



Colorado Water Stewardship Project 2020 Summary: What We Accomplished

Project Purpose*

Continue alertness of ballot initiatives that might adversely impact Colorado water community interests. Maintain baseline and reserves to fund immediate response. Pursue legal action when appropriate. Complete tasks that are not specific to any one proposed measure. Build communications network and strengthen partnerships.

2020 Project Accomplishments

Monthly Project meetings.

Monitor and summarize ballot initiatives filed.

Scan websites and social media of likely ballot proponents.

Work with state and local government, oil and gas interests, and other interested parties to prepare communications on programs supported by severance tax revenue.

**No resources will be used for campaign purposes. All work will comply with the Fair Campaign Practices Act as applied to public entities and be reviewed by legal counsel.*

2020 Work Products

Ballot initiative tracking sheet.

Periodic Enews, webinars, and event presentations.

Engagement on stream access litigation and Amendment 71 lawsuits.

CWC amicus brief on *Hill v. Warsewa* case.

CWSP Webinar (May).

What's On Your Ballot – developed the two opening sessions of the CWC Virtual Summer Conference with candidates of the U.S. Senate and 3rd Congressional District Race.

Project Background

Over the past 27 years, several ballot measures have periodically been introduced that would substantially disrupt Colorado's system of water law and regulation. Whether in the form of a Public Trust Doctrine, environmental rights, or local control; Colorado's economy and water supply reliability would be directly threatened by these sudden, sweeping changes. In recent years, Colorado has also seen an effort to impose the Public Trust Doctrine through litigation.

On their surface, these ballot proposals might appeal to voters who often must decide on complex issues. Because they can move so quickly, a rapid response capacity and long-term presence is required. The CWC Board created the Colorado Water Stewardship Project to be the sentinel for Colorado's water community.

The Colorado Water Stewardship Project maintains vigilance and a readiness to respond to ballot measures as Colorado law allows for public entities, including title setting and appeals prior to petition circulation. Campaigns to urge votes to deny a ballot measure rely on the private sector.