

# STATE OF COLORADO

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## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Department of Natural Resources

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TO:	Colorado Water Conservation Board Members	John W. Hickenlooper Governor
FROM:	Ted Kowalski, Chief Interstate & Federal Section	Mike King DNR Executive Director
DATE:	November 3, 2011	Jennifer L. Gimbel CWCB Director
SUBJECT:	<b>Agenda Item 23, November 15-16, 2011 Board Meeting</b> Interstate & Federal Section – Colorado River Basin Study Update	

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### Background

At the January 2011 Board meeting, the Board received an update on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (“Bureau”) and Colorado River Basin states’ (“Basin States”) basin study (“Study”), which was selected for funding under the Bureau’s “Basin Study Program.” In June 2011, the Bureau and the Basin States issued Interim Report No. 1. Interim Report No. 1 included: 1) four quantified water supply scenarios; 2) a description of six different water demand scenarios; and, 3) a description of some of the metrics that will be examined. More recent work has turned towards: quantification of future water demands; refinement of the metrics against which water supply/demand scenarios will be compared; and, an evaluation of different options and strategies that could be employed to reduce future water supply/demand imbalances. The intent of this Study continues to try to get at two fundamental questions: 1) what is the future reliability of the Colorado River system to meet the needs of Basin Resources; and, 2) what are the options and strategies to mitigate future risks to these resources?

The Bureau and the Basin States have made significant progress. In the next few weeks, the Bureau and the Basin States expect to roll out a request for input on the Options and Strategies Phase of the Basin Study. As we continue to work on quantifying demand scenarios and establishing the metrics that will be examined in the study, it will be important for the Study to have the benefit of the Board’s input and guidance. Some more details of these phases of the Study will be presented to the Board, and Staff will seek the Board’s direction.

### Staff Recommendation

The Staff will provide a presentation on the Study and seek the Board’s input on the future demand quantification assumptions, and on the next two phases of the Study related to the metrics phase and the options and strategies phase.