

# 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: Jacob Bornstein, CWCB, Water Supply Planning Section

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 37, March 19-20, 2012 Board Meeting  
Finance Section – Water Infrastructure and Supply  
Efficiency (W.I.S.E.) Project**

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Mike King  
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel  
CWCB Director

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### Background

During the January 2012 CWCB Board Meeting staff from Aurora Water, Denver Water, and the South Metro Water Supply Authority provided the board with an informational update on the Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency (WISE) Partnership. Director Biggs suggested that the Board consider adopting a resolution in support of the WISE Partnership during the March Board meeting.

The presentation discussed how Denver Water, Aurora Water, and the South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA) have joined together to form the WISE Partnership. The WISE Partnership is aimed at achieving greater efficiencies to utilize existing water infrastructure and maximize existing water supplies, while promoting conservation through reuse. Additionally, the Partnership strives to increase regional cooperation and creativity.

The goal of the participating entities is to supply customers with reliable water while reducing the need to acquire new water rights. If the project moves forward, the partnership will provide new supplies by combining unused capacity in Aurora Water's Prairie Waters Project with unused water supplies from Denver and Aurora. Subsequently, during years when Denver and Aurora have unused water supplies, SMWSA members in Douglas and Arapahoe Counties will be able to purchase water and either transmit it directly into their systems or put it in storage, thereby decreasing their reliance on nonrenewable groundwater.

While the partnership has not been finalized, work continues towards solidifying the necessary agreements. If everything happens according to plan, the partnership could become effective in 2012 with deliveries beginning in the next few years.

### Summary

During the CWCB March Board meeting, staff will distribute a draft resolution in support of the WISE Partnership for the Board's consideration.