## STATE OF COLORADO

## **Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources**

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John W. Hickenlooper

**DNR Executive Director** 

Governor

Mike King

James Eklund CWCB Director

TO:

Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM:

Linda Bassi and Kaylea White

Stream and Lake Protection Section

DATE:

November 6, 2013

RE:

Agenda Item No. 15, November 19-20, 2013 Board Meeting--

Request for Authorization to Proceed to Trial

Case No. 1-11CW294, Application of Aggregate Industries – WCR, Inc.

This case is set for a five-day trial beginning on January 6, 2014. The parties are discussing settlement options and preparing for trial on a parallel track. Staff and the Attorney General's Office intend to discuss litigation strategy and settlement options with the Board in executive session.

## Recommendation

Pursuant to ISF Rule 8j., Staff recommends that the Board authorize Staff to proceed to trial to protect its instream flow water rights in the event that Staff and the Attorney General's Office are unable to reach a settlement with the Applicant.

## Background

In this case, Applicant seeks a change of water right from irrigation to commercial uses, an additional pace of storage, and two additional points of diversion. This application could result in an injury due to new upstream diversions of senior water rights and could result in an injurious expansion of use.

The CWCB filed a Statement of Opposition in February 2012 to protect its ISF water rights on Bear Creek.

