



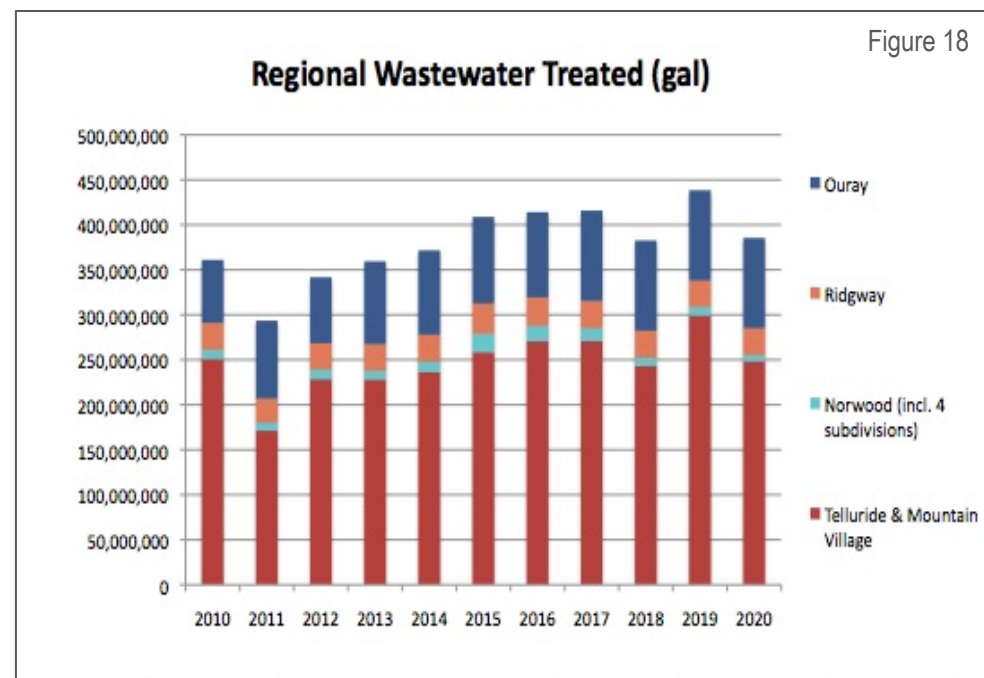
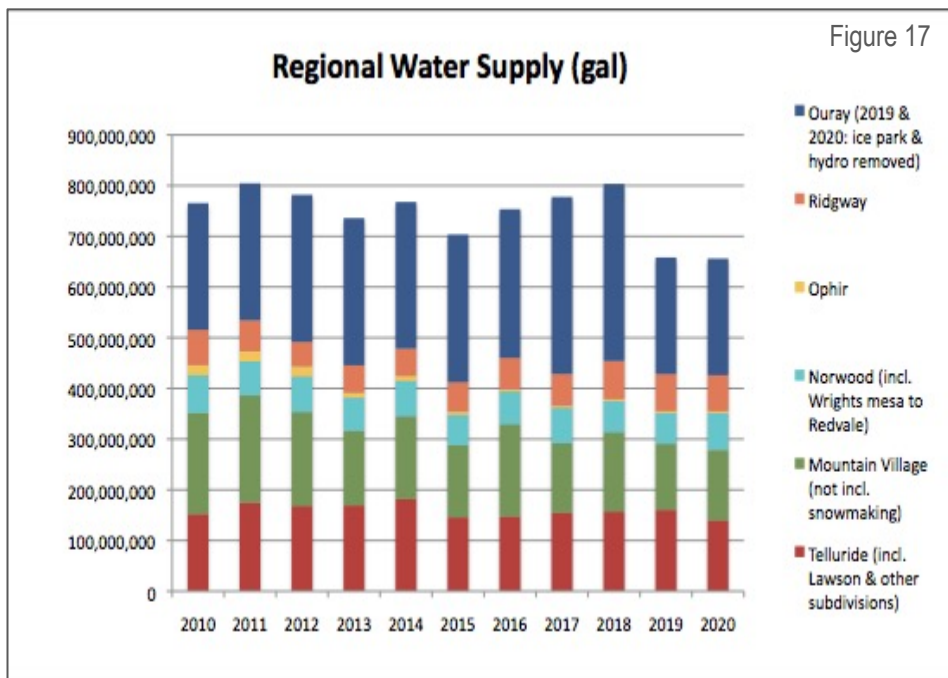
# Water

GHG emissions associated with water use in our region come from water pumping and treatment. Nearly all GHG emissions associated with water treatment are tied to energy supply for those systems, while additional energy used for heating water is included in the building energy use sector. While GHG emissions associated with municipal water comprise less than 2% of our region's total emissions, we have included it in this CAP as it is intimately tied to environmental and economic health of our region.

Due to the relationship between water and energy use, our recommendations in this section primarily focus on reducing the use of energy associated with water consumption, pumping, and treatment. We recognize the importance of water conservation planning, metering and monitoring, and implementation of water conservation policies and efficiency technologies. Creative solutions to reduce water consumption, such as eliminating use of potable water for irrigation, will need to be considered as part of creating a sustainable future.

Water scarcity is nothing new in Western Colorado and we applaud the efforts and actions made by Southwestern and Tri-County Water Conservancy Districts, San Miguel Watershed Coalition, Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, as well as public and private landowners working to improve water quantity and quality now and for years to come. We hope to contribute to the goals outlined in our region's plans for water security, while recognizing drought mitigation stands beyond the scope of this CAP.

# Water Trends



EcoAction Partners tracks annual water use by communities across the region for the SEB to analyze usage, consumption, and energy associated with water supply and wastewater treatment. Significant changes in domestic water use have been noticed to be associated with water leaks and their repair and an increase of water use for irrigation during drought years. As our visitor economy increases, population expands, and new homes and commercial buildings are constructed, we must continue to closely track changes in our water usage associated with this increased demand.

Of note for the above charts:

- The City of Ouray continues to work on improving their means and methods toward tracking accurate water consumption and treatment data. Since the city's water is supplied via gravity, water leaks in the supply system have been treated with less concern than for communities that must pump their water supply, which leads to a relatively high volume for the size of the community.
- Enforced irrigation restrictions in drought years create a noticeable reduction in water use.
- Many consumers of municipally-supplied water are on septic systems, and thus not served by wastewater treatment plants.





















# Water Accomplishments















- Water conservation plans have been adopted by the Towns of Telluride and Ridgway.
- Drought mitigation plans were adopted and are enforced by Towns of Telluride, Mountain Village, Ridgway, Norwood, and Ophir.
- Norwood installed a raw water irrigation collection system.
- The Town of Ophir identified and fixed a significant water supply leak in 2013, reducing its water supply volume in half.
- Increase in percentage of households with low flow fixtures across the region.
- Hazard mitigation plans for addressing drought conditions:
  - [San Miguel County](#)
  - [Ouray County](#)
- San Miguel River and Uncompahgre Watershed coalitions each produce water health reports.
- Increase in local, regional, and statewide organizational efforts to address water consumption across Colorado.

# Water Recommendations

## OBJECTIVE 1: Reduce water consumption from municipal and industrial uses

ACTION	GHG REDUCTION POTENTIAL				CO-BENEFITS					TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Track water and wastewater use data, associated energy use, and impacts of conservation/drought mitigation measures.					=	\$		+		Ongoing	Municipal water departments
Evaluate and implement system methodologies to reduce water-associated energy use.					=	\$		+		1-3	Municipal water departments
Encourage and Incentivize low flow water fixtures.					=	\$		+		1-3	CO state govt, Municipal water departments

## OBJECTIVE 2: Improve watershed health and security

ACTION	GHG REDUCTION POTENTIAL				CO-BENEFITS					TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Continue to develop, adopt, implement and enforce municipal drought mitigation plans.					=	\$		+		Ongoing	All regional governments
Support efforts of organizations (local, regional, and statewide) that focus on water security and watershed ecological health.					=	\$		+		Ongoing	SMC Watershed Coalition, Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership

### KEY

