

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Veva Deheza, Section Chief
Office of Water Conservation & Drought Planning

DATE: January 16, 2009

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 22, January 27-28, 2009 Board Meeting
Presentation on "Climate Change in Colorado: A Synthesis to Support
Water Resources Management and Adaptation" – NOAA/Western Water
Assessment**

Staff Recommendation

This is an *information* item and Board action is not required.

Background

Brad Udall, Director of CU-NOAA Western Water Assessment at the NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, CO, will give a presentation on the 2008 CWCB-commissioned report entitled "Climate Change in Colorado: A Synthesis to Support Water Resources Management and Adaptation". He will focus his presentation on the observed record of Colorado climate, climate projections for the State, and implications for Colorado's water resources. He will also provide ideas and input on proposed strategies for incorporating climate information into Colorado's water planning and adaptation efforts. This is especially important as the CWCB moves forward with its Water Adaptation Project, identified and outlined in the 2009 Projects Bill. The Project has the goal of increasing the understanding of climate change in Colorado, communicating the information to those who need plan and implement adaptation strategies, and building partnerships that will produce the models and data upon which actions are based.

The Report is a synthesis of climate change science important for Colorado's water supply. It focuses on observed trends, modeling, and projections of temperature, precipitation, snowmelt, and runoff. It summarizes Colorado-specific findings from peer-reviewed regional studies, and presents new graphics derived from existing datasets.

A copy of the Report will be provided at the Board meeting.