



**Platte River**  
Power Authority

Estes Park • Fort Collins • Longmont • Loveland

# Board of Directors

April 25, 2024

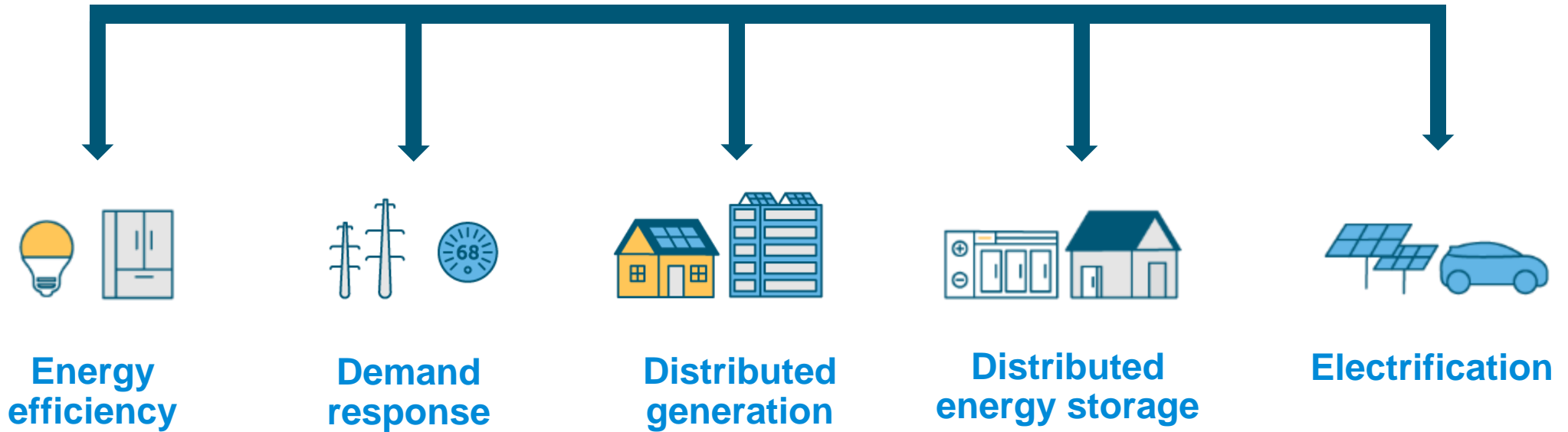
# Evolution of distributed energy solutions

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**Bryce Brady, manager, distributed energy solutions**



# Distributed energy solutions



## Utility of the past

- Building customer relationships
- Single focus: energy efficiency

## Powering up the future

- Customer needs and behavior
- Electrification and flexibility
- Integration with owner communities
- Feeding the virtual power plant (VPP)

# What are customers asking?

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- How do I reduce my carbon footprint?
- Where do I start on my upgrades?
- Can I change how I use energy?
- Can you connect me with a qualified contractor?
- How do I disconnect my gas service?
- Should I buy an electric vehicle now or wait?
- I already did energy efficiency upgrades, what do I do next?
- Can you help my business meet our sustainability goals?
- What should I do first, install solar or a new electric heat pump?

**Saving money or energy with efficiency is no longer the main drivers of action**

# What are utilities needing?

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- Equity must be considered in all programs
- Carbon reduction
- Incorporate building performance standards
- Use available budgets
- Home overhauls for income qualified
- Expand program goals to match various initiatives beyond traditional efficiency efforts
- Contractor training and workforce development
- Flexibility and control programs

**Many goals and perspectives are competing for resources**

# Utility of the past powering the future

How do we transition?





## Using a trusted resource to connect with customers

**Efficiency Works** is a **regional utility collaboration** that provides guidance and resources to enable **customers** to **use energy effectively**, work toward a noncarbon energy future and build strong, resilient communities for customers served by Platte River Power Authority and its owner communities of Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland.

# The power of the customer

Is it working?





# Residential building electrification

## 2022

- 0 upgrades
- \$0 invested
- 0 MWh impact
- 0 local contractors

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## 2023

- 327 upgrades
- \$474,235 invested
- 1,781 MWh impact
- 20+ local contractors

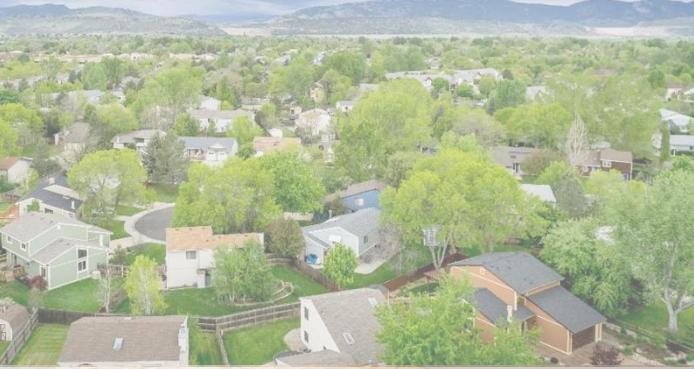
**CO<sub>2</sub> reduction**

## 2024 (so far)

- 39 upgrades
- \$61,835 invested
- 228 MWh impact
- 13 local contractors so far

**CO<sub>2</sub> reduction**





# Residential income qualified

## 2022

- \$64,035 invested on home upgrades
- 0.27 MWh savings per participant

## 2023

- \$708,041 invested on home upgrades and services
- Leveraged additional \$672,000 of external funds for customer upgrades
- 3.27 MWh savings per participant
- Included building electrification efforts

## Helping others

## Changing lives

**One participant gave feedback as,**

*“According to my Fort Collins home energy report my home is now one of the most efficient on the street, and its all thanks to the Efficiency Works Care program completing my upgrades.”*

# School education

## 2021-2022

- 1,759 grades 9-12
- 68 classrooms
- ~12% of HS students

C

## 2022-2023

- 2,399 4<sup>th</sup> graders
- 101 classrooms
- ~65% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders

B +

## 2023-2024 (so far)

- 2,620 4<sup>th</sup> graders (and counting)
- 92 classrooms (and counting)
- ~73% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders when done

A





# Electric vehicles



## 2024

- Now - Building EV fleet programming services
- Late 2024 – Development of EV charge management programming



## 2023

- Public EV charging incentives
- Expansion of information on EV website platforms
- Launched EV fleet planner tool



## 2022

- Educational EV shopper website launched

# Commercial HVAC system optimization

## 2022

- 43 upgrades completed
- 222 MWh savings
- \$458,118 invested
- 7 local contractors

## 2023

- 54 upgrades completed
- 2,549 MWh savings
- \$1.1M invested
- 6 local contractors

## 2024 (so far)

- 68 upgrades underway
- 5,320 MWh savings underway
- \$1.2M planned investments
- 12 local contractors involved

**Functional**



**Peak performance**



# Powering forward

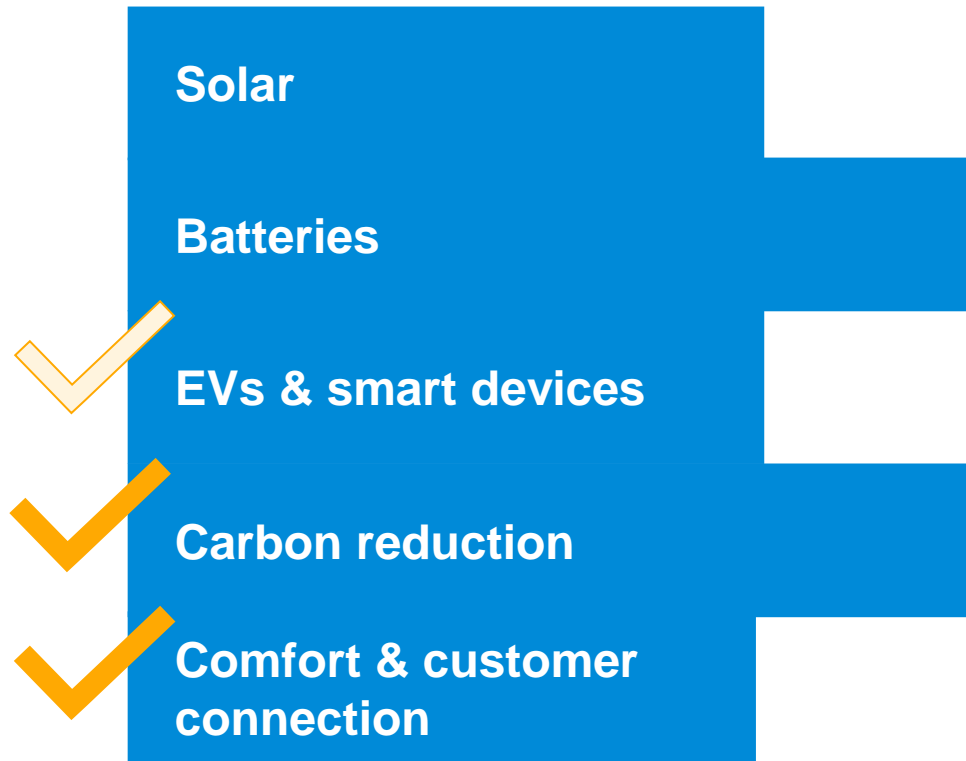
Where to next?



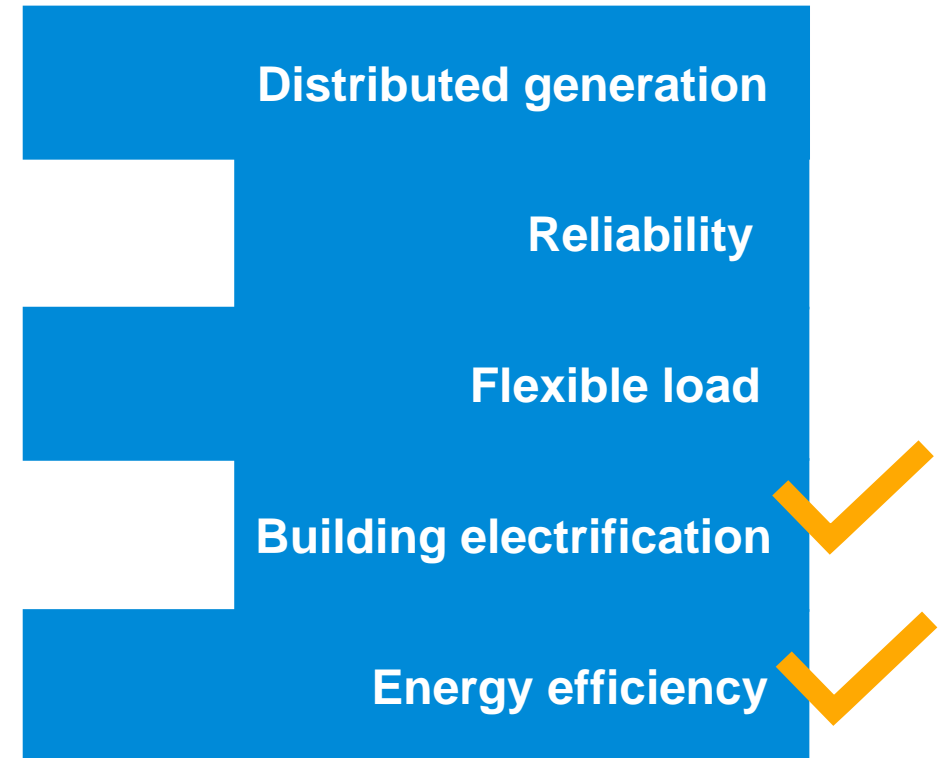
# Building the future utility

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## Distributed energy solutions (customer)

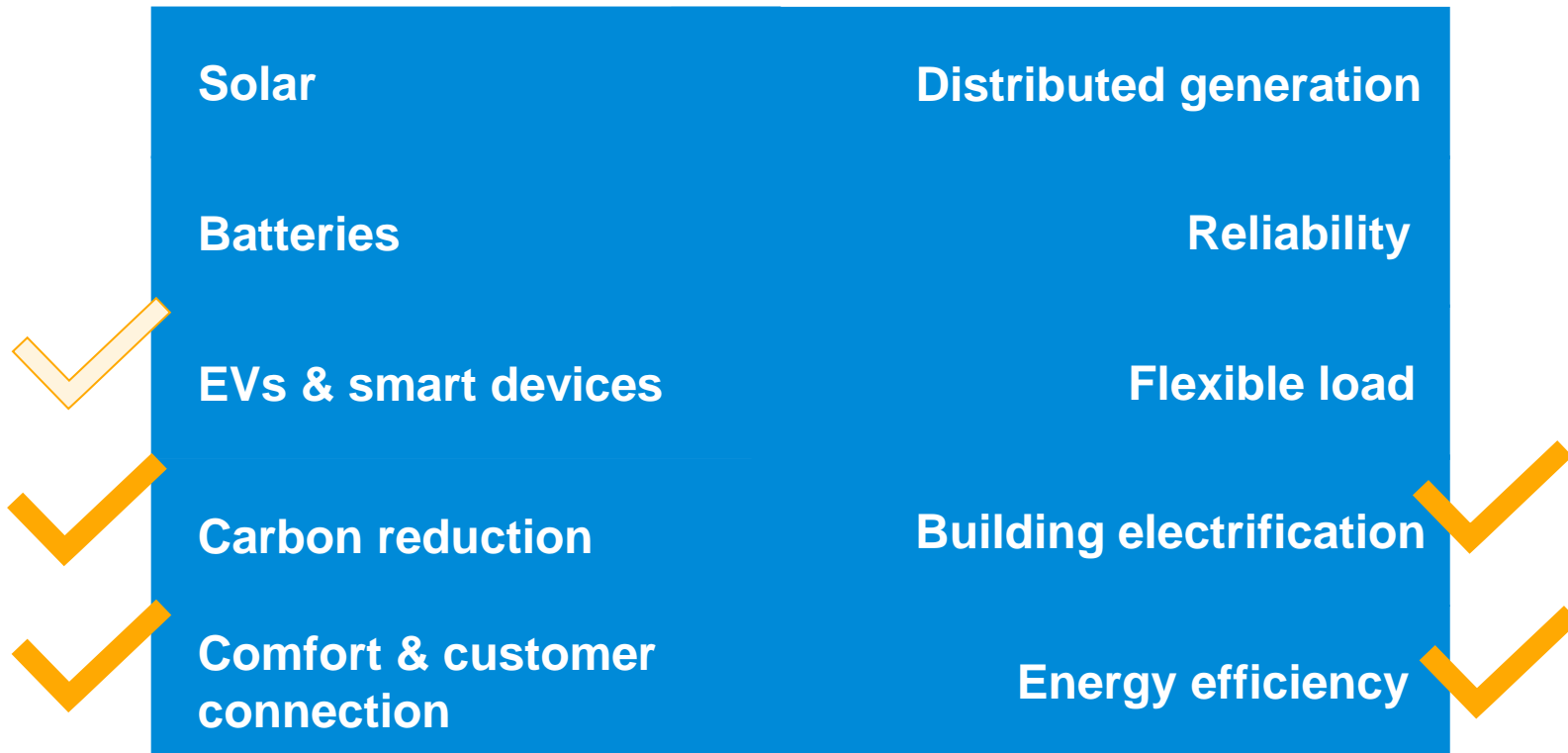


## Distributed energy resources (utility)



# Distributed energy resources

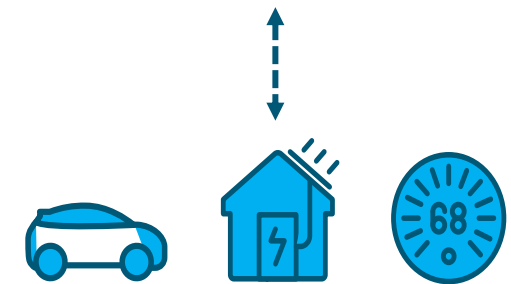
Working together as building blocks



## Virtual Power Plant



Customers



Virtual power plant



Markets



# Powering on



## Coming soon

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- Efficiency Works website rebuild
- Expansion of services to support the virtual power plant (VPP)
- Customer energy programs giving us the power

# Questions



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# **VPP series: achieving dispatchable capacity with a VPP**

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**Paul Davis, manager, distributed energy resources**



# Virtual power plant (VPP)

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**Dispatchable capacity for Platte River and the owner communities**

**Based on integrated flexible distributed energy resources (DER)**

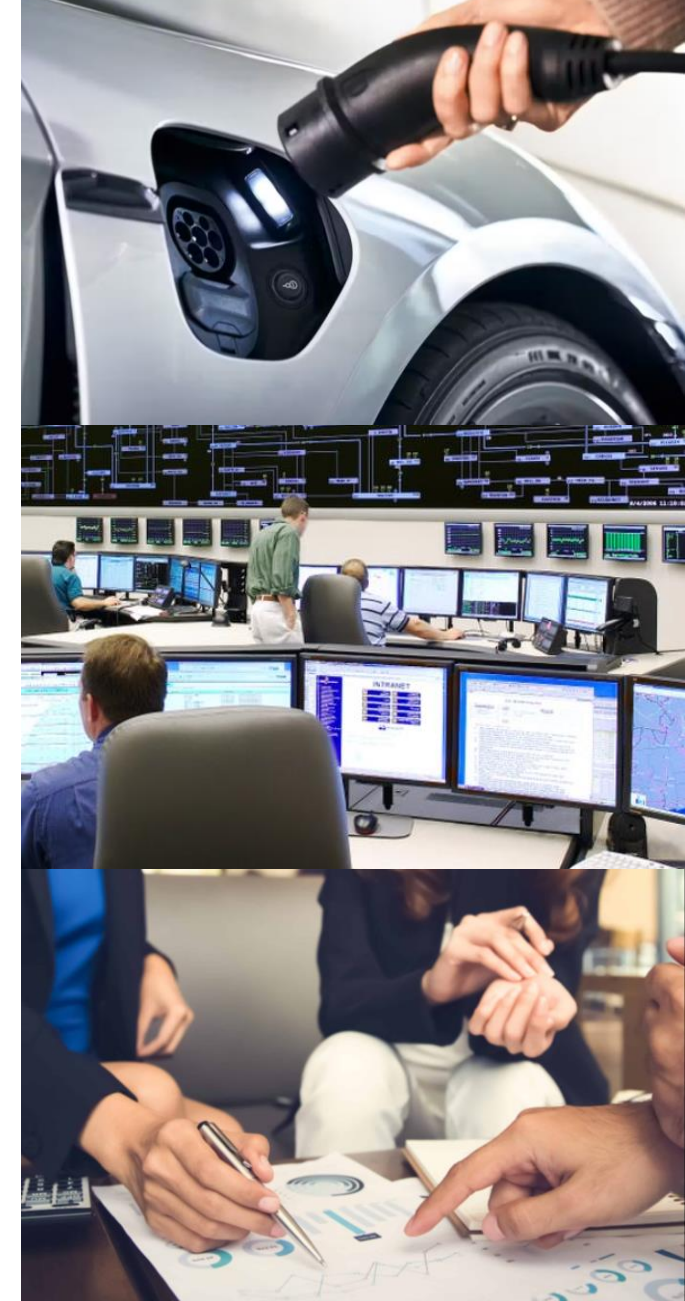
- Customer DERs
- Utility DERs

**Dispatchable capacity that can provide electric system benefits**

- Decarbonization
- Reliability (power supply and delivery)
- Managing costs of DER
- Making better use of intermittent, noncarbon generation

**Operated through advanced technologies**

- Communication, monitoring and control
- Analytics and optimization
- Data engineering and management



# DERs, flexible DERs and the VPP

Flexible *potential*



Flexibility managed in a VPP



**Energy efficiency**

Save energy and save money by using energy more efficiently



**Electrification**

Reduce greenhouse gases by replacing fossil fuel use with increasingly decarbonized electricity



**Demand response**

Shift energy to align electric use to renewable availability and to decarbonize the electric system in a cost effective and reliable manner

*Electric vehicles, batteries and traditional demand response*



**Distributed energy storage**



**Distributed generation**

Improved visibility and grid support from on-site noncarbon generation

*Solar generation*

# Electric system benefits (...and challenges)

## VPP benefits

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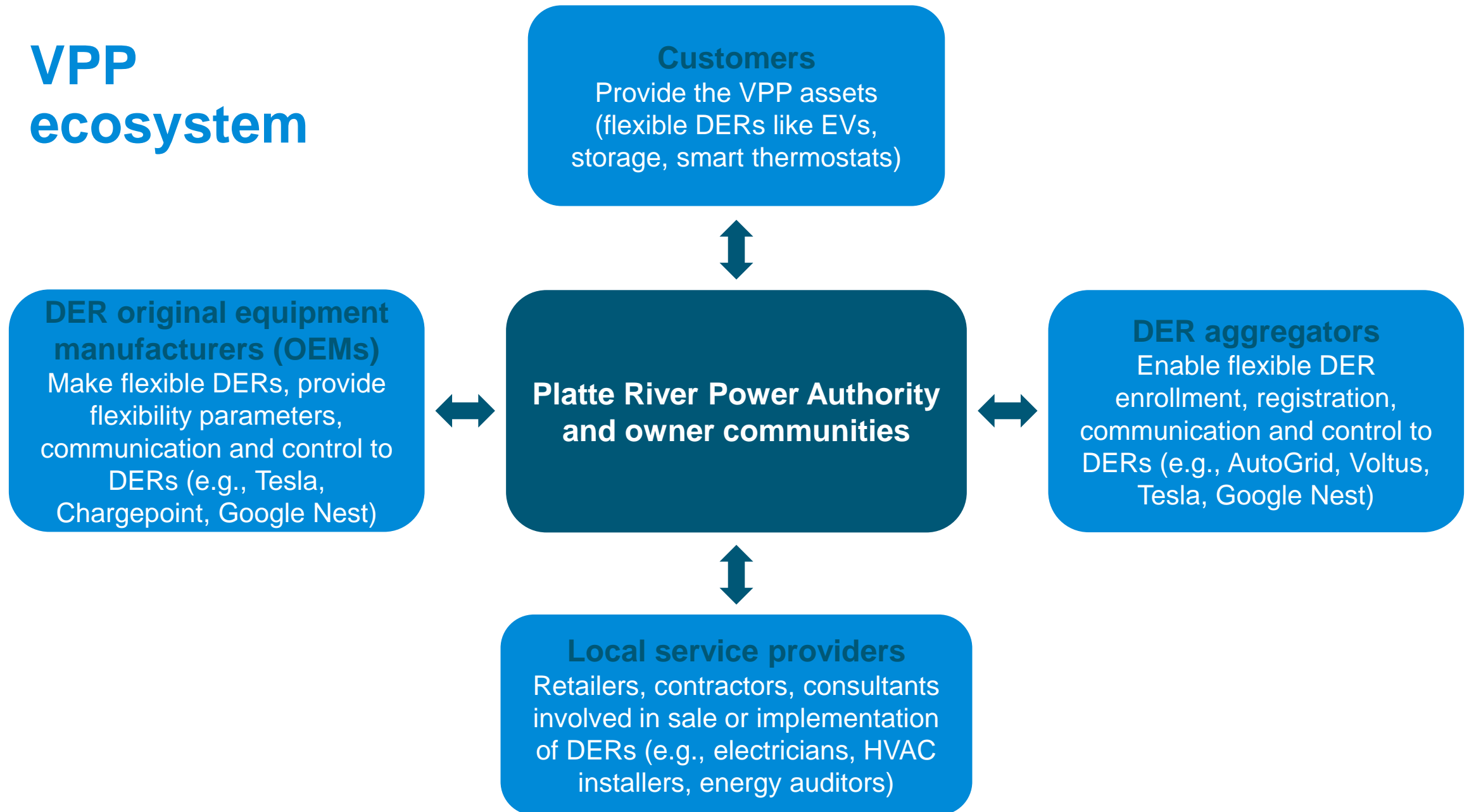
- Visibility / forecasting improvement
- Dispatchable resource
  - Resource adequacy
  - Energy value
  - Ancillary services (operating and regulating reserves)
  - Distribution system capacity / reliability

## VPP challenges

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- Achieving a VPP that is visible, measurable, predictable and responsive in *near real time*
- Value stacking vs. mutually exclusive benefits
- Coordination among:
  - Owner communities
  - Platte River
  - “VPP ecosystem...”

# VPP ecosystem





# VPP potential: what is possible

## DER potential study (2023)

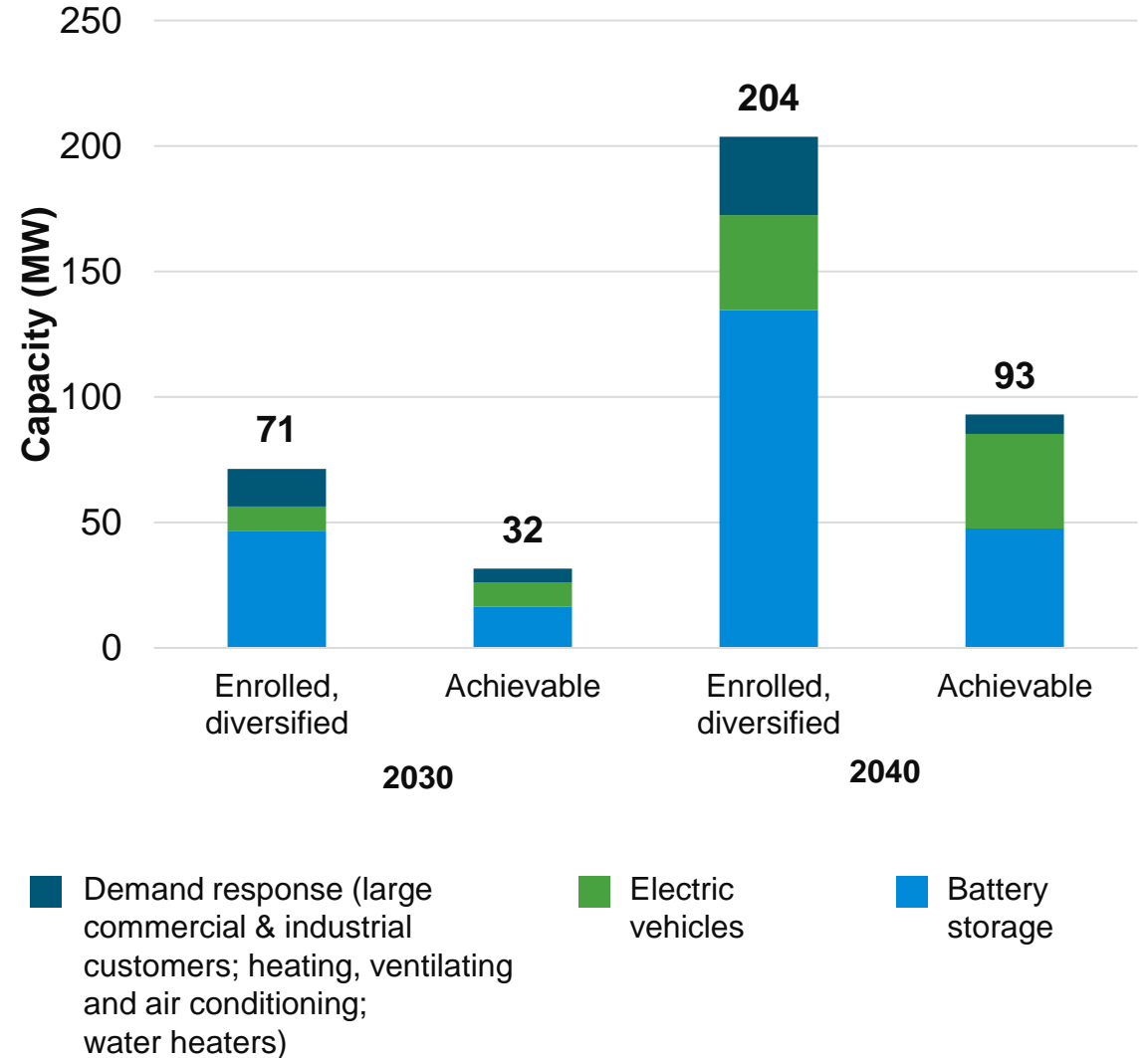
### VPP potential from flexible customer DERs

- Enrolled, diversified
- Achievable

### VPP to also include

- Distribution-scale storage: 4 x 5 MW, 4 hour planned in 2027
- Distributed solar for visibility: 155 MW forecast by 2030
- Potential total capacity accounted for in VPP: 207 MW (~25% of 2030 peak)

Projected VPP potential - customer DERs



# Building the VPP: two scopes of work

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Two related scopes of work are associated with VPP development

1. VPP customer programs - flexible DER assets
  - How customers become aware of, learn about, participate in and benefit from participation
2. VPP enabling systems – flexible DER management
  - Platte River and owner community systems
    - Communication, monitoring, control
    - Analytics and optimization
    - Data

**These scopes may be developed in parallel and must be interoperable.**

# VPP enabling systems: gap assessment and roadmap

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A deliberative process to gather requirements from Platte River and the owner communities, assess gaps and develop a gap-closure roadmap

Drivers, goals,  
and desired  
outcomes

Challenges and  
benefits of DER  
integration and  
services

Identify DER  
services and  
functional  
capabilities  
needed

Identify  
technology  
target state

Determine  
current state,  
gap analysis,  
and roadmap

# VPP enabling systems

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## Shared systems

- Enterprise distributed energy resource management system (Enterprise DERMS)
- Owner community DERMS – tenant of enterprise DERMS or an independent DERMS
- Data management systems

## Platte River systems

- Market management systems
- Automatic generation control
- Energy management system

## Owner community systems

- Customer information system
- Advanced metering infrastructure and meter data management system
- Geographic information system
- Advanced distribution management system (ADMS) providing “advanced apps”: as-operated network model and power flow modeling

**Other systems may be needed depending on what we learn as the systems above are implemented and integrated**

# Next steps

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- Board resolution in support of VPP
- Collaboration with owner communities
- RFP for DERMS and VPP programs, vendor selection (through late 2024)
- Contracting with DERMS, VPP program provider (late 2024 – early 2025)
- Work with vendor(s) to design system and programs (2025)
- **Assess completeness of contracted services and fill remaining gaps (2025)**
- Begin system and program implementation (timeline to be determined with input from vendors)

# Questions



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# Board of Directors

April 25, 2024

# Reservoir update

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**Chris Fields, senior fuels and water resources engineer**





# Reservoir update

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## Agenda

- Water supply update
- Chimney Hollow reservoir
  - Project status
  - Video
- Water resources reference document

# Reservoir update

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## Water supply update

- Pop quiz: what is Colorado's largest reservoir?

# Reservoir update

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## Water supply update

- Pop quiz: what is Colorado's largest reservoir?
  - Answer: snowpack!



# Reservoir update

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## Water supply update

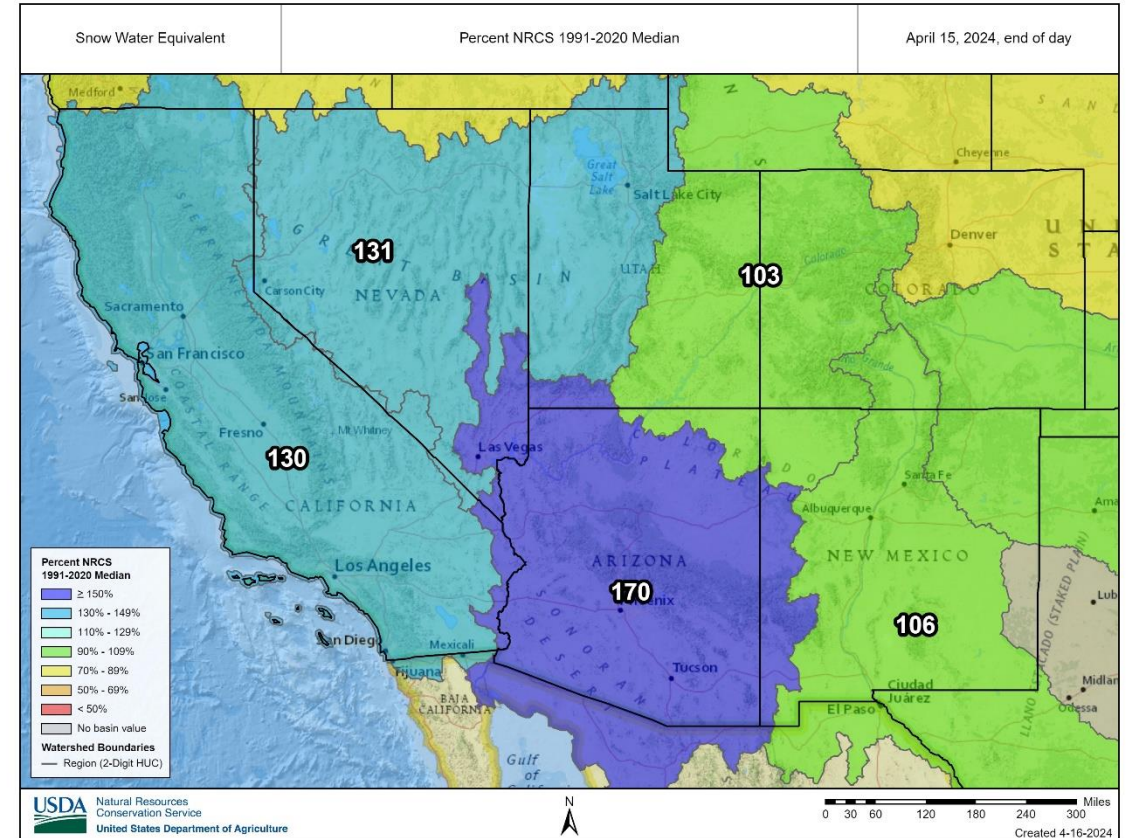
- Pop quiz: what is Colorado's largest reservoir?
  - Answer: snowpack!
- Reservoir factoids
  - Colorado reservoir storage  $\approx$  2.5-million-acre feet
  - Colorado snowpack  $\approx$  20-million-acre feet



# Reservoir update

## Water supply update

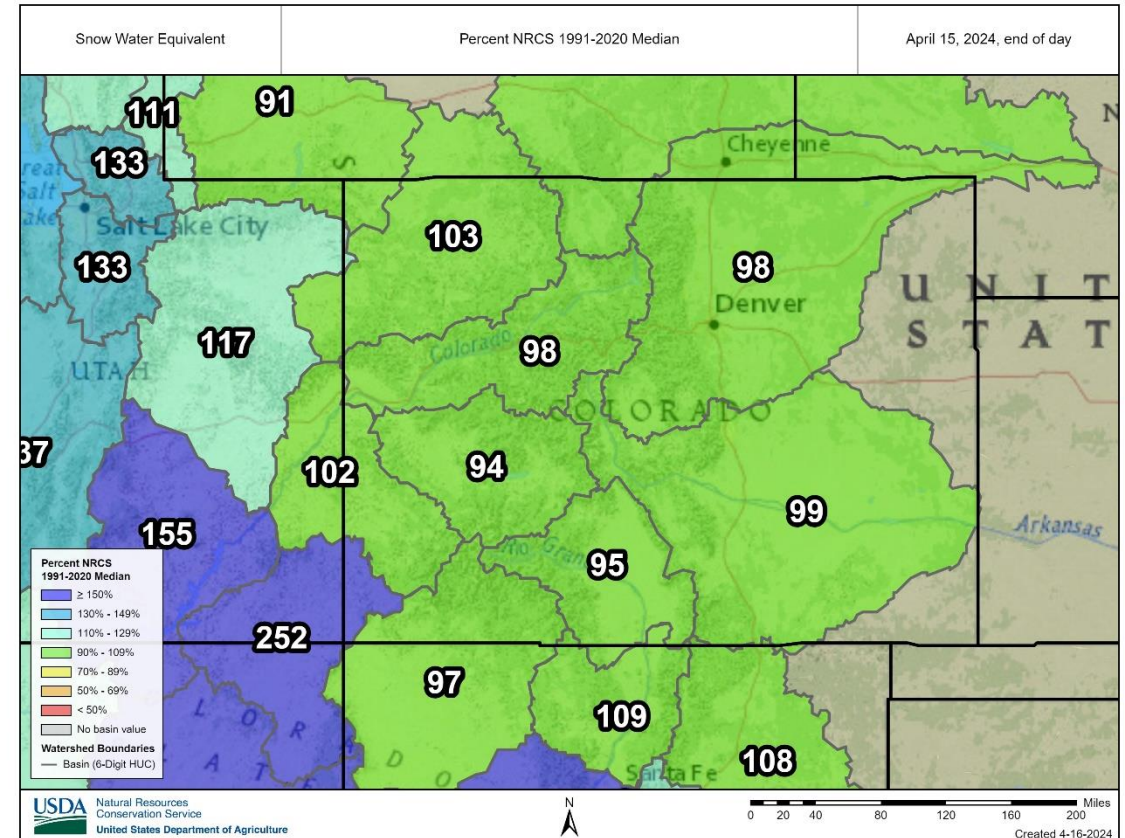
- Snowpack conditions
  - Colorado River
    - Upper basin – 103% of average
    - Lower basin – 170% of average
  - Lake Powell
    - Below-average runoff – 80%-85% of average
    - Dry soil heading into winter



# Reservoir update

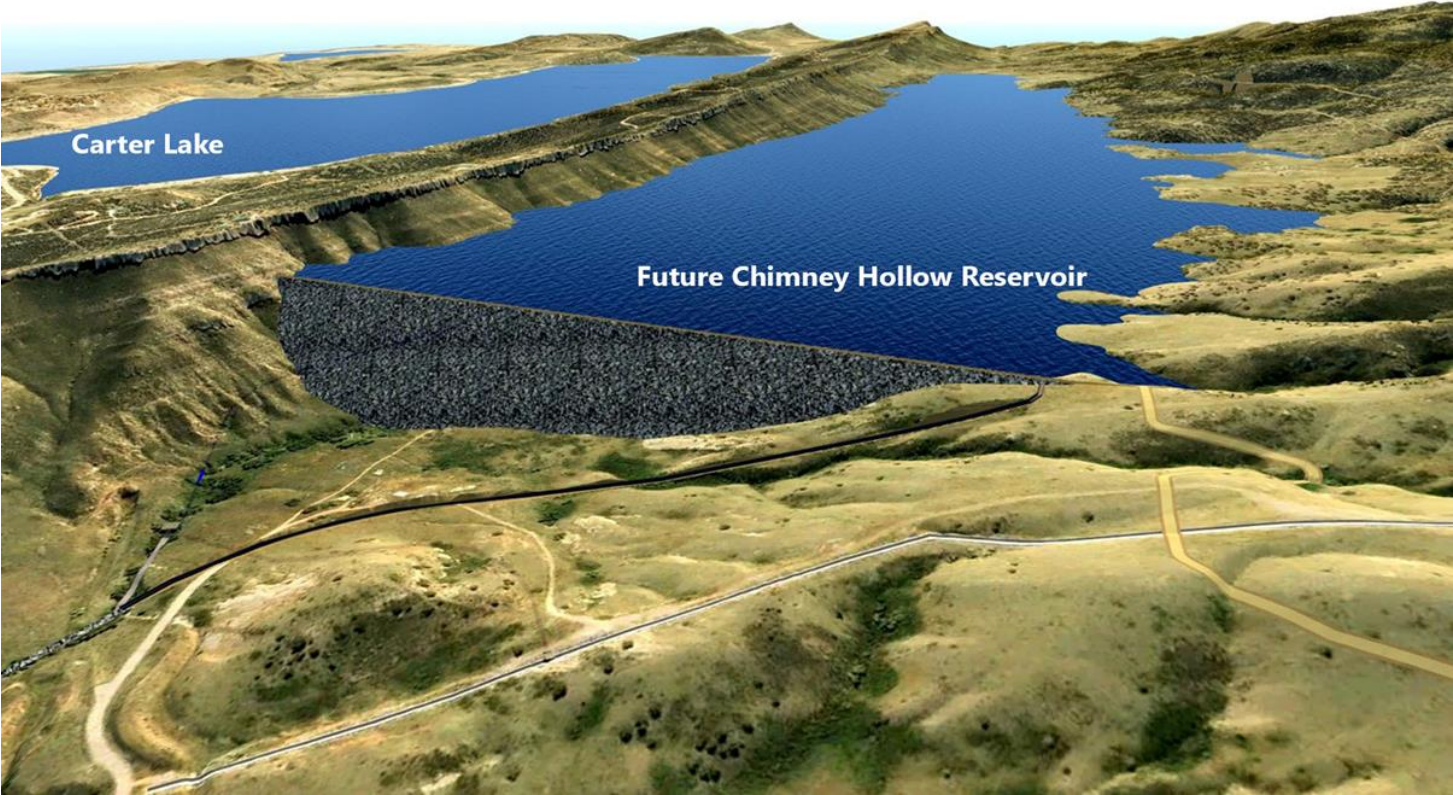
## Water supply update

- Snowpack conditions
  - Colorado headwaters
    - Peak – 107% of average
    - Current – 98% of average
  - C-BT and Windy Gap forecast
    - Below-average runoff – 90% of average
    - Lake Granby will spill
    - Windy Gap will not pump



# Reservoir update

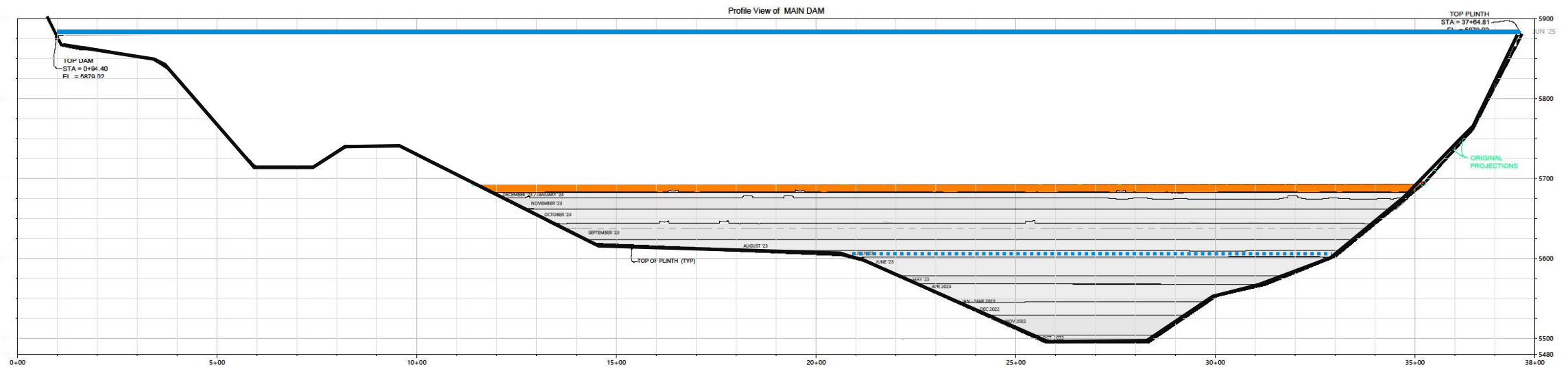
## Chimney Hollow reservoir



# Reservoir update

## Chimney Hollow reservoir

- Main Dam update
  - 185 feet tall (final height is 350 feet); increasing at 3.75 feet/week
  - Double shift work has resumed: two 12-hour shifts, six days per week





# Reservoir update

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## Chimney Hollow reservoir

- An inlet/outlet tunnel will house a pipeline used to fill the reservoir and make deliveries to water users
- Tunnel excavation started on the downstream portion in April 2022, then moved to the upstream portion seven months later
- The two portions of the tunnel were connected on March 15

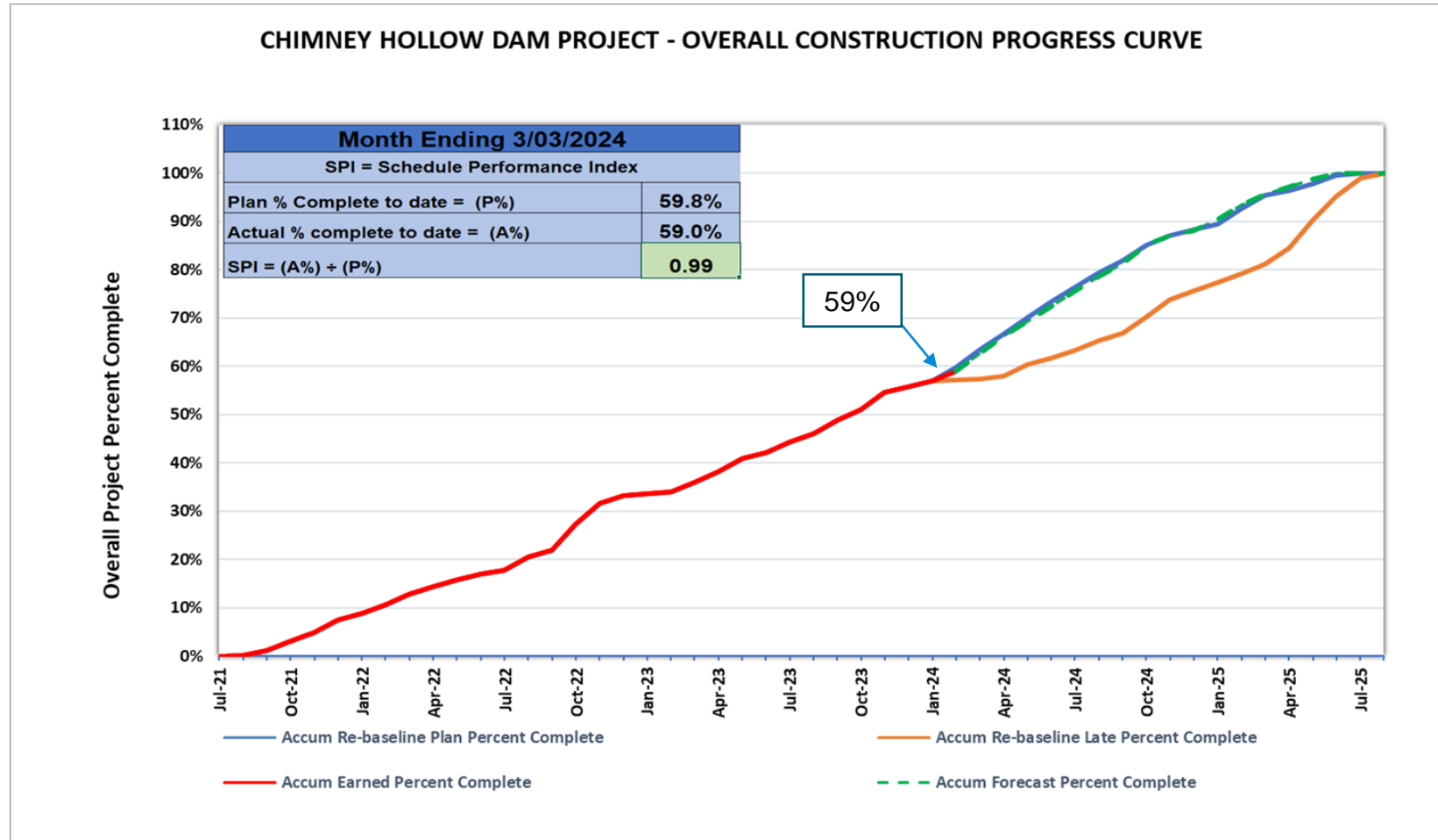


*A roadheader was used to hole through and connect the upstream and downstream tunnel sections.*

# Reservoir update

## Chimney Hollow reservoir

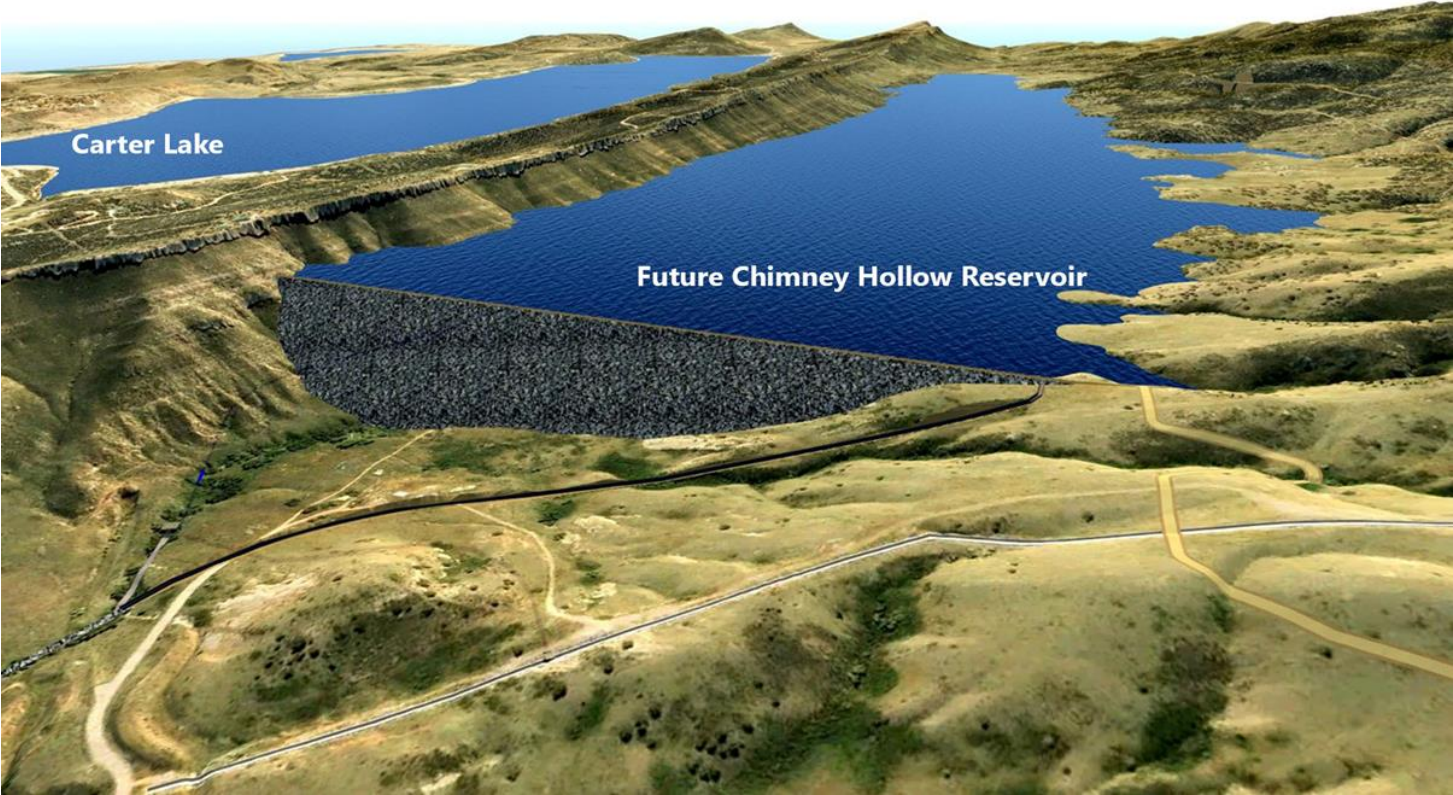
- Schedule performance
  - 59% complete as of March 3, 2024
- Target completion: Fall 2025





# Reservoir update

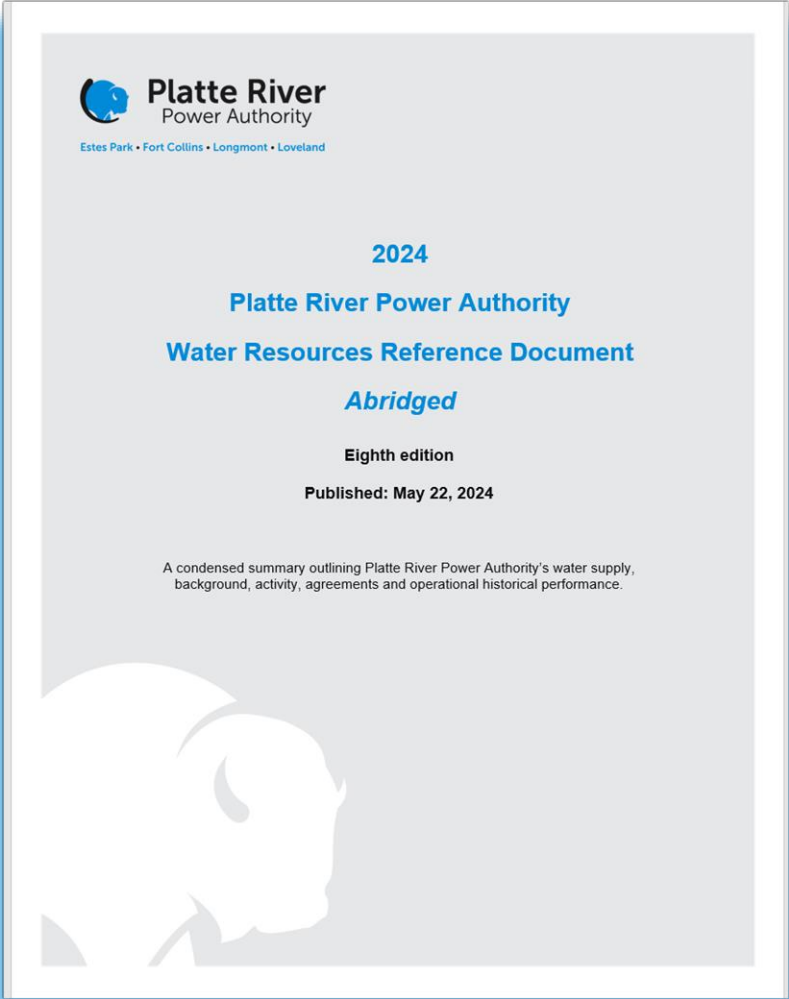
## Chimney Hollow reservoir



# Reservoir update

## Water resources reference document

New condensed version coming in May...stay tuned!



# Questions



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April 25, 2024

# IRP community engagement update

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**Eddie Gutiérrez, chief strategy officer**





# Upcoming Council and board presentations

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- Estes Park
  - Town Board: July 9
- Fort Collins
  - Energy Board: August 8
  - Council: August 13
- Longmont
  - Council: June 25
  - Sustainability Advisory Board: August 21
- Loveland
  - Utilities Commission: July 17
  - Council: July 23



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April 25, 2024

# March operational results

Owner community load	Budget	Actual	Variance	% variance	
Owner community demand	447 MW	412 MW	(35 MW)	(7.8%)	■
Owner community energy	263 GWh	250 GWh	(13 GWh)	(5.0%)	■
Net variable cost* to serve owner community energy	\$5.1M	\$4.1M	(\$1.0M)	(16.0%)	●
	\$19.48/MWh	\$16.37/MWh	(\$3.11/MWh)		

\*Net variable cost = total resource variable costs + purchased power costs - sales revenue

## Market impacts to net variable cost

Downward pressure	
Generation and market outcomes pushing costs lower	
Coal generation fuel savings	\$1.2M
Lower wind generation volume	\$0.80M

Upward pressure	
Generation and market outcomes pushing costs higher	
Lower bilateral and market sales volume	\$0.91M
Higher market purchases pricing	\$0.49M

Variance key: Favorable: ● | Near budget: ◆ | Unfavorable: ■

# YTD operational results

Owner community load	Budget	Actual	Variance	% variance	
Owner community demand	1,423 MW	1,389 MW	(34 MW)	(2.4%)	■
Owner community energy	811 GWh	787 GWh	(24 GWh)	(3.0%)	■
Net variable cost* to serve owner community energy	\$15.2M	\$12.4M	(\$2.8M)	(16.0%)	●
	\$18.80/MWh	\$15.78/MWh	(\$3.02/MWh)		

\*Net variable cost = total resource variable costs + purchased power costs - sales revenue

## Market impacts to net variable cost

Downward pressure	
Generation and market outcomes pushing costs lower	
Coal generation fuel savings	\$2.4M
Lower wind generation volume	\$2.0M

Upward pressure	
Generation and market outcomes pushing costs higher	
Lower bilateral and market sales volume	\$2.0M
Higher market purchases pricing	\$0.75M

Variance key: Favorable: ● | Near budget: ◆ | Unfavorable: ■



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# Board of Directors

April 25, 2024

# Financial summary

Category	March variance from budget (\$ in millions)		YTD variance from budget (\$ in millions)	
Net income	\$3.0	●	\$4.3	●
Fixed obligation charge coverage	.80x	●	.46x	●
Revenues	\$(0.9)	■	\$(1.9)	■
Operating expenses	\$3.5	●	\$6.8	●
Capital additions	\$2.3	●	\$11.7	●

2% ● Favorable | 2% to -2% ◆ At or near budget | < -2% ■ Unfavorable



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