

# 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

FROM: Taryn Finnessey  
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Water Supply Planning Section

DATE: September 10, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item #22, September 24-25, 2013 Board Meeting**  
**Approval of State Drought Mitigation and Response Plan**

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Mike King  
DNR Executive Director

James Eklund  
CWCB Director

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the CWCB Board approve and forward to the Colorado Division of Emergency Management, the 2013 revised Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan.

### Background

The State of Colorado has revised the existing State Drought Mitigation and Response Plan in compliance with state and federal regulations, including FEMA requirements for natural hazard mitigation planning. CWCB staff will present the major findings and recommendations of the planning effort. This effort builds on previous efforts on improved drought preparedness statewide.

The revision process has resulted in a State Drought Plan that uses state of the art planning techniques to prepare Colorado for drought and integrates lessons learned from the last three years. The plan further streamlined the state's response to drought and enhanced tools for local water providers to prepare for drought. The revised plan also outlines a step by step procedure to respond to drought; updates mitigation efforts that will help the state and local communities reduce impacts from drought; and includes a revised vulnerability assessment of sectors affected by drought statewide.

The revised plan not only plays a role in maintaining eligibility for FEMA disaster relief funding, but also enables counties to determine their vulnerability to drought within each of the examined sectors.

The Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan underwent a 30-day public comment period, and all comments submitted have been integrated and addressed where appropriate. This Plan is the result of an extensive stakeholder process, significant public input and feedback from other sections of the CWCB, as well as multiple other state agencies.

Following CWCB Board approval, the Plan will be forwarded to the Colorado Office of Emergency Management for incorporation into the State's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, which will be submitted to the Governor and FEMA for further approval.

**Supporting Documentation**

Please refer to the Revised 2013 Draft Mitigation and Response Plan which was made available in your board materials.