

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

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DATE: May 10, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item #31, May 17-19, 2010 Board Meeting**
Status of the State Drought Mitigation and Response Plan Revision and
Associated Work Products

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

James B. Martin
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

Staff Recommendation

This is an *informational* item only and Board action is not required.

Background

The State of Colorado is revising its existing Drought Mitigation and Response Plan in compliance with state and federal regulations, including FEMA requirements for natural hazard mitigation planning. This presentation will cover the status and highlights of the planning effort, which began last fall. This is an update to the presentation given at the September 2009 board meeting.

The revised drought plan will refine and enhance Colorado's monitoring, mitigation and response strategies as they pertain to drought in an attempt to reduce future economic, environmental and social impacts of drought. The plan will provide information on where Colorado is most vulnerable to drought, offer recommendations for improvements to reduce those vulnerabilities, and provide extensive resources for local entities wishing to improve their own drought planning. The plan's response elements are also being revised, with the intent of improving communication and the coordination of State assistance during times of drought. AMEC Earth and Environmental is the contractor for the drought plan update and is working on the plan coordination as well as the detailed drought vulnerability and risk assessment.

We are currently on track to complete a first draft of the plan by June 15th, 2010. A public draft will be made available for review and comment in July; the final draft will be complete by mid-September of 2010.

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