

# HALLIGAN WATER UPDATE SUPPLY PROJECT



April 2020



## BACKGROUND

If approved, the Halligan Water Supply Project would enlarge Halligan Reservoir, an existing reservoir on the North Fork of the Poudre River, to meet the demand of future Fort Collins Utilities' water customers and provide increased reliability for existing customers in the event of emergencies, drought and climate-change uncertainties.

The project would expand the reservoir by about 8,100 acre-feet by increasing the height of the existing 70-foot dam by 25 feet. For context, an average single-family home uses almost a third of an acre-foot of water each year (about 108,000 gallons). The project is anticipated to be completed in 2026.

Permits are required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and other federal, state and county agencies to enlarge Halligan Reservoir. Before issuing permits, the Corps produces a draft and final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review and comment. The EIS describes environmental impacts of the project, along with environmental impacts of projects identified as alternatives to enlarging the reservoir. The draft EIS was released in November 2019.

## PROGRESS UPDATE

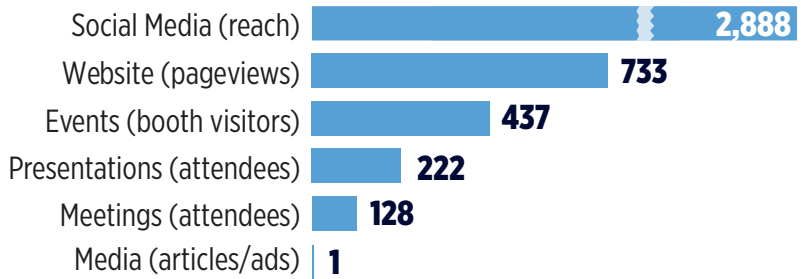
**Draft EIS** – Approximately 60 comment letters were received. They are being reviewed by the Corps and Fort Collins Utilities and responses to comments are being developed.

**Land acquisition and easements** – Staff worked with several landowners to develop easement agreements.

**Preliminary design** – Preliminary design is slated to begin this year. Onboarding of the design team is ongoing.

**State permits** – Formal consultation will begin with Colorado Parks and Wildlife this year for the Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plan. Preliminary work also is being conducted to support the Section 401 Colorado Water Quality Certification.

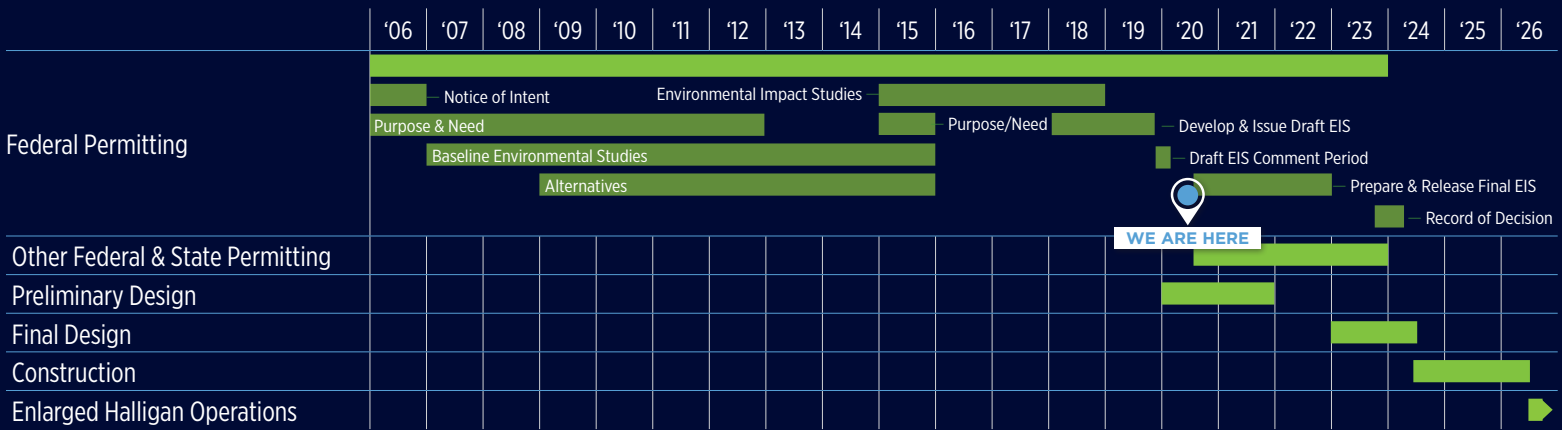
**Community engagement and communication** – Public outreach has been scaled back slightly after the draft EIS release. Outreach continues to educate customers. Outreach and engagement over the first quarter of 2020 is shown below:



Poudre River Forum, February 2020

# PROJECT SCHEDULE

The draft EIS was released in 2019. Construction could begin as early as 2024. Other project milestones are shown below.



Project schedule is dependent on the permitting schedule and subject to change.

## ANTICIPATED COSTS

Project costs were updated in 2019 pending the release of the draft EIS and with information learned over the previous two years. The estimate is presented as a range due to the long-term nature of the project, the conceptual nature of the current design and the uncertainty associated with a complex water supply project. As noted in previous quarterly updates, costs are anticipated to change and likely grow as the scope is refined and permitting requirements and design are better understood. However, the “probable cost” range is intended to capture future cost changes.

Costs will be evaluated again in 2021 after preliminary design is complete and more is known about the project design and permitting and mitigation requirements. Costs will continue to be updated as new information is obtained. Updated cost estimates and other decision factors will be evaluated regularly to verify that the project remains the most cost-effective water supply solution for our customers.

Currently, the Halligan Project is anticipated to provide firm yield at about \$15,000 per acre-foot and is the most cost-effective project to meet the City’s water supply needs. For comparison, the market rate for firm yield from the Colorado-Big Thompson (CBT) Project is approximately \$60,000. Also, the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) and Windy Gap Firming Project unit costs are currently \$30,000 and \$20,000 per acre-foot, respectively.

Figure 1: Cost Range

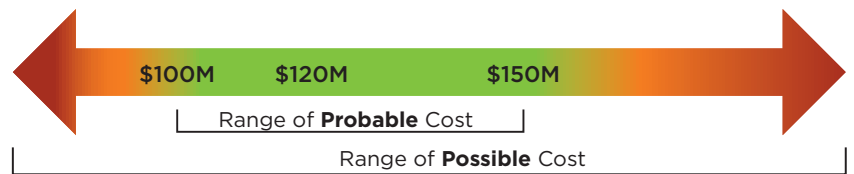


Figure 2: \$ Spent vs. Projected Costs

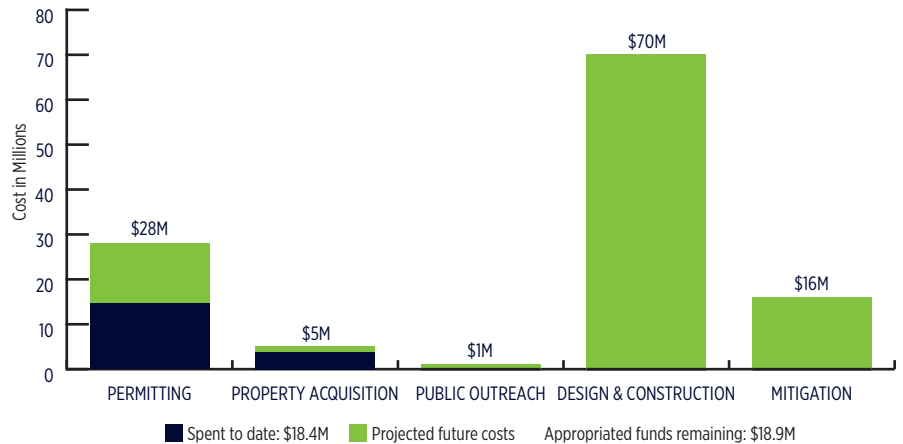
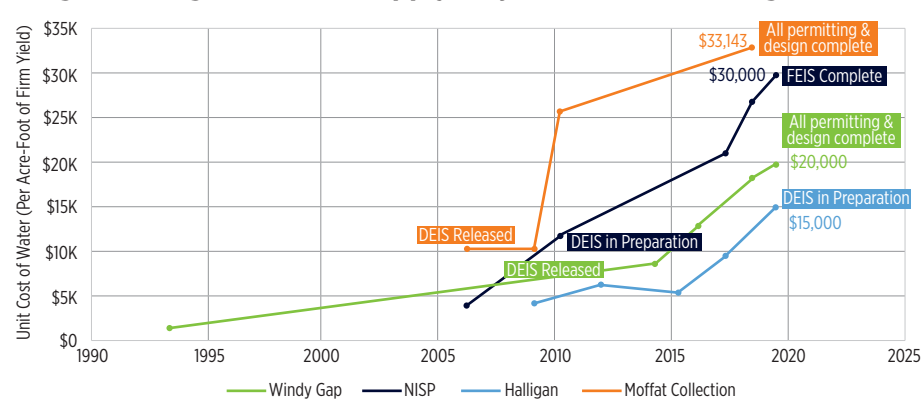


Figure 3: Regional Water Supply Projects Unit Cost through Time



2019 costs shown for other projects were published information at that time and may not represent actual 2019 cost estimates.

For more information, visit [fcgov.com/halligan](http://fcgov.com/halligan)

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