

CENTRAL IOWA REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT REGIONALIZATION STUDY



CLIENT
Central Iowa regional
Water District

LOCATION
Des Moines, Iowa

BUDGET
\$140,000

DURATION
6 months

COMPLETED
March 2017

ROLE
Technical Lead

The Des Moines Iowa metro region was looking to better understand a cost effective and sustainable way to invest and pay for drinking water supply for the region. Currently, the Des Moines Water provides water to the City of Des Moines as well as wholesale services to surrounding cities and suburbs. It operates an over 150 million gallon a day production facility that is nearing capacity.

As the region looks to invest in additional capacity it has come upon a crossroads. While Des Moines utilizes the majority of water supply, it is unlikely to require significantly more supply over time. However the growing suburbs and industries in the surrounding region do anticipate significantly more supply needs. But these areas do not own the means to production. Blue Cypress Consulting in partnership with FCS GROUP was hired to help understand a cost effective solution to growth.

Key in this analysis was building out a cost-of-service at a regional level to understand how costs are distributed among the different entities. Performing this cost of service assessment allowed our team to further define how costs will change for different players over time based on regional structure alternatives. Different methods for subscribing costs, making investments, and realizing capacity through increased usage produce varying costs for the region.

Ultimately, the team was able to convey to a group of 15 regional stakeholders their various costs to the process and what it would mean to move to alternative governance scenarios such as a regional utility.

