

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: James Eklund
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Interstate, Federal and Water Information Section

DATE: September 4, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 8, Open Source Issues**

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

James Eklund
CWCB Director

At the September 2012 CWCB Board workshop on Colorado's Decision Support Systems (CDSS), there was a presentation and discussion regarding moving the CDSS software tools to an open source environment. The concept is to make the software code publicly available, thereby allowing greater innovation and the potential broader use of the tools. At the same time, the State benefits from those innovations at a time when it is a challenge to maintain the CDSS tools internally. The Board expressed some concerns regarding security, lost investment and control, but gave staff direction to move forward with investigating the open source concept further.

Since that time staff has examined the concept further and has been working with the Attorney General's (AG) office to develop software copyright assignment agreements to protect the CWCB's investment. Staff believes that it is in the best interest of the state to move CDSS software tools into open source platform and is working with the AG to establish the most appropriate path forward.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board direct staff to proceed forward in taking the CDSS software tools to an open source platform and find the appropriate open source architecture and infrastructure to insure long term success in meeting the future maintenance needs of the CDSS software tools.