

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-3441
Fax: (303) 866-4474
www.cwcb.state.co.us



TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Jamie Prochno
Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: September 9, 2013

SUBJECT: **September 24-25, 2013 Board Meeting
Agenda Item 14 - Floodplain Rules and Regulations Update**

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

James Eklund
CWCB Director

Staff Recommendation

This is an informational item and staff is not requesting board action.

Introduction and Discussion

The State of Colorado adopted higher standards for floodplain management, which are outlined in the Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado (Rules), effective January 14, 2011. The Rules provide higher floodplain management standards that will help communities to reduce the risks to people and property caused by flooding. The Rules are now the effective minimum floodplain standards for the State of Colorado and communities were given a three year transition period to adopt local regulations consistent with the Rules.

CWCB staff has been providing assistance and outreach to communities about the Rules. A letter was sent to every Floodplain Administrator in September 2012 and another to all Chief Elected Officials (local governments) in January 2013 explaining the Rules, the process for updating local regulations, and potential consequences for non-compliance. We are also aware of a letter sent by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VIII to communities in support of the Rules. In addition, all communities were contacted by phone to explain the Rules and offer assistance.

To date, 56 communities have adopted updated floodplain regulations consistent with the Rules. An additional 80 draft regulations have been reviewed and are awaiting adoption. Additionally, two communities, the Town of Crawford and Saguache County have filed applications with FEMA to join the NFIP. Staff will continue to work with communities in anticipation of the January 14, 2014 deadline and will provide updates to the Board on progress as well as a compliance strategy.