

**Boulder County Gross Reservoir Community Impact Mitigation Fund
Community Advisory Working Group
Structure and Protocols**

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The *Denver Water v. Boulder County* Settlement Agreement established a \$5 million Gross Reservoir Community Impact Mitigation Fund (“the Fund”). The Fund is designed to provide direct payments to eligible property owners who are (or are expected to be) adversely impacted by the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project (“Project”).

The Settlement Agreement, signed in November 2021 between Boulder County and Denver Water, requires Boulder County to develop standards or formulas that ensure a fair distribution of the \$5 million among households. Where possible, the standards or formulas will consider the type and severity of noise, light, and air quality/dust impacts on eligible households from the multi-year construction project.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of the Boulder County Gross Reservoir Expansion Community Advisory Working Group is to weigh different scenarios, interests, and collective impacts (and anomalies) from both a scientific and subjective standpoint and make recommendations to Boulder County about what the community feels is the most equitable and fair way to distribute money from the Fund.

The Working Group will focus on how to disperse the first round of compensation to mitigate *construction impacts*. The funding is not intended to be used to address long-term/permanent changes in the landscape due to the Project. (Boulder County also reserved a second round of funding to compensate residents for anticipated impacts from Denver Water’s tree removal activities in years 2025 and 2026.)

The purpose of the Working Group is NOT to debate the merits/demerits of the Project. In this way, the Working Group will not serve as a forum for expressing opinions, complaints, or opposition to the Project itself. Members of the Working Group should be prepared to focus on discussions and analyses related to the distribution of the Fund.

Boulder County recognizes that monetary compensation is not an adequate substitute for community members’ peace of mind and quiet enjoyment of their homes and that the amount provided by the Settlement Agreement will not be sufficient to mitigate the impacts of Denver Water’s project. Determining how best to distribute the money from the Settlement Agreement will be a complex and challenging process. The objective of the Community Advisory Working Group is to create an organized and transparent process for community members to develop and refine a strategy for the distribution of the Fund.

RECOMMENDATION DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Working Group will work together to provide recommendations to Boulder County on how to distribute the Fund. The Working Group is not a final decision-making body; ultimately, the final decision on the distribution of funding lies with the Boulder County Commissioners. The commissioners are eager

to hear feedback and receive guidance from the community and will carefully review the recommendations provided by the Working Group.

The Working Group will seek to achieve "consensus" in the development of recommendations. For this process, the term *consensus* is defined as "all members of the panel can live with the proposal." Consensus requires that all members act in good faith and actively propose viable alternative solutions to meet the interests of other partners and find common ground.

If the Working Group cannot achieve consensus on a given recommendation, any differing perspectives will be shared in a final report to the Boulder County Commissioners. The Boulder County Commissioners will review all perspectives provided in a final report and make decisions accordingly.

WORKING GROUP MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

The Working Group will consist of representatives from the following communities*:

- Chute Rd./Juniper Heights
- Coal Creek Canyon Dr./SH 72 & South of SH 72 (e.g., Crescent Lake Rd., Copperdale Ln., Hummingbird Ln., etc.)
- Gross Dam Rd
- Lakeshore/North Shore
- Lazy Z/Bonnie Rd. (west side)
- Miramonte
- Pika/Flagstaff
- SH 72 & GDR intersection
- Tunnel Rd. 19/Lichen Ln.
- Other – (TBD)

*Boulder County reserves the right to appoint more than one representative from the larger communities and to combine other areas as necessary.

Working Group members are requested to consider the construction impacts to the community as a whole rather than focusing specifically on their own individual circumstances. Members are asked to be cognizant that the goal of the group is to provide guidance to the Boulder County Commissioners on what the community feels is most fair.

The Working Group will meet three times to develop recommendations. There will also be a community meeting open to the public in April. It is **mandatory** for Working Group members to attend all Working Group meetings; it is optional but strongly encouraged that Working Group members attend the community meeting. The schedule for the Working Group meetings is as follows:

- Thursday, April 6, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm (mandatory in-person Working Group meeting – CCCIA or City of Boulder location TBD)
- Tuesday, April 25, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm (mandatory virtual Working Group meeting)
- TENTATIVE DATE - Saturday, April 29, 2-3:30 p.m. (optional in-person *community* meeting)
- Tuesday, May 16, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm (mandatory virtual Working Group meeting)

WORKING GROUP GROUND RULES

The ground rules for the Working Group are to:

- Listen to understand, not respond
- Allow every voice to be heard
- Participate in the discussion
- Treat everyone with respect
- Discuss ideas, not people
- Focus on the topic at hand
- Respect everyone's time
- Talk about what you think and know; let others do the same

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Community Advisory Working Group meetings are open to the public. During Working Group meetings, community members not on the Working Group will have the opportunity to submit written comments, which will be summarized by the facilitation team and distributed following the meeting. Additionally, community members will have the opportunity to provide feedback and input on recommendations during the community meeting tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 29.

MEDIA INTERACTION

No Working Group member may speak to the media on behalf of the Working Group. Members may speak to the media in their individual capacity. The facilitation team will never speak to the media.