

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Department of Natural Resources

Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor

Harris D. Sherman, DNR Executive Director

Jennifer Gimbel, CWCB Director

HB 09-1017

WATER EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM FUND AMENDMENTS PROVIDING AUTHORITY TO SPEND APPROPRIATED MONEY

Background

The **Water Efficiency Grant Program Cash Fund (WEGF)** was created in 2005 (HB 05-1254). It provided financial assistance to communities, water providers and eligible entities for water conservation related activities and projects. In 2007 (SB 07-008), the Colorado General Assembly broadened the use of the WEGF to include drought mitigation related activities and projects. The General Assembly also increased funding for the WEGF and made it available through 2012.

Purpose of HB 09-1017

A recent interpretation of Colorado's statutes authorizing and appropriating money for water conservation and drought mitigation planning and implementation grants (37-60-126 (12) C.R.S.), has resulted in a determination that despite WEGF unspent funds rolling-over from a prior fiscal year, there is currently no authority for the CWCB to expend these rolled-over funds. As a result, the remaining funds in the WEGF (approximately \$1.5 million) cannot be utilized.

HB 09-1017 would amend the statute to:

- 1) add terms allowing prior fiscal year encumbrances, which carry forward into future fiscal years, to be charged against the appropriation from the year in which the funds were originally encumbered. Without such an amendment, the CWCB must meet its past contractual obligations with this year's money. This reduces the amount of funds available because previous fiscal "encumbrance/obligations" are carried forward without the prior year's appropriation.
- 2) allow unspent funds from the prior fiscal year that are reverted to the WEGF, to be spent because there is currently no authority to spend this money.

Bill Sponsors:

Representative Sal Pace
Senator Mary Hodge



HB 09-1017 HIGHLIGHTS

- *Assists Covered Entities in Complying with State Law and Remaining Eligible to Receive Water Project Financing*
- *Amends the Water Efficiency Grant Program Cash Fund*
- *Authorizes CWCB to spend water efficiency grant fund money that has rolled over from the previous years*
- *Has NO FISCAL IMPACT*
- *Has NO NEW APPROPRIATIONS*

For more information, contact
Veva Deheza, CWCB
(303) 815-5300 or
Heidi Van Huysen, DNR
(303) 866-4392

CWCB
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721

Denver, CO 80203
Phone: (303) 866-3441

Internet: www.cwcb.state.co.us