

Water Quality Control Division 2025 | Annual Report



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

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Foreword

I am pleased to submit the Water Quality Control Division's annual report. The division aims to provide regulated permittees and public water systems the resources, regulatory framework, and procedures they need to effectively protect Colorado's streams and lakes and provide safe drinking water. This report outlines the division's services, which range from issuing permits and conducting engineering design reviews to providing technical and financial assistance, including inspections, grants, and loans, to compliance and enforcement activities. Our efforts continue to protect and restore Colorado's water quality for public health, the environment, and future generations.

Over the past year, we deepened our commitment to meaningful stakeholder engagement, recognizing that collaboration is essential to advancing our mission and responding effectively to change. This approach became even more critical as we faced new federal and state developments, including shifting fees from statute to rule, anticipated Safe Drinking Water Act rule changes, and a Supreme Court decision narrowing federal protections for waters of the United States. Stakeholder engagement helped inform the design of a new dredge and fill program, develop an understanding of the feasibility and implementation needs for meeting new water quality standards, and design the fee structure and associated service-improvement commitments into regulation. Simultaneously, we have made progress to make internal processes more efficient, transparent, and accountable. These efforts reflect our commitment to building trust, delivering results, and ensuring our work continues to meet the evolving needs of the communities we serve.



Nicole Rowan
Director, Water Quality Control Division,
Colorado Department of Public Health
and Environment

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Rowan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

The report also includes information required by statute. Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 25-8-305 (1)(a), on or before Oct. 1 of each year, the division through the executive director shall report to the commission on the effectiveness of this article 8 and shall include in such report any recommendations the division may have with respect to any regulatory or legislative changes that may be needed or desired. The report must include the then-current monitoring information that has been obtained pursuant to section 25-8-303.

(2) The annual report described in subsection (1) of this section must include information on the division's:

- (a) Implementation of the discharge permitting program established in part 5 of this article 8.
- (b) Inspections performed.
- (c) Enforcement actions under this article 8.
- (d) Establishment of any new rules and standards.
- (e) Assessment of any emerging trends that the division perceives in issues pertaining to water quality.
- (f) Ratio of general fund appropriations to cash fund appropriations that were authorized for the state fiscal year immediately preceding the date of the report.
- (g) Revenue and expenditures, including for the division's general administration needs, the division's administration of the clean water and drinking water programs, and the division's allocation of any increased fees established through section 25-8-210 for services that the division provides. The department shall present this information as part of the department's annual "SMART Act" presentation pursuant to section 2-7-203.
- (h) Timing in considering and issuing permits, including the number of years administratively continued permits have been pending, categorized by years pending, and a narrative description of the division's

plan for processing administratively continued permits that have been administratively continued for longer than five years.

(3)(a) For a report that the division submits on or before Oct. 1, 2025, the report must include the total permit fee revenue received in the previous twelve months, and the division's direct and indirect costs to administer the permits, for the following sector-specific permits, reviews, or determinations:

- (I) The commerce and industry sector pursuant to section 25-8-502 (1.1)(b).
- (II) The construction sector pursuant to section 25-8-502 (1.1)(c).
- (III) The pesticide sector pursuant to section 25-8-502 (1.1)(d).
- (IV) The public and private utilities sector pursuant to section 25-8-502 (1.1)(e).
- (V) The municipal separate storm sewer system sector pursuant to section 25-8-502 (1.1)(f).
- (VI) The reviews performed pursuant to section 25-8-502 (1.2) for requests for certification under section 401 of the federal act.
- (VII) The preliminary effluent limitation determinations performed pursuant to section 25-8-502 (1.3)(b).
- (VIII) The wastewater site applications and design reviews performed pursuant to section 25-8-502 (1.3)(c).

(4)(a) For the report that the division submits in 2025, the report must include:

- (I) A description of the fee structure proposed or included in rules that the commission has proposed or adopted pursuant to section 25-8-210 (1)(a);
- (II) If the rules proposed or adopted pursuant to section 25-8-210 (1)(a) modify a fee structure set forth in statute, the reasons for the change in the fee structure; and
- (III) A summary of options for setting a cap on the amount of fee increases and the department of public health and environment's recommendations on setting a cap based on stakeholder feedback.

The division has met all of the statutory requirements. We are providing this annual report to the Senate [Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee](#) and the House of Representatives [Agriculture, Water and Natural Resources Committee](#).



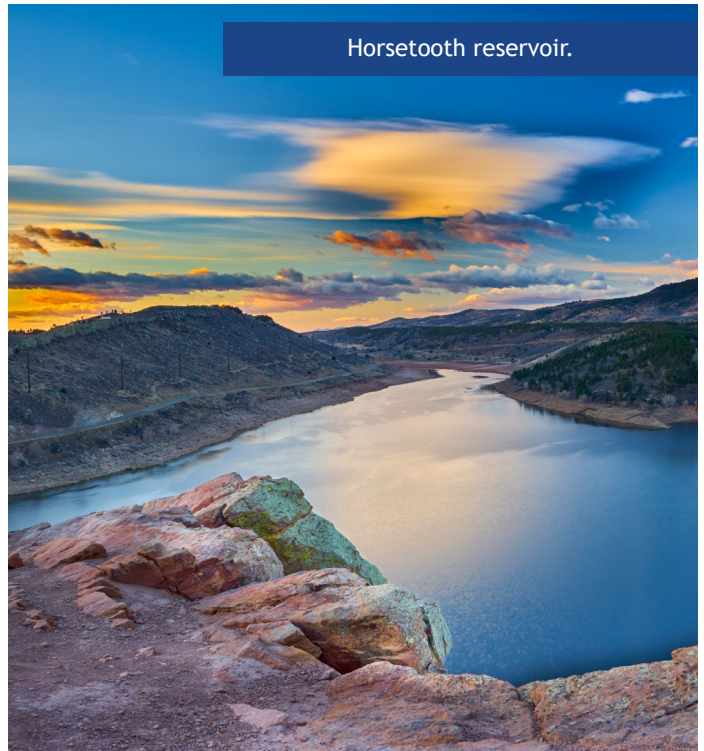
Major Projects

Dredge & fill

On May 29, 2024, Governor Polis signed HB 24-1379 into law, which establishes a new program to regulate dredge and fill activities impacting Colorado’s waterways and wetlands. This will fill the void left by the Supreme Court’s May 2023 decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, which narrowed protections for waterways and wetlands at the federal level. Colorado is the first state in the nation to enact legislation responding to the *Sackett* decision to ensure our valuable water resources continue to be protected.

The legislation requires the commission to develop a regulation that the division will implement through the new dredge and fill program. According to the legislation, this regulation must include fees, individual permit application requirements, and a compensatory mitigation framework. To develop this regulation, the division is leading a robust stakeholder process to gather input for a regulatory proposal (Regulation 87) for the commission’s consideration, which will culminate in a rule making hearing in December 2025.

The program will protect all wetlands, lakes, and streams in Colorado that are no longer protected at the federal level, unless the water feature falls under one of the bill’s specific exclusions. To do this, the program utilizes a framework where entities avoid impacts, minimize impacts, and/or compensate for any unavoidable impacts of dredge and fill activities on state waters. The bill also exempts certain activities from regulation, for example, the construction and maintenance of irrigation ditches and activities to facilitate emergency response to natural disasters. The division will structure the program by administering “general authorizations” which will cover specific categories of activities and “individual authorizations” which will cover larger dredge and fill projects.



Fee-setting

In May 2023, Governor Polis signed Senate Bill 23-274, which focused on water quality fees. Previously, the Colorado legislature set these fees in statute, which meant that making any changes to fees required legislative action. Fees did not keep up with inflation. Fees often remained flat for years and even decades without an increase. This bill directed the Water Quality Control Commission to instead set fees through their standard regulatory process by October 31, 2025.

To do this work, the division has been engaging with stakeholders, including permit holders, public water systems, county and local government representatives, conservation and environmental justice groups, and community members, including those from disproportionately impacted communities, since July 2023. As a result of these conversations, the commission adopted the first fee rule in May 2024, which transferred the drinking water and commerce and industry sector cash fees from statute to regulation, and added a 13% inflationary increase to these fees.

The commission plans to hold another rule making by October 2025 to transfer the remaining funds from the statute to the rule.

PFAS drinking water rule

In April 2024, the EPA finalized the Per and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) Rule to reduce PFAS exposure in drinking water. As part of this rule, EPA set enforceable limits, called maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for six PFAS in drinking water. To adopt this rule in the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations, the division engaged with stakeholders through four virtual stakeholder meetings, two workgroup meetings, and one in-person community meeting. In May 2025, EPA announced that it plans to retain the standards it set for two PFAS chemicals and extend the compliance deadlines for water systems to comply. Additionally, EPA stated that it would re-evaluate standards for the other four PFAS chemicals. In August 2025, the commission adopted the current final PFAS rule with specific language designed to halt or delay implementation of any rule components that are later changed by EPA. This approach has been utilized and has been very successful for implementing EPA's new, but changing, rules associated with lead.



Feasibility & implementation

As part of the Water Quality Roadmap stakeholder group, the division launched a new Feasibility & Implementation sub-workgroup in February 2024. This subgroup is working to identify ways to help dischargers meet updated nutrient and other pollution control standards, while addressing implementation challenges, such as economic feasibility, energy use, and greenhouse gas emission impacts.

One of the subgroup's main focus points, initiated in 2024, is to evaluate the technical feasibility of

nutrient treatment in domestic wastewater. To do this, the division worked with stakeholders and assembled an expert panel through the National Water Research Institute. This panel is working to determine which wastewater treatment technologies can effectively treat wastewater to certain effluent limits. The panel is also providing expert opinions on specific items such as whether reverse osmosis is appropriate in Colorado's arid environment and the appropriate treatment goals for certain nutrient treatment systems.



Financial Performance

Federal funds, cash fees, and General Fund resources mainly support the division. The division collects fees to deliver clean water services, including issuing permits, conducting wastewater design reviews, and reviewing water quality certifications. The division also collects annual fees from drinking water systems. Pursuant to section 25-8-305(2)(f) C.R.S., Table 1 below summarizes the ratio of general fund to cash fund appropriations that were authorized for the state fiscal year immediately preceding the date of the report. Additional details can be found in Appendix A. Pursuant to section 25-8-305(2)(g) C.R.S., Table 2 summarizes revenue and expenditures, including for the division’s general administration needs, the division’s administration of the clean water (comprising of both the division’s Clean Water Watershed and Engineering Program and the Clean Water Permitting and Compliance Program) and drinking water programs, and the division’s allocation of any increased fees established through section 25-8-210 for services that the division provides. The Water Quality Control Commission adopted a 13% increase for both the Drinking Water and Commerce and Industry cash funds as part of Regulation 102 in May 2024. These fees took effect in August 2024, and the additional revenue from fee increases are reflected in Table 1 and Table 2 and FY 24-25 summary table in Appendix A. Pursuant to section 25-8-305(3)(a) C.R.S., Table 2 also summarizes the total permit fee revenue received in SFY 2024-25 (which reflects the most updated financials for the last twelve months) and the division’s direct and indirect costs to administer permits and the clean water program. Additional details are available in Appendix A.

Table 1: General fund to cash fund ratios.

Fiscal Year 2024-25 Ratios	
Water Quality Control Division Budget:	
(A) Administration (General Fund (GF):Cash Fund (CF) 56%:44%)	
(B) Clean Water Sectors (GF:CF 39%:61%)	
Commerce and Industry Sector (GF:CF 51%:49%)	
Construction Sector (GF:CF 16%:84%)	
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Sector (GF:CF 49%/51%)	
Pesticides Sector (GF:CF 97%:3%)	
Public and Private Utilities Sector (GF:CF 44%/56%)	
Water Quality Certification Sector (GF:CF 5%:95%)	
(C) Clean Water Program (GF:CF 87%:13%)	
(D) Drinking Water Program (GF:CF 89%:11%)	
Total (GF:CF 51%:49%)	

Table 2: Financial summary for permit sectors.

Sector Budget:	Total Long Bill Spending Auth	Collected Revenue	Total Expenses
Commerce and Industry Cash Fund	\$ 1,517,330	\$1,219,751	\$ 599,925
Construction Cash Fund	\$ 2,693,522	\$2,585,908	\$ 2,095,216
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Cash Fund	\$ 180,841	\$177,841	\$ 49,763
Pesticides Cash Fund	\$ 11,478	\$11,968	\$ -
Public/Private Utilities	\$ 3,449,869	\$2,135,441	\$ 1,862,115
Water Quality Certifications Cash Fund	\$ 232,235	\$48,936	\$ 28,765
Wastewater Site Applications/Design*	\$-	\$389,636	\$ 389,636
Preliminary Effluent Limitation Determinations*	\$-	\$10,250	\$ 10,250
Total	\$ 8,085,275	\$ 6,579,731	\$ 5,035,670

*Spending authority is included in the Public/Private Utilities row.

Performance Indicators Summary

Permitting performance indicators

The division continues to report out on permit issuance-related metrics. The division started collecting and reporting on metrics for annual reporting starting in 2017. In the fall of 2024, the division convened stakeholders to develop additional performance-focused metrics. For the first time in the 2025 Annual Report, the division has included a permits work plan that outlines what the division will focus on for the upcoming year. This information is available on the [Clean Water Permits website](#). The division also plans to report on additional performance metrics for future reports. Permit performance metrics can be found in Appendix C.

View the permits work plan and backlog information on the [Clean Water Permits website](#).

Clean water inspections

Pursuant to section 25-8-305(2)(b) C.R.S., the division is providing information on the division's inspections performed. Field inspections are a key component of the division's compliance assurance efforts. The division is responsible for conducting inspections of facilities subject to the federal Clean Water Act and Colorado Water Quality Control Act requirements. The number of inspections has been relatively consistent in recent reporting years. Due to funding constraints, the number of inspections completed for all sectors except the construction sector continues to fall short of EPA national targets. For the construction sector, there has been variability over the last four years in the total number of inspections, and the division has used reconnaissance inspections as a way to meet inspection goals. Reconnaissance inspections are less resource-intensive than full compliance evaluation inspections. The use of reconnaissance inspections is an adjustment to the division's overall construction sector compliance strategy and not a change in the level of oversight. Additional information can be found in Appendix D.

Drinking water inspections

The division conducts sanitary surveys of all public water systems. In 2024, the division completed 497 sanitary surveys, including three intensive surveys in response to bacteriological contamination. The EPA's backlog target for drinking water inspections is under 20% and the division's backlog is exactly 20%, meaning we are not quite meeting the EPA target. As part of the mobile home program (outlined on page 17), many mobile home parks were identified as public water systems, which increased the number of public water systems needing inspection and impacted our ability to meet the EPA target. More detailed information about drinking water sanitary surveys is available in Appendix G.

Clean water enforcement actions

Pursuant to section 25-8-305(2)(c) C.R.S., the division is providing information on the division's enforcement actions under Colorado's Water Quality Control Act. The Compliance and Enforcement Section is responsible for ensuring the regulated community complies with the requirements of the Colorado Water Quality Control Act and its implementing regulations. Work can be placed into three broad categories: compliance assistance, informal compliance assurance, and formal enforcement activities. Enforcement staff follow established formal and informal enforcement response criteria outlined in the [enforcement management system](#).

The total number of DMR reporting violations (delinquent or deficient DMRs) is consistent with previous years, with a notable decrease in DMR violations in the commerce and industry sector. There was a noticeable decrease in the number of facilities that reported effluent violations this year as compared to FY23. The first step in addressing DMR and effluent violations is to issue a compliance advisory, followed by an enforcement action (if warranted). The output of compliance advisories and enforcement actions in this reporting year is generally consistent with previous years. More detailed information is available in Appendix E.

New Rules and Standards

Pursuant to section 25-8-305(2)(d) C.R.S., the division is including information on the division's establishment of any new rules and standards.

Clean water regulations

Between Oct. 1, 2023, and Sept. 30, 2024, the division proposed changes to several regulations.

In October 2023, the commission adopted:

- Revisions to Regulation 101, Water Quality Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment Regulation, to adjust the maximum penalties for violations of the Colorado Water Quality Control Act and its implementing regulation for inflation. As a result, the commission increased the maximum penalty by 4.7% to \$64,326.
- Revisions to discharger-specific variances for the City of La Junta, City of Las Animas, and City of Pueblo, Arkansas River Basin, under Regulation 32.
- Revisions to site-specific standards for Rio Grande Silver, under Regulation 36.
- Temporary modifications for arsenic under Regulations 32-38.

In November 2023, the commission adopted revisions to the Graywater Control Regulation, Regulation 86. The revisions improved the clarity and organization of the regulations and added new uses and requirements for greywater.

In February 2024, the commission:

- Corrected an inconsistency in segmentation in Regulation 38, the Classifications and Numeric Standards for South Platte River Basin, Laramie River Basin, Republican River Basin, and Smoky Hill River Basin.
- Adopted changes to Regulation 72, the Cherry Creek Reservoir Control Regulation. These



changes impacted permitting practices and requirements for construction dewatering.

In May 2024, the commission promulgated a new regulation, Regulation 102, Water Quality Control Division Fees. This regulation transferred drinking water and commerce and industry cash fees from statute to this new regulation and included a 13% fee increase. The second hearing is scheduled for 2025 and will transfer the remaining fees from statute to regulation.

In June 2024, the commission revised water quality classifications and standards for molybdenum in Regulation 31, Basic Standards and Methodologies for Surface Water, and Regulation 33, Classifications and Numeric Standards for Upper Colorado River Basin and North Platte River.

Drinking water regulations

The commission did not adopt any drinking water regulations during this period.



Emerging Trends

Pursuant to section 25-8-305(2)(e) C.R.S, the division is including information on the division’s assessment of any emerging trends that the division perceives in issues pertaining to water quality.

The division’s mission is to protect and restore Colorado’s water quality for public health, the environment, and future generations, working towards our ultimate vision of clean and safe water for all. Consistent with this mission and vision, the division monitors emerging trends to try to determine what actions are needed and where to direct resources in the future. A major division focus has been working on how to improve our processes with a goal of being more efficient, communicative, transparent, and accountable.

Permit processing

In working with stakeholders, the division identified [20 actionable items](#) where we can improve efficiencies, communication, transparency, and/or accountability for processing clean water permits. We have already hired a consultant to evaluate and develop process improvement recommendations, developed a dashboard that would make permit data easier to follow, identified additional permit metrics to track, and begun looking for contractors to help division staff as they develop permits. The division is also committed to improving communications with permittees and has launched an official stakeholder effort to facilitate discussions about additional areas where the division can improve our communication and to set feasible timelines for different phases of permit processes so stakeholders know when to expect to hear from the division.

Mobile Home Park contractor costs

The division’s Mobile Home Park Water Quality program was able to develop processes and tools that have allowed the program to stay within budget and on schedule with legislative requirements. This program was tasked with assessing the drinking water quality at all mobile home parks in Colorado and developing a plan (based on sample results and interview data) to improve water quality at mobile home parks. To get help with this effort, the division issued a request for proposals for the period from 2024 to 2028 for about \$10 million; however, all of the qualified responses over bid by a range of about \$5 million. In order to stay within budget, the division ended up utilizing division expertise to develop a prioritization tool and testing plans for each mobile home park rather than a contractor, saving approximately \$1 million in costs during the first year of the contract.

Collections

The division has been working to improve the number of entities that pay required invoices for clean water fees and drinking water annual fees. In FY25, the division implemented a tool to send clean water invoices electronically. Since the tool began, the division has sent over 1300 past due notices and 385 new invoices via email. The division has also called entities when we learn an email hasn’t been delivered. Due to these operational improvements, the division has seen a significant decrease in invoices that we send to collections: In FY2024, we sent 3,261 invoices to collections, and in FY2025, we only sent one invoice to collections.



Brown’s Canyon Arkansas River in Colorado.

Regulatory and Legislative Recommendations

Legislative recommendations

Pursuant to section 25-8-305(1)(a) C.R.S., the division does not have proposals for consideration for legislative changes that may be needed or desired.



Fee-setting by Rule Outcome

In May 2023, the Governor signed Senate Bill 23-274, changing how Colorado sets water quality fees. Previously set in statute, fees often lagged behind inflation. The bill authorizes the Water Quality Control Commission to set fees through a regulatory process by October 31, 2025, with statutory fees repealed on July 1, 2026. The division held 58 stakeholder meetings through May 2025, engaging with permit holders, local governments, environmental groups, and disproportionately impacted communities. These discussions led to the development of Regulation 102, which the commission first adopted in May 2024, and which included drinking water fees and commerce and industry fees. A second rule making is planned for October 2025, and the proposal includes the remaining division fees.

Pursuant to section 25-8-305 (4)(a) C.R.S., the division evaluated the existing fee structure and developed a summary of options for setting a cap on the amount of fee increases, incorporating department's recommendations and stakeholder feedback. The draft proposal maintains the current clean water permit annual fee structure with slight adjustments. These include updating category numbering, removing 35 unused fee categories, and adding new subcategories for commerce and industry. It also simplifies the 401 water quality certification tiers from four to three. The drinking water fees remain unchanged and continue to be based on population and water source,⁷. The draft includes fee-increase caps—13% for drinking water and 14% for clean water—aligned with the Governor's 2024 budget. The division, in coordination with the department budget team and the Office of State Planning and Budgeting, evaluated several options to identify what the cap should be on fee increases for the 2025-2026 year. This involved evaluating how much of the division programs should be funded by general funds vs. cash funds. In looking at multiple scenarios, fee caps ranged from 16% to 170% increases in just one year. Ultimately, given the budget deficit and the department's and the Governor's Office's approval, the proposal includes a 13% increase for drinking water fees and a 14% increase for selected clean water fees.

Additionally, the division proposes implementing an annual inflation-based fee adjustment to be adopted through the Water Quality Control Commission's rule making process. On or before January 1, 2027, the division will hold at least one stakeholder meeting each year to discuss any proposed adjustments, which would be capped at 4% annually unless additional engagement is conducted if higher fee increases are needed. These changes aim to ensure sustainable, transparent funding for Colorado's water quality programs.



Clean Water Efforts

Program summary

The division works to maintain and improve water quality in Colorado's rivers, lakes, and streams. The program sets standards and pollutant limits, issues permits to ensure limits are met to support stream standards, and takes action to maintain and regain compliance. More detailed information is available in Appendices B, C, D, and E.

A photograph of a river flowing through a dense forest of evergreen trees. The river is surrounded by large rocks and fallen branches, creating rapids. The water is white and turbulent as it flows over the rocks. The surrounding forest is lush and green, with some bare branches visible in the foreground.

Arkansas River downstream in Chaffee, CO.

Water quality roadmap

The division has been working with stakeholders on the water quality roadmap effort since 2018. The goal of the roadmap effort was to develop or revise water quality standards for nutrients, cadmium, arsenic, selenium, and ammonia. In 2019, the commission adopted updated standards for cadmium and in 2023, they adopted updated standards for nutrients in lakes and reservoirs. Currently, this work is focused on determining the feasibility of wastewater dischargers meeting new standards and developing tools to help the division effectively implement those new standards. In 2024, the Water Quality Roadmap stakeholder group began discussing significant changes to the roadmap to provide additional time prior to adopting new or revised standards, and consider revisions to the statewide nutrient control regulation (Regulation 85) to continue to make water quality improvements prior to the adoption of new nutrient standards. Additional accomplishments of the roadmap effort are:

- Approximately 400 facilities monitor nutrients and submit data each year.
- Over 150 people attend the division's quarterly roadmap stakeholder meetings.
- Over 125 participants have signed up for a voluntary incentive program for early nutrient reduction and have been submitting data reports since 2019. A preliminary assessment of the data submitted shows reductions of both phosphorus and nitrogen at many facilities.

Permitting

Pursuant to section 25-8-305(2)(a) C.R.S., the division is providing information on its implementation of the discharge permitting program. The division writes permits to limit discharges of pollution to waters of the state, including groundwater not handled by other state agencies. Permits are written to protect beneficial uses of water for safe drinking, aquatic life, agriculture, and recreation. The division has 7,103 permits to manage as of September 30, 2024. Eighty percent of these permit authorizations are current and 20% are backlogged. However, starting October 1, 2022, EPA changed the way backlogs are measured and excluded the construction stormwater general permit from the backlog goals. As of September 30, 2024, the construction stormwater general permit covers 4,092 (58%) of permitted discharges. With this new measurement, only 55% of permit authorizations, not including the construction stormwater permit,

are current and 45% are backlogged. Therefore, the state is not meeting EPA's current goal that Colorado should maintain at least 75% of permits as current. Current permits include the most recent standards adopted by the commission and better protect our waters.

The division uses the same definition as EPA for backlog. EPA considers existing permits (both individual and general) backlogged if the permit is in need of reissuance but the permitting authority does not reissue the permit by or before 180 days after the expiration date.

During this past year, the division reissued and renewed the certifications under its two largest general permits: the construction stormwater permit and the industrial stormwater permit.

Pursuant to section 25-8-305(2)(h) C.R.S., the division is providing a narrative description of the division's plan for processing administratively continued permits that have been administratively continued for longer than five years. To reduce permit backlog and improve efficiency, the division will focus on streamlining processes, enhancing communication, and increasing transparency. The division will work to implement recommendations from a third-party evaluation of domestic wastewater permitting and apply them to other individual permits. Additionally, the division will develop a timeframe model for permitting decisions and engage with stakeholders to identify improved communication and data needs. The division is also creating a backlog-reduction schedule, informed by stakeholder input and process improvements, to guide annual planning and reporting.

Watershed restoration & protection

The division is dedicated to restoring and protecting Colorado's watersheds. The division builds partnerships by providing technical support and funding to local communities to improve nearby water quality. These partnerships help residents develop plans to meet water quality standards and carry out best management practices that control the amount of nonpoint source pollution that enters streams and lakes. In 2024, the programs oversaw more than 40 projects with total budgets over \$10.5 million to help local communities improve water quality.

Sampling and monitoring

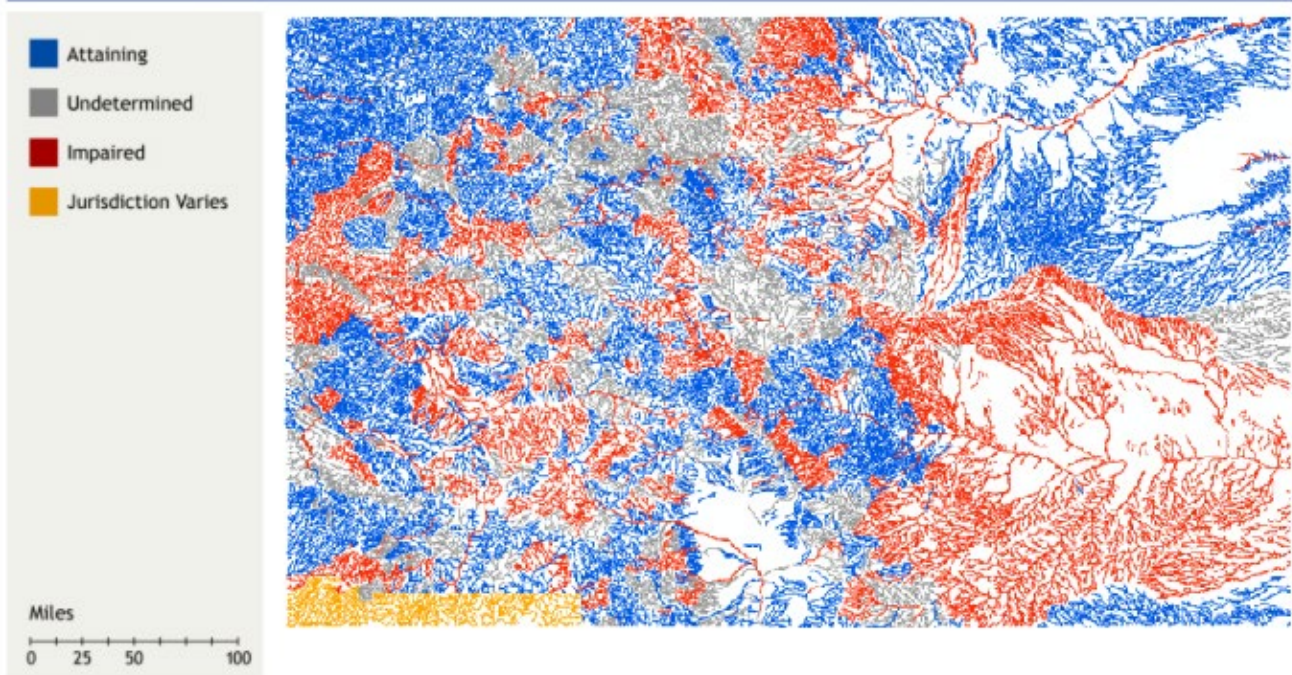
The division works with partners to develop scientific and technological information to help improve, restore, and protect the quality of surface water and groundwater throughout the state. This is achieved through monitoring and assessment that identifies impaired waters that require restoration. The map in Figure 1 shows the attaining and impaired streams in Colorado.

Pursuant to section 25-8-305(1)(a) C.R.S, the division is including information on the division's then-current monitoring information that has been obtained pursuant to section 25-8-303 C.R.S.

Colorado has over 105,344 miles of streams and 249,787 acres of lakes. The division uses a rotating basin approach for stream monitoring and samples the entire state over a five-year period. Water samples were mostly collected from the San Juan River and Gunnison River basins in the winter and spring of 2024 and the Arkansas River and Rio Grande basins in the summer and fall of 2024.

Staff travel to additional targeted sites year-round for routine sampling, to perform biological sampling, and to conduct special studies. Monitoring benthic macro-invertebrates, periphyton, phytoplankton, and sediment provides indicators of the health of our water.

Figure 1: The status of impaired streams in Colorado.



Toxic algae

Toxic algae is an emerging contaminant that can affect many kinds of water use. Toxic algae, also known as cyanobacteria or blue-green algae, can produce toxins that can make people and animals sick. These algae put drinking water and outdoor activities at risk.

The division's dedicated toxic algae program started in 2019. While still a relatively new program, the program achieved the following in the past year:

- Tested 76 water samples from across the state for algal toxins and shared results on the [Toxic Algae Dashboard](#).
- Collaborated with federal and state government agencies, towns, local health departments, and private organizations to share information about the dangers of toxic algae and to close waterbodies to public use if toxins were detected.
- Made minor changes to the Toxic Algae Dashboard to improve the user experience. The Toxic Algae Dashboard reports recent and past monitoring and testing results.
- Developed and implemented a Spanish version of the [Toxic Algae Dashboard](#).

Special studies

The division conducts special studies every year to identify and resolve impaired waters in the state and to support the development of criteria and assessment methodology. The following are some special studies the division conducted this past year. These studies are critical to our ability to use accurate and data-driven practices in future restoration and standards implementation work.

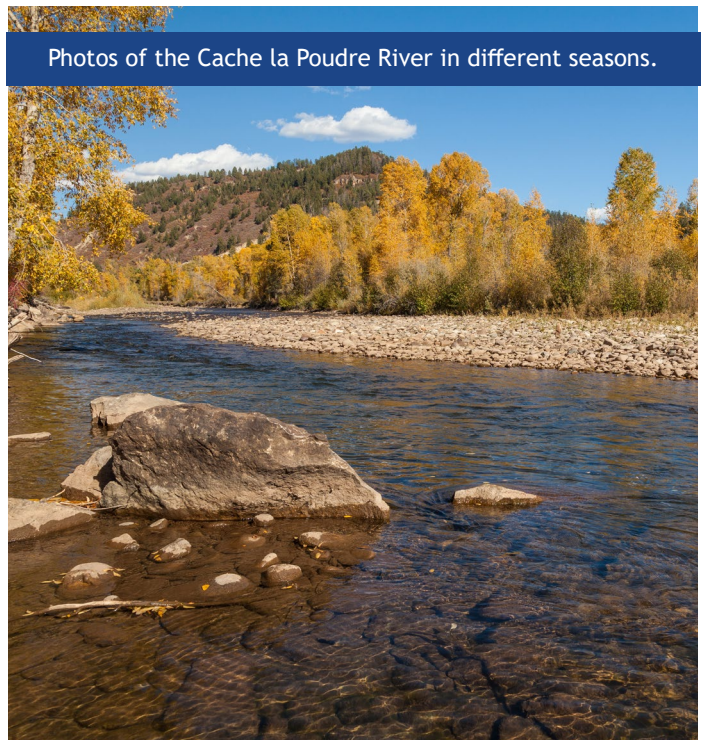
Aquatic life impairment investigations

In some cases, streams and lakes are included on the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters for poor macroinvertebrate communities, but the division has not yet identified the pollutant(s) causing the impairment. These listings are designated as provisional. In 2024, the division started a project collecting chemical, physical, and biological data in the Cache la Poudre River watershed to try to identify stressors that could be impacting the benthic macroinvertebrate community.



Temperature studies

The division has been working to investigate waterbodies that do not meet temperature standards and understand what is causing the elevated temperatures. In 2024, the division refined the understanding of temperature dynamics in the Roaring Fork and Dolores Rivers based on newly collected temperature data. The study will continue into 2025, and additional data collection will help refine the understanding in the Lower Arkansas, St. Vrain, and Big Thompson rivers.



Photos of the Cache la Poudre River in different seasons.

Safe Drinking Water Act Implementation

The division works to ensure that Colorado visitors and residents always have clean, safe drinking water by administering the Safe Drinking Water Act, as authorized by Colorado law. The division also helps administer operator certification requirements adopted by the Water and Wastewater Facility Operator Certification Board. Below are some examples of this work.

Environmental justice

Emerging Contaminant funding for Small and Disadvantaged Communities grant program

The division administers this program to help communities address drinking water challenges related to contaminants of emerging concern, such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. The funding helps impacted communities test their water, install treatment, add new water sources, or otherwise improve their infrastructure, and provides emergency assistance.

So far, this funding has helped six disproportionately impacted communities address PFAS in their drinking water. The division administered \$67 million in loans for South Adams County Water and Sanitation District, which serves Commerce City, to install and operate a treatment facility to remove PFAS. The division is currently working to distribute \$24 million in grant funding to help disadvantaged communities address PFAS.



Mobile Home Park program

The legislature passed the Mobile Home Park Water Quality Act in 2023, which tasked the division with testing and improving the drinking water in Colorado's 763 mobile home parks. Under this program, the division began testing drinking water and engaging with park owners and residents in June 2024. So far, the division has tested the drinking water at over 180 parks and engaged with more than 680 park residents.

The testing demonstrated that most parks have drinking water that meets health standards, but there are some parks that do not. When the division's testing identified harmful contaminant levels, we worked with the park owner to evaluate and remediate the issue. Through our engagement efforts, we also identified needs for more outreach and education for both park owners and park residents. The division is in the process of drafting an action plan that will include findings from the testing and outreach efforts and will provide recommendations for addressing water quality challenges at parks in the future.

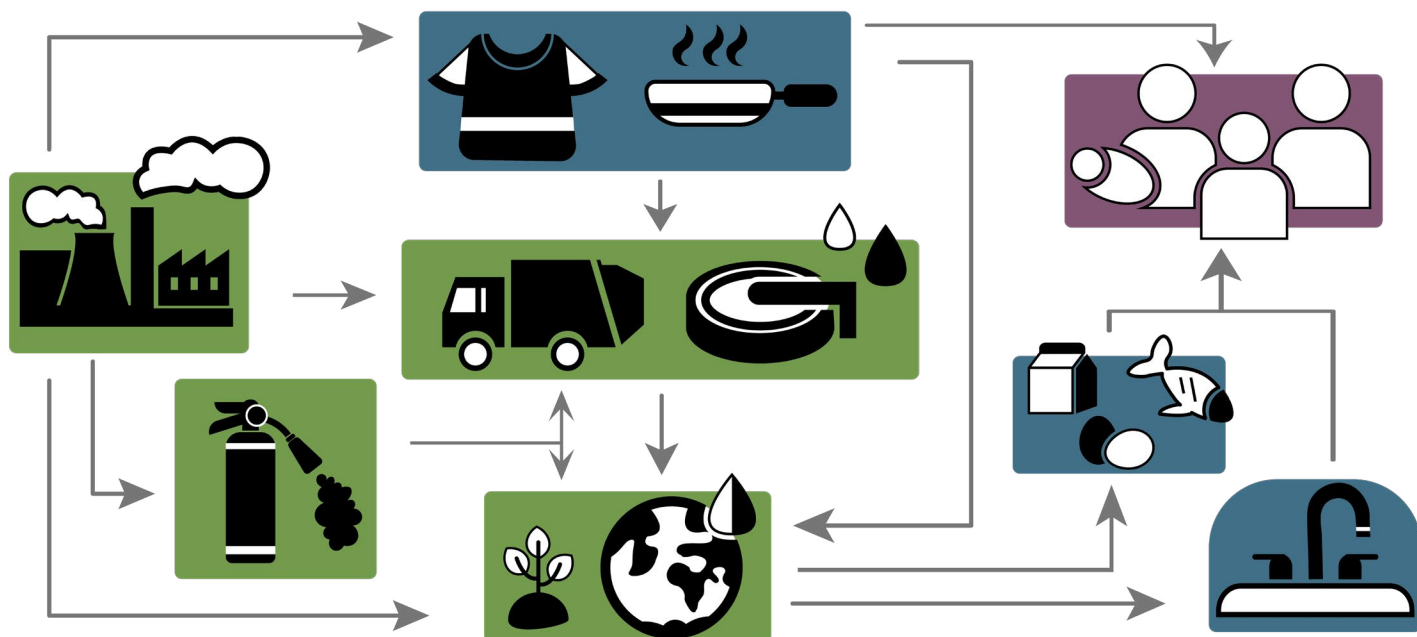


PFAS drinking water regulations

In April 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation to reduce PFAS exposure in drinking water, and in August 2025, the commission adopted the rule. The commission included language designed to halt or delay the implementation of rule components if the EPA makes changes at a later date. The rule sets legally enforceable standards called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for six PFAS chemicals in drinking water to protect people's health: PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA. To help water systems protect public health by complying with the PFAS rule, the division has hosted and continues to host informational meetings where we provide information on the requirements, encourage systems to proactively test their water for PFAS, and answer their questions. The division also administers the PFAS Grant Program, has created guidance documents to help water systems determine the best path forward for mitigating PFAS, and develops map series showing PFAS levels in drinking water across Colorado.

The division is also assisting systems that previously detected PFAS to verify current levels and encourage systems that haven't tested to participate in the PFAS Grant Program. We are also providing comprehensive technical assistance to water systems on implementing effective PFAS mitigation strategies. Updated resources are available on our website to guide systems through the complexities of addressing PFAS to and support their efforts in delivering safe drinking water.

Finally, the division plays a key role in the implementation of the department's 2024 PFAS Action Plan, a collaborative plan that outlines all the actions the department is taking to address PFAS contamination. The plan's three core objectives are to identify and minimize Coloradans' exposure to PFAS, assess and provide information on PFAS health risks, and limit the amount of PFAS entering the environment and address known PFAS contamination. Some of the division's contributions include working with local public health agencies to provide PFAS testing to potentially-impacted private wells, administering and expanding the PFAS Takeback Program to remove firefighting foam containing PFAS from use, and working with other state agencies to better understand PFAS exposure from fish.



Graphic showing the sources of PFAS and how it gets from our environment into the products we use.

Lead

The Safe Drinking Water Program is addressing lead in drinking water in several ways.

Lead drinking water rules

EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) took effect on October 16, 2024, and required water systems to complete a service line inventory and identify the pipe materials going from the water main to each building. By the end of 2024, out of 1,063 applicable water systems, only 18 systems still needed to complete their initial lead service line inventory. Looking ahead, the division is proactively preparing for the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), which will be effective on November 1, 2027, through stakeholder collaboration and the development of comprehensive guidance and resources.



required to add phosphate to control corrosion to protect public health. This was in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and because this treatment was the best at reducing lead compared to the proposed alternative. Subsequently, Denver Water and CDPHE worked with EPA to develop an alternate and even better approach under a Safe Drinking Water Act variance by implementing several steps, including tight pH control to reduce corrosion, full lead service line inventory and removal, providing filters to people with lead service lines and community engagement. EPA approved the variance and the division is ensuring the program is properly implemented. From 2020 through September 30, 2024, Denver Water has removed approximately 28,400 lead service lines in the metro area. This program is better for public health and environmental protection, environmental justice, and cost-effectiveness.



Test & Fix Water for Kids program

Since the legislature passed HB22-1358 and the division began implementing the program in August 2022, the Test & Fix Water for Kids program has tested 100% of the drinking water fixtures in public elementary schools across the state (1,400 school buildings) and over 1,400 child care buildings that were open during the 2022-2023 school year. In addition, as of September 30, 2024, all public middle schools have enrolled and 90% of them have been tested. In total, this program has tested almost 60,000 fixtures, completed remediation of fixtures at over 800 buildings, and protected 700,000 children from exposure to lead in drinking water.

Denver Water variance

After analyzing Denver Water's study in 2018 that evaluated lead exposure reduction options, the division determined that Denver Water was

Waterborne disease outbreaks

There were no waterborne disease outbreaks during the past year.

Priority list of contaminants

In accordance with C.R.S. 25-1.5-(202)(3)(a), the division reviewed the drinking water priority list of contaminants for which a minimum general sanitary standard may be appropriate. The division determined that the list established in 2019 is sufficient at this time. The list is as follows:

- PFOA: Chemical Abstract Service Number (CAS No.) 334-67-1.
- PFOS: CAS No. 1763-23-1.
- PFHxS: CAS No. 355-46-4.

Stakeholder Outreach

The division engaged in two main stakeholder efforts during this time: the Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Rule and the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule Revisions.

The EPA finalized the PFAS Rule in April 2024. The goal of this rule is to lower PFAS levels in drinking water to protect human health and the environment. This rule sets regulatory limits and testing requirements for six different PFAS chemicals. The division began a stakeholder process to adopt this rule in August 2024 and hosted four virtual stakeholder meetings, two workgroup meetings, and one in-person community meeting to gather feedback. In addition, the division has developed online guidance and resources to help public water systems prepare to comply with this rule.

The division also worked to gather stakeholder feedback on EPA's revisions to the Consumer Confidence Report Rule, which EPA finalized in May 2024. The intention of these revisions is to make the reports easier to read and improve the public's access to water quality information. The division began working with stakeholders on these revisions in September 2024 and held three virtual meetings, one in-person workgroup meeting, and one in-person community meeting to gather feedback.



Look Ahead - LCRI

On October 30, 2024, the EPA finalized the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), which updated the 2021 Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. The LCRI will further strengthen protections from lead exposure by requiring public drinking water systems to replace all lead service lines by 2037. The division will start stakeholder engagement for an LCRI rule making to adopt the rule in the summer of 2025. The division is planning several LCRI stakeholder meetings and workgroup meetings to discuss proposed regulatory language and to better understand what water systems need to comply with LCRI.

Based on stakeholder feedback, the division will propose updates to the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations to incorporate LCRI requirements, enhancing clarity and accessibility. A rule making package will be presented to the Water Quality Control Commission for adoption in 2026.

Colorado must adopt these regulations to maintain primary enforcement of LCRI requirements. The division is committed to a transparent process to ensure stakeholder preparedness for LCRI implementation. Due to ongoing litigation, it appears that EPA may modify or delay LCRI. If EPA makes changes to LCRI, the division has a plan to ensure Colorado's requirements align with the federal rule.



Infrastructure Projects

The division connects communities to grants and loans to help them repair or improve their drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. We supported approximately 121 projects this year that have or will receive federal or state funding assistance. We ensure compliance with federal requirements such as environmental reviews by coordinating with communities, local agencies, project consultants and internal partners. The division performs engineering reviews of all publicly-owned water and wastewater construction projects in the state. These efforts ensure that the funding will not be at risk in the event of an audit, and that the projects will meet the needed goals for these communities.

Accomplishments:

- About 400 engineering review projects annually
- We funded 24 loans that totaled \$198,081,492 through the Drinking Water Revolving Fund
- 7 recipients received \$1,296,146 through the Water Quality Improvement Fund
- 1 recipient received \$191,013 through Small Community Grants
- 13 loans, totaling \$74,554,036, were funded through the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund

Success stories

Town of Yampa Collection System Improvements

The Town of Yampa, located in Northwestern Colorado, wanted to improve their outdated wastewater treatment works to comply with regulatory standards and protect local water quality. However, the overall project cost was \$4.5 million and the town was concerned about needing to raise customer utility rates. The town worked closely with the division to assess options and decided to approach improvements to the collection system and the treatment system upgrades as separate projects and seek separate funding sources for each.

The town determined that the Clean Water State Revolving Fund would fund the collection system improvements and USDA Rural Development would fund the replacement of the town's lagoon system with a mechanical treatment plant. This enabled the town to leverage principal forgiveness opportunities available from both funding sources. Additionally, by splitting the project into two separate projects, the town was able to apply for two \$1 million grants from

the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. The town established their status as a disadvantaged community, which qualified them for a design and engineering assistance grant. This innovative funding structure will help the town avoid utility rate increases while protecting water quality.

The EPA recognized this project in its [SRF Creating Environmental Success \(PIECES Program\)](#). The division has applied lessons learned from this project's large-scale watershed restoration to other state areas.

Highland Lakes Water District

Highland Lakes Water District is located in Teller County, Colorado and serves 875 residents. The district uses wells to provide drinking water, but after an evaluation, the division determined that the water quality in these wells was under the influence of nearby surface water. This means that the district needed to upgrade their drinking water treatment process to protect public health. After assessing their options, the district learned that it would cost them approximately \$2.7 million to install the necessary treatment.

The district worked closely with the division to better understand available funding and decided to apply for funding through the SRF program. In total, the SRF program awarded Highland Lakes \$1.4 million, which included a \$300,000 design and engineering grant. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs also awarded the district an energy impact assistance grant. With this funding package, the district was able to install a new drinking water treatment plant that is much better at protecting public health and complies with regulatory requirements. The low-interest loan, design and engineering grant and the grant funds from DOLA allowed the water district to accomplish this project and minimize the impact to the residential ratepayers.



Yampa project sign during site inspection.

Appendix A - Financial Performance

Financial Summary

The following tables summarize the Water Quality Control Division’s amount of General Fund appropriations and cash fund appropriations that were authorized for state FY 2024-25. Table A1 summarizes the general fund and cash fund ratios, revenue, and direct and indirect expenditures for the Water Quality Control Division’s general administration needs, the clean water sectors, the Clean Water Program (comprising of both the division’s Clean Water Watershed and Engineering Program and the Clean Water Permitting and Compliance Program) and the Drinking Water Program. The General Fund to cash fund ratio is indicated throughout the table after the “GF:CF” notation.

In comparing the previous fiscal year to FY 2024-25, overall funding for the division remained steady at about a 51% General Fund to 49% cash fund split. Administration held a consistent balance year to year, with costs shared between the General Fund (56%) and cash funds (44%). Clean Water sectors continue to lean on cash funds, which cover roughly 60% of expenditures. By contrast, Drinking Water is 90% covered by General Fund.

Table A1: WQCD General Fund to Cash Fund ratios and financial summary for State Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Fiscal Year 2024-25 Financial Results			
Water Quality Control Division Budget:	Total Long Bill Spending Authority	Collected Revenue	Total Expenses
(A) Administration (GF:CF 56%:44%)	\$ 2,927,751	\$ 1,107,550	\$ 2,198,639
General Fund	\$ 1,221,040	–	\$ 1,205,294
Cash Funds	\$ 962,784	\$ 1,107,550	\$ 670,346
Federal Funds	\$ 743,927	–	\$ 322,999
(B) Clean Water Sectors (GF:CF 39%:61%)	\$ 11,239,052	\$ 5,396,450	\$ 9,007,507
Commerce and Industry Sector (GF:CF 51%:49%)	\$ 2,766,270	\$ 1,071,790	\$ 1,968,264
General Funds	\$ 1,295,385	–	\$ 1,287,183
Cash Funds	\$ 1,241,767	\$1,071,790	\$ 451,964
Federal Funds	\$ 229,118	–	\$ 229,117
Construction Sector (GF:CF 16%:84%)	\$ 2,597,023	\$ 2,277,186	\$ 2,386,796
General Fund	\$ 381,946	–	\$ 379,774
Cash Funds	\$ 1,994,548	\$2,277,186	\$ 1,786,493
Federal Funds	\$ 220,529	–	\$ 220,529
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Sector (GF:CF 49%/51%)	\$ 335,226	\$ 175,271	\$ 212,430
General Fund	\$ 152,773	–	\$ 152,773
Cash Funds	\$ 157,790	\$175,271	\$ 47,193
Federal Funds	\$ 24,663	–	\$ 12,464
Pesticides Sector (GF:CF 97%:3%)	\$ 232,240	\$ 11,425	\$ 217,744
General Fund	\$ 207,070	–	\$ 207,070
Cash Funds	\$ 6,478	\$11,425	\$ -
Federal Funds	\$ 18,692	–	\$ 10,674

Public and Private Utilities Sector (GF:CF 44%/56%)	\$ 5,062,883	\$ 1,815,675	\$ 4,187,862
General Fund	\$ 2,028,840	–	\$ 2,022,210
Cash Funds	\$ 2,557,574	\$1,815,675	\$ 1,815,675
Federal Funds	\$ 476,469	–	\$ 349,977
Water Quality Certification Sector (GF:CF 5%:95%)	\$ 245,410	\$ 45,103	\$ 34,411
General Fund	\$ 10,280	–	\$9,504
Cash Funds	\$ 199,594	\$45,103	\$24,907
Federal Funds	\$ 35,536	–	\$0
(C) Clean Water Program (GF:CF 87%:13%)	\$ 7,857,831	\$ 1,870,362	\$ 3,458,225
General Fund	\$ 2,175,001	–	\$ 2,112,583
Cash Funds (1280,19T0)	\$ 5,682,830	\$1,870,362	\$ 1,345,642
Federal Funds	\$ 5,485,572	–	\$ 2,343,318
(D) Drinking Water Program (GF:CF 89%:11%)	\$ 6,837,942	\$ 573,903	\$ 4,653,121
General Fund	\$ 4,268,100	–	\$ 3,634,555
Cash Funds (16K0,WWF0)	\$ 554,257	\$573,903	\$ 136,207
Federal Funds	\$ 2,015,585	–	\$ 882,359
Indirect	\$ 6,845,960	\$ 475,845	\$ 765,159
General Fund		–	
Cash Funds	\$ 1,612,233	\$475,845	\$ 231,867
Federal Funds	\$ 5,233,727	–	\$ 533,292
Total (GF:CF 51%:49%)	\$ 41,194,108	\$ 9,424,110	\$ 22,205,440
General Fund	\$ 11,740,435	–	\$ 11,010,946
Cash Funds	\$ 14,969,855	\$ 9,424,110	\$ 6,510,294
Federal Funds	\$ 14,483,818	\$ -	\$ 4,684,200

Appendix B - Clean Water Performance

Table B1: Summary of full-time equivalents.

Reporting year	Enforcement	Engineering	Inspections	Permits	Standards	Total
Commerce and industry						
10/2016-9/2017	1.5	0.1	2	5.3	2.4	11.3
10/2017-9/2018	1.8	0.0	1.7	5.7	3.0	12.2
10/2018-9/2019	1.4	0.0	1.5	4.0	3.5	10.4
10/2019-9/2020	1.9	0.1	1.5	4.3	2.2	10.0
10/2020-9/2021	1.9	0.1	1.5	5.0	2.0	10.5
10/2021-9/2022	1.9	0.1	1.7	5	2.2	10.9
10/2022-9/2023	1.7	0.2	1.7	3	1.5	8.1
10/2023-9/2024	1.9	1.8	1.5	3.7	2.7	11.6
Construction						
10/2016-9/2017	1.9	0.0	8.8	2.3	0.0	13.0
10/2017-9/2018	1.3	0.0	8.6	2.5	0.0	12.4
10/2018-9/2019	2.2	0.0	8.1	2.2	0.0	12.5
10/2019-9/2020	1.5	0.0	7.4	2.9	0.1	11.9
10/2020-9/2021	1.3	0.0	7.9	2.2	0.1	11.5
10/2021-9/2022	1.5	0.0	7.8	2.9	0.1	12.3
10/2022-9/2023	1.5	0.0	5.4	3.9	0.1	10.9
10/2023-9/2024	1.5	0.0	8.2	2.8	0.1	12.5
Municipal separate storm sewer systems						
10/2016-9/2017	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.5
10/2017-9/2018	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.0	0.9
10/2018-9/2019	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.0	0.0	1.1
10/2019-9/2020	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.0	0.0	1.1
10/2020-9/2021	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.0	0.0	1.1
10/2021-9/2022	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.9	0.0	1.0
10/2022-9/2023	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.9	0.0	1.0
10/2023-9/2024	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.6

Pesticides						
10/2016-9/2017	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.7
10/2017-9/2018	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
10/2018-9/2019	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
10/2019-9/2020	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
10/2020-9/2021	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
10/2021-9/2022	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
10/2022-9/2023	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
10/2023-9/2024	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Public and private utilities						
10/2016-9/2017	2.6	3.8	2.9	3.1	3.6	16.0
10/2017-9/2018	2.9	3.9	3.2	6.0	3.0	19.0
10/2018-9/2019	2.4	3.9	3.9	6.8	2.5	19.5
10/2019-9/2020	2.3	3.7	2.8	6.0	3.7	18.6
10/2020-9/2021	1.8	4.2	3.5	6.2	3.6	19.3
10/2021-9/2022	1.8	3.7	3.9	6.4	3.7	19.5
10/2022-9/2023	2.4	3.9	2.8	5.7	2.4	17.1
10/2023-9/2024	2.4	4.1	4.5	6.7	3.5	21.2
Total						
10/2016-9/2017	6.0	3.9	14.6	11.0	6.0	41.5
10/2017-9/2018	6.0	3.9	14.6	15.0	6.0	45.5
10/2018-9/2019	6.0	3.9	14.6	14.0	6.0	44.5
10/2019-9/2020	5.7	3.8	12.8	14.2	6.0	42.6
10/2020-9/2021	5.0	4.3	14.0	14.4	5.7	43.4
10/2021-9/2022	5.2	3.8	14.5	15.2	6.0	44.7
10/2022-9/2023	5.5	4.1	11.0	13.5	4.0	38.1
10/2023-9/2024	5.8	5.9	15.3	13.6	6.3	46.8

Table B2: Waterbody with confirmed toxic algae and if the toxin levels were below or above the advisory level.

Waterbody with positive toxin test	HAB levels
Jumbo (Julesburg) Reservoir	Below advisory level
Cherry Creek Reservoir	Above advisory level
DeWeese Reservoir	Above advisory level
Barr Lake	Above advisory level
Road Canyon Reservoir	Below advisory level
North Sterling Reservoir	Above advisory level
Wahatoya Lake	Below advisory level
Stagecoach Reservoir	Above advisory level
Windsor Lake (this was reported to CDPHE by Town of Windsor)	Above advisory level

Table B3: Comparison of Colorado's and EPA's water quality criteria.

Classified use	Number of Colorado criteria that are the <u>same</u> as EPA criteria	Number of Colorado criteria that are <u>more stringent</u> than EPA criteria	Number of Colorado criteria that are <u>less stringent</u> than EPA criteria	Total
Aquatic life				
As of 9/30/2017	35 (74%)	4 (9%)	8 (17%)	47
As of 9/30/2018	35 (74%)	4 (9%)	8 (17%)	47
As of 9/30/2019	35 (74%)	4 (9%)	8 (17%)	47
As of 9/30/2020	36 (77%)	3 (6%)	8 (17%)	47
As of 9/30/2021	38 (79%)	3 (6%)	7 (15%)	48
As of 9/30/2022	38 (79%)	3 (6%)	7 (15%)	48
As of 9/30/2023	40 (83%)	3 (6%)	5 (10%)	48
As of 9/30/2024	40 (83%)	3 (6%)	5 (10%)	48
Recreation				
As of 9/30/2017	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	1
As of 9/30/2018	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	1
As of 9/30/2019	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	1
As of 9/30/2020	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	1
As of 9/30/2021	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	1

Appendix B - Clean Water Performance

As of 9/30/2022	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	1
As of 9/30/2023	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	1
As of 9/30/2024	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	1
Agriculture				
As of 9/30/2017	21 (91%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	23
As of 9/30/2018	21 (91%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	23
As of 9/30/2019	21 (91%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	23
As of 9/30/2020	21 (91%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	23
As of 9/30/2021	21 (91%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	23
As of 9/30/2022	21 (91%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	23
As of 9/30/2023	21 (91%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	23
As of 9/30/2024	21 (91%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	23
Domestic water supply				
As of 9/30/2017	79 (91%)	6 (7%)	1 (2%)	86
As of 9/30/2018	79 (91%)	6 (7%)	1 (2%)	86
As of 9/30/2019	79 (91%)	6 (7%)	1 (2%)	86
As of 9/30/2020	79 (91%)	6 (7%)	2 (2%)	87
As of 9/30/2021	79 (91%)	6 (7%)	2 (2%)	87
As of 9/30/2022	79 (91%)	6 (7%)	2 (2%)	87
As of 9/30/2023	79 (91%)	6 (7%)	2 (2%)	87
As of 9/30/2024	79 (91%)	6 (7%)	2 (2%)	87
Aquatic life and domestic water supply combination				
As of 9/30/2017	13 (13%)	31 (32%)	54 (55%)	98
As of 9/30/2018	13 (13%)	31 (32%)	54 (55%)	98
As of 9/30/2019	13 (13%)	31 (32%)	54 (55%)	98
As of 9/30/2020	13 (13%)	30 (31%)	55 (56%)	98
As of 9/30/2021	13 (13%)	30 (31%)	55 (56%)	98
As of 9/30/2022	13 (13%)	30 (31%)	55 (56%)	98
As of 9/30/2023	13 (13%)	30 (31%)	55 (56%)	98
As of 9/30/2024	13 (13%)	30 (31%)	55 (56%)	98

Table B4: Number of temporary modifications, variances, and site-specific standards across the state.

Basin	Temporary modifications		Variances	Site-specific standards	
	Non-arsenic temporary modifications	Arsenic temporary modifications	Variances	Temperature site-specific standards	Non-temperature site-specific standards
Arkansas					
As of 9/30/2017	35	53	1	10	77
As of 9/30/2018	33	53	3	10	85
As of 9/30/2019	4	52	3	10	85
As of 9/30/2020	1	52	3	10	77
As of 9/30/2021	0	53	3	10	77
As of 9/30/2022	0	53	3	9	59
As of 9/30/2023	0	53	3	9	59
As of 9/30/2024	0	63	3	10	59
Colorado					
As of 9/30/2017	3	64	0	14	44
As of 9/30/2018	2	67	0	15	43
As of 9/30/2019	2	64	0	17	55
As of 9/30/2020	2	64	0	17	38
As of 9/30/2021	3	64	0	17	38
As of 9/30/2022	1	64	0	11	38
As of 9/30/2023	1	64	0	11	38
As of 9/30/2024	0	73	0	11	38
Gunnison					
As of 9/30/2017	5	52	1	4	81
As of 9/30/2018	5	52	1	9	81
As of 9/30/2019	5	52	1	9	81
As of 9/30/2020	5	52	1	9	33
As of 9/30/2021	4	52	1	9	33
As of 9/30/2022	2	51	1	9	31

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As of 9/30/2023	2	51	1	9	30
As of 9/30/2024	2	62	1	9	30
Rio Grande					
As of 9/30/2017	10	28	0	4	60
As of 9/30/2018	2	31	0	6	68
As of 9/30/2019	0	31	0	6	68
As of 9/30/2020	0	31	0	6	52
As of 9/30/2021	0	31	0	6	52
As of 9/30/2022	0	31	1	6	51
As of 9/30/2023	0	31	1	6	51
As of 9/30/2024	0	32	1	6	51
San Juan					
As of 9/30/2017	4	60	1	11	46
As of 9/30/2018	4	60	1	13	46
As of 9/30/2019	4	60	1	13	46
As of 9/30/2020	4	60	1	13	33
As of 9/30/2021	2	60	3	13	33
As of 9/30/2022	0	55	3	12	30
As of 9/30/2023	0	55	3	12	30
As of 9/30/2024	0	65	3	12	30
South Platte					
As of 9/30/2017	55	93	1	19	89
As of 9/30/2018	53	99	1	19	94
As of 9/30/2019	42	97	1	19	94
As of 9/30/2020	7	118	1	15	88
As of 9/30/2021	5	117	1	15	88
As of 9/30/2022	4	117	2	13	91
As of 9/30/2023	4	117	2	12	91
As of 9/30/2024	1	130	1	12	91

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As of 9/30/2019	42	97	1	19	94
As of 9/30/2020	7	118	1	15	88
As of 9/30/2021	5	117	1	15	88
As of 9/30/2022	4	117	2	13	91
As of 9/30/2023	4	117	2	12	91
As of 9/30/2024	1	130	1	12	91
Yampa/White					
As of 9/30/2017	7	34	0	7	14
As of 9/30/2018	9	35	0	7	12
As of 9/30/2019	10	37	0	7	10
As of 9/30/2020	10	37	0	7	10
As of 9/30/2021	7	37	1	7	10
As of 9/30/2022	5	37	1	3	10
As of 9/30/2023	5	37	1	3	10
As of 9/30/2024	1	45	1	3	10
Statewide					
As of 9/30/2017	119	384	4	69	411
As of 9/30/2018	108	397	6	79	429
As of 9/30/2019	67	393	6	81	439
As of 9/30/2020	29	414	6	77	331
As of 9/30/2021	21	414	9	77	331
As of 9/30/2022	12	408	11	63	310
As of 9/30/2023	12	408	11	62	309
As of 9/30/2024	4	470	10	63	309

Table B5: Number of segments with temporary modifications, variances, and site-specific standards across the state.

Basin	No. of segments	Temporary modifications	Variances	Site-specific standards
Arkansas				
As of 9/30/2017	150	56	1	37
As of 9/30/2018	156	56	2	42
As of 9/30/2019	156	53	3	42
As of 9/30/2020	156	52	2	37
As of 9/30/2021	156	53	2	37
As of 9/30/2022	156	53	2	33
As of 9/30/2023	156	53	2	33
As of 9/30/2024	156	63	2	34
Colorado				
As of 9/30/2017	131	65	0	24
As of 9/30/2018	131	68	0	23
As of 9/30/2019	129	65	0	35
As of 9/30/2020	129	65	0	27
As of 9/30/2021	129	66	0	27
As of 9/30/2022	129	64	0	22
As of 9/30/2023	129	64	0	22
As of 9/30/2024	129	73	0	22
Gunnison				
As of 9/30/2017	152	52	1	44
As of 9/30/2018	152	52	1	48
As of 9/30/2019	152	52	1	48
As of 9/30/2020	152	52	1	37
As of 9/30/2021	152	52	1	37
As of 9/30/2022	158	51	1	34
As of 9/30/2023	158	51	1	34

Appendix B - Clean Water Performance

As of 9/30/2024	158	62	1	34
Rio Grande				
As of 9/30/2017	104	29	0	20
As of 9/30/2018	107	32	0	24
As of 9/30/2019	107	31	0	24
As of 9/30/2020	107	31	0	18
As of 9/30/2021	107	31	0	18
As of 9/30/2022	107	31	1	18
As of 9/30/2023	107	31	1	18
As of 9/30/2024	107	32	1	18
San Juan				
As of 9/30/2017	169	64	1	34
As of 9/30/2018	169	64	1	35
As of 9/30/2019	169	64	1	35
As of 9/30/2020	169	64	1	32
As of 9/30/2021	169	62	1	32
As of 9/30/2022	170	55	3	28
As of 9/30/2023	170	55	3	28
As of 9/30/2024	170	65	3	28
South Platte				
As of 9/30/2017	228	105	2	46
As of 9/30/2018	233	112	2	49
As of 9/30/2019	233	106	1	49
As of 9/30/2020	230	122	2	50
As of 9/30/2021	230	121	2	50
As of 9/30/2022	230	121	3	51
As of 9/30/2023	230	121	3	50
As of 9/30/2024	230	131	1	50
Yampa/White				

Appendix B - Clean Water Performance

As of 9/30/2017	134	39	0	14
As of 9/30/2018	134	42	0	12
As of 9/30/2019	135	44	0	14
As of 9/30/2020	135	44	0	14
As of 9/30/2021	135	44	1	14
As of 9/30/2022	135	41	1	11
As of 9/30/2023	135	41	1	11
As of 9/30/2024	137	45	1	11
Statewide				
As of 9/30/2017	1,068	410	5	219
As of 9/30/2018	1,082	426	6	233
As of 9/30/2019	1,081	415	6	247
As of 9/30/2020	1,078	430	6	215
As of 9/30/2021	1,078	429	9	215
As of 9/30/2022	1,085	416	11	197
As of 9/30/2023	1,085	416	11	196
As of 9/30/2024	1,087	471	9	197

Table B6: Annual output related to site location and design review applications.

Reporting year	Number of review engineers	Site location applications	Plans and specifications	Total reviews	Reviews per engineer
10/2012-9/2013	4	82	74	156	39
10/2013-9/2014	4	100	85	185	46
10/2014-9/2015	4.5	111	95	206	45
10/2015-9/2016	3.3	109	66	175	53
10/2016-9/2017	3.8	91	83	174	46
10/2017-9/2018	3.8	101	64	165	43
10/2018-9/2019	3.8	97	72	169	43
10/2019-9/2020	3.8	90	62	152	40
10/2020-9/2021	4.25	87	95	182	43
10/2021-9/2022	4.16	95	73	168	43
10/2022-9/2023	3.8	76	57	133	35
10/2023-9/2024	5	101	78	179	36
Average	3.9	94	75	170	43

Appendix C - Clean Water Permits

Table C1: Number of individual permits issued/reissued by sector.

Reporting period	Commerce and industry	Construction	Municipal separate storm sewer system	Pesticides	Public and private utilities	Total
10/2016-9/2017	4	2	0	0	5	11
10/2017-9/2018	15	1	0	0	22	38
10/2018-9/2019	10	0	0	0	29	39
10/2019-9/2020	6	0	1	0	16	23
10/2020-9/2021	4	0	1	0	11	16
10/2021-9/2022	1	0	1	0	0	2
10/2022-9/2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/2023-9/2024	4	0	0	0	1	5

Table C2: Number of issued/reissued general permit certifications by sector.

Reporting period	Commerce and industry	Construction	Municipal separate storm sewer system	Pesticides	Public and private utilities (GW & SW)	Total
10/2016-9/2017	658	2,199	5	0	19	2,881
10/2017-9/2018	128	2,008	1	0	7	2,144
10/2018-9/2019	76	6,367	0	0	36	6,479
10/2019-9/2020	34	1,896	1	3	43	1,977
10/2020-9/2021	142	2,259	5	8	40	2,454
10/2021-9/2022	83	2,061	49	0	40	2,233
10/2022-9/2023	55	1,765	0	0	16	1,836
10/2023-9/2024	868	5523	1	0	52	6,444

Table C3: Number of individual permit modifications by sector.

Reporting Period	Commerce and Industry	Construction	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System	Pesticides	Public and Private Utilities	Total
10/2016-9/2017	24	1	2	0	26	53
10/2017-9/2018	12	0	0	0	15	27
10/2018-9/2019	12	0	0	0	17	29
10/2019-9/2020	17	1	1	0	18	37
10/2020-9/2021	18	0	1	0	33	52
10/2021-9/2022	11	1	1	0	16	29
10/2022-9/2023	3	0	1	0	9	13
10/2023-9/2024	1	0	1	0	2	4

Table C4: Number of general permit certification modifications by sector.

Reporting Period	Commerce and Industry	Construction	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System	Pesticides	Public and Private Utilities (GW & SW)	Total
10/2016-9/2017	68	52	0	0	21	141
10/2017-9/2018	77	49	0	0	18	144
10/2018-9/2019	37	71	0	0	10	118
10/2019-9/2020	78	734	2	1	37	852
10/2020-9/2021	70	1,848	0	0	53	1,971
10/2021-9/2022	68	1,582	5	0	10	1,665
10/2022-9/2023	59	653	1	0	39	752
10/2023-9/2024	30	745	1	0	23	799

Table C5: Number of individual permits administratively continued by sector.

Reporting period	Commerce and industry	Construction	Municipal separate storm sewer system	Pesticides	Public and private utilities	Total
10/2016-9/2017	2	1854	3	0	16	1875
10/2017-9/2018	89	1664	0	0	5	1758
10/2018-9/2019	62	223	0	0	1	286
10/2019-9/2020	35	237	1	0	7	280
10/2020-9/2021	24	34	0	0	15	73
10/2021 -9/2022	551	6	57	0	0	614
10/2022-9/2023	1	20	0	0	2	23
10/2023-9/2024	1	17	1	0	37	56

*Corrected from figures published in the 2024 report.

Table C6: Number of general permit certifications that became administratively continued during the reporting period, by sector.

Reporting period	Commerce and industry	Construction	Municipal separate storm sewer system	Pesticides	Public and private utilities	Total
10/2016-9/2017	2	1854	3	0	16	1875
10/2017-9/2018	89	1664	0	0	5	1758
10/2018-9/2019	62	223	0	0	1	286
10/2019-9/2020	35	237	1	0	7	280
10/2020-9/2021	24	34	0	0	15	73
10/2021 -9/2022	551	6	57	0	0	614
10/2022-9/2023	1	20	0	0	2	23
10/2023-9/2024	1	17	1	0	37	56

Table C7: Summary of backlogged permits and certifications by permit type.

Permit Type	No. of backlogged permits	No. of current permits	Total	Percent of backlogged permits
Groundwater process water individual permits				
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2017	15	4	19	79%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2018	13	5	18	72%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2019	14	3	17	82%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2020	11	1	12	92%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2021	9	1	10	90%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2022	9	1	10	90%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2023	10	0	10	100%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2024	10	0	10	100%
Groundwater process water general permit certifications				
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2017	135	0	135	100%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2018	129	7	136	95%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2019	88	45	133	66%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2020	54	80	134	40%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2021	40	80	120	33%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2022	38	80	118	32%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2023	82	38	120	68%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2024	106	12	118	90%
Pesticides application general permit certifications				
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2017	0	73	73	0%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2018	0	75	75	0%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2019	0	76	76	0%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2020	0	79	79	0%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2021	0	78	78	0%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2022	0	78	78	0%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2023	0	79	79	0%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2024	0	79	79	0%

Surface water stormwater individual permits				
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2017	5	2	7	71%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2018	6	1	7	86%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2019	6	1	7	86%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2020	6	1	7	86%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2021	5	2	7	71%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2022	4	3	7	57%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2023	4	3	7	57%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2024	3	3	6	50%
Surface water process water individual permits				
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2017	123	245	368	33%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2018	138	242	380	36%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2019	145	238	383	38%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2020	163	219	382	43%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2021	239	136	375	64%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2022	256	115	371	69%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2023	289	77	366	79%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2024	292	69	361	85%
Surface water process water general permit certifications				
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2017	296	1,163	1,459	20%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2018	291	1,091	1,382	21%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2019	855	654	1,509	57%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2020	714	624	1,338	53%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2021	496	924	1,420	35%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2022	917	445	1,362	67%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2023	932	469	1401	66%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2024	843	517	1360	62%
Surface water stormwater general permit certifications				
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2017	4,659	884	5,543	84%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2018	5,792	61	5,843	99%

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Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2019	1,068	5,206	6,274	17%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2020	1,064	5,425	6,489	16%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2021	1,056	6,085	7,141	15%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2022	1,049	6,533	7,582	14%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2023	1,058	6,659	7,717	14%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2024	184	4,985	5,169	4%
Total				
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2017	5,233	2,371	7,604	69%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2018	6,369	1,482	7,851	81%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2019	2,176	6,223	8,399	26%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2020	2,012	6,429	8,441	24%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2021	1,845	7,306	9,151	20%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2022	2,273	7,255	9,528	24%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2023	2,375	7,325	9,700	24%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2024	1,438	5,649	7,103	20%

Table C8: Summary of backlogged permits and certifications by sector.

Permit Type	No. of backlogged permits	No. of current permits	Total	Percent of backlogged permits
Commerce and industry				
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2017	288	1,594	1,882	15%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2018	1,164	763	1,927	60%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2019	1,300	681	1,981	66%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2020	1,279	664	1,943	66%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2021	1,214	633	1,847	66%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2022	1,750	59	1,809	97%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2023	1,773	22	1,795	99%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2024	814	901	1,715	47%

Construction				
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2017	4,572	312	4,884	94%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2018	4,832	257	5,089	95%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2019	391	5,191	5,582	7%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2020	262	5,490	5,752	5%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2021	121	6,353	6,474	2%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2022	19	6,872	6,891	0.3%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2023	23	7,025	7,048	0.3%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2024	75	4,460	4,535	2%
Municipal separate storm sewer system				
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2017	65	59	124	52%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2018	65	60	125	52%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2019	65	60	125	52%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2020	66	60	126	52%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2021	59	64	123	52%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2022	66	55	121	55%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2023	66	54	120	55%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2024	66	55	121	55%
Pesticides				
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2017	0	73	73	0%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2018	0	75	75	0%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2019	0	76	76	0%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2020	0	79	79	0%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2021	0	78	78	0%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2022	0	78	78	0%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2023	0	78	78	0%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2024	0	78	78	0%
Public and private utilities				
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2017	308	333	641	48%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2018	310	325	635	49%

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Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2019	420	215	635	66%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2020	405	233	638	63%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2021	451	178	629	72%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2022	438	191	629	69%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2023	494	130	624	79%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2024	475	127	621	80%
Total				
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2017	5,233	2,371	7,604	69%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2018	6,369	1,482	7,851	81%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2019	2,176	6,223	8,399	26%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2020	2,012	6,429	8,441	24%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2021	1,845	7,306	9,151	20%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2022	2,273	7,255	9,528	24%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2023	2,356	7,309	9,665	24%
Backlogged permits as of Sept. 30, 2024	1,449	5,621	7,070	20%

Table C9: Percentage of permits backlogged by permit type.

Reporting period	Groundwater process water individual permits	Groundwater process water general permits	Pesticides application general permit	Surface water stormwater individual permits	Surface water process water individual permits	Surface water process water general permits	Surface water stormwater general permits	Total
10/2016-9/2017	79%	100%	0%	71%	33%	20%	84%	69%
10/2017-9/2018	72%	95%	0%	86%	36%	21%	99%	81%
10/2018-9/2019	82%	66%	0%	86%	38%	57%	17%	26%
10/2019-9/2020	92%	40%	0%	86%	43%	53%	16%	24%
10/2020-9/2021	90%	33%	0%	71%	64%	35%	15%	20%
10/2021-9/2022	90%	35%	0%	57%	69%	97%	14%	25%
10/2022-9/2023	100%	68%	0%	57%	79%	66%	14%	24%
10/2023-9/2024	100%	96%	0%	50%	85%	62%	4%	20%

Table C10: Percentage of permits backlogged by sector.

Reporting period	Groundwater process water individual permits	Groundwater process water general permits	Pesticides application general permit	Surface water stormwater individual permits	Surface water process water individual permits	Surface water process water general permits	Surface water stormwater general permits	Total
10/2016-9/2017	79%	100%	0%	71%	33%	20%	84%	69%
10/2017-9/2018	72%	95%	0%	86%	36%	21%	99%	81%
10/2018-9/2019	82%	66%	0%	86%	38%	57%	17%	26%
10/2019-9/2020	92%	40%	0%	86%	43%	53%	16%	24%

Table C11: Range of time permits have been backlogged by permit type.*

Permit Type	Range of time backlogged in years as of:							
	9/2017	9/2018	9/2019	9/2020	9/2021	9/2022	9/2023	9/2024
Groundwater process water individual permits	0 to 22	0 to 23	0 to 22	0 to 23	0 to 12	0 to 13	0 to 14	0 to 15
Groundwater process water general permits	0.5 to 11	0 to 12	0 to 13	0 to 14	0 to 15	0 to 16	0 to 17	0 to 18
Pesticide application general permit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surface water stormwater individual permits	0 to 3	0 to 4	0 to 4	0 to 6	0 to 7	0 to 8	0 to 9	0 to 10
Surface water process water individual permits	0 to 10	0 to 11	0 to 24	0 to 25	0 to 26	0 to 27	0 to 28	0 to 29
Surface water process water general permits	0 to 6	0 to 7	0 to 8	0 to 9	0 to 10	0 to 11	0 to 12	0 to 13
Surface water stormwater general permits	0 to 6	0 to 7	0 to 8	0 to 9	0 to 10	0 to 11	0 to 12	0 to 13

*Pursuant to section 25-8-305(2)(h) C.R.S., this data shows the timing in considering and issuing permits, including the number of years administratively continued permits have been pending, categorized by years pending.

Table C12: Range of time permits have been backlogged by permit sector.*

Sector	Range of time backlogged in years as of:							
	9/2017	9/2018	9/2019	9/2020	9/2021	9/2022	9/2023	9/2024
Commerce and industry	0 to 10	0 to 11	0 to 13	0 to 14	0 to 15	0 to 16	0 to 17	0 to 18
Construction	0 to 5	0 to 6	0 to 3	0 to 4	0 to 5	0 to 1	0 to 2	0 to 3
Municipal separate storm sewer system	0 to 4	0 to 5	0 to 6	0 to 7	0 to 8	0 to 9	0 to 10	0 to 11
Pesticides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public and private utilities	0 to 22	0 to 23	0 to 24	0 to 25	0 to 26	0 to 27	0 to 28	0 to 29

*Pursuant to section 25-8-305(2)(h) C.R.S., this data shows the timing in considering and issuing permits, including the number of years administratively continued permits have been pending, categorized by years pending.

Table C13: Average amount of time permits have been backlogged by permit type.*

Permit Type	Average time backlogged in years as of:							
	9/2017	9/2018	9/2019	9/2020	9/2021	9/2022	9/2023	9/2024
Groundwater process water individual permits	10	10	9	8	6	7	7	7
Groundwater process water general permits	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	6
Pesticide application general permit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surface water stormwater individual permits	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8
Surface water process water individual permits	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4
Surface water process water general permits	4	5	2	4	7	3	3	3
Surface water stormwater general permits	5	5	2	3	4	4	4	4

*Pursuant to section 25-8-305(2)(h)C.R.S., this data shows the timing in considering and issuing permits, including the number of years administratively continued permits have been pending, categorized by years pending.

Table C14: Average of time permits have been backlogged by permit sector.*

Sector	Average time backlogged in years as of:							
	9/2017	9/2018	9/2019	9/2020	9/2021	9/2022	9/2023	9/2024
Commerce and industry	4	2	2	4	4	3	4	4
Construction	5	6	1	2	1	1	0	0
Municipal separate storm sewer system	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	3
Pesticides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public and private utilities	5	5	4	5	5	5	6	6

*Pursuant to section 25-8-305(2)(h) C.R.S., this data shows the timing in considering and issuing permits, including the number of years administratively continued permits have been pending, categorized by years pending.

Table C15: Average processing time (in days) for modifications and issued certifications and permits.

Action type	Commerce and industry	Construction	MS4	Pesticides	Public and private utilities
General permit certification modifications					
10/2016-9/2017	15	27	n/a	n/a	66
10/2017-9/2018	45	9	99	2.5	40
10/2018-9/2019	25	5	n/a	n/a	51
10/2019-9/2020	29	2	n/a	n/a	42
10/2020-9/2021	29	3	n/a	n/a	33
10/2021-9/2022	36	4	n/a	n/a	6
10/2022-9/2023	23	4	35	n/a	53
10/2023-9/2024	72	8	63	n/a	61
Individual permit modifications					
10/2016-9/2017	77	n/a	n/a	n/a	83
10/2017-9/2018	97	n/a	n/a	n/a	107
10/2018-9/2019	58	n/a	n/a	n/a	79
10/2019-9/2020	52	n/a	n/a	n/a	90
10/2020-9/2021	92	n/a	n/a	n/a	86

Appendix C - Clean Water Permits

10/2021-9/2022	224	196	n/a	n/a	113
10/2022-9/2023	327	n/a	250	n/a	175
10/2023-9/2024	28	n/a	83	n/a	141
General permit certifications issued					
10/2016-9/2017	47	7	13	10	97
10/2017-9/2018	50	10	10	3	112
10/2018-9/2019	35	2	n/a	n/a	139
10/2019-9/2020	30	0	134	n/a	105
10/2020-9/2021	41	5	46	n/a	99
10/2021-9/2022	70	5	51	n/a	217
10/2022-9/2023	57	5	n/a	n/a	444
10/2023-9/2024	62	9	316	n/a	60
Individual permits issued					
10/2016-9/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
10/2017-9/2018	284	n/a	n/a	n/a	395
10/2018-9/2019	152	n/a	n/a	n/a	149
10/2019-9/2020	86	n/a	287	n/a	68
10/2020-9/2021	402	n/a	877	n/a	685
10/2021-9/2022	287	n/a	554	n/a	n/a
10/2022-9/2023	503	n/a	n/a	n/a	380
10/2023-9/2024	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table C16: Total number of individual permits current and admin continued by sector.

Reporting period	Permit Sector	Admin continued		Effective		Total
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
10/2023-9/2024	Commerce and industry	97	82%	21	18%	118
	Construction	3	100%	0	0%	3
	MS4	2	40%	3	60%	5
	Pesticides	0	0%	0	0%	0
	Public and private utilities	217	86%	34	14%	251

Table C17: Total number of general permits current and admin continued.

Reporting period	Category	Admin continued		Effective		Total
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
10/2023-9/2024	General permits	22	65%	12	35%	34
	Certifications under the general permits	1,111	17%	5,581	83%	6,692

Table C18: Total number of permits current and admin continued that meet EPA target.

Reporting period	Category	Admin continued		Effective		Total
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
10/2023-9/2024	Permits that count towards EPA backlog	1,292	45%	1,584	55%	2,876

Appendix D - Clean Water Inspections

Table D1: Number of environmental releases by sector.

Reporting year	Commerce and industry	Public and private utilities	Total
10/2016-9/2017	209	158	367
10/2017-9/2018	194	160	354
10/2018-9/2019	257	161	418
10/2019-9/2020	263	142	405
10/2020-9/2021	193	124	317
10/2021-9/2022	175	216	391
10/2022-9/2023	220	158	378
10/2023-9/2024	370	292	662
Average	235	176	412

Table D2: Number of compliance oversight inspections completed by sector.*

Year	Commerce and industry	Public and private utilities domestic water and wastewater	Public & private utilities reclaimed water	Construction	Pesticides	Biosolids	MS4
Major facility compliance evaluation inspections							
10/2016-9/2017	10	34	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
10/2017-9/2018	8	30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
10/2018-9/2019	5	26	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
10/2019-9/2020	0	29	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
10/2020-9/2021	6	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
10/2021-9/2022	8	20	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
10/2022-9/2023	3	21	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
10/2023-9/2024 Inspection Goals	2	31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
10/2023-9/2024 Actual	2	31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Minor facility and unclassified facility compliance evaluation inspections							

Appendix D - CW inspections

10/2016-9/2017	42	71	27	309	n/a	57	0
10/2017-9/2018	40	123	14	432	n/a	71	0
10/2018-9/2019	56	61	14	357	n/a	69	0
10/2019-9/2020	29	44	1	172	0	75	0
10/2020-9/2021	54	59	1	55	0	39	0
10/2021-9/2022	73	62	4	276	0	48	0
10/2022-9/2023	50		7		6		0
10/2023-9/2024 Inspection Goals	58		0		n/a		0
10/2023-9/2024 Inspection Actual	41	41	4	284	0		0
Reconnaissance inspections							
10/2016-9/2017	9		0		15		0
10/2017-9/2018	17	2	3	97	13		0
10/2018-9/2019	25	2	1	86	0		0
10/2019-9/2020	5	0	0	414	0		0
10/2020-9/2021	0	0	0	728	4		3
10/2021-9/2022	0	0	0	200	6		0
10/2022-9/2023	1	0	0	242	5		0
10/2023-9/2024 Inspection Goals	n/a	n/a	n/a	120	5		0
10/2023-9/2024 Actual	n/a	n/a	n/a	113	4		0
Total							
10/2016-9/2017	61	112	27	384	15	57	0
10/2017-9/2018	65	155	17	529	13	72	0

Appendix D - CW inspections

10/2018-9/2019	86	89	15	443	0	69	0
10/2019-9/2020	34	73	1	586	0	75	0
10/2020-9/2021	60	69	1	783	4	39	3
10/2021-9/2022	81	82	4	476	6	48	0
10/2022-9/2023	54	89	7	422	6	24	0
10/2023 - 9/2024	43	72	4	397	4	25	0

*Pursuant to section 25-8-305(2)(b) C.R.S. this data shows the number of inspections performed.

Appendix E - Clean Water Enforcement

The vast majority of discharge permits require an entity to monitor their discharge for compliance. This data is reported to the Clean Water Program via discharge monitoring reports (DMRs). Table A22 shows the total number of delinquent or deficient DMR violations by sector.

Table E1: Total occurrences of delinquent or deficient DMR violations.

Sector	10/2016 9/2017	10/2017 9/2018	10/2018 9/2019	10/2019 9/2020*	10/2020 9/2021	10/2021 9/2022	10/2022 9/2023	10/2023 9/2024
Commerce and industry	432	321	423	529	634	516	432	329
Construction	485	390	350	662	589	537	400	442
Public and private utilities	241	144	198	331	275	270	265	367
MS4, pesticides, and biosolids	DMR Reporting is not required for these sectors							

*There was an error in the data processing for the 2019-20 reporting year that has been corrected for this report.

Table E2: Number of facilities with effluent violations by sector.

Sector	10/2016 9/2017	10/2017 9/2018	10/2018 9/2019	10/2019 9/2020*	10/2020 9/2021	10/2021 9/2022	10/2022 9/2023	10/2023 9/2024
Commerce and industry	74	82	94	107	125	117	121	88
Construction	108	122	119	229	218	172	225	280
Public and private utilities	236	237	260	476	520	474	542	347
MS4, pesticides, and biosolids	DMR Reporting is not required for these sectors							

*There was an error in the data processing for the 2019-20 reporting year that has been corrected for this report.

Table E3: Number of facilities that had compliance advisories issued.

Sector	10/2016 9/2017	10/2017 9/2018	10/2018 9/2019	10/2019 9/2020	10/2020 9/2021	10/2021 9/2022	10/2022 9/2023	10/2023 9/2024
Commerce and industry	422	1,404	942	451	907	928	517	803
Construction	1,029	1,384	1,163	956	1,783	1,312	1,201	904
Public and private utilities	785	763	656	623	645	702	913	853
MS4	0	7	0	0	41	0	0	0
Pesticides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Biosolids	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2,236	3,560	2,763	2,030	3,293	2,942	2,631	2,560

Table E4: Number of enforcement actions issued, including amendments to existing orders.*

Year	Notice of Violations/ Cease and Desist Orders or Clean up Orders	Compliance Orders on Consent	Expedited Settlement Agreements	Orders for Civil Penalty	Judicial Actions	Total
10/2016-9/2017	25	11	6	8	2	52
10/2017-9/2018	26	11	0	12	2	51
10/2018-9/2019	28	19	0	17	0	64
10/2019-9/2020	42	21	2	41	0	106
10/2020-9/2021	24	22	3	33	1	83
10/2021-9/2022	24	5	0	18	1	48
10/2022-9/2023	29	20	0	21	0	70
10/2023-9/2024	28	15	0	21	0	64

*Pursuant to section 25-8-305(2)(c) C.R.S., this data shows the number of enforcement actions taken under Colorado's Water Quality Control Act.

Appendix F - Drinking Water Performance

Table F1: Number of regulated drinking water systems by year.

Year	Number of regulated drinking water systems
2015	1,975
2016	1,981
2017	2,004
2018	2,031
2019	2,051
2020	2,057
2021	2,086
2022	2,079
2023	2,091
2024	2,185

Table F2: Number of drinking water violations by year.

Year	Number of health based violations	Number of non health based violations
2015	694	1,346
2016	1,158	3,453
2017	1,237	3,595
2018	1,406	3,306
2019	1,549	5,162
2020	1,576	3,470
2021	1,689	3,061
2022	1,780	4,949
2023	1,794	3,902
2024	1,943	3,951

Table F3: Number of drinking water enforcement actions by year.

Year	Number of enforcement orders issued	Number of enforcement orders closed	Total number of enforcement orders open
2015	11	8	72
2016	7	10	69
2017	17	4	82
2018	46	9	119
2019	21	23	117
2020	47	27	137
2021	23	30	130
2022	39	66	103
2023	30	16	117
2024	23	22	110

Table F4: Number of boil and bottled water advisories by year.

Year	Number of boil water advisories issued	Number of bottled water advisories issued	Total number issued
2015	16	3	19
2016	13	0	13
2017	17	2	19
2018	21	1	22
2019	37	2	39
2020	46	3	49
2021	43	2	45
2022	45	5	50
2023	51	5	56
2024	84	3	87

Training and assistance

The 1996 Safe Drinking Water (Act) amendments added Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grant requirements. The amended act required each state to create a capacity development program to assist public water systems in developing technical, managerial, and financial capabilities to strengthen their ability to supply safe drinking water to the public. The division fully implements a capacity development program and strategy aligned with the requirements of the Act.

As of 2024, there are 6,796 certified water operators in Colorado. The division hosts training events for these operators and provides direct assistance as shown in the tables below.

Table F5: Number of group training events by year.

Year	Group training events
2017	46
2018	51
2019	77
2020	45
2021	31
2022	28
2023	53
2024	43

Table F6: Number of one-on-one assistance events by year.

Year	One on one events
2017	163
2018	115
2019	72
2020	75
2021	79
2022	71
2023	104
2024	98

Table F7: Percent of drinking water systems who received assistance that showed improvement after one-on-one assistance events.

Year	Percent that showed improvement
2017	77%
2018	84%
2019	76%
2020	77%
2021	80%
2022	80%
2023	82%
2024	67%

Table F8: Percent of operators that acknowledge the “culture of health” by year.

Year	Percent of baseline (the baseline number of operators was set in 2020 and is 4,369)
2020	10%
2021	27%
2022	41%
2023	65%
2024	85%

Table F9: Total number of operators trained in waterborne disease outbreaks and public notice by year.

Year	First time trained operators (this is cumulative since 2020)
2020	1,369
2021	2,821
2022	4,419
2023	6,004
2024	7,463

Table F10: Drinking water design review data by year.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of drinking water design reviews completed.	214	312	240	217	260	297
Percent of design reviews completed in 45 days or less.	26%	35%	35%	43%	31%	30%
Percent of completed design reviews that required modification before approval.	32%	21%	35%	21%	29%	20%

Appendix G - Drinking Water Inspections

Table G1: Information on drinking water sanitary surveys.

Year	Backlog	Number of significant deficiencies unresolved from surveys completed three or more years ago	Overall customer satisfaction with sanitary surveys
2020	23%	99	97%
2021	32%	55	95%
2022	34%	25	98%
2023	28%	17	96%
2024	20%	7	97%

Table G2: Information on drinking water sanitary surveys continued.

Year	Backlog	Number of significant deficiencies unresolved from surveys completed three or more years ago	Overall customer satisfaction with sanitary surveys
2020	23%	99	97%
2021	32%	55	95%
2022	34%	25	98%
2023	28%	17	96%
2024	20%	7	97%

Appendix H - Operations Program Performance

The Operations Program supports all division teams by providing important business operations services needed to help the division run smoothly. These include accounting and budget management, personnel, software and hardware coordination, contracting, communications, and similar general administration services. In the past year, the Operations Program has been active in several key areas to improve division services.

Table H1: Division stakeholder engagement.

Reporting period	Total number of engagement activities	Total number of stakeholder meetings	Total number of stakeholders that participated in meetings
01/2024 - 12/2024	18	102	7,329

Table H2: Division stakeholder meetings conducted in 2024 and estimated to be active in 2025.

Stakeholder effort	Description	Active in 2024	Active in 2025
Dredge and Fill Permit Program	As required by recent legislation, the division is developing a regulation and program to regulate dredge and fill activities impacting Colorado's waterways and wetlands.	x	x
Water Quality Roadmap	This effort follows the division's strategy to develop nutrient criteria and other water quality priorities over ten years from 2017 to 2027.	x	x
Regulation 82: 401 Water Quality Certification Process	This regulation sets rules for how the division manages 401 water quality certifications, which are required for any project that could result in a discharge to Colorado's waters.	x	
COR400000: Construction Stormwater Discharge Permit	This permit was finalized in January 2024, but the division continued to engage with and train stakeholders on this permit throughout summer 2024.	x	
Regulation 43: On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems	This regulation sets minimum standards for how small wastewater treatment systems in Colorado should be located, designed, constructed, and used.	x	x
Policy 10-1: Aquatic Life Use	This policy focuses on protecting surface waters to support the health of aquatic ecosystems.	x	
COG641000: Water Treatment Plant Wastewater Discharges	This is a general permit for discharges of wastewater from water treatment plants.	x	

Appendix H - WQCD Operations

Policy 98-1: Sediment Guidance	This policy explains how to apply the narrative standards for sediment deposits that may harm beneficial uses in Colorado’s surface waters.	x	
Clean Water/ Permit Webinar	These quarterly webinars provide permittees with information on division permitting activities that could affect them.	x	x
Regulation 22: Site Location and Design Regulations for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Works	The goal of this effort was to determine the feasibility of future regulatory changes and find solutions regarding site location and design application challenges.	x	
Total Maximum Daily Load Development: Bear Creek & Lower Arkansas	The division engaged with stakeholders to develop TMDLs for Bear Creek and the Lower Arkansas	x	x
PFAS Drinking Water Rule	This rule, finalized by the EPA in April 2024, sets levels for six PFAS chemicals in drinking water to protect people’s health.	x	
Consumer Confidence Report Rule	Consumer Confidence Reports provide consumers with information about their local drinking water quality and allow people to make informed decisions about their drinking water. The rule revisions are intended to help improve the clarity of these reports.	x	
Service Line Material Notification	This effort provided drinking water systems with information about upcoming service line material requirements under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions.	x	x
Design Criteria Update: PFAS Treatment	This covered various treatment technologies that could potentially remove PFAS from drinking water and how to best implement these technologies.	x	x
Water Quality Fee-Setting by Rule	This effort involves evaluating division fees and transferring all division fees from statute to rule.	x	x
PFAS Action Plan	In Jan. 2024, the department initiated an engagement process to get stakeholder input on the draft 2024 PFAS Action Plan to continue our work	x	

	as a leader among states addressing widespread PFAS pollution.		
Water and Wastewater Facility Operator Certification Board	The division proposed changes to the Water and Wastewater Facility	x	x
Guidance	Operator Certification Board's guidance for mandatory regulatory training.		
Regulation 84	The division is working with stakeholders in 2025 to discuss updates to this regulation.		x
Surface water treatment rule policy	The division is working with stakeholders to update the policy and associated guidance that outlines operational practices for a properly operated surface water treatment system.		x
Lead and copper rule improvements	Building on the lead and copper rule revisions, the division will engage with stakeholders on this updated rule in 2025.		x
Permit performance improvement and reporting	The division will engage with stakeholders on how to improve permit processes including improved communications, developing time frames for permitting actions, and evaluating a backlog reduction schedule.		x

Table H3: Number of data-management projects where the division met annual goals.

Reporting period	Target for existing reporting year	Reporting year outcome	Met target?*	Target for upcoming reporting year
01/2024-12/2024	13	12	No	9

*The division may not always meet the target due to unforeseen circumstances, or factors beyond the division's control, such as Office of Information Technology process complexities, shifting priorities, and funding challenges.

Table H4: Total number of division invoices aged over 120 days.

Reporting period	Target for existing reporting year	Reporting year outcome	Met target?	Target for upcoming reporting year
06/2023-07/2024	n/a	1,525	n/a	200



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