

# STATE OF COLORADO

## Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Ray Alvarado  
Interstate, Federal and Water Information Section

DATE: May 1, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 28, May 14-15, 2013 Board Meeting**

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Mike King  
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel  
CWCB Director

At its January 30, 2013 Colorado River Water Availability Study (CRWAS) workshop, Board discussed how to proceed with the second phase of CRWAS. The Board directed the Staff to make the draft scope of work available to the public and to solicit comments by attending and presenting the draft scope of work to the Basin Round Tables (BRTs) and the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC). The Board also directed the Staff to take those comments and refine the scope of work and present a new draft to the Board at future Board meeting. However, since that time, the Board has accelerated schedule for SWSI and was given the task of developing a State Water Plan. Because of these new directives, Staff believes that parts of the CRWAS Phase 2 should move forward separately and at a quicker pace.

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board take the following actions based on the immediate needs associated with the accelerated schedule for SWSI and the State Water Plan.

Give approval for requesting separate request for proposals for the following efforts:

- (a) Current data
  - i. Review and document the multiple technical studies investigation Colorado River Basin water supply and demand strategies. Provide comparisons to identify how the studies technical objectives, analytical methods and results can be applied to local-level and State-level technical analyses associated with SWSI and the State's Water Plan
  - ii. Extending the CRWAS modeling data sets to 2012, or the most current year that data is available. Including making any modeling changes that more appropriately reflects current water resource operation within the basins.

Cost estimate - \$175,000

- (b) Update the alternative hydrologies developed under CRWAS Phase 1, using the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5) climate modeling results. Using the standard established under CRWAS Phase 1 work, CMIP5 climate modeling results will be used to adjust the calculated natural flows generated under CRWAS Phase 1 work. Cost estimate – \$150,000

### **Additional Background**

CWCB staff has presented the CRWAS Phase 2 draft scope of work to all BRT's (with the exception of the Rio Grande and North Platte BRTs, who have not requested a presentation). The Staff has not received all of comments from the BRTs to date, however the comments that have been submitted focus around insuring that the BRTs are clearly involved with Task 2, with Task 2 being the technical analysis of local-level issues.

Since the January 30<sup>th</sup> Board Workshop, the Board met again on April 18, 2013 to discuss the Governor's State Water Plan and SWSI to get clarity on purpose and need. At that meeting, the Staff and the Board discussed the possibility of separating out and contracting regarding the above mentioned tasks from the rest of the CRWAS Phase 2 effort in order to meet the technical needs within SWSI and potentially with the State Water Plan effort. By doing this, it will position staff with the tools needed, to work with the BRT's in implementing the basin plans and carrying out the Governor's State Water Plan executive order.