



**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 &  
Flood Mitigation Section  
Taryn Finnessey, Climate Risk Mngmt. Specialist,  
Water Supply Planning Section

**DATE:** November 18-19, 2015 Board Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM:** 18a. Non-Reimbursable Project Investments "En-Bloc" approval  
Flood and Drought Response Fund - Refresh

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### Introduction

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. In FY 2013 the scope of the fund was expanded to include drought response activities, which continue to be included. The original expansion of the scope did not include any increase in funds; however in fiscal year 2014 the fund was increased to \$500,000 to reflect activities associated with Drought Response and to address the increasing threat of wildfires and post-wildfire activities. The Flood and Drought Response Fund (Fund) exists to give the CWCB an ability to quickly respond to events and have program funds in the areas of: 1) flood & drought documentation, 2) flood & drought forecasting and outlooks, 3) post-event floodplain mapping, 4) aerial photography, and 5) flood & drought mitigation.

The current request is to refresh the account up to \$500,000 for FY 2016/17 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 year, as was the case in 2013. In those situations, the Fund could be stressed by needs from the two extreme conditions, and Staff will prioritize expenditures.

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board request the General Assembly to authorize from the Construction Fund up to \$500,000 to the Flood and Drought Response Fund to refresh the unencumbered balance up to \$500,000 for technical activities related to flood and drought response.



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P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$500,000 annually
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	\$500,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Construction Fund
<i>Project Type:</i>	Program Funds
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	State Government

  

L O C A T I O N	
<i>Benefits:</i>	Statewide
<i>Water Source:</i>	N/A
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	All Basins