

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Ted Kowalski, Chief
Interstate, Federal & Water Information Section

DATE: November 5, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 17c, November 13-14, 2012 Board Meeting**
Finance – Construction Fund Referred Non-Reimbursable Investment
Colorado River Basin Study Implementation

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

Introduction

For the last several years, the Colorado Water Conservation Board has been involved with a basin-wide collaborative effort, with the Colorado River basin states and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, to study water supplies and demands for the Colorado River and to explore options and strategies for addressing supply/demand imbalances. This study (the “Basin Study”) is almost complete, with a projected release date at the end of November, 2012. It will be essential that Colorado and other stakeholders have money available to support implementation and participate in negotiations, additional studies, and other work related to implementation of the Basin Study.

As described above, the Colorado River Basin Study will likely have a number of strategies and options that should be explored further, with the other Colorado River Basin States and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Colorado will need to have funds available for any additional feasibility work or pre-feasibility work associated with any options that may help bridge the supply/demand imbalances. Without adequate funding, Colorado’s interests may not be adequately protected.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board request the General Assembly to authorize \$75,000 from the Construction Fund to be appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources for allocation to the CWCB to assure that Colorado can participate in implementation of the Colorado River Basin Study.

**Water Project Construction Program – Project Data
Non-Reimbursable Investment**

Applicant: Ted Kowalski for CWCB

Project Name: Colorado River Basin Study Implementation
Project Type: Other

County: Several **Drainage Basin:** Colorado River basin and basins
dependent on the Colorado River Basin water, thus statewide

Water Source: Statewide

Total Study Cost: \$150,000

Funding Sources: CWCB Construction Fund

Type of Applicant: Grant

Median Household Income: N/A

CWCB Investment: \$150,000 cash expended on the Colorado River Basin Study, and
tens of thousands of dollars of resources dedicated to the Colorado River Basin Study.