



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) – CHATFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL POOL

(As of July 14, 2017)

(The following FAQs refer specifically to funding for the 500-acre feet (AF) of water storage being secured through the combined efforts of The Greenway Foundation and Denver Water. Denver Water put forward a challenge to The Greenway Foundation to obtain the needed funding for 250 AF of the overall 500 AF, which has been met. Denver Water will provide the funding for the final 250 AF.)

### 1. What does a financial contribution of \$7,500 pay for?

. A contribution of \$7,500 pays for one-acre foot of storage space for the Environmental Pool (EP) in the Chatfield Storage Reallocation Project. The money goes towards the mitigation costs needed to pay for the replacement of environmental and recreational amenities within Chatfield Reservoir and Chatfield State Park that will be impacted due to the height of storage within the Reservoir being raised by 12 feet when the reallocation pool becomes a reality. The height of the dam is NOT being raised/increased. Rather, 12 feet of flood control capacity is being converted to water storage.

The actual cost of mitigation is being finalized, but there is an agreement with CWCB/DNR/CCWCD/TGF and DW that the MAXIMUM amount/AF of mitigation costs related to the 500 AF “in play” will be \$7,500/AF. If the actual cost is less, DW/TGF and supporters will pay the lesser amount.

### 2. What are “O&M” costs?

. The O&M costs refer to the estimated financial amount/AF that will be set aside in a holding account with USACE over a 50-year basis once the mitigation work is completed and the reallocation pool is in place. O&M funds will cover the ongoing operation and maintenance costs involving both Chatfield Reservoir and Chatfield State Park amenities. Funding contributors to the EP do not need to pay the O&M costs. The O&M costs on the 500 AF “in play” are being paid for by Central Colorado Water Conservancy District (CCWCD) located in parts of Adams, Weld and Morgan counties in exchange for CCWCD having “first right of recapture” of the EP water for agricultural and livestock uses, after it is released for environmental benefits. Having this commitment from CCWCD allows their 1984 water right to be used to store water in the EP. The actual costs of these O&M costs are being finalized but there is also an agreement with CWCB/DNR/CCWCD/TGF and DW that the MAXIMUM amount/AF involving the mitigation costs related to the 500 AF will be \$2,500/AF. If the actual cost is less, CCWCD will pay the lesser amount.



3. **Where will the Environmental Pool releases be redirected from the South Platte River by CCWCD?**
  - . The releases will remain in the South Platte River through the Denver Metro area through Arapahoe, Denver and Adams counties to a location along the River near Brighton, where CCWCD will either leave the water in the South Platte River to replace pumping of member agricultural wells or divert the water into storage reservoirs to be used at the most strategic times for agricultural and livestock related benefits. In this way, every drop of water in the EP will provide multiple benefits to the both the river environment and agriculture. This creative and collaborative water project makes efficient use of Colorado's scarce water resources.
  
4. **What happens in dry years?**
  - . Not all water rights are equal, and more junior water rights get curtailed during dry years. It is possible that in dry years Central's 1984 storage right would not yield enough water to fill the Environmental Pool. However, during a dry year there may be remaining water in the Chatfield Reservoir EP storage account from previous years which could be used for the intended EP purposes even in a dry year.
  
5. **What are the criteria for release?**
  - . Environmental and water quality benefits will be the primary criteria for releases. Recreational benefits will be ancillary, i.e. boating, fishing, etc. Per the formal agreement between the USACE and the State of Colorado regarding the Chatfield Storage Reallocation Project, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has been tasked to manage the Environmental Pool. There is an ongoing study to determine the best way to manage the Environmental Pool releases. Scheduling Environmental Pool releases will be determined through a collaborative process between CPW and Environmental Pool supporters. The makeup of the group and structure and basis for decision making will be established during 2018.
  
6. **Could the EP ever get bigger than 2100 AF?**
  - . Long term, there may be opportunities to add additional AF to the pool through negotiations and additional funding, but no such efforts will be initiated until the full funding of the current 2,100 AF Environmental Pool has been obtained and the uses and related benefits of the Pool are realized.



**7. What is the construction schedule for the Reallocation Project and when will the Environmental Pool be available for releases?**

. Design is underway for the environmental and recreational improvements to Chatfield Reservoir and Chatfield State Park. The initiation of construction of the environmental and recreational improvements to Chatfield Reservoir and Chatfield State Park to allow for the storage of the additional 20,600 AF, including the 2,100 AF of the Environmental Pool, is currently scheduled to begin as early as fall 2017. Assuming this projected schedule is realized, and also assuming a lack of drought conditions, the Environmental Pool will be filled and available in the spring of 2020, depending on snowpack and hydrologic conditions.

**8. What is the current status of the efforts of TGF to obtain the funding for the 250 AF of the Environmental Pool to meet the challenge from Denver Water? Our goal has been met.**

**COMMITTED:**

. City and County of Denver	= 50 AF
. Walton Family Foundation	= 45 AF
. Adams County	= 25 AF
. Arapahoe County	= 15 AF
. Weld County	= 15 AF
. Gates Family Foundation	= 13 AF
. City of Englewood	= 10 AF
. City of Littleton	= 10 AF
. Urban Drainage and Flood Control District	= 10 AF
. South Suburban Parks & Recreation District	= 10 AF
. The Greenway Foundation	= 10 AF
. The Colorado Parks Foundation	= 10 AF
. The Shoemaker Family	= 10 AF
. Denver Trout Unlimited	= 7 AF
. City of Sheridan	= 3 AF
. Rinehart Family	= 1 AF
. Todd and Amy Fehr	= 1 AF
. Fred and Carolyn Miller	= 1 AF
. Columbine Valley	= 1 AF
. Capitol Representatives	= 1 AF
. South Metro Land Conservancy	= 1 AF
. Evan and Kim Ela	= <u>1 AF</u>



**TOTAL**

**= 250 AF**

**9.** When do you expect the challenge grant from Denver Water to be met by TGF? The Greenway Foundation was targeting August 2017 to have all commitments in place, but has in fact met the goal early. Commitments are now in place for all 250 AF of storage that are the subject of the challenge grant from Denver Water.

**Key to Acronyms:**

**CCWCD = Central Colorado Water Conservancy District**

**CPW = Colorado Parks & Wildlife**

**CWCB = Colorado Water Conservation Board**

**DNR = Colorado Department of Natural Resources**

**DW = Denver Water**

**TGF = The Greenway Foundation**