

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: CWCB Board Members

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

FROM: Veva Deheza
Water Supply Planning Section

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

DATE: May 3, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item #22, May 15-16, 2012 Board Meeting**
Water Supply Planning - Drought Update

Staff Recommendation: *This is an informational item only. No Board action is required.*

Background:

The 2012 Water Year began October 2011 and runs through September 2012. So far, it has brought below average conditions to the State with both the eastern plains and the mountains receiving well below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures.

Currently 95% of the state is designated in drought conditions ranging from D0 (abnormally dry) to D3 (drought- extreme). As a result of last year's drought conditions, the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan remains in Phase 2 activation for the southeast and south central portions of the state.

The Drought Task Force is in the process of recommending an expansion of this Phase 2 activation to include the Yampa/White, Colorado and Gunnison River Basins. Snowpack has declined earlier and more rapidly in all river basins. Denver Water has already implemented drought restrictions.

Staff will present the latest information on drought conditions. Information on snowpack, reservoir levels, stream flows, potential response actions, and related topics will be presented.

The next Water Availability Task Force meeting will be held on May 22, 2012.