

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO:	Colorado Water Conservation Board Members	John Hickenlooper Governor
FROM:	Ray Alvarado, Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section	Mike King DNR Executive Director
DATE:	March 9, 2012	Jennifer L. Gimbel CWCB Director
SUBJECT:	Agenda Item 9, March 20-21, 2012 Board Meeting Colorado River Water Availability Study (CRWAS) Phase I Completion	

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board direct them to publically post the refined Draft Final CRWAS Phase I Report and corresponding project deliverables.

Introduction

Under SB 07-122 and HB 08-1346, the Colorado General Assembly directed CWCB to carry out the CRWAS. In 2008, 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.

Discussion

In 2009, CRWAS technical analyses were completed according to project scope. In March 2010, the Draft CRWAS Phase I 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, comments were received from approximately 40 entities resulting in a summary of comments and responses (matrix) posted on the CWCB website. The Board provided recommendation to scope a corresponding outreach and response strategy in coordination with basin roundtables. Corresponding project outreach, model refinements, analysis refinements, and reporting refinements have since been completed, culminating in completion of the refined Draft CRWAS Phase I Report and corresponding project deliverables (the Executive Summary is being provided to Board Members for the March 20-21, 2012 Board Meeting). An online application (CRWAS Data Viewer) has also been completed to provide public access to CRWAS data and results. Project objectives that were conceptualized in the CRWAS authorizing legislation and detailed in subsequent project scopes of work have been fulfilled. In January 2012, the Board recommended Staff to request funds through the annual legislative projects bill to begin CRWAS continuation work.