



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 and Flood Protection Section

DATE: March 4, 2015

AGENDA ITEM #19: Flood Affected Watersheds Hydrology Reevaluation Update

Background:

CWCB staff continues to partner with CDOT on a CDOT-funded project to reevaluate the flood hydrology of seven of the watersheds affected by the 2013 flood. These watersheds include Coal Creek, Boulder Creek, Lefthand Creek, St. Vrain Creek, the Little Thompson River, the Big Thompson River, and the South Platte River. Hydrology is being reevaluated throughout the watershed canyons and the plains to their confluence with the South Platte River. The South Platte River will be analyzed from the confluence with the St. Vrain River to the Nebraska State Line.

Phase I of the study focused on the canyon environments and was completed in August 2014. Final reports are posted on the CWCB website at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/flood/Pages/2013FloodResponse.aspx>

Phase II of the study is ongoing and focuses on the plains environments to the confluences with the South Platte. Preliminary results are available for all watersheds, and draft reports are being internally reviewed as of the date of this memorandum. Community outreach will take place and affected communities will have the opportunity to review the reports and models and provide feedback that will be addressed prior to issuance of final reports.

It is the intent of staff that any watersheds that produce higher peak flowrates than those currently being regulated to will have this new flood hydrology incorporated into new floodplain maps when they are produced. For watersheds in which this analysis produces lower flowrates, a dialogue will take place with the local governments to determine how to address this new information with any mapping updates.

Preliminary results of the hydrology evaluations will be presented to the board. In addition, impacts to floodplain regulations and flood insurance will be discussed.

Staff recommendation:

This is an informational item and no board action is requested.

