

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Kevin Houck, P.E. – Chief
Watershed Protection and Flood Mitigation Section
Taryn Finnessey - Drought & Climate Change Tech. Specialist
Water Supply Planning Section

DATE: November 8, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 28c, November 19-20, 2013 Board Meeting**
Finance – Construction Fund Non-Reimbursable Investment - Referred
Flood and Drought Response Fund

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

James Eklund
CWCB Director

Introduction

Staff is requesting from the CWCB Non-Reimbursable Investment Program an appropriation of up to \$500,000 for the restoration of the Flood and Drought Response Fund (Fund) cash balance; this includes an increase from \$300,000 to \$500,000. The Flood Response Program was originally authorized in 2001 for \$150,000, which was then increased to \$300,000 in 2007, due to the increased services needed under the program. The Fund was originally created to give the CWCB an ability to quickly respond to events and have program funds in the areas of: 1) flood documentation, 2) flood forecasting and outlooks, 3) post-event floodplain mapping, 4) aerial photography, and 5) flood mitigation. With the addition of drought response to this fund in 2012, activities now also include many of the above listed items expanded for drought, as well as addressing the increasing threat of wildfires and post-wildfire activities. With this expanded scope of work and timeliness of both flood and drought responses that are necessary, funding should be increased to \$500,000.

Use of this fund to address both flood and drought increases the efficiency and effectiveness of the CWCB to adequately respond to natural hazards affecting Colorado while also recognizing the current fiscal constraints by utilizing existing resources. We anticipate that there will be years, like 2013, when both flood conditions and drought conditions exist during the same water year and/or during the same fiscal year. In those situations, Staff have, and will continue, to prioritize expenditures to utilize the funds efficiently while safeguarding Colorado at the same time.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve this request for the General Assembly to authorize this project and appropriate up to \$500,000 from the Construction Fund to the Department of Natural Resources for allocation to CWCB in order to restore the unencumbered balance to \$500,000 in the Flood and Drought Response Fund for technical activities related to flood and drought response.

Interstate Compact Compliance • Watershed Protection • Flood Planning & Mitigation • Stream & Lake Protection
Water Project Loans & Grants • Water Modeling • Conservation & Drought Planning • Water Supply Planning

**CWCB Water Project Non-Reimbursable Investment Program
Project Data Sheet**

Sponsor: Colorado Water Conservation Board	Location: Statewide
Project Name: Colorado Flood and Drought Response Fund	Project Type: Flood and Drought Mitigation and Response Activities
Drainage Basin: All Colorado River Basins	Water Source: Various
Total Project Cost: \$500,000	Funding Source: Construction Fund
CWCB NRI: \$500,000 (up to)	Type of Grantee: State Agency – Impacted Water Users

A \$150,000 Flood Response Program was authorized in the 2001 Construction Fund Bill (SB 01-157) and enacted by the Colorado General Assembly. This amount was increased in the 2007 Construction Fund Bill (SB 07-122) to \$300,000 to reflect the additional cost of performing existing program functions and the addition of valuable services under the program. This amount is proposed to increase to \$500,000 in FY14. This increased amount reflects activities associated with Drought Response (the amount was not previously increased when the Fund annexed drought responsibilities) and to address the increasing threat of wildfires and post-wildfire activities. The Flood Response Fund (Fund) was originally created to give the CWCB an ability to quickly respond to events and have program funds in the areas of: 1) flood documentation, 2) flood forecasting and outlooks, 3) post-event floodplain mapping, 4) aerial photography, and 5) flood mitigation. The FY 2012/13 request included an expanded scope involving drought response activities, and this year's request also includes this expanded scope.

The current request is to refresh the account up to \$500,000 for FY 2014/15 for flood and drought response purposes, including post-wildfire activities. Use of this fund to address both flood and drought increases the efficiency and effectiveness of the CWCB to adequately respond to natural hazards affecting Colorado while also recognizing the current fiscal constraints by utilizing existing resources. Staff clearly recognizes that there will be years in the future when both flood conditions and drought conditions exist during the same water year and/or during the same fiscal year. In those situations, the Fund could be stressed by needs from the two extreme conditions, and Staff will prioritize expenditures.