

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Thuy Patton – Floodplain Mapping Coordinator
Watershed Protection and Flood Mitigation Section

DATE: November 10, 2009

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 28c, November 16-18, 2009**
Watershed Protection and Flood Mitigation Section-
En-bloc Non-Reimbursable Investments
Colorado Floodplain Map Modernization Program

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Harris D. Sherman
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

Dan McAuliffe
CWCB Deputy Director

Background

In early 2003, Congress approved a substantial funding package to provide updated floodplain mapping nationwide. Similar funding levels have been allocated by Congress in subsequent years. The CWCB approved and the General Assembly authorized a non-reimbursable investment of \$500,000 in the 2003 Construction Fund Bill with annual funding amounts in all subsequent Bills. Staff is now requesting a total of \$500,000 for program funding.

Colorado has received over \$9 million in federal grant dollars for floodplain mapping activities since 2003 as part of the floodplain Map Modernization program initiated by FEMA. The FEMA funds are being matched by CWCB and local cost-share dollars to implement the map update work that includes engineering and GIS to create new digital countywide maps. The funds authorized in the 2003 and all subsequent Construction Fund Bills have provided the required non-federal matching dollars (80/20 cost share program). The State funds are further leveraged by local cost share dollars and in-kind services from many communities thus far.

Staff Request

The staff of the Watershed Protection and Flood Mitigation Section is requesting approval by the Board for a non-reimbursable investment from the CWCB Construction Fund in the amount up to \$500,000 to provide matching dollars and related study funds in order to take advantage of the federal grant funds from FEMA for modernized floodplain maps in Colorado. The attachment to this memo provides further justification for the request.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board request that the General assembly authorize up to \$500,000 from the Construction Fund to be appropriated to the Colorado Water Conservation Board for technical activities related to the Colorado Floodplain Map Modernization Program.

ATTACHMENT – SUPPORTING JUSTIFICATION FOR APPROVAL OF REQUEST

The CWCB Construction Fund Non-Reimbursable Investment Program is guided by CWCB Policy #13, adopted September 25, 2000. According to a strict interpretation of this policy, funds are not available this fiscal year for non-reimbursable investments. However, this request for program funding is explicitly requesting an exemption from this policy.

The exemption request is based on public health and safety issues as well as valuable leveraged federal and local dollars received by the State for projects. For the past 5 years, the CWCB has been working with FEMA as a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) to provide updated flood hazard data and maps across the state. As a CTP, the State is able to receive funding from FEMA for activities associated with program management and technical mapping-related activities, which are done by State contractors. The only other CTP in the State is the Urban Drainage Flood Control District, which manages projects only within the Denver metro area.

The significant level of FEMA grant dollars into Colorado is serving as an important mechanism to sustain roughly ten full-time professional jobs in the State. Continuation of the program and the CWCB's ability to match federal funding could be viewed as a critical part of the economic health as well as public safety.

CTP partners who offer significant funding matches are given top priority in allocating funds from FEMA. The CWCB has been committed to achieving a 20 percent cost-share for the program, with an average 10 percent cash match from the CWCB and the remainder from the local communities. Colorado is the leading state in Map Modernization for FEMA Region VIII. (Region VIII consists of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana). For every dollar the State contributes to the program, the State receives eight matching dollars from FEMA and the local communities. (8 to 1 funding ratio)

It should be emphasized that this request is for a refresh of the ongoing program up to \$500,000, as opposed to a simple \$500,000 request. In some years, the refresh amount is smaller, indicating that a portion of the fund may go unused and be carried over to the next year. It should be noted that the unused amount should not be viewed as unneeded funds. Rather, in any given year, the majority of the Program funds has already been encumbered and will be paid out as the work is completed by the Contractor. The average performance period for Map Modernization projects is 2-3 years and therefore, may not be reflected accurately until the project has been completed.

For these reasons, Staff is requesting an exemption to CWCB Policy #13 on the basis of public health and safety and valuable leveraged dollars received for this request.

Water Project Construction Program – Project Data Non-Reimbursable Investment

Applicant: Colorado Water Conservation Board

County: Statewide

Project Name: Colorado Floodplain Map Modernization Program

Project Type: Matching Funds for Federal Grants

Drainage Basin: All River Basins in Colorado

Water Source: N/A

Total Project Cost (Annual): \$1,900,000

Funding Source: CWCB Const. Fund

Type of Grantee: State Government

CWCB Non-Reimbursable Inv.: \$500,000 (up to)

Colorado has received over \$9 million in federal grant dollars for floodplain mapping activities as part of the floodplain Map Modernization Program (Program) initiated by FEMA in 2003. The FEMA funds are being matched by CWCB and local cost-share dollars to implement the map update work to create new digital countywide maps. The initial Program funds authorized in the 2003 and all subsequent Construction Fund Bills have provided the required non-federal matching dollars (80/20 cost share program). The State funds are further leveraged by local cost share dollars and in-kind services from many communities thus far. The total funding amounts have been instrumental in keeping Colorado as a lead state within FEMA Region 8 and will continue to benefit Colorado communities in the future. It is expected that significant FEMA funding will continue as long as the Program exists. Program deliverables will become part of the Flood DSS system to increase data capture and enhance Colorado's decision support tools.

The Program will eventually impact the entire state, and the objective is to develop updated countywide floodplain maps using current base map information within a digital environment. The use of GIS technology will be employed for all new countywide studies for ease of distribution, updating and viewing. The table below summarizes funding provided by the CWCB and FEMA/Local governments for CWCB managed projects (in progress or completed).

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>CWCB Funds</u>	<u>FEMA/Local Funds</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>CWCB Funds</u>	<u>FEMA/Local Funds</u>
Archuleta	\$71,000	\$228,760	Mesa	\$33,960	\$435,780
Boulder	\$17,807	\$524,709	Montrose	\$60,376	\$241,503
Clear Creek	\$2,950	\$158,605	Montezuma	\$53,000	\$452,735
Delta	\$21,630	\$277,763	Morgan	\$25,000	\$270,700
El Paso	\$75,635	\$1,332,030	Park	\$18,800	\$165,200
Elbert	\$141,548	\$301,982	Prowers	\$76,605	\$691,024
Fremont	\$23,294	\$146,240	Pueblo	\$71,768	\$945,902
Garfield	\$29,912	\$325,000	Rio Grande	\$58,300	\$152,810
Gunnison	\$79,250	\$272,422	Summit	\$21,098	\$189,876
Jefferson	\$30,000	\$270,000	Teller	\$23,100	\$207,900
La Plata	\$74,200	\$391,910	Weld	\$112,419	\$658,530