



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

P (303) 866-3441

F (303) 866-4474

John Hickenlooper, Governor

Mike King, DNR Executive Director

James Eklund, CWCB Director

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Kevin Houck, P.E., Chief
Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: September 1, 2015

AGENDA ITEM #14: 2-Year Update on the September 2013 Flood

Background:

The costliest natural disaster in Colorado state history involved a devastating flood that occurred in September 2013, which resulted in a disaster declaration involving 18 counties throughout the state. The total damage for the event is estimated at \$3.5 million and ten lives were lost. Recovery from the flood continues to this day, and in fact, recovery in activities led by CWCB staff continue to increase.

A comprehensive presentation will be provided to the board indicating progress on the recovery, where the State currently stands with various programs, and an update on activities involving CWCB staff participation. The following subjects will be among those discussed:

- Context of flood relative to other Colorado flood disasters
- Flood-related loans and grants to affected constituents
- Formation and ongoing status of watershed coalitions
- Update on SB-179 flood recovery grants
- Update on the Colorado Resiliency Initiative
- Technical assistance to other departments for grant programs administered by others
- Update on Emergency Watershed Program
- Coordination with CDOT
- Update on SB-245 Hazard Mapping Program

In the midst of these recovery activities, a new presidential disaster was declared for flooding that affected 15 Colorado counties during the months of May and June 2015. Generally, the flooding was not as severe as the 2013 flood, but high streamflows existed for an extended duration, primarily due to the record wet May followed by numerous stormy activity that lingered into June. Some of the same counties affected by the 2013 flood were also declared in 2015. A brief overview of the 2015 situation will also be provided.

Staff recommendation:

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

