

# 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

FROM: Veva Deheza, Section Chief  
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Technical Specialist  
Office of Water Conservation & Drought Planning

DATE: November 2, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item #26, November 15-16, 2011 Board Meeting**  
**Current Drought Status and Update on State Drought Plan Activation**

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**Staff Recommendation:** *This is an information item only.*

### Background

On May 17, 2011, in response to deteriorating conditions in southeast and south central Colorado, Governor Hickenlooper activated the Colorado State Drought Mitigation and Response Plan. The Agricultural Impact Task Force (AITF) was also activated at this time for the same geographic region.

Since that time, the AITF has met on a regular basis to coordinate response, assess impacts, and increase communication and coordination. The Office of Water Conservation and Drought Planning (OWCDP) has led and coordinated much of this effort.

Hydrologic conditions are continually changing. Despite, improvements across south central and southeastern Colorado over the last few months, much of the region remains in severe drought conditions with patches of extreme drought. Baca County continues to suffer from exceptional drought conditions (D4 per the U.S. Drought Monitor). As the growing season comes to a close, growers and ranchers will begin to assess the full social and economic impacts of the drought on their direct and indirect businesses. The OWCDP will also work with stakeholders and partners to assess social, economic, and hydrologic drought impacts.

Details on current conditions, continued response, impacts and next steps will be presented to the CWCB Board of Directors.