

# STATE OF COLORADO

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## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Department of Natural Resources

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board

**FROM:** Tom Browning

**DATE:** November 5, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item 18.b, November 13-14, 2012 Board Meeting  
Chatfield Reservoir Project – Orphan Shares

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Mike King  
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel  
CWCB Director

This is an information item only, and no Board action is required.

Chatfield Reservoir was constructed in the 1970's by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at the confluence of the South Platte River and Plum Creek to control flooding in the Denver Metro area. Although the main purpose of Chatfield is for flood control, it also provides storage space for conservation (or "multipurpose") water, maintains fisheries and wildlife habitat, and is home to one of the most important and highly utilized recreation areas for Colorado Parks & Wildlife.

Years ago, the CWCB contracted with the Corps to investigate the "reallocation" of existing storage space in Chatfield. The concept behind reallocation is to re-assign storage space currently reserved for flood control purposes to space for joint flood control *and* conservation purposes, effectively increasing capacity for water supply. The Corps has prepared a Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (FR/EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts, mitigation strategies, and costs of alternatives. The preferred alternative is to reallocate up to 20,600 acre-feet of existing storage space in Chatfield for M&I and agricultural water supply needs. Currently, about a dozen water provider entities are working closely with the State and the Corps to seek storage space within the proposed reallocation pool.

It appears likely that additional orphan shares (a little over 4,000 acre-feet of storage at this time) in the reallocation pool could revert back to the CWCB, which would trigger the need to consider exercising the CWCB's option to purchase those orphan shares. For planning purposes, staff is estimating a cost of \$9,000 per acre-foot for the storage space, and may seek formal action from the Board at a future meeting.