above, the Water Master Plan is proposed to be adopted as a topical element of the overall County Master Plan.

#### **H. PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE**

The public was invited to engage at each phase in development of the Water Master Plan. The initial phase utilized online and post card surveys, a media release, poster and flyer distribution and emails to interested individuals. In addition, presentations regarding the status of the Water Master Plan have occurred at public meetings and stakeholder meetings, including the Planning Commission, Board of County Commissioners, neighborhood groups, and the Colorado Springs Housing and Building Association (HBA), since August of 2017. Information regarding the Water Master Plan has been provided on the departments’ web page continuously. A public Open House occurred on the evening of October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

In addition to these public meeting, the ability to review the Plan through the El Paso County Planning and Community Development website (EDARP) was available to the public beginning on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Community, stakeholder and review agency comments and concerns have been included in the development of the Water Master Plan. Those individuals and agencies involved in the development of the Plan have been notified of the dates and times of the two Planning Commission hearings.

Legal Notice for the Planning Commission hearings was published in the *El Paso County Advertiser and News* on November 21, 2018, for both Planning Commission hearings.

The draft Plan is still available for public review online at:  
<https://epcdevplanreview.com/Public/ProjectDetails/110995>

#### **I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends adoption of the El Paso County Water Master Plan with the following conditions and notations:

##### **CONDITIONS**

1. C.R.S. 30-28-109 requires the Planning Commission to certify a copy of the Master Plan, or any adopted part or amendment thereof or addition thereto, to the Board of County Commissioners and to the Planning Commission of all municipalities in the County. The Planning Commission’s action to amend the Master Plan shall not be considered final until a minimum of ten (10) complete

sets of the final documents are provided and such documents are certified by the Chairman of the County Planning Commission and distributed as required by law.

2. Upon adoption by the El Paso County Planning Commission, the effect of this document is to supersede any conflicting recommendations of the Policy Plan or Small Area Plans.

## **NOTATIONS**

1. Certification of the documents to the municipalities within the County pursuant to Condition No. 1 above is determined to be satisfied upon transmittal of summary information and maps along with a clear description of the locations where the complete documents are available for inspection, along with an offer to provide a given municipality a complete copy of the documents if requested. The transmittal may be in the form of a digital copy.
2. In approval of this document, it is understood that minor editorial and formatting changes will be made in conjunction with the final publication process. These modifications may include pagination, correction of typographical errors, clarifications, insertion of photographs, insertion of references and/or corrections to factual information, or inclusion of comments and modifications associated with the Planning Commission hearings. In no case will substantive changes be made to the text without reconsideration by the Planning Commission.

## **J. ATTACHMENTS**

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Comments provided by review agencies and the public (to be provided at the hearing)

Open House Comments – October 25, 2018

Revised Goals and Policies (Strikethrough and Revised Versions)

Planning Commission Resolution (to be provided at the hearing)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Water Master Plan (WMP) was developed for the Board of County Commissioners, El Paso County officials and staff, developers, citizens, and water providers within the County for the purpose of identifying and addressing water supply issues earlier in the land use entitlement process. This WMP contains information to: better understand the present conditions of water supply and demand; identify efficiencies that can be achieved; and encourage best practices for water demand management through the comprehensive planning and development review processes. This WMP is an element of the overall County Master Plan.

Implementing this WMP will help ensure that land use decisions are based on balancing efficient use of limited water supplies with the water needs of current and future residents. The WMP should also be used to promote cooperation among water supply entities in the County with respect to water planning efforts.

The State of Colorado adopted *Colorado's Water Plan* in December 2015, which identifies goals, objectives, and critical actions needed to ensure that Colorado can maintain our state's values related to water into the future.

El Paso County includes approximately 70 water providers and over 21,300 permitted groundwater wells. Much of the County has a semi-arid climate, with high elevations to the west, and the Palmer Divide running along the northern part of the County. Sloping hills direct the majority of the rainfall and snowmelt runoff in a south and southeast direction. The County only has two major streams: Monument Creek with headwaters within the Palmer Divide range; and Fountain Creek with headwaters in Teller County. These creeks join in Colorado Springs and flow on to Pueblo County where Fountain Creek joins the Arkansas River.

Rural subdivisions in El Paso County generally rely on individual domestic or household wells for their water, while suburban and urban developments are typically served by centralized water and sewer services provided by a Colorado Revised Statutes Title 32 special district or a municipality.



El Paso County with a view of Pikes Peak



## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In developing this WMP, the Forsgren team reached out to the public through multiple methods, including a web-based program, MetroQuest. Through MetroQuest, the public shared their ideas and concerns regarding water supply strategies and other water-related concerns. The website had over 1,000 visits with a total of 378 responses, providing important feedback from the public regarding water issues in the County. A public open house was held on October 25, 2018 to further engage the public and to answer questions.

## WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS

Water service providers were contacted regarding their water supplies and demand commitments to serve their customers. The data collected from the water providers was categorized based on supply and demand locations. For the purposes of this WMP, the County was divided into eight sub-regional areas to analyze current supplies versus current demands, and future demands for the years 2040 and 2060. Results of those analyses are shown in Section 5 of this plan. As water demands increase each year, additional supply sources will need to be acquired to meet those demands. This WMP recognizes that many water providers will need to start incorporating renewable water sources into their portfolios. Some water providers have already begun this process of bringing in renewable water from outside their service areas for their customers.



Arkansas River Diversion Structure near Salida, CO

## WATER SUPPLIES

Several different types of water supplies are being used by water providers in the County. Those types are classified as: native renewable water, imported renewable water, designated basin groundwater, and Denver Basin groundwater. The majority of water providers in unincorporated areas rely on Denver Basin aquifers for their supply, which are generally nonrenewable sources. With the exception of Colorado Springs Utilities and their project partners, water providers in the County are relying on 85% supply from Denver Basin and designated basin groundwater.

Although most water providers have sufficient “paper” water rights, economic pumping rates dictate the amount of groundwater that can be withdrawn. A water provider may not be able to economically pump to the limits that their paper water rights indicate. In some cases, there may not be enough reliable “wet water” to serve the buildout of development in specific service areas over the long-term.



## PROJECTED WATER SUPPLY NEEDS

Comparing the current water supplies to future projected demands quantifies the water supplies that will need to be added to water supply systems throughout the County. Section 5 identifies the projected needs for the 2040 and 2060 horizons. Water providers will acquire and connect additional supplies incrementally as demands continue to grow. Water providers across the County are implementing water efficiency measures to “do more with less,” including use of tiered rate schedules for their customers, and promotion of water-conscious landscaping. Water reclamation or reuse can also help extend supplies for many water providers. But ultimately, a number of water providers will need to diversify their supply portfolios with additional renewable water sources. They can then rely heavily on those limited supplies during wet and average precipitation years, and supplement with drought-proof Denver Basin supplies in drier years.

## REGULATORY AMENDMENTS

With the purpose of encouraging water efficiency, conservation and the introduction of additional renewable water supplies to meet projected demands in the County, regulatory amendments are recommended. El Paso County implemented a 300-year water supply subdivision regulation for Denver Basin groundwater in 1986, with the intent, at least in part, of encouraging land developers to bring in additional renewable water sources. But land development continues to occur primarily where Denver Basin water rights can support the water demands of the development.

The WMP project team recommends that the County complete a more detailed analysis of the 300-year rule and available groundwater supplies, possibly leading to revision of this regulatory requirement. Regulatory amendment to the landscaping standards is also recommended to afford more flexibility with landscaping plans, created by a professional landscape architect, as a means of encouraging water conservation.



**Drought-resistant landscaping**

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# OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS

- Try to develop the availability of more surface water - reservoirs.
- "Protect our wells Private Well Owner"
- Would like to receive information and be involved as process moves forward.
- Need to drive towards an integrator system for water delivery... 40-50 (or more!) Providers acting independently is not efficient or effective for the greater good.
- Absolutely need to change the process to assess water adequacy at front-end of land use/ zoning decision process - before developer gets approval of requested rezone.
- Centralized water system for developments with lots smaller than 5 acres (Not Average)
- This is a positive step forward. Until the plan is put in place and water quantity is truly known and measured, there should be halt of development permits using groundwater.
- "You need to have someone unaffiliated with the HOA's checking their water usage & making sure they don't go over limit. It's like having the robber watch the bank: Example- Flying Horse North Development\* Not happy with you Com. Glenn. You are not representing what your people want!!"
- Request the state actually check the levels in the aquifers each year instead of them assuming there's water when there isn't.
- "Protect our wells Private Well Owner"
- Request for charts and maps to be put on line
- Need tonight's charts on a website for public review
- We need well monitoring to know how the aquifers are acting. The State says there is water but reality shows there isn't as much as they say.
- A committed land use plan that disallows rampant urbanization approval needs to accompany water availability.

## Section 1 - Introduction

### **Goal 1.1 – Ensure an adequate water supply in terms of quantity, dependability and quality for existing and future development.**

Policy 1.1.1 – Adequate water is a critical factor in facilitating future growth and it is incumbent upon the County to coordinate land use planning with water demand, efficiency and conservation.

### **Goal 1.2 – Integrate water and land use planning.**

### **Goal 1.3 – Promote awareness of environmental issues associated with water use.**

## Section 2 - Public Engagement

**Goal 2.1 – Reach a broad geographic ~~and socioeconomic~~ range of community members and stakeholders and gather feedback ~~from stakeholders~~ on location specific input, strategy preferences, and open-ended feedback.**

Policy 2.1.~~2~~1 – Share educational and project specific materials.

Policy 2.1.2 – Educational campaigns should be pursued to involve the community and provide a broader basis of understanding regarding water supplies and conservation strategies.

Policy 2.1.3 – Communicate and gather input on complex, and at times, contentious water and land use considerations.

### Section 3 - Water Service Providers

**Goal 3.1 – Promote cooperation ~~between~~ among water providers ~~to save costs~~ to achieve increased efficiencies on infrastructure.**

Policy 3.1.1 – ~~(support/achieve/realize/e)~~ Encourage Adequate advanced planning and cooperation ~~between~~ among water providers ~~can effectively to~~ reduce the overall number of water main lines running through the County.

**Goal 3.2 – Promote cooperation ~~between~~ among water providers to ~~save costs~~ achieve increased efficiencies on treatment.**

Policy 3.2.1 – Where possible, ~~operating a~~ treatment plants ~~that should~~ provides potable water to different water districts ~~will in order to~~ save on maintenance and operational costs.

**Goal 3.3 – Promote cooperation ~~between~~ among water providers to ~~save costs~~ achieve increased efficiencies on reuse.**

Policy 3.3.1 – ~~The ability to reuse to the greatest extent that it is feasible of~~ wastewater flows ~~should be encouraged, to the greatest extent feasible, will in order to~~ increase water supply and ~~will to~~ help diversify the supply portfolios of a water providers's supply portfolio.

**Goal 3.4 – Promote cooperation between water providers to ~~save costs~~ achieve increased efficiencies on storage.**

Policy 3.4.1 – ~~The ability to store~~ Encourage the storage of water ~~in during the~~ off-peak demand periods (winter months) ~~and use the stored water to be used~~ during high demand months (summer months) ~~can be a great management asset to water providers.~~

**Goal 3.5 – Encourage water providers to adapt to drought conditions.**

Policy 3.5.1 – In an arid region with limited water supplies, ~~these~~ extreme weather conditions ~~must~~ should be taken into account by water providers in order to deliver a more reliable and safe water supply.

**Goal 3.6 – Develop and maintain partnerships with water providers.**

Policy 3.6.1 – The County should engage with water providers to share issues of mutual concern on a periodic basis and work collaboratively to address long-term water supply concerns.

Policy 3.6.2 – Water providers should work with neighboring entities to provide and plan for growth between their respective boundaries.



**Goal 3.7 – Encourage the interconnection of infrastructure owned by water providers and projects that will have access to more than one water source, both to foster conjunctive use and to better accommodate water supply emergencies.**

Comment [MG1]: Added to Glossary

## Section 4 - Water Supplies

**Goal 4.1 – Develop an understanding of the differences in water supply sources, and any water quality issues within the County.**

Policy 4.1.1 – Protect and enhance the quality of drinking water in the County.

Policy 4.1.2 – Encourage more systematic monitoring and reporting of water quality in individual wells.

Policy 4.1.3 – Support enhanced monitoring of sources of surface and tributary ground water in the County.

~~Policy 4.1.4 – The county should encourage that drinking water that meets Safe Drinking Water Act standards, as implemented by the State Department of Public Health and Environment, is a necessity for existing and future residents of the County.~~

Policy 4.1.45 – ~~The County should work~~ Work collaboratively with water providers, stormwater management agencies, federal agencies, and State agencies to ensure drinking water sources are protected from contamination and meet or exceed established standards.

**Goal 4.2 – Support the efficient use of water supplies.**

Policy 4.2.1 – Encourage ~~stakeholders the to development of~~ methods which allow more effective monitoring of the adjudicated water rights in the County.

Policy 4.2.2 – ~~In order to reduce the dependency on non renewable water supplies and accommodate new development, A~~ allow for the potential to import new and preferably renewable water supplies from outside the various planning areas, potentially including the Arkansas River, in order to reduce the dependency on non-renewable water supplies and accommodate new development.

Policy 4.2.3 – ~~The County should support~~ Support studies to determine options for how water providers can secure and deliver a more permanent, long-term water supply.

**Goal 4.3 – ~~Extend Collaborate~~Collaborate with the State and other stakeholders to extend the economic life of the Denver Basin aquifers.**

- Policy 4.3.1 – Denver Basin Groundwater should be preserved as much as practical through water conservation and efficiency, extending the economic useful life.
- Policy 4.3.2 – Encourage the systematic monitoring and careful administration of the bedrock aquifers to avoid over-allocation of groundwater.
- Policy 4.3.3 – Incentivize the use of deeper Arapahoe and Laramie Fox Hills aquifers by central water providers, leaving or deferring the use of the shallower aquifers for the more dispersed domestic well users.
- Policy 4.3.4 – Encourage other monitoring programs and studies which could result in an increased understanding of the quality, quantity, and rate of depletion of available water supplies in the area, including but not limited to private wells.
- Policy 4.3.5 – Encourage plans to recharge the Upper Black Squirrel Aquifer if such plans are based on sound science and can be demonstrated to not adversely impact water quality or water rights, with a preference for those plans which will maintain or enhance the available water supply at a regional scale.
- Policy 4.3.6 – Encourage well monitoring through-out the County, with an emphasis on the Denver Basin aquifer fringe areas.

**Goal 4.4 – Protect and enhance the quality, quantity, and dependability of water supplies.**

- Policy 4.4.1 – ~~The County should encourage~~Encourage and support as appropriate, State legislation that preserves and protects all drinking water sources in the County.

**Goal 4.5 – Plan for water resources in a thoughtful way that recognizes the non-renewable nature of water resources in the area, accommodates existing and historical uses, and allows for sustainable, planned growth.**

- Policy 4.5.1 – Encourage continued collection and analysis of data for the purpose of better determining the extent and availability of groundwater in areas which do not overlie either the Denver Basin or a studied alluvial aquifer. \*\*\*\* and consider implementing any associated recommendations as appropriate.
- Policy 4.5.2 – Review the data and analysis of groundwater studies, as appropriate, to determine if regulatory modifications are needed and consider implementation.

**Goal 4.6 – ~~Promote c~~Collaboration ~~between-among~~ the County, municipalities, water and wastewater service providers and regional and State agencies ~~should be accomplished through~~ through the use of Memoranda of Understanding or similar arrangements.**

Policy 4.6.1 – ~~Explore e~~Establishing MOUs should be explored to address shared source water protection, mutual concerns impacting water quality, and commitments to refer referral of development applications to to the public water providers for review and comment. Explore establishing MOUs Memoranda of Understanding to address shared source water protection and mutual concerns impacting water quality.

Explore establishing MOUs to address shared source water protection and mutual concerns impacting water quality.

## Section 5 - Projected Water Supply Needs

**Goal 5.1 – Identify the potential water supply gap at projected full development build-out (2060).**

Policy 5.1.1 – Consistent with the State Water Plan, the County will work with water providers to address and implement methods to ~~close the gap~~match water supply with the projected 2060 water demand. ~~between water demand and water supply projected by the year 2060.~~

**Goal 5.2 – Identify regional opportunities and barriers to ~~addressing~~satisfying the water supply ~~gap~~needs at full development build-out (2060).**

Policy 5.2.1 – ~~The County will assist~~Assist water providers, to the greatest extent practicable, in any future efforts to prepare demand forecasts by sharing information about population growth and new industries or developments in the County that will increase the demand for water.

Policy 5.2.2 – Recognize the water supply challenges and limitations inherent in each of the regional planning areas, with particular emphasis placed on Regional Planning Area 3 (Falcon), as a result of current reliance on non-renewable

Denver Basin wells and the renewable, but limited and over-appropriated, Upper Black Squirrel alluvium.

Policy 5.2.3 – Periodically update the County land use master plan to better identify and plan for areas of future growth, in a manner that is consistent with this Water Master Plan, as may be amended from time to time.

Policy 5.2.4 – ~~Encourage~~ Consider the locating of new development where it can take advantage of potential growth near existing or proposed water supply projects that would allow shared infrastructure costs.

**Goal 5.3 – Reduce ~~overall end user~~ water consumption ~~per end user~~ in the County.**

Policy 5.3.1 – Evaluate cluster development ~~projects~~ alternatives to determine if water savings could occur.

Policy 5.3.2 – Promote water conscious developments through improved land-use policies.

**Goal 5.4 – Promote the long-term use of renewable water.**

**Goal 5.5 – Identify any water supply issues early on in the land development process.**

Policy 5.5.1 – Discourage individual wells for new subdivisions with 2.5 acre or ~~larger~~ smaller average lot sizes, especially in the near-surface aquifers, when there is a reasonable opportunity to connect to an existing central system, alternatively, or construct a new central waters supply system when the economies of scale to do so can be achieved.

**Goal 5.6 – Protect property rights.**

## Section 6 - Closing the Gap

**Goal 6.0 – Require adequate water availability for proposed development.**

Policy 6.0.1 – Continue to require documentation of the adequacy or sufficiency of water, as appropriate, of water for proposed development.

Policy 6.0.2 – Encourage developments to incorporate water ~~wise efficiency development~~ principles.

~~Policy 6.0.3 – Incorporate Water efficiency measures into Saving Actions into Land Use Planning Activities~~

~~Policy 6.0.4 – Encourage water providers to incorporate drought conditions into their water supply and demand planning activities.~~

Policy 6.0.5.3 – Encourage water and wastewater infrastructure projects to be sited and designed in a manner which promotes compatibility with adjoining uses,

Comment [CD2]: Similar to 6.0.2

Comment [CD3]: Similar to new 6.0.7

and provides reasonable mitigation of any adverse visibility and other environmental impacts.

Policy 6.0.6-4 – ~~The County will Encourage~~ development that ~~incorporates-incentivizes~~ and incorporates water-wise/water efficient landscaping principles.

Comment [MG4]: Is this a repeat of 6.0.2

Policy 6.0.8-5 – Support implementation of water provider conservation projects.

Policy 6.0.9-6 – ~~The County will support~~Support any appropriate efforts by water providers to incorporate drought conditions in their supply and demand forecasts in providing future and existing water supplies.

Policy 6.0.10-7 – ~~The County will encourage~~Encourage the submission of a water supply plan documenting an adequate supply of water to serve a proposed development at the earliest stage of the development process as allowed under state law. The water supply plan should be prepared by the applicant in collaboration with the respective water provider.

Policy 6.0.11-8 – ~~The County will encourage~~Encourage development patterns and higher density, mixed use developments in appropriate locations that propose to incorporate meaningful water conservation measures.

Policy 6.0.12-9 – ~~The County will consider~~Consider amendments to the Land Development Code to incorporate water-saving efficiency standards, such as:

- Allowances for xeriscaping or native and drought-tolerant landscaping,
- Allowances for water-saving efficient irrigation techniques,
- Minimizing the percentage of landscaped area covered with non-native turf, and
- Increasing the percentage of landscape areas that can be covered with non-living landscape material.

- ~~Allowance for design elements that could be included in landscaped area calculations (patios, courtyards, etc.)~~

Policy 6.0.10 – ~~The County should Encourage~~ each land use proposals to expressly declare its water source(s), quality, quantity, and sustainability in terms of years and number of users/single family equivalents.

Policy 6.0.11 – ~~The County should Continue~~to limit urban level development to those areas served by centralized utilities.

Comment [MG5]: Add to glossary?

## Section 6.1 - Water Efficiency

**Goal 6.1.1 – Identify strategies that can close the build-out (2060) gap.**

Policy 6.1.1.1 – Prioritize actions and improvements to address water supply gaps.

**Goal 6.1.2 – Promote ~~opportunities to conserve water~~ water conservation.**

Policy 6.1.2.1 – Follow best management practices to maximize aquifer recharge, including supporting the use of greenway corridors, the maintenance of drainage ways in their natural state, and the avoidance of large amounts of impervious cover for recharge areas.

Policy 6.1.2.2 – Encourage and accommodate water conservation practices for existing and new developments.

Policy 6.1.2.3 – Encourage water providers to implement best management practices for reducing water demand. ~~El Paso County will support best management practices for water management and conservation based upon information presented in the Colorado Water Plan, which can be utilized by the water suppliers.~~

Policy 6.1.2.4 – Review and revise, as appropriate, the standards of the various zoning districts to ensure they are consistent with promoting water ~~wise efficient~~ development.

Policy 6.1.2.5 – ~~The County should consider incorporating water~~ Incorporate water efficiency saving measures in all new County facilities and projects, as appropriate. The County should also ~~Similarly,~~ consider retro-fitting fixtures and landscaping at older facilities with new, water efficient-saving alternatives.

Policy 6.1.2.6 – Encourage ~~utility master plans for new~~ special districts to include water conservation measures in their utility master plans.

Policy 6.1.2.7 – ~~Support water resiliency plans prepared by~~ Encourage water providers to develop water resiliency plans.

~~Policy 6.1.2.8 – Work with water districts, water and sanitation districts and metropolitan districts and private water suppliers to reduce residential water consumption.~~

Policy 6.1.2. ~~89~~ 90 – ~~The County should coordinate~~ Coordinate with water providers to prepare a water conservation handbook to educate residents- and businesses about ways to conserve water in their homes -and businesses. The handbook should be accompanied by a public outreach program.

Policy 6.1.2. ~~940~~ 940 – Encourage water providers to develop and implement incentive packages and standards that reduce water demand and promote water conservation.

- Policy 6.1.2.1~~04~~ – Encourage water suppliers in the County to use reclaimed water for irrigation and other appropriate uses.
  - Policy 6.1.2.1~~12~~ – Collaborate with home builders and developers on zoning code amendments that promote decreased water demand coupled with water conservation for residential developments where economical.
  - Policy 6.1.2.1~~23~~ – Support proposed developments that incorporate water efficiency measures for open spaces and lawns.
  - Policy 6.1.2.1~~34~~ – ~~Evaluate the potential for allowing variances/waivers to the County's 300 year rule as an incentive for developers to commit to best management practices, which may include (1) producing water only from the deeper aquifers for centralized distribution; (2) promoting conservation and efficiency through a water provider established tiered rate structures, (3) reuse of captured wastewater to offset a portion of demand; and (4) adopting and ensuring enforcement of water efficient landscaping standards. Continue to evaluate~~Consider evaluating the 300-year rule to ensure that its applicability supports the goals and objectives of the Water Master Plan and other related documents, including promoting renewable supplies. \*\*\*.
- Consider evaluating the 300 year subdivision rule to ensure that its applicability supports the goals and policies of this plan.
- Evaluate the potential for revising the County's 300 year rule as an incentive for a water provider to to commit to best management practices, which may include (1) diversifying their water portfolio to include a larger share of renewable water; (2) producing water only from the deeper aquifers for centralized distribution, and preserving shallow aquifers/aquifer's; (3) promoting conservation and efficiency through water provider established tiered rate structures, (4) reuse of captured wastewater to offset a portion of demand; and (5) adopting and ensuring enforcement of water efficient landscaping standards.

**Goal 6.1.3 – Identify ways to provide landscaping flexibility in design where requiring strict compliance with the County's landscaping standards would be contrary to the goals of this Plan.**

- Policy 6.1.3.1 – Encourage new developments that incorporate water conservation techniques such as xeric landscaping.
- Policy 6.1.3.2 – Provide developers with clear landscape guidance that results in attractive landscaping and reduced water requirements.
- Policy 6.1.3.3 – Encourage sustainable landscaping that is tailored to the variations of climate zones across the County.



- Policy 6.1.3.4 – Consider amending the Land Development Code to allow for modified landscaping options based on water source, available water supplies, and climate zones across El Paso County.
- Policy 6.1.3.5 – Work with representatives of the landscape industry, along with property owners and managers, to promote incorporating water conservation measures for non-residential ~~developments~~.
- Policy 6.1.3.6 – Support lower system development fees (tap fees) for builders that use water efficient landscaping.

## Section 6.2 - Water Reuse

### Goal 6.2.1 – Increase regional water reuse and conservation to better optimize available water supplies.

- Policy 6.2.1.1 – Support efforts by water providers to effectively and environmentally implement potable and non-potable water re-use including augmentation.
- Policy 6.2.1.2 – Encourage re-use of treated wastewater for irrigation and other acceptable uses when ~~economically~~ feasible.
- Policy 6.2.1.3 – Consider opportunities to demonstrate the benefits of using non-potable sources of water and to dispel negative attitudes.
- Policy 6.2.1.4 – Encourage land uses which accommodate the reuse of water including capture of non-consumptively used water within the basin and use of reclaimed water for irrigation, within legal parameters and providing that water quality is maintained.
- Policy 6.2.1.5 – Support plans for the siting of additional treatment plants or modification of existing facilities to allow for more effective use of non-potable water and to promote plans for responsible aquifer recharge.
- Policy 6.2.1.6 – Consider ~~allowing for~~ higher residential densities for new developments, in appropriate locations, where such developments will be served by water providers that are optimizing their supplies through established reuse and conservation measures. ~~\*consider removal or rewording upon further discussion.~~
- Policy 6.2.1.7 – ~~Explore o~~Options for the use of non-potable water and further research into the use of reclaimed ~~water and renewable options should be explored and renewable water.~~

### Goal 6.2.2 – Fully reuse all water that can be economically reused.

Policy 6.2.2.1 – The County should not object to efforts by water providers to increase their ability to sell or share reuse water supplies as long as non-renewable resources are not affected.

## Section 6.3 - Regional Water Supply Plans

### Goal 6.3.1 – Secure and deliver additional long-term water supplies.

- Policy 6.3.1.1 – Support the development of environmentally sensitive and safely designed surface water impoundments if these serve to enhance local water supply or service capability.
- Policy 6.3.1.2 – Work with water providers to identify regional opportunities and barriers.
- Policy 6.3.1.3 – Encourage water providers to pursue additional water storage opportunities, including surface storage as well as storage in both bedrock and alluvial aquifers.

### Goal 6.3.2 – Identify ~~applications~~ opportunities for renewable water partnerships.

- Policy 6.3.2.1 – Support mutually beneficial arrangements among water providers and consumers to reduce cost and protect ~~the County's~~ groundwater and the environment.
- Policy 6.3.2.2 – Encourage formal agreements among water districts to mitigate potential water supply shortages among individual suppliers.
- Policy 6.3.2.3 – Periodically review this Water Master Plan by convening a publicly accountable group, such as the El Paso County Water Master Plan Steering Committee, or arranging a collaborative review with the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority.
- Policy 6.3.2.4 – Encourage the consolidation of regional water and sanitation systems over the proliferation of smaller, individual systems
- Policy 6.3.2.5 – Consider public-private partnerships to upsize utility infrastructure to meet potential growth demand.
- Policy 6.3.2.6 – Support collaborative coordination with water providers during the design and construction of water infrastructure and public roadways.
- Policy 6.3.2.7 – Water providers should pursue ~~coordination~~ joint efforts to align regional water conservation, quality, and infrastructure goals

## Section 6.4 - Renewable Water Development

### Goal 6.4.1 – Promote diversified, sustainable water portfolios for new development, reducing their reliance on a single source of supply.

Policy 6.4.1.1 – Promote “conjunctive use” ~~\*(add to glossary)~~ of water, favoring use of renewable surface and alluvial supplies during wet and normal years balanced by using a greater share of nonrenewable Denver Basin supplies in dry years.

~~Policy 6.4.1.2 – Further evaluate modifications to the 300-Year Rule to incentivize best practices for water efficiency, water reuse, and development of renewable supplies.~~

Policy 6.4.1.23 – Consider allowing ~~development off~~ higher residential densities, ~~which may be in excess of densities on than surrounding land or in excess of densities that are envisioned in the small area plan existing comprehensive plans, for if such~~ development ~~will be~~ served by water providers that have ~~substantial and~~ meaningful ~~renewable water~~ supplies. ~~of renewable water in their portfolios.\* consider removing or rewording~~

**Comment [MG6]:** Craig did you have wording here?

Policy 6.4.1.34 – Support efforts by water providers to obtain renewable water supplies through collaborative efforts and regionalization.

Policy 6.4.1.45 – Promote long-term planning by water providers for sustainable water supplies serving new development.

Policy 6.4.1.56 – Streamline the 1041 Regulations to favor projects related to delivery or development of renewable water in El Paso County.

## **Section 1 - Introduction**

**Goal 1.1 – Ensure an adequate water supply in terms of quantity, dependability and quality for existing and future development.**

Policy 1.1.1 – Adequate water is a critical factor in facilitating future growth and it is incumbent upon the County to coordinate land use planning with water demand, efficiency and conservation.

**Goal 1.2 – Integrate water and land use planning.**

**Goal 1.3 – Promote awareness of environmental issues associated with water use.**

## **Section 2 - Public Engagement**

**Goal 2.1 – Reach a broad geographic range of community members and stakeholders and gather feedback on location specific input, strategy preferences, and open-ended feedback.**

Policy 2.1.1 – Share educational and project specific materials.

Policy 2.1.2 – Educational campaigns should be pursued to involve the community and provide a broader basis of understanding regarding water supplies and conservation strategies.

Policy 2.1.3 – Communicate and gather input on complex, and at times, contentious water and land use considerations.

## **Section 3 - Water Service Providers**

**Goal 3.1 – Promote cooperation among water providers to achieve increased efficiencies on infrastructure.**

Policy 3.1.1 – Encourage advanced planning and cooperation among water providers to reduce the overall number of water main lines running through the County.

**Goal 3.2 – Promote cooperation among water providers to achieve increased efficiencies on treatment.**

Policy 3.2.1 – Where possible, treatment plants should provide potable water to different water districts in order to save on maintenance and operational costs.

**Goal 3.3 – Promote cooperation among water providers to achieve increased efficiencies on reuse.**

Policy 3.3.1 – Reuse of wastewater flows should be encouraged, to the greatest extent feasible, in order to increase water supply and to help diversify the supply portfolios of water providers.

**Goal 3.4 – Promote cooperation between water providers to achieve increased efficiencies on storage.**

Policy 3.4.1 – Encourage the storage of water during off-peak demand periods (winter months) to be used during high demand months (summer months).

**Goal 3.5 – Encourage water providers to adapt to drought conditions.**

Policy 3.5.1 – In an arid region with limited water supplies, extreme weather conditions should be taken into account by water providers in order to deliver a more reliable and safe water supply.

**Goal 3.6 – Develop and maintain partnerships with water providers.**

Policy 3.6.1 – The County should engage with water providers to share issues of mutual concern on a periodic basis and work collaboratively to address long-term water supply concerns.

Policy 3.6.2 – Water providers should work with neighboring entities to provide and plan for growth between their respective boundaries.

**Goal 3.7 – Encourage the interconnection of infrastructure owned by water providers and projects that will have access to more than one water source, both to foster conjunctive use and to better accommodate water supply emergencies.**



## **Section 4 - Water Supplies**

### **Goal 4.1 – Develop an understanding of the differences in water supply sources, and any water quality issues within the County.**

- Policy 4.1.1 – Protect and enhance the quality of drinking water in the County.
- Policy 4.1.2 – Encourage more systematic monitoring and reporting of water quality in individual wells.
- Policy 4.1.3 – Support enhanced monitoring of sources of surface and tributary ground water in the County.
- Policy 4.1.4 – Work collaboratively with water providers, stormwater management agencies, federal agencies, and State agencies to ensure drinking water sources are protected from contamination and meet or exceed established standards.

### **Goal 4.2 – Support the efficient use of water supplies.**

- Policy 4.2.1 – Encourage stakeholders to develop methods which allow more effective monitoring of the adjudicated water rights in the County.
- Policy 4.2.2 – Allow for the potential to import new and preferably renewable water supplies from outside the various planning areas, potentially including the Arkansas River, in order to reduce the dependency on non-renewable water supplies and accommodate new development.
- Policy 4.2.3 – Support studies to determine options for how water providers can secure and deliver a more permanent, long-term water supply.

### **Goal 4.3 – Collaborate with the State and other stakeholders to extend the economic life of the Denver Basin aquifers.**

- Policy 4.3.1 – Denver Basin Groundwater should be preserved as much as practical through water conservation and efficiency, extending the economic useful life.
- Policy 4.3.2 – Encourage the systematic monitoring and careful administration of the bedrock aquifers to avoid over-allocation of groundwater.
- Policy 4.3.3 – Incentivize the use of deeper Arapahoe and Laramie Fox Hills aquifers by central water providers, leaving or deferring the use of the shallower aquifers for the more dispersed domestic well users.

Policy 4.3.4 – Encourage other monitoring programs and studies which could result in an increased understanding of the quality, quantity, and rate of depletion of available water supplies in the area, including but not limited to private wells.

Policy 4.3.5 – Encourage plans to recharge the Upper Black Squirrel Aquifer if such plans are based on sound science and can be demonstrated to not adversely impact water quality or water rights, with a preference for those plans which will maintain or enhance the available water supply at a regional scale.

Policy 4.3.6 – Encourage well monitoring through-out the County, with an emphasis on the Denver Basin aquifer fringe areas.

**Goal 4.4 – Protect and enhance the quality, quantity, and dependability of water supplies.**

Policy 4.4.1 – Encourage and support, as appropriate, legislation that preserves and protects all drinking water sources in the County.

**Goal 4.5 – Plan for water resources in a thoughtful way that recognizes the non-renewable nature of water resources in the area, accommodates existing and historical uses, and allows for sustainable, planned growth.**

Policy 4.5.1 – Encourage continued collection and analysis of data for the purpose of better determining the extent and availability of groundwater in areas which do not overlie either the Denver Basin or a studied alluvial aquifer.

Policy 4.5.2 – Review the data and analysis of groundwater studies, as appropriate, to determine if regulatory modifications are needed and consider implementation.

**Goal 4.6 – Promote collaboration among the County, municipalities, water and wastewater service providers and regional and State agencies through the use of Memoranda of Understanding or similar arrangements.**

Policy 4.6.1 – Explore establishing Memoranda of Understanding to address shared source water protection and mutual concerns impacting water quality.

## **Section 5 - Projected Water Supply Needs**

### **Goal 5.1 – Identify the potential water supply gap at projected full development build-out (2060).**

Policy 5.1.1 – Consistent with the State Water Plan, the County will work with water providers to address and implement methods to match water supply with the projected 2060 water demand.

### **Goal 5.2 – Identify regional opportunities and barriers to satisfying water supply needs at full development build-out (2060).**

Policy 5.2.1 – Assist water providers, to the greatest extent practicable, in any future efforts to prepare demand forecasts by sharing information about population growth and new industries or developments in the County that will increase the demand for water.

Policy 5.2.2 – Recognize the water supply challenges and limitations inherent in each of the regional planning areas, with particular emphasis placed on Regional Planning Area 3 (Falcon), as a result of current reliance on non-renewable Denver Basin wells and the renewable, but limited and over-appropriated, Upper Black Squirrel alluvium.

Policy 5.2.3 – Periodically update the County land use master plan to better identify and plan for areas of future growth, in a manner that is consistent with this Water Master Plan, as may be amended from time to time.

Policy 5.2.4 – Encourage the locating of new development where it can take advantage of existing or proposed water supply projects that would allow shared infrastructure costs.

### **Goal 5.3 – Reduce end user water consumption in the County.**

Policy 5.3.1 – Evaluate cluster development alternatives to determine if water savings could occur.

Policy 5.3.2 – Promote water conscious developments through improved land-use policies.

### **Goal 5.4 – Promote the long-term use of renewable water.**

### **Goal 5.5 – Identify any water supply issues early on in the land development process.**

Policy 5.5.1 – Discourage individual wells for new subdivisions with 2.5 acre or smaller average lot sizes, especially in the near-surface aquifers, when there is a reasonable opportunity to connect to an existing central system, alternatively, or construct a new central waters supply system when the economies of scale to do so can be achieved.

### **Goal 5.6 – Protect property rights.**

## Section 6 - Closing the Gap

### Goal 6.0 – Require adequate water availability for proposed development.

- Policy 6.0.1 – Continue to require documentation of the adequacy or sufficiency of water, as appropriate, for proposed development.
- Policy 6.0.2 – Encourage developments to incorporate water efficiency principles.
- Policy 6.0.3 – Encourage water and wastewater infrastructure projects to be sited and designed in a manner which promotes compatibility with adjoining uses, and provides reasonable mitigation of any adverse visibility and other environmental impacts.
- Policy 6.0.4 – Encourage development that incentivizes and incorporates water efficient landscaping principles.
- Policy 6.0.5 – Support implementation of water provider conservation projects.
- Policy 6.0.6 – Support appropriate efforts by water providers to incorporate drought conditions in their supply and demand forecasts in providing future and existing water supplies.
- Policy 6.0.7 – Encourage the submission of a water supply plan documenting an adequate supply of water to serve a proposed development at the earliest stage of the development process as allowed under state law. The water supply plan should be prepared by the applicant in collaboration with the respective water provider.
- Policy 6.0.8 – Encourage development patterns and higher density, mixed use developments in appropriate locations that propose to incorporate meaningful water conservation measures.
- Policy 6.0.9 – Consider amendments to the Land Development Code to incorporate water efficiency standards, such as:
- Allowances for xeriscaping or native and drought-tolerant landscaping,
  - Allowances for water efficient irrigation techniques,
  - Minimizing the percentage of landscaped area covered with non-native turf, and
  - Increasing the percentage of landscape areas that can be covered with non-living landscape material.
- Policy 6.0.10 – Encourage land use proposals to expressly declare water source(s), quality, quantity, and sustainability in terms of years and number of single family equivalents.

Policy 6.0.11– Continue to limit urban level development to those areas served by centralized utilities.

## **Section 6.1 - Water Efficiency**

### **Goal 6.1.1 – Identify strategies that can close the build-out (2060) gap.**

Policy 6.1.1.1 – Prioritize actions and improvements to address water supply gaps.

### **Goal 6.1.2 – Promote water conservation.**

Policy 6.1.2.1 – Follow best management practices to maximize aquifer recharge, including supporting the use of greenway corridors, the maintenance of drainage ways in their natural state, and the avoidance of large amounts of impervious cover for recharge areas.

Policy 6.1.2.2 – Encourage and accommodate water conservation practices for existing and new developments.

Policy 6.1.2.3 – Encourage water providers to implement best management practices for reducing water demand.

Policy 6.1.2.4 – Review and revise, as appropriate, the standards of the various zoning districts to ensure they are consistent with promoting water efficient development.

Policy 6.1.2.5 – Incorporate water efficiency measures in all new County facilities and projects, as appropriate. Similarly, consider retro-fitting fixtures and landscaping at older facilities with new, water efficient alternatives.

Policy 6.1.2.6 – Encourage special districts to include water conservation measures in their utility master plans.

Policy 6.1.2.7 – Encourage water providers to develop water resiliency plans.

Policy 6.1.2.8 – Coordinate with water providers to prepare a water conservation handbook to educate residents and businesses about ways to conserve water in their homes and businesses. The handbook should be accompanied by a public outreach program.

Policy 6.1.2.9 – Encourage water providers to develop and implement incentive packages and standards that reduce water demand and promote water conservation.

Policy 6.1.2.10 – Encourage water suppliers in the County to use reclaimed water for irrigation and other appropriate uses.

Policy 6.1.2.11 – Collaborate with home builders and developers on zoning code amendments that promote decreased water demand coupled with water conservation for residential developments where economical.

Policy 6.1.2.12 – Support proposed developments that incorporate water efficiency measures for open spaces and lawns.

Policy 6.1.2.13 – Consider evaluating the 300-year rule to ensure that its applicability supports the goals and objectives of the Water Master Plan.

**Goal 6.1.3 – Identify ways to provide landscaping flexibility in design where requiring strict compliance with the County’s landscaping standards would be contrary to the goals of this Plan.**

Policy 6.1.3.1 – Encourage new developments that incorporate water conservation techniques such as xeric landscaping.

Policy 6.1.3.2 – Provide developers with clear landscape guidance that results in attractive landscaping and reduced water requirements.

Policy 6.1.3.3 – Encourage sustainable landscaping that is tailored to the variations of climate zones across the County.

Policy 6.1.3.4 – Consider amending the Land Development Code to allow for modified landscaping options based on water source, available water supplies, and climate zones across El Paso County.

Policy 6.1.3.5 – Work with representatives of the landscape industry, along with property owners and managers, to promote incorporating water conservation measures for non-residential developments.

Policy 6.1.3.6 – Support lower system development fees (tap fees) for builders that use water efficient landscaping.

## **Section 6.2 - Water Reuse**

**Goal 6.2.1 – Increase regional water reuse and conservation to better optimize available water supplies.**

Policy 6.2.1.1 – Support efforts by water providers to effectively and environmentally implement potable and non-potable water re-use including augmentation.

Policy 6.2.1.2 – Encourage re-use of treated wastewater for irrigation and other acceptable uses when feasible.

Policy 6.2.1.3 – Consider opportunities to demonstrate the benefits of using non-potable sources of water and to dispel negative attitudes.

Policy 6.2.1.4 – Encourage land uses which accommodate the reuse of water including capture of non-consumptively used water within the basin and use of reclaimed water for irrigation, within legal parameters and providing that water quality is maintained.

Policy 6.2.1.5 – Support plans for the siting of additional treatment plants or modification of existing facilities to allow for more effective use of non-potable water and to promote plans for responsible aquifer recharge.

Policy 6.2.1.6 – Consider allowing higher residential densities for new developments, in appropriate locations, where such developments will be served by water providers that are optimizing their supplies through established reuse and conservation measures.

Policy 6.2.1.7 – Explore options for the use of non-potable water and further research into the use of reclaimed and renewable water.

**Goal 6.2.2 – Fully reuse all water that can be economically reused.**

Policy 6.2.2.1 – The County should not object to efforts by water providers to increase their ability to sell or share reuse water supplies as long as non-renewable resources are not affected.



## **Section 6.3 - Regional Water Supply Plans**

### **Goal 6.3.1 – Secure and deliver additional long-term water supplies.**

- Policy 6.3.1.1 – Support the development of environmentally sensitive and safely designed surface water impoundments if these serve to enhance local water supply or service capability.
- Policy 6.3.1.2 – Work with water providers to identify regional opportunities and barriers.
- Policy 6.3.1.3 – Encourage water providers to pursue additional water storage opportunities, including surface storage as well as storage in both bedrock and alluvial aquifers.

### **Goal 6.3.2 – Identify opportunities for renewable water partnerships.**

- Policy 6.3.2.1 – Support mutually beneficial arrangements among water providers and consumers to reduce cost and protect groundwater and the environment.
- Policy 6.3.2.2 – Encourage formal agreements among water districts to mitigate potential water supply shortages among individual suppliers.
- Policy 6.3.2.3 – Periodically review this Water Master Plan by convening a publicly accountable group, such as the El Paso County Water Master Plan Steering Committee, or arranging a collaborative review with the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority.
- Policy 6.3.2.4 – Encourage the consolidation of regional water and sanitation systems over the proliferation of smaller, individual systems
- Policy 6.3.2.5 – Consider public-private partnerships to upsize utility infrastructure to meet potential growth demand.
- Policy 6.3.2.6 – Support collaborative coordination with water providers during the design and construction of water infrastructure and public roadways.
- Policy 6.3.2.7 – Water providers should pursue coordinating efforts to align regional water conservation, quality, and infrastructure goals

## **Section 6.4 - Renewable Water Development**

### **Goal 6.4.1 – Promote diversified, sustainable water portfolios for new development, reducing their reliance on a single source of supply.**

- Policy 6.4.1.1 – Promote “conjunctive use” of water, favoring use of renewable surface and alluvial supplies during wet and normal years balanced by using a greater share of nonrenewable Denver Basin supplies in dry years.
- Policy 6.4.1.2 – Consider allowing development of higher residential densities, which may be in excess of densities on surrounding land or in excess of densities envisioned in existing comprehensive plans, if such development will be served by water providers that have substantial and meaningful renewable water supplies.
- Policy 6.4.1.3 – Support efforts by water providers to obtain renewable water supplies through collaborative efforts and regionalization.
- Policy 6.4.1.4 – Promote long-term planning by water providers for sustainable water supplies serving new development.
- Policy 6.4.1.5 – Streamline the 1041 Regulations to favor projects related to delivery or development of renewable water in El Paso County.