

Colorado Source Water Assessment and Protection Project Summary

Colorado Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) is a new project designed to provide the public consumer with information about their untreated drinking water, as well as provide you and your community a way to get involved in protecting the quality of your drinking water. The program encourages community-based protection and preventive management strategies to ensure that all public drinking water resources are kept safe from future contamination.

The Water Quality Control Division (Division) completed the initial source water assessment reports for over 1700 public water systems in November 2004. The results of the assessment reports can be reviewed at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/sw/SWAP/swapreports.html>.

The Water Quality Control Division (Division) Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Project is transitioning from the assessment phase to the protection planning phase. The long-term project goal is voluntary development and implementation of local source water protection statewide. The success of the program will require a coordinated effort between the Division and local interests such as public water systems, interested stakeholders, and local governments.

The role of the Division is to assist local protection planning efforts by supplying the lead protection entity with the necessary consultation and tools to complete a protection plan. The Division has formulated a protection plan template that standardizes the format of protection plans. The template was developed to be user-friendly and accommodate the needs of a broad size range of public water systems. The protection plan template provides direction and guidance so systems can complete the document with an established Steering Committee to guide the process. The protection plan template is also available on the SWAP website at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/sw/protectionplanningtemplate.html>.

Funding for protection planning is available from the State Drinking Water Revolving Fund (SDWRF) set-asides. The SDWRF set-asides enable the SWAP program to provide financial support for protection plan development. The set-asides allow the state to utilize a percentage of its capitalization grant to assist in the development of local drinking water protection initiatives and other State projects. The grant funds will be awarded for two types of projects: Pilot Planning Projects and Development and Implementation Projects.

Pilot Planning Project Grants will support exemplary and comprehensive source water protection plans. It is anticipated that, once completed, these pilot projects will serve as examples to others interested in developing plans to protect their drinking water sources. The completion of a limited number, but broad spectrum, of protection plan pilot projects will provide planning results to other protection planning entities to assist and promote source water protection planning efforts. These grants can range up to \$50,000 and will require a one to one financial match (cash or in-kind match). The Pilot Planning grants will also require the protection planning entity to evaluate the expenses related to replacing the current water source (ie: acquiring water rights, restructuring water supply system, economic impacts, etc.). The additional cost analysis will provide an estimated value of water resources to further understand the importance and significance of source water protection planning.

Development and Implementation Grants will be awarded to public water systems and representative stakeholders committed to developing a source water protection plan. Grants up to \$5,000 will be awarded for plan development and for implementation. A one to one financial match (cash or in-kind) will also be required.

Grant proposals will be submitted electronically and reviewed by Division. Projects recommended for funding will receive an award notification and a purchase order for the protection planning

effort. All grant funds are distributed on a cost-reimbursement basis and invoicing will occur on a monthly (pilot planning grants) or quarterly basis (development and implementation grants). Proposals are accepted throughout the year. Grant awards are subject to the availability of SDWRF set-aside funds.

For more details on grant requirements, guidance and access to the electronic grant application please visit the SWAP website at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/sw/swaphom.html>.

In addition, the Division has developed a source water protection planning DVD/CD toolkit to assist you in developing a protection plan. To obtain a free copy of the DVD/CD toolkit, simply email your contact information (include mailing address) to cdphe.wgswap@state.co.us.