

# 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: Chris Sturm, Stream Restoration Coordinator

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 13, October 21, 2013 Special Board Meeting, Watershed and Flood Protection Section, Special Release for the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program**

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Mike King  
DNR Executive Director

James Eklund  
CWCB Director

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### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve the special release of the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program.

### Background

The Colorado Watershed Restoration Program (CWRP) is designed to provide planning and project implementation funding for watershed/stream restoration and flood protection efforts. The program supports applicants committed to collaborative approaches to restoring and protecting the ecological processes that connect land and water. The CWRP guidance document and application was approved by the Board in September of 2008. CWRP was revised by the Board in March of 2012. Since 2008, the program has funded 32 projects with nearly \$1.1 million. Every CWCB dollar contributed to the program has leveraged \$6.5 from other local, state, and federal sources.

### Discussion

Staff is proposing a special release of the CWRP grant program to address river restoration needs in counties affected by floods in September 2013. The draft special release CWRP application is attached. The flood affected counties include Boulder, Larimer, El Paso, Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Fremont, Jefferson, Morgan, Logan, Pueblo, Washington, and Weld Counties. The attached draft "special release" of the CWRP application amends the 2012 version to address needs for watershed and stream master planning in flood affected counties. Watershed master plans typically involve the development of hydrology, proposed alternatives, and conceptual designs. None of the changes affect the basic applicant qualifications, and the program values still exist as proposed in 2008.

The special release proposes that applications be submitted to the CWCB by 11/15/2013 and every two weeks thereafter until available funds are depleted. The recommended match is 50% of the total planning cost, but this is flexible based on the existing CWRP guidance. The CWRP guidance states that, "Flood Mitigation Grants will be funded by the CWCB on a cost share basis. The amount of the required cost-share for each project will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and will take into account benefits to the State with a strong emphasis on public health, safety, and welfare. Projects that protect life and property will receive a high priority and will be funded accordingly. CWCB contributions to federally sponsored studies or projects should not exceed 50% of the total cost" (Section B.2. Grant Categories, paragraph 4).

**COLORADO WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM**  
**GRANT APPLICATION**  
**DRAFT - Special Release October 2013 – DRAFT**

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has approved a special release of the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program. The CWCB is now accepting applications from counties affected by the September 2013 floods. These counties include Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, El Paso, Fremont, Jefferson, Larimer, Morgan, Logan, Pueblo, Washington, and Weld Counties. **Applications will be accepted for watershed and stream master planning in flood affected watersheds.** Master plans should guide communities towards prioritization and implementation of stream rehabilitation and restoration projects that protect life and property from flood hazards.

The objectives of a watershed and/or stream master plan include:

- Acquisition, development, or update of hydrologic conditions
- Delineation of 100 year floodplain based on existing/proposed channel conditions
- Alternatives analysis
- Conceptual design
- Cost estimation

The plan should include elements that address:

- Channel stabilization
- Channel relocation and/or reconfiguration
- Flood control
- Floodplain preservation/restoration
- Aquatic and terrestrial (riparian) habitat restoration and/or improvement
- Protection and restoration of wetland areas
- Water supply diversion reconstruction and multi-objective function
- Trail and/or maintenance access development
- Utility protection
- Road and bridge protection

The CWCB will accept applications submitted by November 15, 2013 and every two weeks thereafter until available funds are depleted. Please contact CWCB staff for specific information regarding due dates for submittals after November 15, 2013

The information below is a brief summary of what must be included in an application for funding from the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program. Proposals shall address all sections listed below. **Please refer to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Guidance document for complete descriptions and requirements for the grant application.** Proposals shall be no longer than 5 pages (*minimum 11 point font and 1 inch margins*), not including the summary sheet and attachments (e.g. maps).

**SUBMITTAL INFORMATION**

**Completed applications are due by 5:00 pm on November 15, 2013.**

All applications should be submitted electronically via email to [chris.sturm@state.co.us](mailto:chris.sturm@state.co.us)

Electronic applications on CD or DVD may also be mailed to:  
Colorado Water Conservation Board, ATTN: Chris Sturm  
1313 Sherman St., Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203

Logistical questions about submitting applications should be directed to Chris Sturm (303-866-3441, ext. 3236 or [chris.sturm@state.co.us](mailto:chris.sturm@state.co.us)).

The entire application must be submitted as one file, e.g. word .doc or .pdf. Files larger than 10mb cannot be received via email. Larger files should be mailed to the address above.

Please read the application guidance document for information regarding basic applicant qualifications and descriptions of evaluation criteria.

## **1.0 PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

Please list the following on the summary sheet:

**Project Title**

**Project Location (include map and/or latitude/longitude if applicable)**

**Grant Request/Amount**

**Cash Match Funding**

**In-kind Match Funding**

**Project Sponsor(s) (identify the fiscal agent if different from the project sponsor)**

**Contact person name, email address, and phone number**

**Brief description of the project**

All of the above information should fit on one page. Please use a font size no smaller than 11 point.

Applications will be scored based on the evaluation criteria below.

## **2.0 APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS**

- 2.1 Identify the lead project sponsor and describe the other stakeholders' level of participation and involvement. 10 points
- 2.2 What information is the project sponsor using to develop the proposed plan or project? Include any relevant information regarding existing watershed plans, geomorphic assessments, flood studies, fire protection plans, riparian conditions assessments, aquatic/terrestrial habitat conditions, wildlife studies, and/or river restoration reports. 10 points
- 2.3 Specify in-kind services and cash contributions (match) amount for the proposed activities. CWCB recommends that the applicant provide 50% match of the

project's total cost. Discuss whether other funding sources are secured or pending. 10 points

### **3.0 ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY**

- 3.1 What is the applicant organization's history of accomplishments in the watershed? Provide several past project examples. List partner organizations and agencies with which applicant worked to implement past projects. 10 points
- 3.2 What level of staffing will be directed toward the implementation of the proposed project/planning effort? Discuss the number of staff and amount of time dedicated for the project. Will volunteers be utilized, and if so, how? 10 points

### **4.0 EFFECTIVENESS OF PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 Demonstrate that the project budget and schedule are realistic. Please use the attached budget/timeline spreadsheet. 10 points
- 4.2 Discuss the multi-objective aspects of the project and how they relate to each other. Describe similar activities in the watershed and how this project complements but does not duplicate those activities. Multi objectives may include (but are not limited to) channel stabilization, riparian re-vegetation, habitat improvement, recreation opportunity enhancement, natural hazard reduction, flood mitigation, water supply delivery improvement, fish migration improvement, ephemeral/intermittent channel stabilization, and upland erosion mitigation. 30 points
- 4.3 Describe the proposed implementation plan. How will the master planning lead to prioritization and implementation of projects that mitigate flood risk and improve stream function? 10 points

### **5.0 ATTACHMENTS** – Please complete the attached scope of work template. Other documents may be attached to the application in order to support the request for funding. These may include:

- Letters of support from other entities and letters of financial commitment
- Pertinent still photos
- Maps and reports from other similar or related projects