

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-3441
Fax: (303) 866-4474
www.cwcb.state.co.us



TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

FROM: Ray Alvarado, Water Information Section

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

DATE: August 31, 2010

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 6, September 13-15, 2010 Board Meeting**
Colorado River Water Availability Study Phase 1 Comments

Staff Recommendation

After review of the comments received on the draft of Phase 1 of the Colorado River Water Availability Study, staff recommends the Board direct it to:

- consider and respond to all comments made on the report;
- revise as appropriate Technical Memoranda to the report;
- Determine how best to make data available once report is finalized;
- Conduct additional outreach after report has been finalized.

Staff is seeking direction from the Board in responding to policy concerns raised regarding Sections 2.6 and 3.9 on water available for future use as potentially constrained by provisions of the Colorado River compacts.

Background

Under SB 07-122 and HB 08-1346, the Colorado General Assembly directed the CWCB to carry out the Colorado River Water Availability Study. Starting in 2007, CWCB staff worked closely with the IBCC to develop a scope of work for Phase 1. Once AECOM was the selected contractor, several public outreach meeting were held to inform and obtain comments from the various basin roundtables. On March 22, 2010, the draft Phase 1 CWRAS report was presented to the Board and made available to the general public for review and comment.

The review period extended for 120 days. At the end of this review period, over 500 comments were received from approximately 40 entities; including approximately 200 comments from one entity. The entities ranged from the federal agencies to individuals.

Technical comments were grouped in the following categories, listed by number of comments received.

- GCM's
- Compact
- Instream/Nonconsumptive use
- Modeling Approach
- Uncertainty/Probability
- Report use/Limitation
- Recommendations
- Paleo-Resequencing
- 2070 vs 2040 focus
- Historical vs Climate Change Hydrology
- Forest Change
- Dust on Snow