



**COLORADO**  
**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**  
Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Ted Kowalski, Chief, Interstate, Federal, and  
Water Information Section

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

**AGENDA ITEM:** 19c. Non-Reimbursable Project Investments  
Bear Creek Reallocation of Storage Study

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### Introduction

Under the authority of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 1998 ("this Act" or "the Act"), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("ACOE") is authorized to investigate reallocation of storage space at existing reservoirs within the United States. Recently, under the authority of this Act, the ACOE conducted an internal reconnaissance study to determine if reallocation of Bear Creek Reservoir may be feasible and preferable. In order to determine feasibility, the Act requires a 50% cost share between the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and a local sponsor. The ACOE has inquired as to whether the CWCB would be willing to be the local sponsor for a feasibility study associated with the reallocation of storage space at Bear Creek Reservoir. The CWCB, as the local sponsor, would be responsible for 50% of the implementation costs associated with such a study. Any reallocation would occur under the authority of the 1958 Water Supply Act.

The use of this existing storage space would provide a statewide benefit. While the water storage space would be used to meet future water needs within the South Platte River basin, this would reduce pressure on the need to develop supplies from the Colorado River basin. In addition, this would reduce pressure on the acquisition of agricultural lands to meet future water needs ("buy and dry"). The Staff recognizes that there may be a number of concerns and issues that would have to be addressed; however, the possibility of using existing storage to meet future water supply/water demand imbalances is too important to ignore without further study.

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board request the General Assembly to authorize up to \$2,500,000 from the Severance Tax Perpetual Base Fund to be appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources for allocation to the CWCB for the Bear Creek Reallocation of Storage Study.



## Bear Creek Reallocation of Storage Study

Colorado Water Conservation Board

November 2015 Board Meeting

Under the authority of the Energy and water Development Appropriations Act of 1998, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to investigate reallocation of storage space at existing reservoirs within the United States. This act requires a 50% cost share between the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and a local sponsor. The CWCB as the "local sponsor" would be responsible for 50% of the implementation costs associate with such a study. Any reallocation would occur under the authority of the 1958 Water Supply Act.

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$5,000,000
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	\$2,500,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Severance Tax PBF
<i>Project Type:</i>	Storage Study
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	State Government

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

The use of this existing storage space would provide a statewide benefit. While the water storage space would be used to meet future municipal and industrial needs within the South Platte River basin, this would reduce pressure on the need to develop supplies from the Colorado River basin. In addition, this would reduce pressure on the acquisition of agricultural lands to meet future water needs ("buy and dry").