



# NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

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## **GRAND JUNCTION, CLIFTON AND UTE WATER DISTRICTS COLLABORATE ON 2023 REGIONAL WATER EFFICIENCY PLAN**

**GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. April 13, 2023** – The City of Grand Junction, Clifton Water District, and Ute Water Conservancy District have worked in collaboration to develop the 2023 Grand Junction Regional Water Efficiency Plan which is available for public review and comment at [EngageGJ.org](http://EngageGJ.org) for a period of 60 days ending on June 11. Following the public comment period, the plan will be presented to the Grand Junction City Council for consideration.

The Grand Junction Regional Water Conservation Plan was adopted by Grand Junction City Council, the Ute Water Conservancy District Board, and the Clifton Water District Board in June 2012 and approved by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The 2023 Grand Junction Regional Water Efficiency Plan provides an update to the previous plan in compliance with the current Municipal Water Efficiency Plan Guidance Document issued by CWCB.

Approximate cost to implement the plan is \$25,000 per year for the conservation measures, and \$20,000 per year for public education programs (water conservation/DRIP) per entity. Staff is monitoring grant opportunities to support additional outreach and incentive programs for graywater and turf replacement programs.

The Colorado Water Conservation Act of 2004 requires all covered entities (retail water providers that sell 2,000 acre-feet or more on an annual basis) to have a state-approved water efficiency plan containing certain required minimum plan elements.

In 1996, the City of Grand Junction, Clifton Water District, and Ute Water Conservancy District all developed water conservation plans. Although the three entities worked cooperatively on the plans, they were submitted to the Colorado Water Conservation Board as individual plans for each entity.

In 2009 the City of Grand Junction, Clifton Water District, and Ute Water Conservancy District decided it was time to revise their water conservation plans to meet the requirements of the Water Conservation Act of 2004. The entities having developed a joint Drought Response Information Project (DRIP) program in response to the 2002 drought, wanted to use the same cooperative approach to water conservation. The 2012 Grand Valley Regional Water Conservation Plan was a result of this cooperative approach.

This 2023 Grand Junction Regional Water Efficiency Plan provides an update to the previous plan in compliance with the current Municipal Water Efficiency Plan Guidance Document issued by CWCB and includes specific measures and programs to achieve the following goals and objectives:

1. Continue to educate the community, local and regional planning departments, construction and development businesses, landscape contractors, and customers regarding codes and ordinances that promote xeric landscapes and water conservation.
2. Continue to create public awareness of wise water use and conservation
3. Continue efforts to reduce residential sector per-capita water demand in the Grand Junction area and maintain a 1.4 percent reduction annually
4. Promote water saving awareness in the commercial/industrial sectors
5. Encourage implementation of the recently adopted Graywater Ordinance
6. Establish a regional turf rebate program
7. Reduce non-revenue water losses

Next steps for finalizing and adopting the 2023 Grand Junction Regional Water Efficiency Plan include:

- Submit draft plan to CWCB for review on April 11
- Public notice and comment period- April 12 – June 11
- Presentation at City Council workshop – May 15
- Submit to City Council for adoption of Resolution – June 21

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