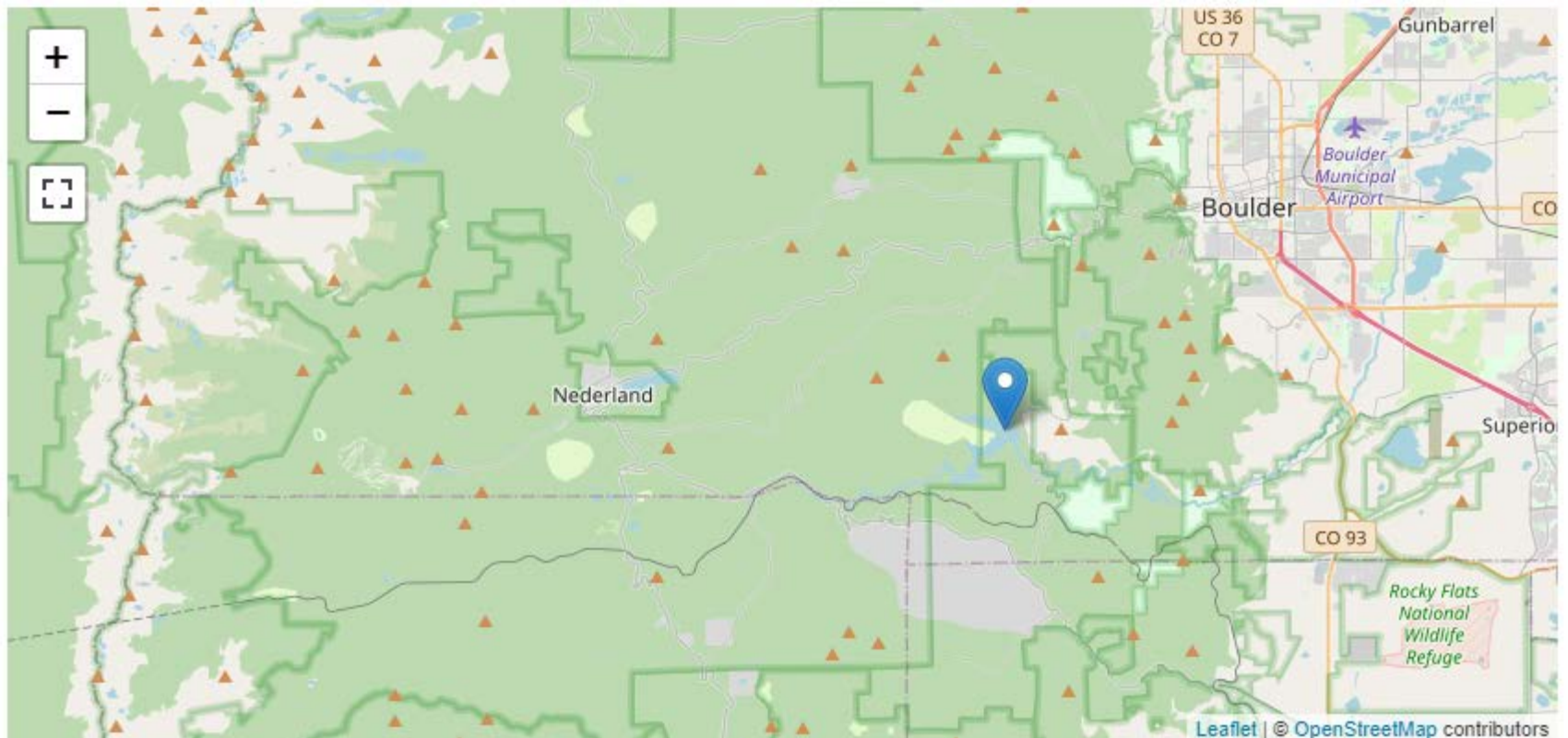


GROSS RESERVOIR IMPACT MITIGATION FUND



**First Gross Reservoir Community Advisory Working Group Meeting
April 6, 2023**



Board of County Commissioners

Barb Halpin
Gross Reservoir Community Impact
Mitigation Fund Coordinator



OVERVIEW

- **Intro/role – Barb Halpin, Commissioners’ Office**
- **Overview of Settlement Agreement w/Denver Water (Community Impact Mitigation Fund)**
- **How Fund is designated to be spent**
- **Decision making process for fund distribution**



DENVER WATER/ LEGAL ACTION

- **Early 2000s** – Denver Water begins planning for a major expansion of Gross Reservoir.
- **July 2020** – Denver Water receives federal approval to proceed with the project.
- **July 2021** – Denver Water files a federal lawsuit against Boulder County to preempt/prohibit local regulation.
- **November 2021** – Boulder County reaches an agreement with Denver Water to resolve the federal lawsuit.
- **[Settlement Agreement](#)** directs Denver Water to pay more than \$12.5 million to Boulder County to mitigate impacts of the dam expansion project, **including \$5 million to be distributed directly to residents to help mitigate noise, light, air, and traffic impacts** from the Gross Reservoir Expansion project.



BOULDER COUNTY'S ROLE

- **Listen to community members and concerns** – Received 170 written surveys, numerous calls, site visits, emails, and discussions.
- **Analyze environmental impacts** – Pinyon Environmental Consulting conducted an impact analysis of acoustic/noise, air quality, and visual/lighting impacts.
- **Convene advisory working group** – provide a community-based structure around public input.
- **Direct ALL fund money directly to area residents** – Boulder County is NOT using the fund's money to pay for staff or consulting/contracted services.



DECISION-MAKING PROCESS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

- **Boulder County Commissioners** are seeking recommendations from the Advisory Working Group on how best to distribute up to \$5 million from the Denver Water Settlement Agreement directly to community residents.
- **Two rounds of funding:** first round for current and future impacts from dam expansion; second round for tree removal impacts.
- **Note: Funding is to be based on impacts from Denver Water's construction activities.**
- **Commissioners will review the working group's recommendations** and make a decision about distribution by early summer.



Bottom Line on \$\$:

- **Denver Water provided \$5M to mitigate noise, visual/light, and air impacts to households near the Gross Reservoir Dam Expansion project.**
- The community has brought additional considerations forward.
- **The fund will not cover everyone's peace of mind or well being.**
- Fund purpose has pivoted from "impact mitigation" to "community compensation"
- Payouts can be used for any purpose - Boulder County will not track purchases or ask for receipts.



THE FACILITATED WORKING GROUP WILL:

- **Undertake a fair and public process** that includes representative community perspectives.
- **Participate in focus group meetings** to solicit and consider feedback on potential solutions for distributing the funds.
- **Take into account different perspectives** and anxiety, anger, and a loss over the Gross Reservoir project.
- **Make recommendations to the Boulder County Commissioners** on how best to payout money from the fund.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND
COMMITMENT!

www.boco.org/grossreservoir



Board of County Commissioners