

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Thuy Patton, Floodplain Mapping Coordinator
Watershed & Flood Protection Section

DATE: January 11, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 6, January 25-26, 2011 Board Meeting**
Map Modernization / Risk Map Program Update

John Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

Introduction and Background

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in Cooperation with the CWCB and local entities, has administered the Flood Map Modernization (Map Mod), now the Risk MAP program, since 2004. For the past 7 years, the CWCB has been working with FEMA as a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) to provide updated flood hazard data and maps across the state. As a CTP, the CWCB is eligible for funding from FEMA for activities associated with program management and technical mapping-related activities.

At this point, FEMA has largely completed the Map Mod phase of the program, originally mandated by Congress, and has transitioned to the new Risk MAP program, also supported by Congress. This new phase further enhances the hazard maps, increases community involvement during the assessment and planning stages, and guides and encourages local officials to communicate risk to their constituents.

The Risk MAP vision is to deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to actions that reduce risk to life and property. Building upon the foundation provided by Map Mod, Risk MAP seeks to strengthen state, local and tribal capabilities by providing enhanced technologies and tools, changing the way communities think about, plan for, and mitigate their risks.

FEMA Region VIII (Colorado, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming) will implement Risk MAP in a way that makes sense for our unique region and within the limitations of funding and FEMA Guides and Specifications. A presentation by staff will provide overall program updates to the Board.

Staff Recommendation

This is an informational item only, and staff is not seeking Board action.