

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Joe Busto
Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: October 17, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 16 October 21, 2013 Special Board Meeting
Disaster Assistance Center Participation**

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

James Eklund
CWCB Director

Staff Recommendation

This is an informational item and no Board action is required.

Background

CWCB staff assisted a large coalition of agencies in flood recovery and documentation since the September 2013 flood. Through participation in Disaster Assistance Centers, a number of stories about rescue and recovery from these floods are available. It is safe to say that it will be a long road ahead to repair and rebuild damaged infrastructure and to determine the best courses of action. But it is also important to recognize that the agencies and their personnel worked long and hard following the disaster, and the programs and processes did well assisting Colorado's citizens.

There are two types of disaster assistance centers (DACs) that can be implemented following a disaster - local centers for smaller disasters and joint (recovery) centers for large presidentially declared disasters. The extents of this disaster were quite large, and eight recovery centers were set up throughout the Front Range and adjacent areas. Staff will provide an overview of what the Disaster Assistance Centers were and where they were located, what services they provided, and the volume of people that were served. Staff attended DACs in Longmont, Boulder, and Estes Park.

A number of human stories emerged from these DACs. This item will briefly describe the programs and agencies that were present. However, it will focus on the services provided to the flood victims and the attitudes of the flood victims themselves. It is important to remember the human side of this disaster, and the tenacity and will of the survivors presents a compelling story of not just the victims, but the communities and our state as well.