

# STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

August 26, 2015

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

The Drought Task Force (DTF), comprised of the Executive Directors, or their designees, for the Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Local Affairs, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is formally requesting that you accept the recommendations below to deactivate the State's Drought Mitigation and Response Plan and deactivate the Agricultural Impact Task Force.

Over the last few months the DTF has closely monitored the current drought conditions around the State, and the resulting water supply availability to all sectors of business. Current drought conditions have improved over much of the state during recent months and are summarized below:

- Based on the data and information provided to the WATF by the State Climatologist, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the National Weather Service, and other experts, drought conditions that have afflicted Colorado have been alleviated across most of the state.
- Reservoir levels are at 117% of average statewide, and 79% of capacity
- 2% of the state is classified as abnormally dry according to the US Drought Monitor; none is classified as in "drought."
- Major water providers are reporting full systems and no concerns, some are reporting record levels of storage.
- The Climate Prediction Center at NOAA is forecasting above average probability for precipitation in both their one month and three month outlooks.

Based on this data and information, the DTF is recommending deactivation of the State's Drought Mitigation and Response Plan. These recommendations are in line with the State Drought Mitigation and Response Plan.

***Therefore, we formally request that you accept the recommendations of the DTF and deactivate the State's Drought Mitigation and Response Plan and the Agricultural Impact Task Force.***

As a result of these recommendations, the following actions will be implemented in accordance with the State Drought Plan:

- The Drought Task Force and the Agricultural Impact Task Force will cease meeting and cease active drought response activities.

Should you or your staff require any additional information or have questions, please contact Taryn Finnessey, Climate Change Risk Management Specialist and Co-Chair of the Water Availability Task Force, in the CWCB's Office of Water Conservation & Drought Planning at 303-868-5302 or at [Taryn.Finnessey@state.co.us](mailto:Taryn.Finnessey@state.co.us)

Thank you,

Sincerely,



Mike King  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources



Don Brown  
Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture



Irv Halter  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Local Affairs