

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, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 18.a, November 13-14, 2012 Board Meeting**
Finance Section – Windy Gap Bypass Project Funding

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

Background

For many years now, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the Municipal Subdistrict, and the Windy Gap Firing Project Enterprise (“project proponents”) have been involved in seeking a Record of Decision for the Windy Gap Firing Project. This federal process is being led by the Bureau of Reclamation, but requires many different local, state, and federal approvals and authorizations. Through these different federal, state, and local reviews, the concept of a Windy Gap bypass has been explored by the project proponents and by the various authorizing entities. The project proponents are looking at studying whether a Windy Gap bypass would affect the aquatic environment and whether a bypass could be permitted, designed, and constructed with the funds available. Depending on the outcome of these studies, the project proponents are seeking a State commitment to helping fund a Windy Gap bypass if appropriate.

Staff Recommendation

The Staff recommends including \$2 million for that will be used to construct a bypass through or around Windy Gap Reservoir, if such a bypass is appropriate.