

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Jamie Prochno
Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: October 16, 2013

SUBJECT: **October 21, 2013 Special Board Meeting**
Agenda Item 14 – Community Assistance Program Overview

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

FEMA requires all states to demonstrate a commitment to floodplain management by designating a State agency responsible for coordination of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). FEMA also provides funding for this coordination through the Community Assistance Program – State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE). This program allocates technical assistance resources to assist communities enrolled in the NFIP, and includes an evaluation component for community performance in implementing NFIP floodplain management activities. The CWCB is the designated State agency for CAP-SSSE.

Since the September 2013 flood disaster, CWCB staff has worked with the Colorado Office of Emergency Management and FEMA to provide NFIP assistance and support. CWCB staff provides professional guidance and expertise to communities regarding floodplain regulations and permitting issues for emergency, temporary and permanent repairs and rebuilding within the floodplain. Staff has also assisted in coordinating damage assessments for flood-stricken buildings. Many homes and businesses have sustained substantial damage, which means that the cost to repair the structure is 50% or more than the pre-event market value of the structure. When a structure is substantially damaged, it must be brought into compliance with current floodplain regulations. CWCB is working with communities that request assistance with collecting the necessary data and training local officials in substantial damage determinations. Qualified teams have collected data and provided assessments in Weld County and Jamestown and are currently working in Boulder County and Lyons. Several community meetings are planned during the coming weeks, including Larimer County and Estes Park. CWCB will continue to help communities develop mitigation options for property owners who have incurred substantial damage.