

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-3441
Fax: (303) 866-4474
www.cwcb.state.co.us



TO:	Colorado Water Conservation Board Members	John W. Hickenlooper Governor
FROM:	Ted Kowalski, Chief, Interstate, Federal & Water Information Section	Mike King DNR Executive Director
DATE:	November 5, 2011	Jennifer L. Gimbel CWCB Director
SUBJECT:	Agenda Item 11, November 13-14, 2012 Board Meeting Interstate, Federal, & Water Information Section – Colorado River Basin Study Update	

Background

At the March 2012 Board meeting, the Board received its latest 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.” Since then, the Bureau and the Basin States have issued a number of updated technical memoranda to supplement the Interim Report No. 1, which was issued in June 2011. As a reminder, the 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. The more recent work has included: 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 continue to make significant progress. Earlier in 2012, we issued technical reports quantifying the various demand scenarios, and specifying how the metrics (water supply, power generation, recreational, etc.) would be analyzed. In addition, we cast a very wide net to solicit options and strategies for meeting future supply/demand imbalances. Over the last year, we have analyzed those options and strategies using a variety of factors (cost, timing, feasibility, etc.), developed potential portfolios made up of those various options based on different objectives, and we are in the final stages of modeling the effects that implementing the portfolios could have on improving the system reliability relative to the metrics we have identified. This Study will be released within the month.

Staff Recommendation

The Staff will provide a presentation on the Study and seek the Board’s input on the current work related to the Study.