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City of Aurora - A Metro Growth Magnet Builds Its Water Future through Strategic Investment, Innovation and Hard Work.

The City of Aurora (CO) joins with Denver and Lakewood to form one of 381 Metropolitan Regions in the United States. Aurora's is a major contributor to the metro economy. The US economy added 2.3 million jobs in 2016; and Metro areas generated over 2 million, accounting for more than 95% of all US gains. The Denver-Aurora-Lakewood Metro area ranked 18 out of 381 Metro areas in annual employment growth. (1) Growth in employment is expected to follow rapid population growth. Projections indicate Aurora's population will double from 359,407 in 2017 to three quarters of a million people by 2070. These growth trends require more public services and modern infrastructure to deliver them. In a high prairie desert city any mayor and council will address water supply and demand, now and in the future. Steve Hogan, Mayor of the City of Aurora says, "We don't sit around and wait. We take action." Mayor Hogan and city leaders are making decisions based on local priorities - survival and quality of life - as they identify, commit funding, and sequence major capital investments and operations logistics to keep the water flowing.

An early May 2017 interview with Mayor Steve Hogan and Marshall Brown, Director of Aurora Water, in the impressively modern and expansive Aurora Civic Center, revealed a legacy of forward thinking about water needs. Aurora now employs an ever-evolving mix of advanced water management planning tools to achieve an adequate supply at constant demand regardless of population growth. The diversification of water supply is necessary but nonetheless logistically challenging. This review describes how a 20th Century legacy articulated by elected leaders became the cornerstone for advanced water supply planning by today's leaders; and what they are doing now to secure their water future.

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