

Overview

1. Project Tiering: Assumptions

2. Project Phase: Timeline for Implementation

- **Plan Alignment**

- Local plans
- Basin Plans
- CO Water Plan

3. Minimum Criteria: Meets Core Data Needs

4. Criticality: Meeting the Overall Basin Goals, Addressing the Supply-Demand Gap

Project Tiering: Assumptions

The CWCB has developed a Project Tiering Matrix to tier projects identified in the BIP (see table below). The LE Team has developed assumptions to apply these criteria systematically across the full Project List (+200 projects). Due to the variability in project information provided by different project proponents and the variety of project types, these assumptions are designed to help the LE Team apply a consistent approach to the tiering process.

PROJECT PHASE	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Assigned Tier
Timeline for Implementing project phase selected from drop-down (below):	Ready to launch projects that are immediately implementable (within one year) were funding to be made available or if funds have already been secured; does not apply for a "Concept" project.	Projects that could launch within two years were funding to be made available or if funding is in the process of being secured; does not apply for a "Concept" project.	Needs two to five years to launch were funding to be secured.	Not shown or longer than five years to implementation.	
Concept					Tier 2
PLAN ALIGNMENT	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Assigned Tier
Basin Plans	Strongly aligns with Basin Implementation Plan.	Somewhat aligned with Basin Implementation Plan.	Not as well aligned with Basin Implementation Plan.	Not shown.	Tier 2
Local Plans	Extensive local planning, organizational support and water rights support the project.	Some local planning or organizational support for the project; water rights may or may not be explicitly identified.	Not clearly identified in any local plan, organizational effort; water rights concerns are noted; may be under consideration or going through a permitting process.	Not shown.	Tier 1
Water Plan	Benefits multiple sectors in the Colorado Water Plan including each of the following: agriculture, environment & recreation, and municipal & industrial. May also provide other benefits and cite specific goals or actions in the plan.	Benefits multiple sectors in the Colorado Water Plan including at least 2 of the following: agriculture, environment & recreation, and municipal & industrial. May also provide other benefits and cite specific goals or actions in the plan.	Benefits one sector in the Colorado Water Plan including one of the following: agriculture, environment & recreation, and municipal & industrial. May also provide other benefits and cite specific goals or actions in the plan.	Not shown.	Tier 2
MINIMUM CRITERIA	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Assigned Tier
Meets Core Data Needs (list of 21)*	Includes all 21 criteria.	Meets critical subset; (16) designated critical data fields.	Provides only a few details; critical subset is not complete.	Not shown.	Tier 2
NEED	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Assigned Tier
Criticality	Critical to basin (would cause severe impact to the basin if the project didn't move forward; (Basin Priority and/or Emergency Need); Has clear metrics for tracking and completion date.	Significant basin effort (fully aligns with basin goals); implementation or plan would advance basin goals; has clear metrics for tracking and completion date.	Project could be of basin interest but may not as directly advance basin goals; may not have clear metrics and/or may not have a clear end date or objectives.	Not shown.	Tier 2
Priority categorization is calculated from the tier cumulative ranking above.			PRIORITY CATEGORIZATION		Tier 3
SUPPORT BY TIER	TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3	TIER 4	
	Supported & Ready	Supported & Pursued	Supported & Developing	Considering	

Project Phase: Timeline for Implementation

Tiering is dependent on project schedule (provided in the project description), status, and additional background knowledge of project. Many project proponents did not provide a project schedule. In these cases, the following assumptions based on provided project status will be generally applied to projects:

- Indicated by the project proponent to be in the Implementing stage = Tier 1/Tier 2
 - "Implementing" is defined as: *Project is underway (legislation is being drafted, study is underway, project is under construction, design beyond feasibility and conceptual phase, etc.)*
- Indicated by project proponent to be in the Planning stage = Tier 3
 - "Planned" is defined as: *Steps are being taken to move it forward (initiated permitting, seeking funding, forming a committee or group, feasibility study, conceptual design, etc.)*

- Indicated by project proponent to be in the Concept stage = Tier 4
 - “Concept” is defined as: *Project is an idea, there are no specific plans to implement yet.*
 - Note: *Projects classified as “Concept” will automatically result in an overall Tier 3.*

NOTE: The LE Team understands the tier based on status may not align with your project schedule. However, without further information on anticipated project schedule, these assumptions will be used to apply consistency in tiering across the Project List.

The term “ready to launch” will be defined as follows:

- Infrastructure projects = the project is ready for construction, which generally includes:
 - Design is substantially complete
 - Permitting is substantially complete
 - No outstanding legal or water rights administration issues
 - There is overall political support
- Planning/Study projects and other nonstructural projects = the project proponent has the resources available (i.e., a draft scope and budget, internal support,)
 - *A Tier 2 will be applied to Planning/Study projects if no additional information is provided as the LE Team assumes the study could begin within the Tier 2 timeline.*

Plan Alignment

Local Plans

- Tier 1 will include projects whose water rights are decreed or not required and permitting is substantially completed.
 - Planning/Study projects are assumed to be Tier 1 as water rights and permitting are not required.
- Tier 2 includes projects with little to no water rights considerations and smaller-scale permitting requirements.
- Tier 3 includes projects where water rights have not been identified or the water court process has not started and complex permitting has not started or is still occurring (i.e., NEPA, 404, 1041)

Basin Plan

- Most projects will be assumed to fall into a Tier 2 as many of the BIP Goals and Strategies align with benefiting multiple water sectors, which is evaluated in the “Water Plan” criterion.
- Tiering may be adjusted based on alignment with the Goals and Strategies.

Water Plan

- Tier 1 - supports all 3 water use categories (M&I, Agriculture, Environmental and Recreation)
- Tier 2 - supports 2 water use categories
- Tier 3 - supports 1 water use category

Secondary project benefits to other water use categories beyond those identified by the project proponent will be considered when applying tiering assumptions. An example includes Environmental and Recreational projects with a water quality component or ancillary benefit. This type of project would be classified as Tier 2 due to its downstream water quality improvements for Municipal and Agriculture needs.

Minimum Criteria: Meets Core Data Needs

No change will be made to scoring. The LE Team will confirm that all Environment and Recreational projects include "N/A" for estimated water yield and capacity so these data categories are not counted against Environment and Recreational projects that do not have these attributes.

Criticality

Due to the subjectivity of this criterion, most projects will be assumed to be a Tier 2. The LE Team will apply this criterion from the basin-wide perspective – that is, criticality to meeting the overall basin goals and the needs of many water users and the ability of the project to address the current basin-wide supply-demand gap. It is recognized that projects will have much higher criticality to the individual water users than to the overall basin.