Ms. Deborah Burrell
Office of Water Conservation & Drought Planning
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman St. Rm 721
Denver, CO 80203

#### **Re:** Douglas County Regional Water Conservation Planning Program

Dear Ms. Burrell,

Douglas County is respectfully submitting this 75 percent progress report in accordance with CWCB's Water Efficiency Grant Fund requirements. As a reminder, the Douglas County Regional Water Conservation Planning Program (RWCPP) consists of preparing water conservation plans (WCPs) for as many as 20 water providers, then compiling those plans into a regional WCP for CWCB approval. This progress report addresses the following: project status; successes of meeting previously identified goals and objectives; obstacles encountered; preliminary findings or accomplishments; and potential revisions to scope of work and timeline.

#### PROJECT STATUS

The attached schedule shows the major tasks that have been accomplished since the 50% update submitted to your office on September 22, 2010. Those completed tasks include:

- Conducted a series of follow-up meeting with water providers on data gaps
- Attended various water provider Board meetings to introduce the draft plans and answer questions relating to the plans
- Attended various water provider Board meetings to seek their approval on the draft final plans
- Continued to enter data into the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) Tracking Tool software
- Finished up all but three mid-project meetings with participating water providers.
   Meetings were set up to review data gaps, discuss current and possible conservation measures, and identify the process for public review and board adoption of the individual WCPs
- Presented the CWCB with our template for individual water conservation plans. We did not hear back after repeated attempts so we moved forward with that version
- Current water provider participation is 16 of 20 water providers. We have hope that an additional two will decide to join the effort before it concludes.

With regard to budget, the CWCB is providing \$49,980 in grant funding to which the County has added \$105,000 for a project total of \$154,980. This includes an increase in the County's cost

share to the grant of \$45,000 since our September report. County is also providing staff support as an in-kind contribution. As shown in the graph below, fee expenditures have exceeded projections and required additional funds from the County. Additional funds were required due to the increased communication to verify data, revise plans, and promote plans at individual water provider meetings.



#### **SUCCESSES**

The RWCPP has been well received by a large majority of the 20 non-covered entities to which the program is directed. To date, only four have not committed to the Program, but the County is continuing its efforts to include them. The County uses the attached spreadsheet, "Water Provider Participation and Follow-Up" to track commitment, meetings, information received, and communication with each provider.

#### **OBSTACLES**

A few of the water providers are professionally managed, however, many of them are run by volunteer boards with a contract operator. It has been difficult to obtain the data needed for the WCPs from many of the providers due to staff limitations, because the data has not been collected, or, in some cases, due to a lack of continuity. Some have hired or changed operators

in recent years, and the earlier data is simply not available. Still, the RWCPP is an important first step in documenting what we can about each of the providers with regard to water conservation. This effort will provide a good basis of comparison by which progress can be measured in the years ahead.

#### PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

The water providers are already very aware of the importance of water conservation. Tiered rates are fairly common among the providers, and some have implemented aggressive conservation measures such as water budgets and rebate programs. At least two of the water providers rely on reuse water to meet a large share of their demands.

The region is largely dependent on nonrenewable water, and there is significant variation in how particular water providers plan to address future needs. Those that are members of the South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA), for example, are partnering to develop renewable supplies from the South Platte River along with regional infrastructure for delivery, treatment, and storage. Others could connect to the SMWSA system for renewable water, or continue developing wells for nonrenewable groundwater. The differences are significant when considering the payoff of implementing or bolstering conservation measures. We will need to carefully consider how best to present those differences.

#### SCOPE AND TIMELINE REVISIONS

We had no scope and very little timeline changes between this update and the 50% update. We still are shooting for a Regional Water Conservation Plan document submission to the CWCB by June 2011. Please find an updated calendar attached to this report.

We appreciate your support on this important project and look forward to meeting with you and Ms. Deheza on February 15<sup>th</sup> in your offices. In the meantime, please call if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Timothy Murrell

Water Resources Planner

Attchs

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