

STATE OF COLORADO



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

May 17, 2011

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

On May 11, 2011, the State's Water Availability Task Force (WATF) met at the Colorado Division of Wildlife in Denver to discuss current drought conditions around the State, and the resulting water supply impacts to all sectors of business.

Based on the data and information provided to the WATF by the State Climatologist, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the National Weather Service, and other experts, the WATF recommended the activation of Phase 2 of the State Drought Mitigation and Response Plan, and recommended the activation of the Agricultural Impact Task Force. These recommendations were necessary to respond to serious concerns about drought conditions on the Eastern Plains, primarily south of the I-70 corridor, in southeastern Colorado, and in the Rio Grande Basin.

Therefore, we formally request that you accept the recommendations of the WATF and activate Phase 2 of the State's Drought Mitigation and Response Plan, and the Agricultural Impact Task Force.

As a result of these recommendations, the following actions will be implemented in accordance with the State Drought Plan.

- The Drought Task Force (DTF) Chairs, comprised of the Executive Directors, or their designees, for the Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Local Affairs, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) will meet with the Agricultural Impact Task Force Chairs to outline Phase 2 activities of the State's Drought Plan.
- The Agricultural Impact Task Force will make an initial damage or impact assessment (physical and economic).
- The Agricultural Impact Task Force will recommend opportunities for incident mitigation to minimize or limit potential impacts.
- Periodic reports will be made by the Agricultural Impact Task Force Chairs to the DTF Chairs.

- The Agricultural Impact Task Force Chairs will designate their respective Department Public Information Officers (PIO) to interface with the media for their relative area of concern and develop media messages.
- Relevant state agencies will undertake response and incident mitigation actions within their normal programs with available resources.
- The DTF will conduct a gap analysis identifying any unmet needs that cannot be handled through normal channels.

Should you or your staff require any additional information or have questions, please contact Veva Deheza, Co-Chair of the Water Availability Task Force, in the CWCB's Office of Water Conservation & Drought Planning at 303-866-3441 ext. 3226 or at veva.deheza@state.co.us.

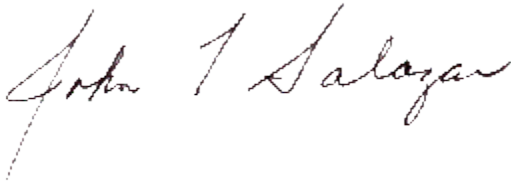
Thank you,

Sincerely,

Mike King
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Natural Resources



John Salazar
Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture



Reeves Brown
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Local Affairs

