



Conservation Colorado 2024 Legislative Session Agenda

December, 2023



CoCo Agenda At-a-Glance

- Water
 - Waters of the US (WOTUS)
 - Drought / Colorado River
- Communities & Justice
 - Ozone and Air Quality
 - Extreme Heat
 - Environmental Justice + Funding
- Public Lands
 - Renewable Energy Siting
- Climate & Transportation
 - Land Use and Housing:
 - Transit Oriented Communities
 - Accessory Dwelling Units
 - Strategic Growth / Housing Needs Assessments
 - Parking Minimums
 - Occupancy Limits
 - Transit Funding and RTD Accountability



WATER

- Waters of the US (WOTUS)
 - US Supreme Court decision removed protections for up to 50% of CO's streams and wetlands
- Provide many environmental & socio-economic benefits:
 - Provide as much as **\$25B over 13 years in ecosystem services**
 - Filter pollutants
 - Regulate water temperature (e.g., cooling)
 - Reduce risks associated with flood, drought, wildfire
 - Store carbon
 - Provide wildlife habitat
- Types of impacted activities
 - Landowners, developers, roads, utility infrastructure, etc.



Addressing Drought --

Co River Drought Task Force Recommendations:

- **Changes to Environmental Instream Flow Program**
- Expansion of Agricultural Water Protection Water Rights
- Continue funding measurement tools
- Continue the Technical Assistance Grants for Colorado Water Projects
- Increase funding for removal invasive phreatophyte & species
- Increase funding for turf removal



COMMUNITIES & JUSTICE

- Ozone and Air Quality Legislation
 - Need to address permitting and enforcement of air permits
 - Thousands of minor sources, largely oil and gas, still being permitted without taking full account of air quality impacts
- Extreme Heat
- Environmental Justice + Funding
 - Environmental Justice Package being advanced by CDPHE
 - Environmental Equity and Cumulative Impact Analyses + funding
 - Hiring refinery expertise at CDPHE for potential future rulemaking on Suncor
 - Municipalities role in air permits



PUBLIC LANDS

- Renewable Energy Siting
 - Purpose: Meeting our climate and GHG reduction goals will require a significant increase in renewable energy generation and infrastructure. We must ensure that increased development doesn't have adverse impacts on communities and the environment.



TRANSPORTATION / LAND USE

- Transit Oriented Communities
- Accessory Dwelling Units
- Strategic Growth / Housing Needs Assessments
- Parking Minimums
- Occupancy Limits
- Transit Funding and RTD Accountability



Admin bills we are watching closely

- Clean Energy Plans by 2040 (CEO)
 - Recent modeling by CEO shows it is possible for electric utilities to meet ~98.5% reduction in GHG emissions by 2040
 - The newly updated CEP framework also requires utilities to submit a CEP that reduces emissions by at least 97% by 2040
 - We are keeping a close eye and urging the state to strengthen some sector-specific and economywide goals
- Distribution System Planning (CEO)
 - Increased demand for grid access by a range of new electric loads such as all-electric multifamily and affordable housing units, industrial facilities, EV chargers, and oil and gas operations
 - Modify planning requirements at PUC so that utilities are planning their distribution in a manner that takes into account future growth in electrification
- Carbon Sequestration and Direct Air Capture Regulations (ECMC)
 - Rulemaking is underway to define and address cumulative impacts on public health
 - ECMC is holding stakeholder meetings
 - We are pushing them on potential impacts, particularly on DICs, and carbon accounting



Rulemakings happening soon

- ECMC: Cumulative Impacts of Oil and Gas Industry
 - Initiated by HB23-1294 (Ozone)
 - Defines “cumulative impacts” of O&G operations at ECMC
 - Must be completed by end of April 2024
- ECMC: Carbon Sequestration Rulemaking
 - Post-session 2024



Thank you!

Questions?