

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Ray Alvarado, Water Information Section

DATE: August 31, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 14, January 24-26, 2011 Board Meeting**
Colorado River Water Availability Study – Update

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

Staff Recommendation

Based on recommendations by the Board to proceed with scoping to respond to public comment on the Colorado River Water Availability Study (CRWAS) Draft Phase I Report and related outreach, a corresponding work plan has been developed. Staff recommends the Board direct staff to begin work associated with this plan that includes:

- Project Outreach
- Model Refinements
- Analysis Refinements
- Reporting Refinements

Background

Under SB 07-122 and HB 08-1346, the Colorado General Assembly directed CWCB to carry out the CRWAS. In 2007, CWCB staff worked closely with IBCC to develop a scope of work for Phase I. Several public outreach meetings were held to inform and obtain comments from basin roundtables. In March 2010, the draft Phase 1 CWRAS report was presented to the Board and made available to the general public over a 120-day review and comment period. At the end of this review period, over 500 comments were received from approximately 40 entities. A summary of these comments was provided to the Board in September 2010, from which came Board recommendation to scope an outreach and response strategy in coordination with basin roundtables. A work plan has since been developed with input from CWCB staff and basin roundtables to facilitate corresponding project outreach, model refinements, analysis refinements, and reporting refinements as described below.

Project Outreach:

- Develop response matrix for all formal comments; distribute to basin roundtables for review.
- Provide one-on-one communications with basin roundtable Chairs to discuss response matrix.
- Facilitate 1st-round basin roundtable workshops to discuss strategy for response to comments.
- Implement model, analysis, and reporting refinements listed below based on public comment.
- Facilitate 2nd-round basin roundtable workshops to discuss use of results and lessons-learned.
- Supplement workshops with multiple other forms of outreach at key project milestones including: CWCB Board Meetings, IBCC Meetings, Public Newsletters, and Public Data Posting.

Model Refinements: Implement refinements to climate projections and CDSS model parameters.

Analysis Refinements: Implement refinements to analysis resulting from above model refinements.

Reporting Refinements: Implement refinements to report and tech memos resulting from above refinements.

- Clarify expectations, limitations, uncertainty, use of results, and lessons learned.
- Replace Compact analysis with lessons-learned and overview of analysis complexities.