

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board

FROM: Ray Alvarado

DATE: October 28, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 18b, November 15-16, 2011 Board Meeting**
Non-Reimbursable Investments – CWCB
Colorado River Water Availability Study Phase II

Recommendation

Staff has recommended that the Board request the General Assembly to authorize \$2,000,000 from the Construction Fund to be appropriated to the Colorado Water Conservation Board for work tasks associated with Phase 2 of the Colorado River Water Availability Study (CRWAS). The Staff recommendation and the comments the Finance Committee had regarding this application will be discussed by the Board at the CWCB Workshop to be held prior the November Board meeting, with final decision being made at Project Bill agenda item.

Background

A draft Phase 1 report was completed and submitted to the Board in March 2010, and a 120-day comment period was conducted. Board instructed staff to complete Phase 1 by having public outreach addressing all comments received and provide the Basin Roundtables (BRT) with a workshop on how the CRWAS could be specifically used in each BRT. Phase 1 of the CRWAS will be completed by December 31, 2011. The results of the Phase 1 Study will be used, with results from the needs assessments, to formulate and evaluate water demand alternatives along with consulting with the BRT's and IP&P's. By taking the alternative and climate change hydrology's developed in Phase 1 and superimposing estimated future water resources uses in the various basins, the water resource planning tool can be used to help decision makers make better informed decisions relating to future water use.

**Water Project Construction Program – Project Data
Non-Reimbursable Investment**

Applicant: Ray Alvarado for CWCB

Project Name: Colorado River Water Availability Study (CRWAS) Phase 2

Project Type: Water Resources Planning Study

County: Numerous **Drainage Basin:** Colorado River

Water Source: Colorado River and tributaries

Total Study Cost: \$3 million, requesting \$2,000,000 with this application

Funding Sources: CWCB Construction Fund

Type of Applicant: Grant

Median Household Income: N/A

CWCB Investment: Currently \$1,000,000. In SB 07-122 and HB 08-1346 the General Assembly provided a total of \$1,000,000 to conduct Phase 1 of the CRWAS, which is underway and will be completed in December 2011.

Past use of the Funds: Under Phase 1, \$1,000,000 will have been expended for the completion of this initial phase. This included the technical aspects as well as numerous public outreach meetings and workshops.

Current Request: This request is for funding to begin Phase 2, with emphasis on implementing work obtained from the basin needs assessments, both consumptive and non-consumptive.. **For FY 2012/2013, an appropriation of \$2,000,000 is being sought from the Construction Fund to begin implementation of Phase 2 of CRWAS.**