



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

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Michelle Garrison, Interstate, Federal, and  
Water Information Section

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

**AGENDA ITEM:** 19d. Non-Reimbursable Investment Request  
Windy Gap Bypass

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### Introduction

Windy Gap Reservoir, located in Grand County, allows water providers in Northeastern Colorado to capture inflow from the Colorado River and pump it upstream to Granby Reservoir for storage and delivery through the Colorado Big Thompson Project system. Yield from the Windy Gap Project is sometimes limited by lack of storage space in Granby Reservoir. Proponents of the Windy Gap Firing Project seek to increase the yield of Windy Gap by constructing Chimney Hollow Reservoir on the East Slope to provide additional storage.

In 2012 Grand County's commission approved a 1041 permit for the Windy Gap Firing Project, along with several related agreements. The Windy Gap Firing Project Bypass Agreement is intended to provide environmental benefits to Windy Gap Reservoir and the stream below by restoring fish passage and reducing temperature and sediment issues.

SB13-181 authorized up to \$2,000,000 from the CWCB Construction Fund "for the board to participate in the planning, design, and construction of the Windy Gap reservoir bypass channel project." The CWCB funds are to be provided to Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD), which also authorized \$2,000,000 in funding for the project. Cost for construction is currently estimated at \$9.6 million.

Planning and design work recently commenced. Total cost for engineering and design is estimated at \$1.2 million. Project proponents seek \$200,000 from the CWCB for engineering and design work. Funding has also been secured from Grand County, the Upper Colorado River Alliance, the Colorado River Water Conservation District, and the Gates Family Foundation. Funding may also be provided by NCWCD after it receives all remaining necessary permits.

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board request the General Assembly to authorize up to \$200,000 from the Construction Fund to be appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources for allocation to the CWCB for engineering and design of the Windy Gap Bypass Project.

In addition, staff recommends increasing the 'sunset date' on the \$2 million awarded in SB13-181 to Northern Colorado Water Conservancy and amended by HB14-1333. The new sunset date will be July 1, 2018.



Windy Gap Reservoir is located several miles downstream of Granby Reservoir in Grand County. Constructed in 1981 - 1985, the Windy Gap Project allows water providers in Northeastern Colorado to capture inflow from the Colorado River and pump it upstream to Granby Reservoir for storage and delivery through the Colorado Big Thompson Project system. Yield from the Windy Gap Project is sometimes limited by lack of storage space in Granby Reservoir. Proponents of the Windy Gap Firming Project seek to increase the yield of Windy Gap by constructing Chimney Hollow Reservoir on the East Slope to provide additional storage.

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$1,200,000
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	\$200,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Construction Fund
<i>Project Type:</i>	River Restoration
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	Water Conservancy Dist.

L O C A T I O N	
<i>Benefits:</i>	Grand County
<i>Water Source:</i>	Colorado River
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	Upper Colorado River

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