# Integrating Water into City Planning and Modeling Residential Urban Water Demand

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# **Sonoran Institute**

### **Mission**

Connect people/communities and natural resources

Nexus of community, commerce, and conservation

Civil dialogue and collaboration







# Resilient Communities and Watersheds

Tools, Training and Technical Assistance

#### **Resilient Communities Starter Kit**

Adapting to Climate Change

## **Growing Water Smart**

Integrating water and land use planning

# **Exploratory Scenario Planning**

Preparing for an uncertain future







# Housekeeping

• 1 APA CM Hour

Chat Box

ResilientWest.org







# How we build matters

City of Westminster, CO

# **Colorado Water and Growth Dialogue**





# GETTING STARTED INTEGRATING WATER & DEVELOPMENT

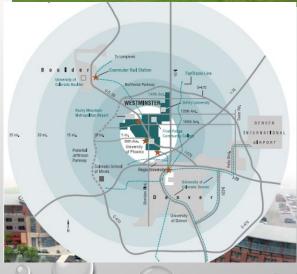
STU FEINGLAS - SENIOR ANALYST



# WHO IS WESTMINSTER?

- 115,520 POPULATION (2017 ESRI ANALYST)
- 134,193 WATER SERVICE POPULATION
- 32,500 WATER CUSTOMERS
- 34 SQUARE MILES
- BETWEEN DENVER AND BOULDER ON US HWY
   36 CORRIDOR







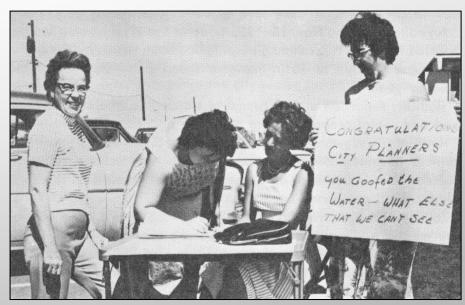
#### **Population** Year 235 1920 1930 436 1940 534 1950 1,686 1960 13,850 19,512 1970 1980 50,211 1990 74,625 100,940 2000 2010 106,144 2017 115,520

# HISTORIC GROWTH OF WESTMINSTER

- GROWTH SPIKED IN THE 1950S POST-ERA OF DEVELOPMENT INFLUX OF RESIDENTIAL LENDING AND FHA PROGRAMS AFTER WWII AND ESTABLISHMENT OF BOULDER TURNPIKE IN 1952
- 1962 "MOTHERS MARCH" ON CITY HALL PROTESTING POOR WATER QUALITY, SPURRED THE CITY TO DEVELOP WATER SOURCES AND A NEW TREATMENT PLANT
- 1970-1971 MUNICIPAL LAND AREA INCREASED FROM 4.5 SQUARE MILES TO 28 SQUARE MILES THROUGH ANNEXATION
- 1970 TO 1980 WESTMINSTER POPULATION GREW 157% FROM 19,512 TO 50,211
- GROWTH OUTPACED AVAILABLE WATER SUPPLY
- CITY PURSUED PURCHASE OF WATER RIGHTS AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM
- GROWTH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN 1978 TO PACE
  DEVELOPMENT TO AVAILABLE SERVICES

# THE LONG, HOT SUMMER OF '62

- WATER SHORTAGES REQUIRE CITY TO USE LOW QUALITY WATER
- POOR QUALITY WATER LEADS TO "MOTHERS' MARCH"
- CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON WATER FORMED
- Stop building permits
- Ban lawn sprinkling
- Stop using Clear Creek water



# COOPERATION IS OFTEN BORN OF ADVERSITY AND NEED



- WATER SUPPLY
- CURRENT CUSTOMERS
- GROWTH
- ECONOMY
- ENVIRONMENT



# WHERE DID WE START?

- VISION
- A VISION FOR THE AREA MUST BE DEVELOPED BY DECISION MAKERS (CITY COUNCIL, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WATER PROVIDERS)

- VALUE
- THE REAL VALUE AND COST OF WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE MUST BE BUILT INTO COSTS
- TEAMWORK DEVELOPS INTERDEPARTMENTAL VALUE

- VARIABLE
- THINGS CHANGE



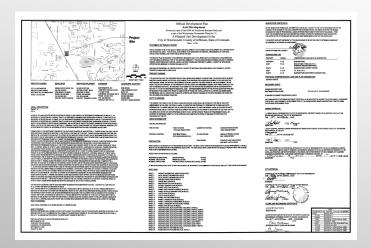
# **STAKEHOLDERS**

- WATER PROVIDER PWU/WATER RESOURCES STAFF
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAFF
- CITY COUNCIL
- DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
- PROPERTY OWNERS
- CITIZENS/CUSTOMERS
- ...

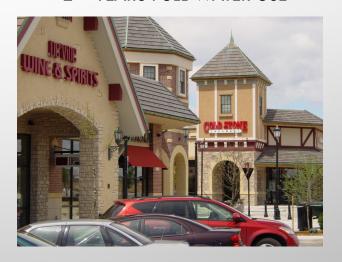


# DEVELOPED VS. DEVELOPED

- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
  - APPROVED ACTIVE ODP

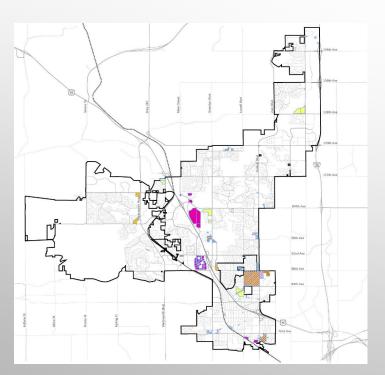


- PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES
  - BUILT AND FULLY OCCUPIED
  - 2 YEARS FULL WATER USE

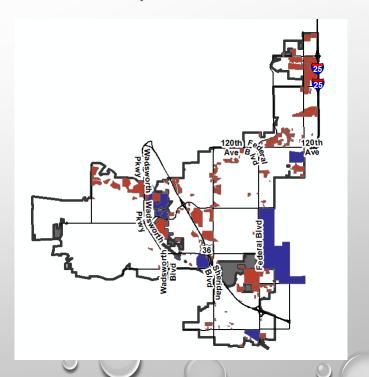


# DEVELOPING A COMMON LANGUAGE

Community Development Vacant Residential Land



Public Works & Utilities Undeveloped Land





## WESTMINSTER'S TIMELINE

- SERVICE COMMITMENT COMPETITION 1980'S
- IMPLEMENT NEW TAP FEE PROCESS COORDINATION
  - TAP SIZE
  - ESTIMATED WATER RESOURCES REQUIRED TO SERVE THE PROJECT
  - IRRIGATION TAP FEES BASED ON AREA AND LANDSCAPE TYPE
- WATER RESOURCES BEGINS CALCULATING TAP FEES IN COORDINATION WITH BUILDING –
   COORDINATION
- 2002 DROUGHT INCREASED PROMINENCE OF WATER SUPPLY PLANNING AND CONSERVATION.



- BASED ON BUSINESS TYPE
- CHARGED PER "SERVICE COMMITMENT" 140,000 ANNUAL GALLONS
- \$13,963 BASED ON \$32,500/AF
   2018

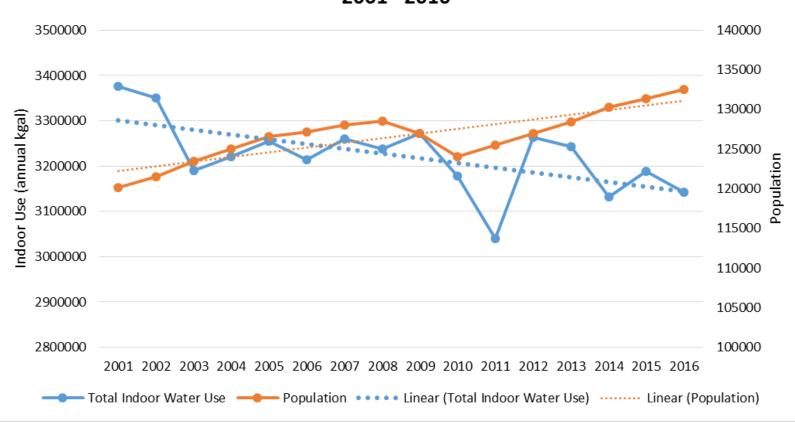
Category Name	Units	Unit Use * (gal/unit/yr)
Auto Service & Repair	sf	21.7
Car Wash	bay	2,100,000 (15 SC)
Childcare	sf	60
Church	sf	31.5
Clubhouse/Pool	unit	140000 (1 SC)
Grocery Store	sf	38.5
Gas Station no Car Wash	sf	242
Hospital	sf	59.97
Hotel/Motel	room	23566
Medical Office	sf	35.7
Multi-family	unit	69925
Office	sf	8
Recreation w/ pool	sf	148.8
Recreation w/o pool	sf	55
Restaurant	sf	200
Retail	sf	29
School	sf	12.4
Senior Housing includes irrigation	unit	0
Warehouse/Industrial	sf	7



# POST DROUGHT

- 2004 LANDSCAPE REGULATIONS- COORDINATION
  - LANDSCAPING AND IRRIGATION STANDARDS COORDINATION
  - 2 NEW POSITIONS PAID BY PWU
- PLANNERS IDENTIFIED FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS COORDINATION
- 2004 WESTMINSTER COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN LINKED TO COMPREHENSIVE WATER SUPPLY PLAN- COORDINATION
- EDUCATION OF STAFF AND ELECTED OFFICIALS- COORDINATION

# Total Annual Indoor Use vs. Served Population 2001 - 2016

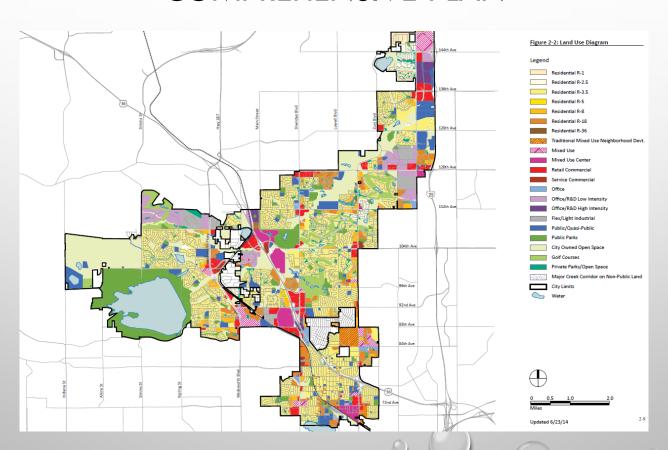




# 2006-2013

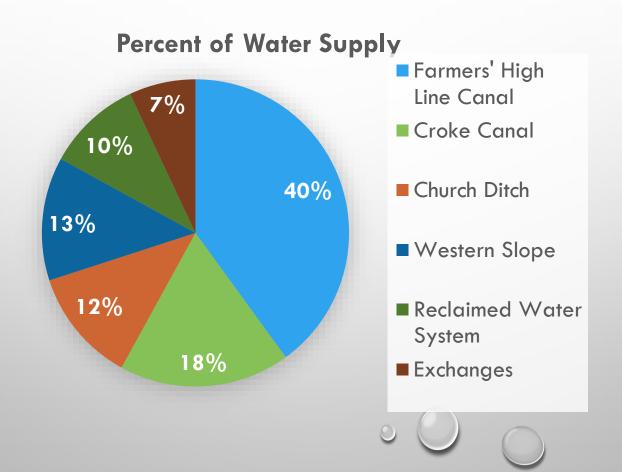
- INCREASED DIALOGUE WITH CITY COUNCIL COORDINATION
  - SUPPLY GAP
  - COSTS TO CLOSE GAP
  - DEMAND PROJECTIONS
- 2013 COMPREHENSIVE AND WATER SUPPLY/DEMAND PLANS- COORDINATION
  - WATER SUPPLY IMPACT EVALUATION WITH EACH LAND USE AMENDMENT
  - NEW LAND USE CATEGORIES WERE ESTABLISHED, SUCH AS MIXED USE, AND MODELING WAS ADJUSTED.
  - CLOSING WATER SUPPLY GAP DETERMINED TO BE ACHIEVABLE.

# **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**



20

# WATER SUPPLY PLAN



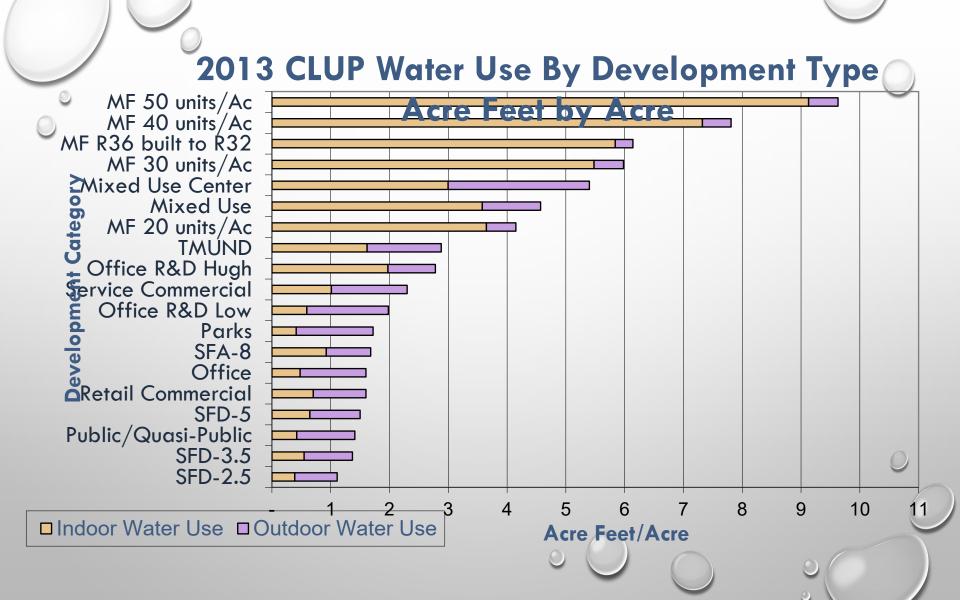


- CUSTOMER CONSUMPTION DATA FROM UTILITY BILLING SYSTEM
- MULTI YEAR
- ADJUST FOR WEATHER, WATER LOSS, REVITALIZATION, CONSERVATION, ETC.
- INDOOR VS OUTDOOR
- GIS LAYER
- ADJUST CURRENT CONSUMPTION
  - WEATHER
  - VACANCY
  - UNDERUSED TAPS



# WATER DEMAND METHODOLOGY

- WATER LOSS
- REVITALIZATION
- ADD DEMAND FOR UNDEVELOPED OR TO BE REDEVELOPED LANDS
  - BASED ON PROJECTED WATER USE BY LAND USE TYPE
  - REMOVE CURRENT CONSUMPTION
- ADD DEMAND FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS
- WHOLESALE WATER
- FUTURE CONSERVATION



# COMPREHENSIVE & WATER SUPPLY PLAN





# 2014-2017

- NEW STAFF
- FORMAL PRE-APPLICATION MEETINGS TO LAY OUT TAP FEE PROCESS AND DISCUSS PROJECTED WATER USE- COORDINATION
- COUNCIL REQUESTS ANNUAL WATER/DEVELOPMENT BALANCE REPORT- COORDINATION
- COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS IMPACTS REPORTED ANNUALLY



# 2018-

- NEW VISION FOR THE CITY
  - THE NEXT URBAN CENTER OF THE COLORADO FRONT RANGE
- UPDATE COMP PLAN/WATER SUPPLY PLAN
- MORE REQUESTS FOR COMP PLAN AMENDMENTS
- SPECIFIC WATER BUDGET PER PROPERTY
  - AVERAGE OR WORST CASE
- RATE AND FEE STUDY
  - UNCOLLECTED TAP FEES BUILT INTO RATES (SURCHARGE RATE)
  - SCALABLE RESIDENTIAL TAP FEES

### **ISSUES**

- ACCEPTANCE OF NEW LANDSCAPES
  - CITIZEN IMPLEMENTATION FASTER THAN CITY PLANNING
- PER CAPITA VS LAND USE BASED PROJECTIONS
- LAND USE CATEGORIES
  - INCREASE WATER USE AT DEVELOPED SITES
  - NEW DENSITIES
  - MIXED USE
  - AVERAGE OR MAXIMUM OF DENSITY AND WATER USE
- DEVELOPMENT COSTS WITH FULL COST FEES
- WATER COURT
- CLIMATE CHANGE
- CHANGES IN VISION

#### MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY PLANNING Comp What is Plan Estimate Vision Worst **Future** for the Case? Demand for **Future** الا الا Water decisions Drought Water City made on Resilience? Supply for land use and Council Average, Policy water OF PROPERT Compare rebalancing Computer Demand to land use and Modeling Supply water supply **Projections** if needed Plan and **Future** implement Engineering Water strategy to Analysis Supply close the





# Outline

- Collaborators
- Goals of the project
- Clarion Report
- Residential Density Impacts on Water Demand
- Residential Land Use and Water Demand Tool
- Strategic levers

# Collaborators

#### <u>Funders</u>

Colorado Water Conservation Board

**Denver Water** 

**Gates Family Foundation** 

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

**National Science Foundation** 

Walton Family Foundation

#### **Steering Committee**

Greg Fisher – Denver Water

Tom Gougeon – Gates Family Foundation

Peter Pollock – Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Ray Quay – Arizona State University, Decision Center for a Desert City

Flo Raitano – Denver Regional Council of Governments

Kevin Reidy – Colorado Water Conservation Board

Marc Waage – Denver Water

Lyle Whitney – City of Aurora

Matthew Mulica (facilitator) – Keystone Policy Center

#### **Technical support:**

Don Elliott – Clarion Associates

Mitch Horrie - Denver Water

Daniel Jerrett - DRCOG

Ralph Marra - SW Water Resources Consulting

Justin Martinez - DRCOG

David Sampson - DCDC ASU

Jeremy Stapleton - Sonoran Institute

Summer Waters - Sonoran Institute

#### **Working Group:**

Clark Anderson - Community Builders

Drew Beckwith - Western Resources Advocates

Susan Daggett - Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute

Tom Cech - One World One Water Center

Mizraim Cordero - Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

Barry Gore - Adams County Economic Development

#### **Working Group (con't):**

Steve Gordon - City of Denver

Peter Grosshuesch - Town of Breckenridge

Karen Hancock - City of Aurora

Julio Iturreria - Arapahoe County

Peter Kenney - Civic Results/Metro Mayors' Caucus

Mara MacKillop - Colorado Water Conservation Board

Becky Mitchell - Colorado Water Conservation Board

Gene Myers - New Town Builders

Chuck Perry - Perry Rose, LLC

Greg Peterson - Colorado Ag Water Alliance

Ben Rubertis - Genus Architecture

Jeff Tejral - Denver Water

Chris Treese - Colorado River District

Heidi Williams - City of Thornton

Susan Wood - Denver Regional Transportation District/CO APA

# A Growing Opportunity

- By 2050, Colorado's population is projected to double, greatly increasing the demand for water.
- Colorado is already a water short state.
- By 2050, most people will live in buildings that are yet to be built.
- To date, there has been little integration of land and water planning

# The Colorado Water and Growth Dialogue

"If we grow the next 5 million people like we grew the first, there won't be enough water"

"Before we spend the political capital required to reduce landscaping and increase density, we need to know whether these things will move the needle"

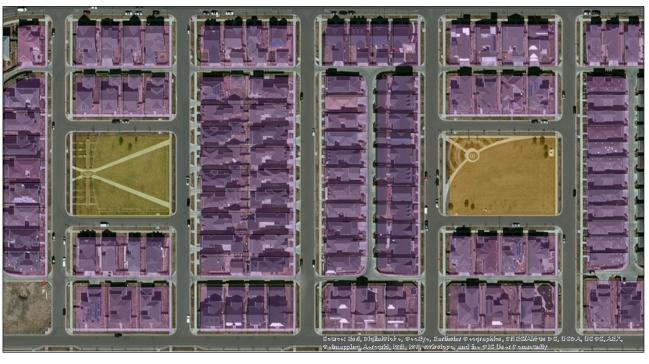
# Goals:

- Demonstrate how much water can be saved through the integration of water and land use planning;
- Develop a consensus-based set of recommended strategies;
- Provide local communities with data, information and a tool box of strategies so that they may make better informed decisions

#### Clarion Report

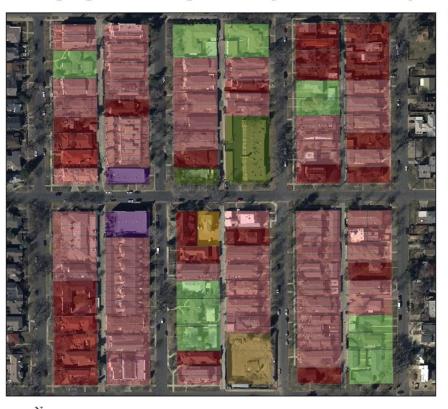
- Clarion Associates developed a report that identified existing studies linking land use planning and water demand reduction, and suggested land use forms that might further that goal.
- The following 4 recommended land use pattern changes helped the dialogue focus on what to examine:
  - Land use patterns that are recommended for further examination
    - Build smaller single-family parcels
    - Changing from single-family to multifamily
    - Build denser multifamily
    - Enact landscape restrictions

#### **Smaller Single Family Lots**





#### **Changing from Single Family to Multifamily**



#### Legend

#### D\_CLASS\_CN

APT LOW-RISE>9UNT, WALK-UP

APT W/2 UNITS

APT W/3 UNITS

APT W/4 UNITS

APT W/5 UNITS

CONDOMINIUM

OFFICE W/RESID

ROWHOUSE

ROWHOUSE

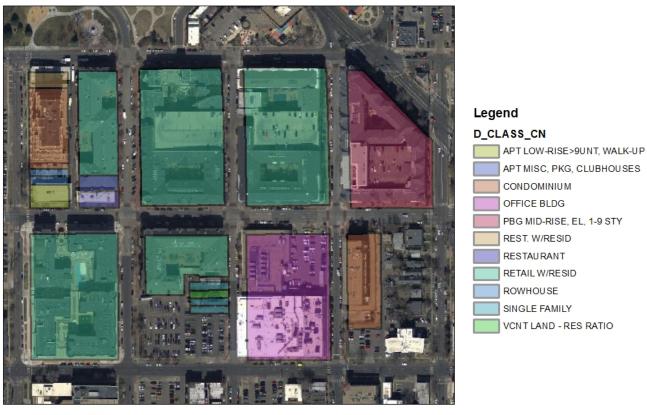
SINGLE FAMILY

VCNT LAND R-2, RS-2 ZONE





#### **Increase Multifamily Density**





0 125 250 500 Feet

#### Turf Restrictions



~40% turf



~15% turf



~20% turf



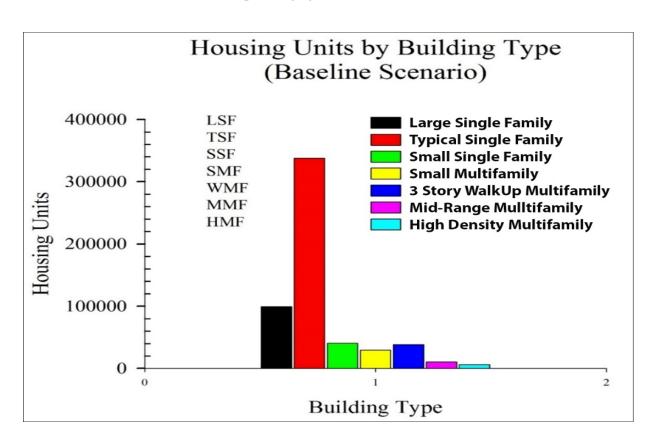
No maintained turf

	<u>People per</u>
<u>2010 Census</u>	Square Mile
New York	27,000
	26,000
	25,000
	24,000
	23,000
	22,000
	21,000
	20,000
	19,000
	18,000
San Francisco	17,000
	16,000
	15,000
	14,000
	13,000
Chicago	12,000
	11,000
	10,000
	9,000
Baltimore	8,000
	7,000
Denver Water Service Area 2050	6,000
St. Louis	5,000
Denver Water Service Area 2010	4,000
	3,000
	2,000
Nashville	1,000

## Density



#### Allocation of Building Types 2040



#### Scenarios: Increasing Density – Key Concepts

• Scenario Movement

LSF TSF SSF SMF WMF MMF HMF

Short Long

• Scenario Construction: different patterns of movement of households from one building type to another.

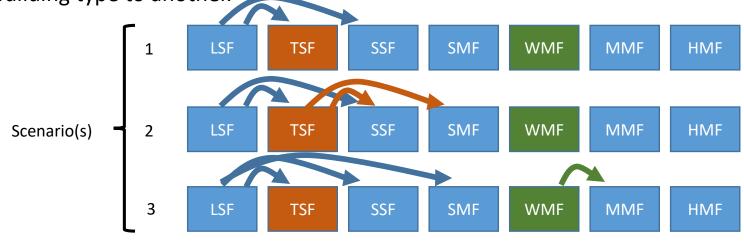
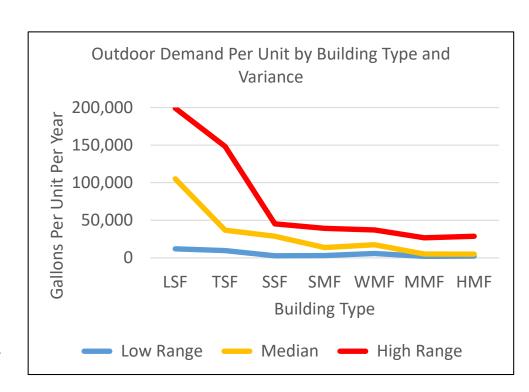


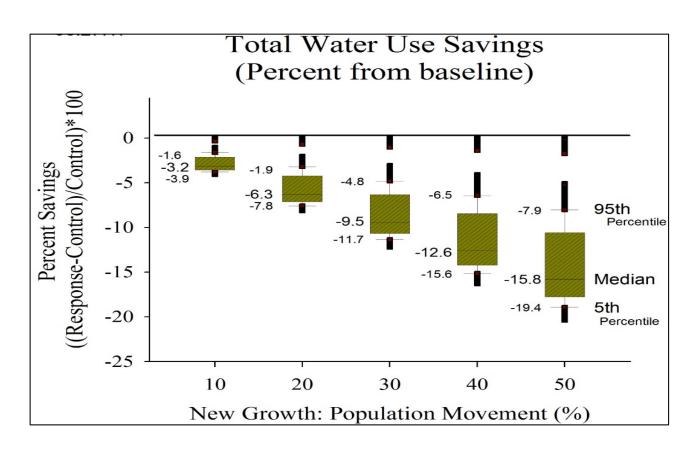
Figure 1

#### Strategic Insights-Density Increases

- Household movement from the Large Single Family and Traditional Single Family to any other building types provides the largest total water demand reductions of new housing and can result in 50% to 60% of the full potential from the more complex scenarios
- Scenarios that do not include LSF and TSF have little benefit.



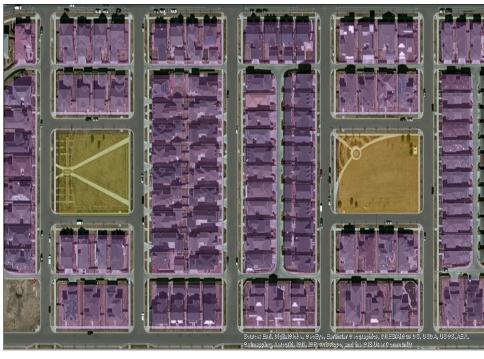
#### Scenario results



# Strategic Insights – Density Increases

- Increasing density may decrease water demand of new growth in the range of 2% to 19%, with higher resource cost density increases associated with the higher (water) savings.
- Lower resource cost density increases may achieve 3% to 8% reduction for new housing.

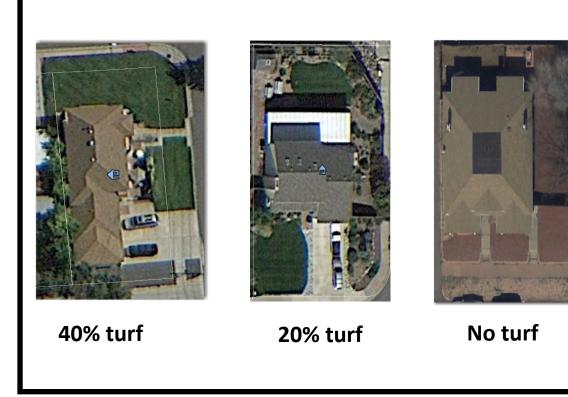
#### **Smaller Single Family Lots**



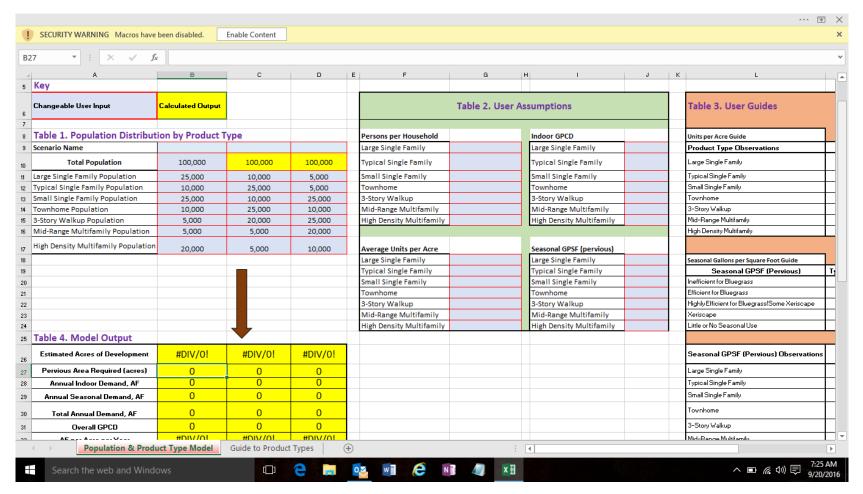


#### Strategic Insights - Efficient landscaping

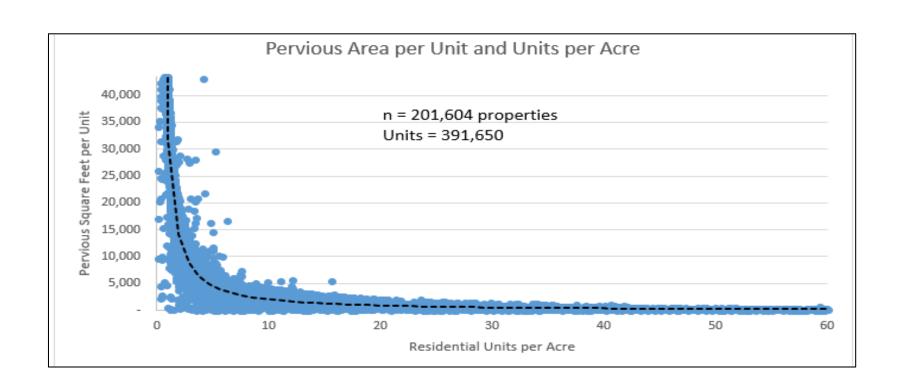
- Increasing the efficiency of irrigation may decrease water demand of new growth in the range of 5 to 25%, and be as effective, if not more, at reducing demand as increasing housing density.
- Combining low "resource cost" residential density increases with low "resource cost" reductions of irrigation may achieve reductions in total residential water demand of new growth by 5 to 15%.
- Education of homeowners is a critical step to achieving savings



#### Residential Land Use and Water Demand Tool



#### Pervious Area per Unit and Units per Acre

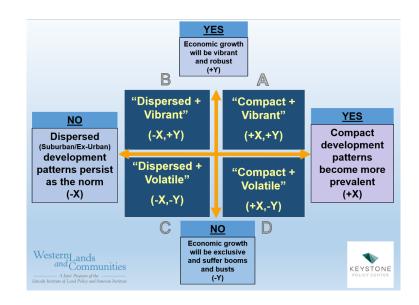


#### Recommended Strategic Levers

How can changes in urban form and landscaping practices for new growth and redevelopment assist in meeting future urban water demand along the Colorado Front Range?

Strategies were tested to see how well they performed in a variety of plausible futures that varied in terms of future housing preferences, the strength of the economy, and innovations in transportation technology such as autonomous vehicles, which may either reinforce sprawling land use patterns or help in concentrating residential development along transit corridors.

The strategies that worked well across the range of futures were selected for further consideration.



#### Recommended Strategic Levers

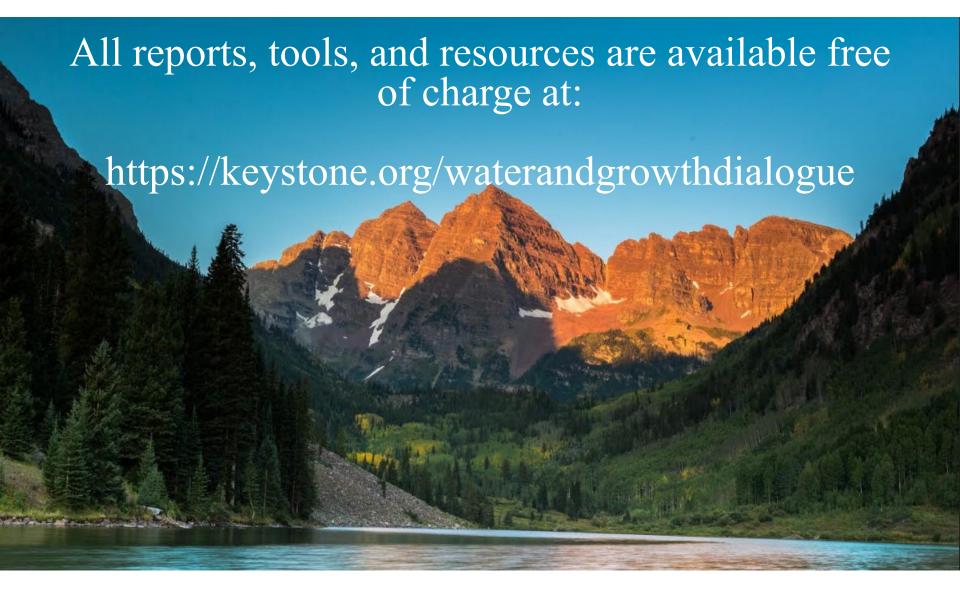
- Encourage the consideration of higher residential densities as a means to reduce water demand
- Adopt landscaping policies to lower future water demand from population growth
- Incorporate a One Water approach into planning
- Incorporate aspects of water planning into long range planning



#### Recommended Strategic Levers

- Share success stories and case studies
- Develop, track, and refine new metrics that link water use to land use
- Encourage water smart development through a suite of new local development standards and incentives
- Develop water smart design guidelines and standards for government-owned buildings, public spaces and rights-of-way







#### **Growing Water Smart**

Workshop + Technical Assistance

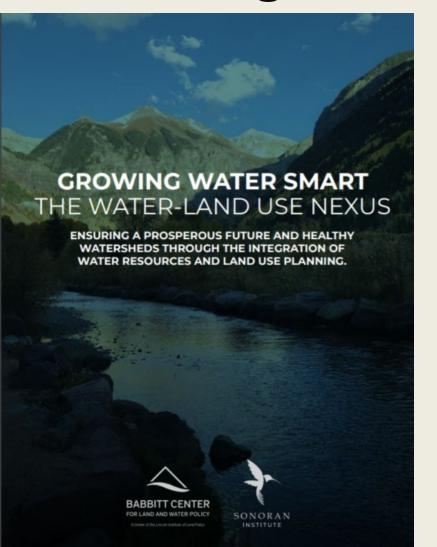
- Competitive Application Process
   Community Readiness and Team
   Composition
- Interdisciplinary Action Planning Facilitated Time Together to Focus
- Technical Assistance
   Help + \$\$\$ to Start

Front Range Development Patterns
J.Stapleton, aerial support provided
by LightHawk





#### **Growing Water Smart Toolbox**



01

Planning + Policy Making

02

Adequate + Sustainable Water Supply Requirement

03

Water Smart Land Use Policy

04

Healthy + Resilient Watersheds

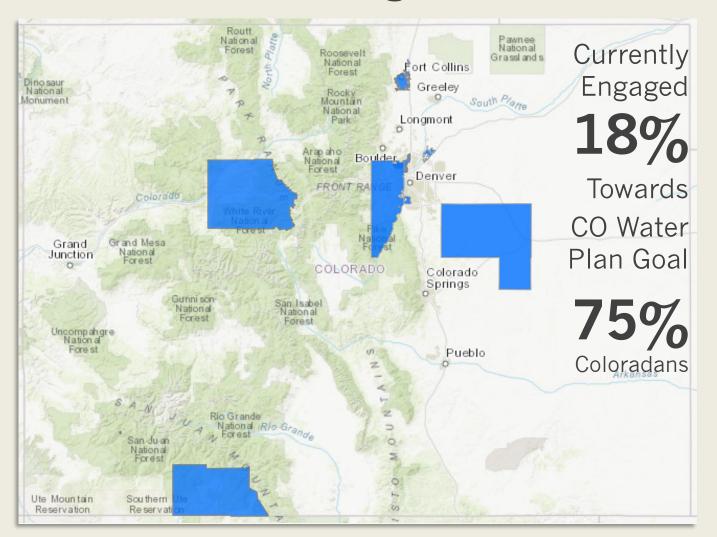
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Water Efficiency Rate Structuring

BABBITT CENTER
FOR LAND AND WATER POLICY
A Center of the 1 incells institute of 1 and Policy



#### Colorado Growing Water Smart Communities



#### Round 1

Westminster

Fort Collins Archuleta Co. + Pagosa Springs Eagle Co.

#### Round 2

Rico

Littleton Brighton Wellington Jefferson Co. Elbert Co.





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