



Colorado Water Stewardship Project
ADVANCING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Colorado Survey on State Water Policy

**Colorado State Legislature
for the
Interim Water Resources Review Committee**

Floyd Ciruli

August 2016



Survey Facts

- ✓ Conducted By: Ciruli Associates
- ✓ Sponsored By: Colorado Water Stewardship Project, Colorado Water Congress and the Colorado Water Conservation Board
- ✓ Sample: Random sample of Colorado registered voters. Data weighted for age, ethnicity and education.
- ✓ Sample Size: 712 voters
- ✓ Margin of Error: Total sample: ± 3.7 percentage points in 95 out of 100 cases
- ✓ Date in Field: August 7-16, 2016
- ✓ Previous Survey: Data compared to Colorado Water Survey conducted August 2013 with 500 registered voters

Water Issues 2016-2014

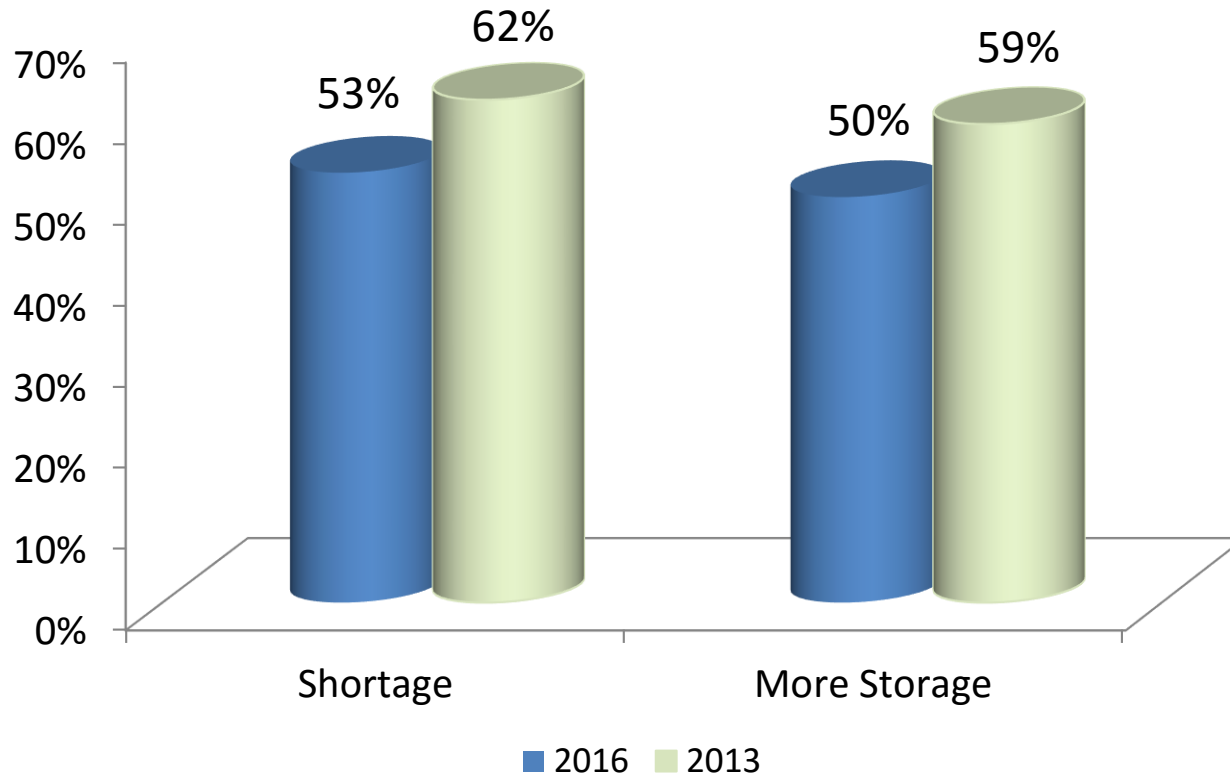
Water Quality Increases/Shortage, Drought Declines

Issue	2016	2013
Water conservation/saving supplies	24%	29%
Drinking water quality/good-tasting water	15	5
Water pollution/water quality (Gold Hill, Flint)	14	10
Water shortage	11	24
Losing water to other states (downstream)	7	6
Drought	6	11
Water for agriculture/maintaining agriculture	5	11
Water taken by gas and oil/fracking (negative)	5	4
Need more storage	4	6
Growth in area	4	3
Water rights	4	4
Keeping rates low/lowering rates	3	6
Water restrictions	2	4

Colorado right direction – 62%/U.S. – 27%

Q: Turning our attention to Colorado water issues, what do you think are the most important water issues in your area of the state?

Water Shortage and More Storage Shift From 2013 to 2016



Q: In the next 10 years, do you believe the supply of water to residents in your area of Colorado will be adequate or do you believe there will be a shortage of water?

Q: In general, do you believe your area of Colorado needs more water storage capacity or does it have sufficient storage?

Rate Organizations on Handling the Environment

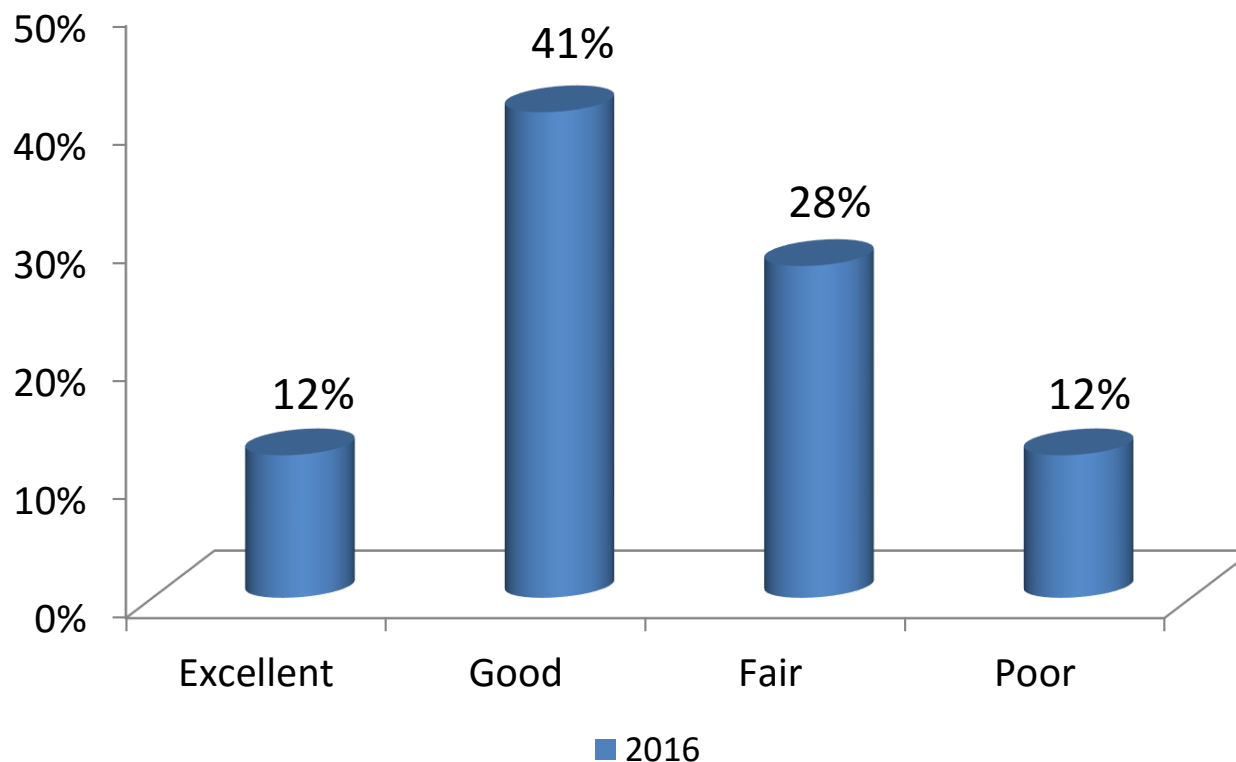
Local Provider and Local Government Rated Highest

Organization	Good Job	Poor Job
Your local water provider	64%	8%
Your county government	51	16
Colorado state government	44	22
Colorado state legislature	36	23
U.S. federal government	25	45

Q: Thinking about the environment, as I read the following list of organizations and divisions of government please tell me if you think they are doing a good job or a poor job in handling protecting the environment. If you aren't familiar with an organization or don't have an opinion, just say so. [ROTATED]

Is Local Water Supplier Encouraging Conservation?

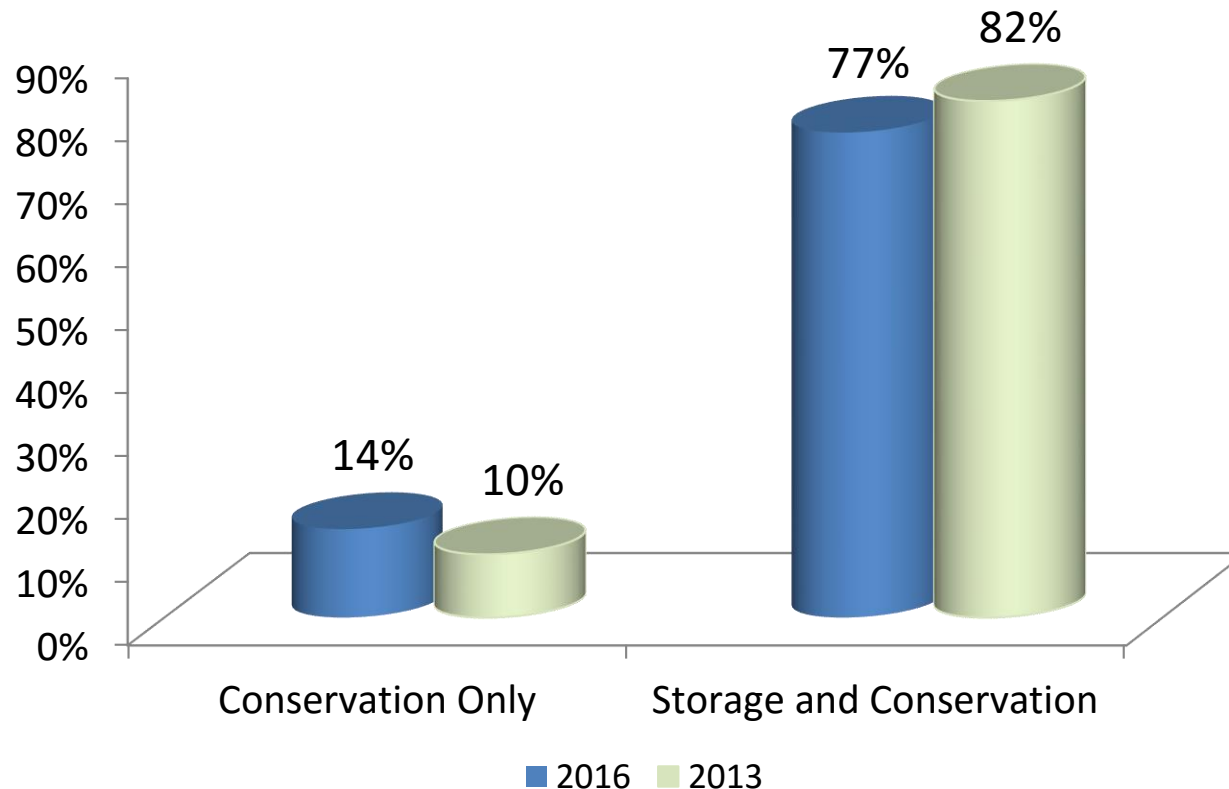
More Than Half Believe Good Job. But Room for Improvement.



Q: Thinking about water conservation, would you say your local water supplier is doing an excellent, good, fair or poor job of encouraging water conservation?

Is Conservation Alone Sufficient or is Storage Needed?

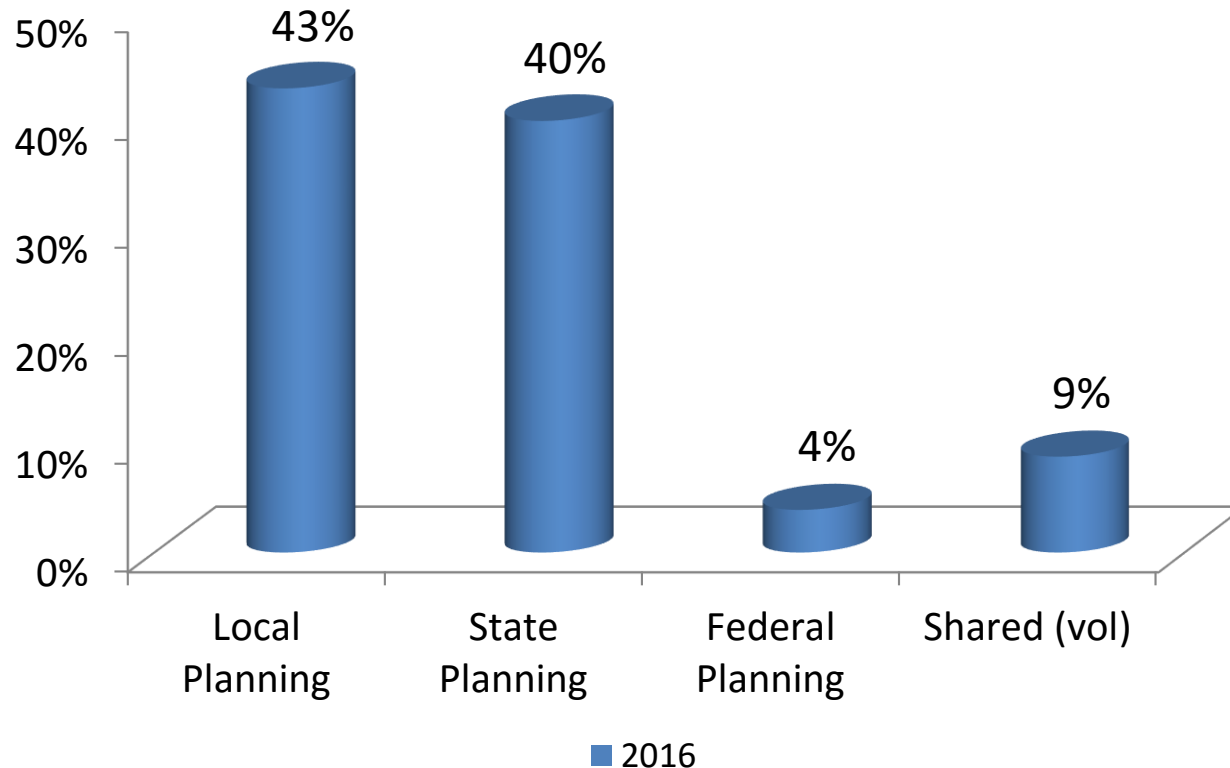
Both Storage and Conservation Necessary



Q: Water conservation is important and the state and local water suppliers are encouraging it. Let me ask you the following question. Do you believe water conservation can solve Colorado's water supply problems or do you believe there must also be storage of water supplies? (Agree/Disagree statement in 2013)

Who Should Do Water Planning?

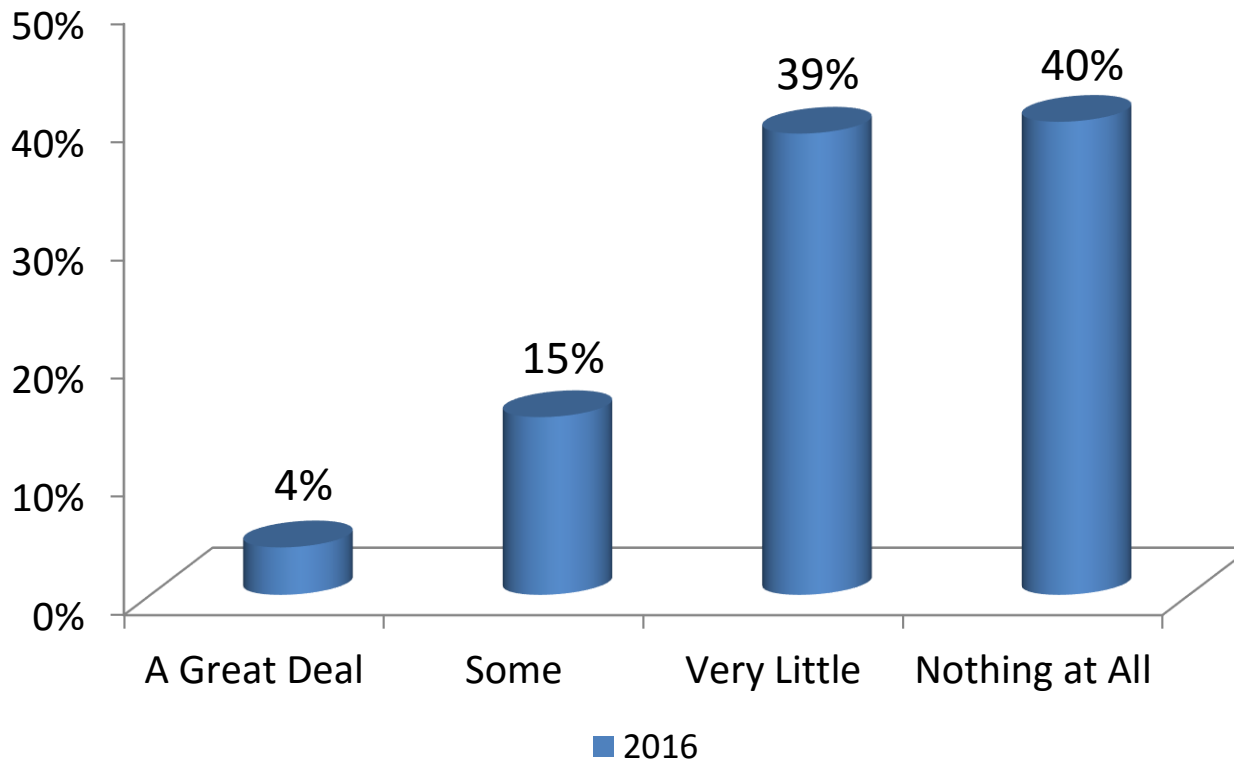
State Seen as Having a Role in Planning



Q: Let me ask you about water planning in Colorado. Do you believe water planning should be conducted by your local city, town or water district; by the state government; or by the federal government?

Heard of State Water Plan

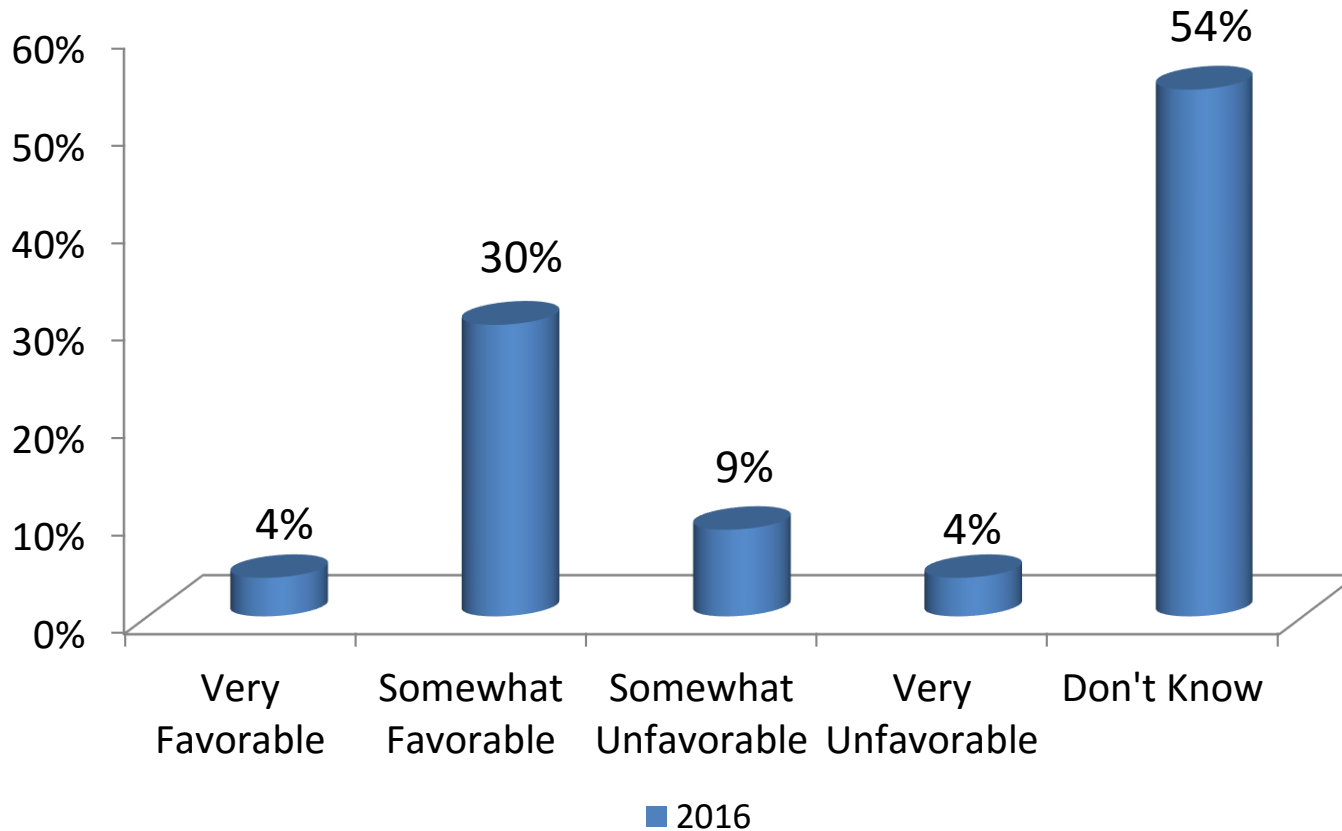
Few People Heard of Plan



Q: The State of Colorado released a state water plan last November. How much would you say you heard about the State Water Plan: a great deal, some but not too much, very little or nothing at all?

Impression of State Water Plan

Half of Public Rate Plan Favorably



Q: From what you have heard or read about the Colorado State Water Plan, would you say you have a very favorable impression of it, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable impression of it?

Options for Implementation of State Water Plan

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree
A considerable amount of water that belongs to Colorado flows out of the state. Colorado should <u>store its legal share of water</u> .	68%	21%
Colorado has a number of water storage projects in a permitting process with the state and federal government, some have been waiting for more than 10 years. The <u>permitting should be expedited</u> to get the projects built.	49	31
Colorado needs a much <u>stronger program of water conservation</u> . It will cost money and will require residents reducing water use, including landscaping, but we need to do it.	48	38
To close the water gap, <u>new water storage facilities</u> , including dams, must be built. We should build more storage dams as long as they don't harm the environment.	45	35
Colorado will need to <u>reuse more wastewater</u> for residential use. It is expensive to treat water to make it safe for reuse, but it needs to be done.	43	36
To solve the state's water shortage, small and large storage and reuse projects and conservation programs must be built or implemented and paid for. The state should calculate what it will cost, and <u>in 2018 ask voters for the funds</u> to get the projects and programs started and completed.	42	36

Q: The state water plan identifies a large gap in supply that will affect residents in all of Colorado's water basins. It addresses water needs and problems for the next 50 years. Let me ask you some questions concerning the state's plans. As I read the following list of statements, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree. [ROTATED]

Funding Water Projects or Programs

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support
Conducting long range water planning	66%	25%
Improving new water conservation programs	55	34
Enhancing river habitat	51	33
Developing new water supplies	48	36
Building new water storage projects	40	42
Adding water recreation	21	38

Q: The state water plan has identified a series of water projects and programs necessary over the next 20 years and beyond to ensure an adequate supply of water and to close the water shortfall. These projects and programs will require additional funds. As I read the following list, please tell me if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose funding the project or program.

[ROTATED]



Initiatives 2016

Review Until September 7; 98,492 Valid Signatures

		Yes	No	Don't Know
Amendment 69	Single-payer ✓	30%	45%	24%
Amendment 71	Raise the Bar ✓	38	29	33
Initiative 75	Local Government Ban Anti-fracking	--	--	--
Initiative 78	Mandatory Setback Anti- fracking	57	30	13
Initiative 98	Primary Election	--	--	--
Initiative 101	State Minimum Wage ✓	--	--	--
Initiative 140	Presidential Election	--	--	--
Initiative 143	New Cigarette Tax ✓	--	--	--
Initiative 145	Medical Aid in Dying ✓	--	--	--

✓ On the ballot

Conclusions

- Shift from water shortage to quality
- Local credibility in handling the environment
- Balanced view of conservation, but it is a litmus test. More can be done.
- State joins locals in water planning. Joint planning should continue.
- Public ready for implementation – reuse, structures, new water, conservation. Key is communication and leadership.

