

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

FROM: Kevin Houck, P.E., Chief
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DATE: October 16, 2013

SUBJECT: **October 21, 2013 Special Board Meeting**
Agenda Item 5 – Flood Implications for Water Supply Infrastructure

Staff Recommendation

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

Introduction and Discussion

The September flooding resulted in the most destructive flood event for water infrastructure ever experienced in the state of Colorado. While final numbers are still being tallied, millions of dollars of infrastructure was significantly damaged or destroyed during the event. This includes dams, headgates, canals, measurement devices, and other structures. Many of these structures survived numerous other flood events, but the intensity and extents of this event exceeded the resistance of this infrastructure.

In the wake of this flood, numerous factors increase the complexity of rebuilding these facilities. For example, assistance programs provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are able to provide assistance to public or non-profit owned infrastructure that make public deliveries, but are unable to assist agricultural interests.

Assistance programs through other agencies have different challenges. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has programs that can assist private owners, but they were furloughed during the recent government shutdown and are in need of a supplemental authorization to come up with funds to address more than a minor portion of unmet needs. Other sources of funding may include the Farm Services Agency, the Rural Development Authority, and the Small Business Administration.

Other technical challenges exist as well. Many streams relocated during this event due to severe erosion, and in some cases, it is difficult to draw water from these streams in their current alignment. This item will discuss temporary solutions to these problems as well as the need for holistic master planning at the watershed level to assure long-term resiliency.

