

Colorado Municipal League Webinar

Let's Talk About Water: Water Law 101 October 5, 2022

COLORADO'S WATER LAWS: A Conversational Overview

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Presentation Goals

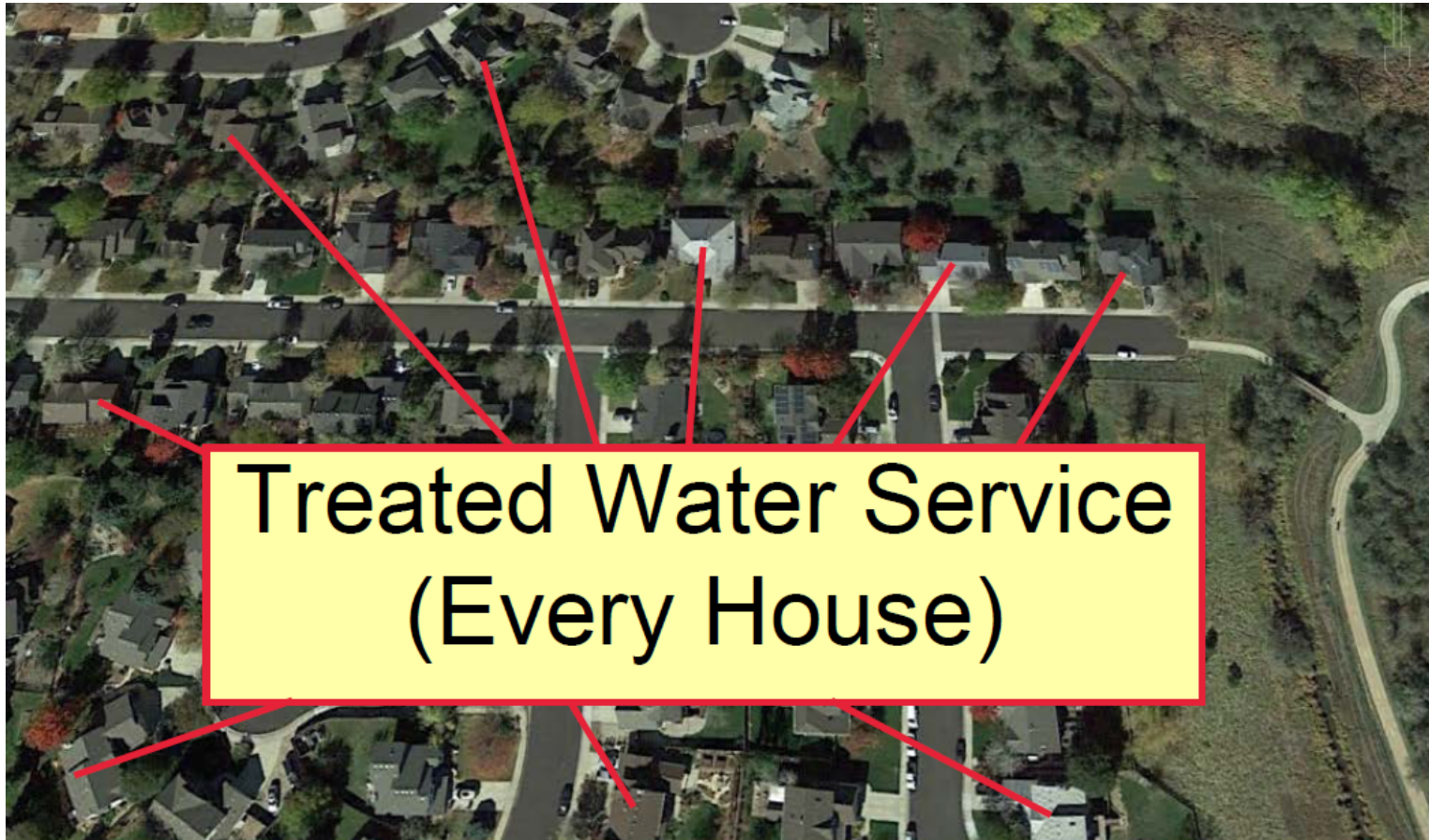
- Overview of Colorado's key water laws
- Understanding of the importance and interesting nature of water laws
- Convince you, as capable and eager public servants, to engage and participate in these issues



Water, Water Everywhere ...



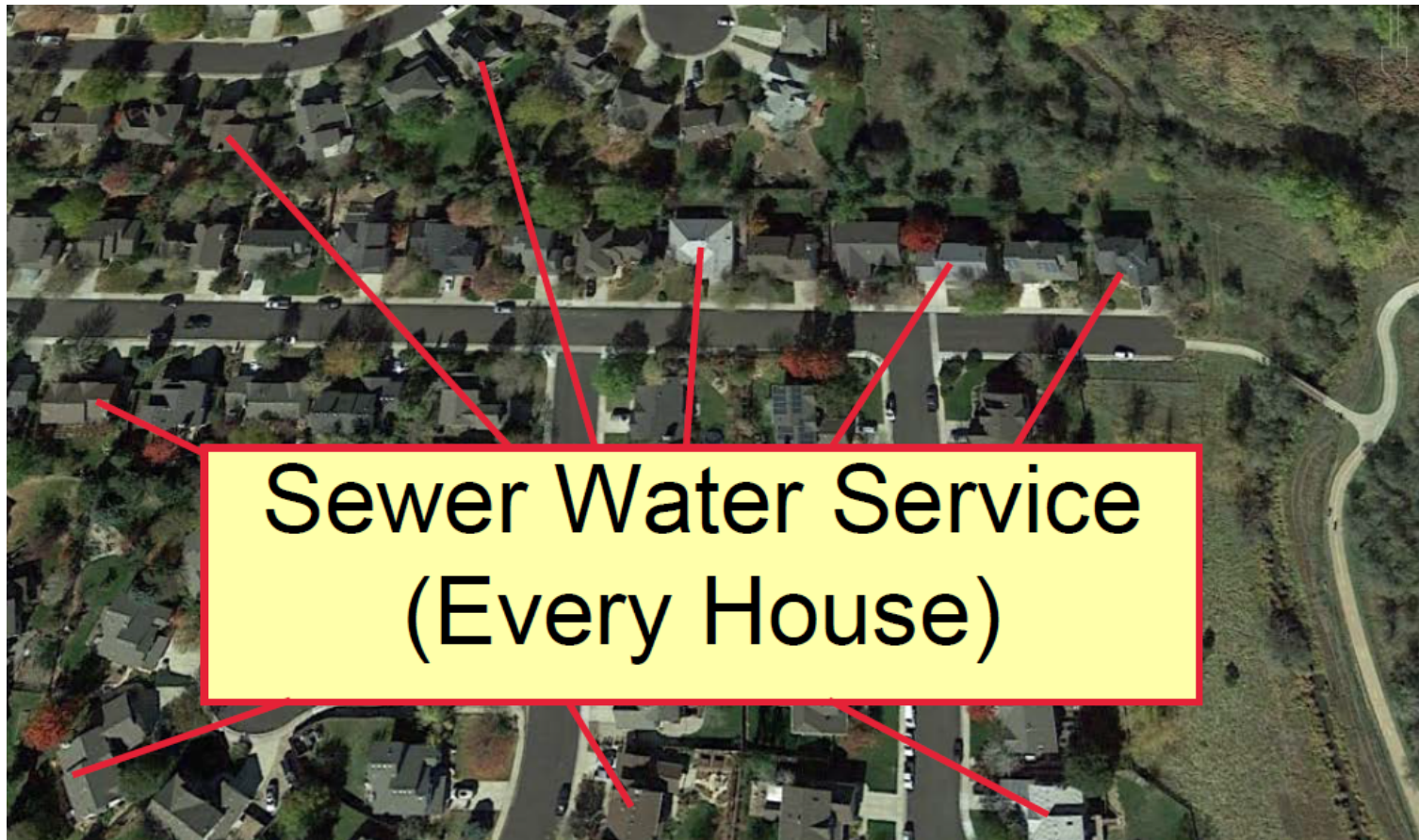
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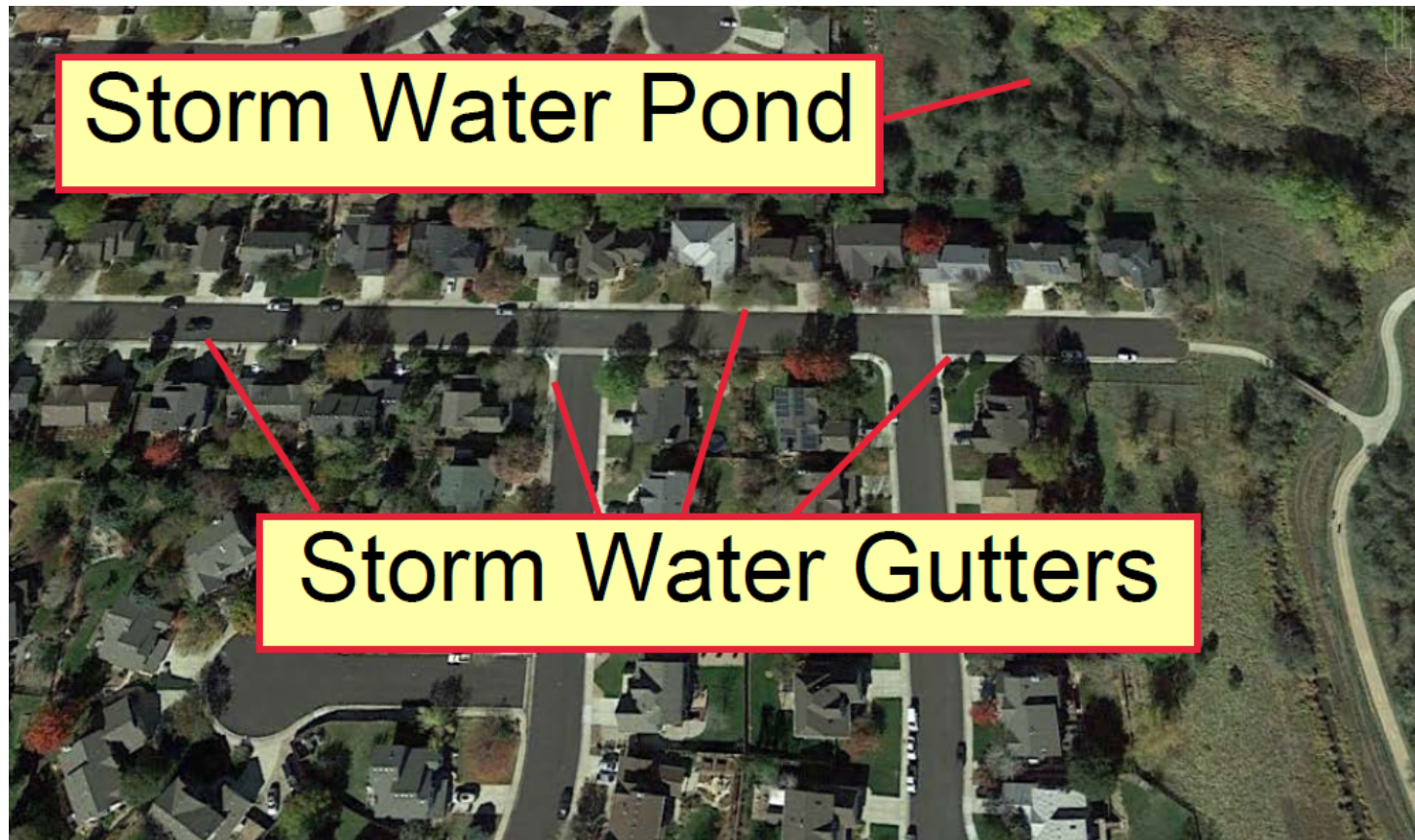


Water, Water Everywhere ...



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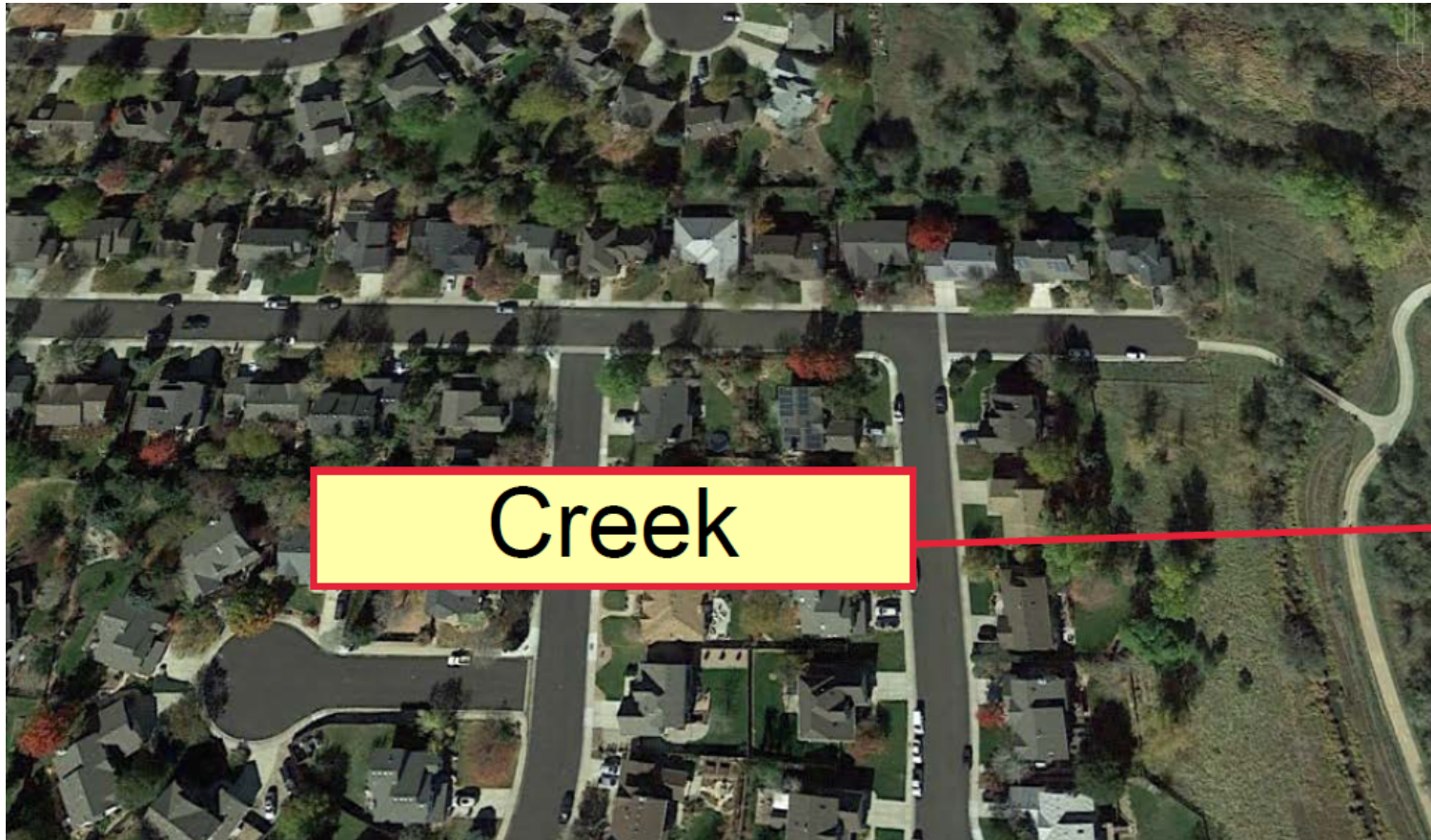
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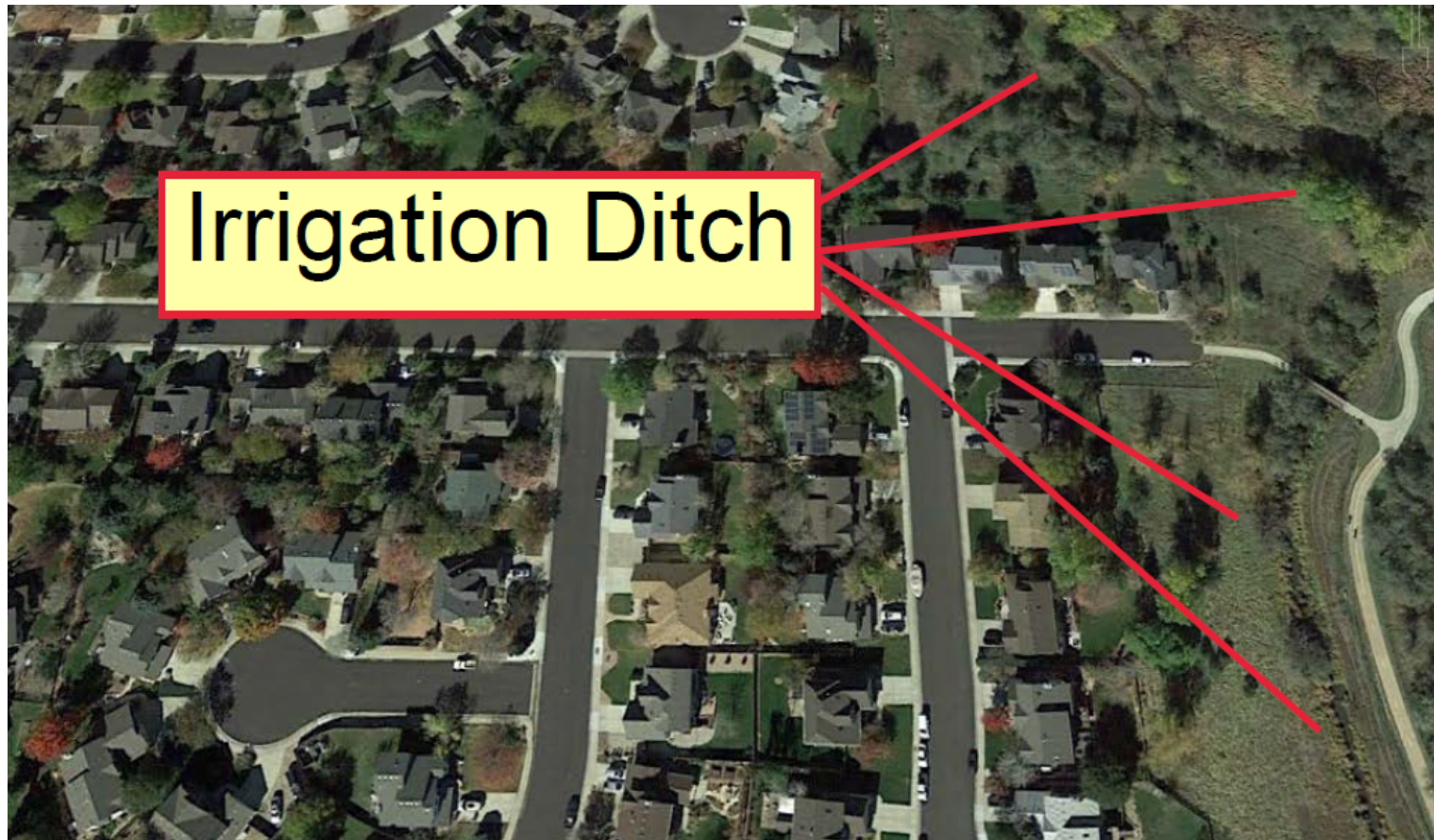
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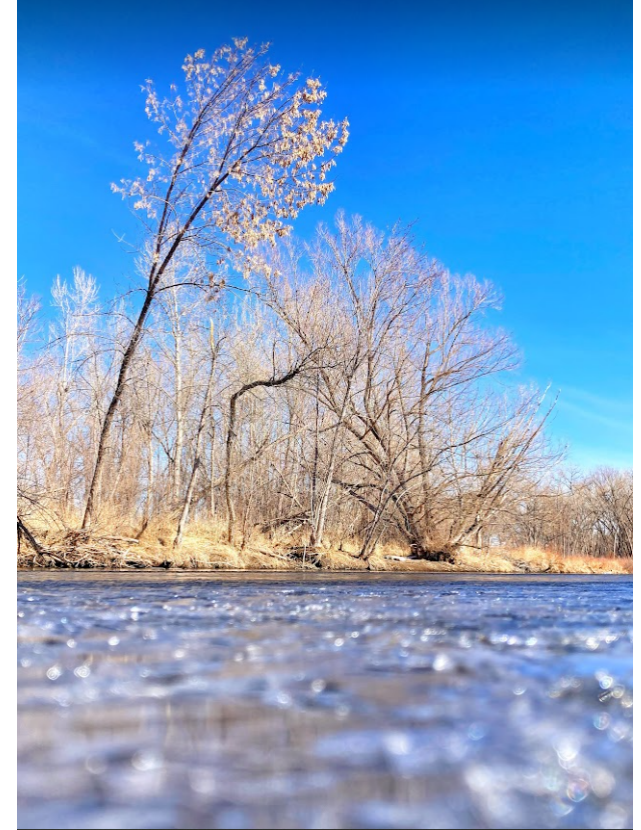
Various (Legal) Water Worlds

- Rights to Divert and Use Water From Streams and Aquifers
- Water Quality Regulation
- Storm Water Drainage
- Infrastructure and Distribution Systems
- Recreational Access



Rights to Divert and Use Water From Streams/Aquifers

- What is this about?
 - Allocating a scarce and unpredictable resource
 - Policy goal is to create certainty
 - Rights allocation system
- How does this apply to municipalities?
 - Water supply for treated and raw water use



Water Quality Regulation

- What is this about?
 - Managing pollutants for health/safety, environment
- How does this apply to municipalities?
 - Treated water supply
 - Wastewater treatment
 - Stormwater
 - Recreation



Water Quality Regulation

- Colorado Water Quality Control Commission / Division is the main agency.
- Interplay between federal law and state law
- No affect on water rights
- Regulations are frequently updated



Storm Water Drainage

- What is this about?
 - Managing precipitation runoff and potential changes to runoff patterns
- How does this apply to municipalities?
 - Stormwater utility
 - MS4 permits



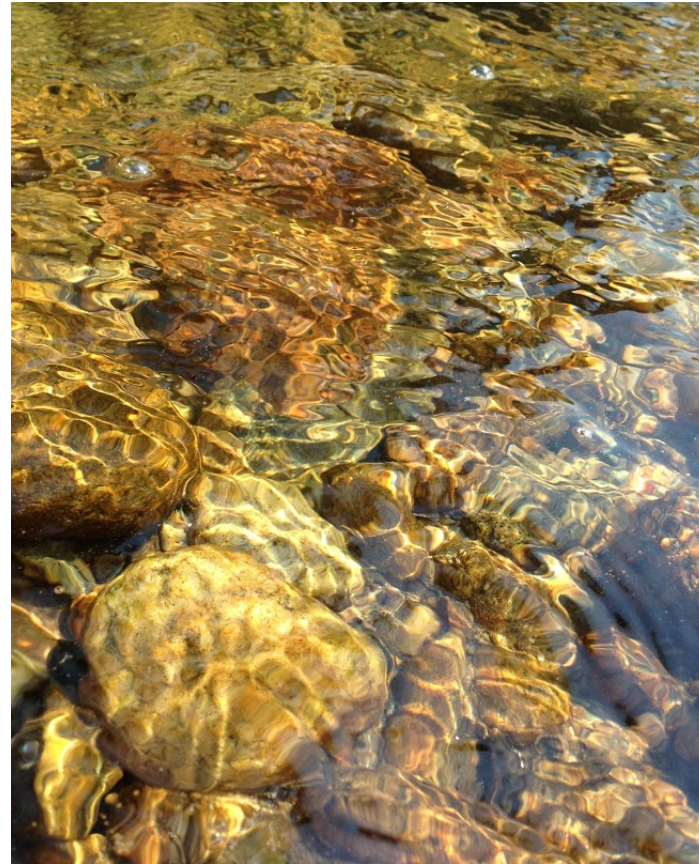
Storm Water Drainage

- Preservation of Historical Runoff Patterns
- Water Quantity Aspect
 - No capturing water beyond Senate Bill 15-212 without a water right
- Water Quality Aspect
 - MS4 permits



Infrastructure and Distribution Systems

- What is this about?
 - How to convey water from its source to place of use.



Infrastructure and Distribution Systems

- Ditch and Reservoir Company Systems



Infrastructure and Distribution Systems

- Municipal Systems
 - Federal and State permitting
 - Treated water distribution system
 - Graywater



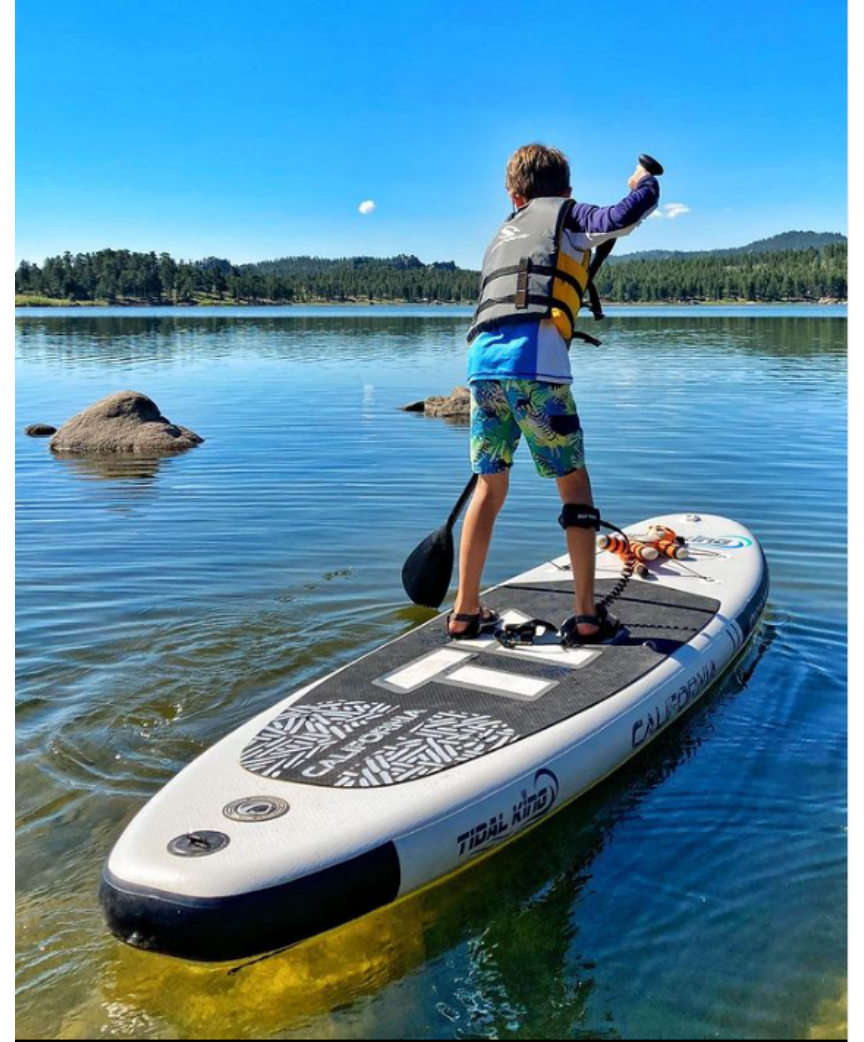
Recreational Access Rights

- What is this about?
 - How to acquire access to streams and reservoirs for recreation



Recreational Access Rights

- Access rights for recreation must be acquired separately
- For reservoirs, rights controlled by reservoir operator; situation-by-situation analysis is needed



One Water Approach

- Integrated planning and management of water
- New, developing approach



Let's Go!

- Each municipality has a unique system
- Learn yours and stay involved

