

# 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

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

FROM: Becky Mitchell, Chief  
Water Supply Planning Section

Mike King  
DNR Executive Director

DATE: March 7, 2013

Jennifer L. Gimbel  
CWCB Director

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 24, March 19-20, 2013 Board Meeting**  
**Water Supply Planning Section –California and Texas State Water Planning**

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### Staff Recommendation

This is an informational agenda item and no Board action is requested. An overview of State planning will be provided to the Board from Mark Cowin -Director California Division of Water Resources and Bill Mullican - Consultant to CDM Smith Retired Deputy Executive Administrator of Water Science Director Texas Water Development Board.

### Background Information

Over the last few months the Board has taken a closer look at approaches to state water resources planning. This agenda item will provide the Board with a closer look at water planning efforts in California and Texas.

The CWCB has actively engaged in a variety of statewide water planning efforts for several decades. Most recently the completion of Statewide Water Supply Initiative 2010 established several recommendations and key findings to help Colorado address its current and future water needs. As the Colorado seeks to develop a state water plan and provide an update to SWSI in 2016, it is helpful to examine how other states are approaching statewide planning to illustrate the breadth of planning and provide the Board with an additional frame of reference to consider as Colorado moves its planning efforts forward.

In the cases of California and Texas both states have been involved in water resource planning for over 100 years. According to the 2010 U.S. Census California ranks #1 in population (37 million people) and Texas ranks #2 (25 million people). Both states conduct planning to address population growth but have also experienced many other drivers including, but not limited to declining supplies, drought, aging infrastructure, water quality and endangered species challenges.

### Brief history on California water planning:

California has been extensively involved in water resource planning for over 100 years. The California Water Code requires the Department of Natural resources to publish an update of the California Water Plan every five years. The California Department of Water Resources (<http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov/>) is responsible for developing and updating the State's Water Plan. The California Natural Resources Agency (<http://resources.ca.gov/>) is the umbrella natural resource agency and is also involved in several aspects of water resource management in California. While California state and local water agencies are considerably well funded, funding and budget

constraints do exist. Past planning efforts have indicate that more aggressive water use reporting, emphasis on water use efficiency, and demand reduction recognize the value of water and improve political/regulatory support to better help projects forward. This is especially true in areas that need to permit large water projects.

### **Brief history on Texas water planning:**

Texas has been involved with water resource planning and development since 1904. Today, the Texas Water Development Board has a broad range of water resource responsibilities and is responsible for state water resource planning and water and wastewater project financing. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is the state agency that allocates surface water rights and is responsible for water quality programs and permitting.

In 1961 the State of Texas published its first state water plan and regularly updates the plan every five years. The Texas water planning process is focused on ensuring that Texas will have enough water in the future during a drought-of-record to sustain its cities and rural communities, farms and ranches, businesses and industries, and the environment. While overall Texas has an abundance of water resources, major droughts occur and have significant impacts. Texas has one of the fastest growing populations in the country and they have been grappling with redefining the drought of record and addressing many of the fiscal challenges that are facing many of our states. Additionally, in many parts of the state, Texas is faced with declining groundwater supplies and the need to address areas of water need where there are limited supplies. The CWCB will hear more on Texas' water resource planning process, challenges, and their goal to implement a large number of water resource projects that have been identified by the Regional Planning Groups.

### **Biographies:**

#### *California – Mark Cowin, Executive Director California Division of Water Resources*

Mark W. Cowin was appointed Director of the California Department of Water Resources by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on April 13, 2012. Mr. Cowin has extensive experience with California water resources management and has served as director and acting director of DWR since 2010. He has worked over 30 years at DWR.

As DWR Director, Mr. Cowin heads a Department that protects, conserves, and manages the state's water supply, including operation of the California State Water Project. The SWP is the largest state-run, multi-purpose water and power system in the United States. It provides a supplemental water source for more than 25 million Californians and about 750,000 acres of irrigated farmland and directly sustains over \$400 billion of the state's economy.

Prior to his appointment as Director, Mr. Cowin served as Deputy Director of Integrated Water Management for DWR. His primary responsibilities included overseeing DWR's flood management and dam safety programs, implementing Integrated Regional Water Management, coordinating DWR's efforts related to climate change, and updating and implementing the California Water Plan.

In previous assignments, Mr. Cowin served for five years as Chief of DWR's Division of Planning and Local Assistance and was responsible for the state's strategic planning for water management and for providing technical and financial assistance for water management to local agencies and communities. Mr. Cowin also served as an Assistant Director for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program where he was responsible for the Bay-Delta Program's water management planning activities. He received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Stanford University in 1980.

Texas – Bill Mullican, State Planning / Texas Water Development Board

William F. Mullican, III, P.G., Water Resources Consultant CDM Smith. In his over 30-year career, Mr. Mullican has specialized in the field of water planning. He is experienced in the creation, design, development, and management of complex, multi-disciplinary projects. His integrated approach includes oversight, development, and implementation of water policy, technical aspects of surface water and groundwater availability, population and water demand projections and water. Mr. Mullican has also had extensive interaction with the technical community, governmental entities at the local, state, and federal levels, stakeholders, and general public and provided invited testimony to the United States Congress on four occasions, over 25 occasions to the Texas Legislature, and authored and coauthored over 135 scientific books, articles, and reports, and two Texas State Water Plans.

From 1997 to 2008, Mr. Mullican worked for the Texas Water Development Board. His responsibilities included water data monitoring, environmental, and research programs as well as managing a wide variety of science and conservation programs needed to implement the 2007 Texas State Water Plan. His positions with the Board included:

- *Deputy Executive Administrator for Water Science and Conservation.* Provided leadership and direction to the agency's scientific and conservation programs, and, with the Deputy Executive Administrator for Water Resources Planning and Information, designed, developed, and prepared for approval the Texas State Water Plan.
- *Deputy Executive Administrator for Planning.* Functioned as the Chief State Water Planner.
- Development of the State Water Plan
- Coordination, management, and technical assistance for regional water planning
- *Division Director, Water Resources Planning.* Responsibilities included direction, management, coordination, and allocation of resources for the development of the Texas State Water Plan.