

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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News Release

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For Immediate Release

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COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD (CWCB) CONDUCTS COLORADO DROUGHT & WATER SUPPLY ASSESSMENT

THE CWCB WANTS TO KNOW IF WATER SUPPLY MEETS DEMAND

March 21, 2002, Denver, CO: In response to the recent “near drought-like conditions,” the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) plans to conduct a statewide drought planning assessment of its water supplies. The information gathered from this Assessment will be used to determine the status of the state’s water suppliers’ storage capabilities and identify how the CWCB can support Colorado’s water suppliers in planning for and mitigating the impacts of drought.

“Many drought surveys have been conducted in Colorado; however, none of them has accurately characterized the drought preparedness in the state,” explains Larry Lang, project manager. “Specifically, they lacked reach in identifying the impact of drought on the business of agriculture that accounts for 90 percent of consumptive use in the state. Our assessment is different because we are talking directly to individuals, businesses and organizations throughout the state that store and transport water for domestic, agricultural, recreational and natural use. These water suppliers will provide us with information about water supply needs.”

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The Assessment will provide the CWCB with information about: 1) the location and quantity of the water by categories of use including agricultural, municipal, industrial and recreation; 2) the source of the water including reservoir storage, wells, springs and direct flow; 3) comparisons of water levels to 1977, the date of the last drought; 4) water deliveries on major streams including water rights priorities and 5) problems facing water users that will result from growth and demands that may exceed supply.

According to Lang, “This information will be extremely valuable because it will be used for five specific purposes: 1) justify a statewide funding structure to support projects; 2) educate Colorado residents about drought and how drought impacts their lives; 3) engage counties and other local entities such as water districts, homeowner associations and farmer associations in planning water projects in their communities; 4) provide data to support and direct initiatives and 5) provide data to assist state and county governments to work together to plan projects.”

In 1937 the CWCB was created to provide finance and advocacy services to all Colorado residents. The CWCB is responsible for conserving, developing, protecting and managing Colorado’s water for present and future generations. The agency operates under the direction of a 15-member board comprised of representatives from eight major river basins and the City and County of Denver plus the Department of Natural Resources Executive Director, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Colorado Attorney General, the State Engineer, the Division of Wildlife Director and the CWCB Director.

For more information, contact [Larry Lang](#) at (303) 866-3989 or [Brad Lundahl](#) at (303) 866-3339.

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