



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Tom Browning, P.E., Deputy Director, IWR
Tim Feehan, P.E., Deputy Director, RM

DATE: January 25-26, 2016 Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 20c. CWCB 2016 Projects Bill
Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI)

Introduction

An update to the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) document has been contemplated for quite some time, and is integral to the overall water planning process outlined in Chapter 11 of Colorado's Water Plan. Consultant selection for the SWSI update team has taken place, and a rough project management outline has been established. While available funding is sufficient to keep SWSI work moving forward through the end of this year, additional funds will be needed for the anticipated tasks. A project overview, status report, and financial snapshot will be provided as part of the staff presentation.

Background

Following the drought of 2002, the Colorado legislature authorized the CWCB to move forward with an in-depth technical study of Colorado's future water supplies and demands. The first SWSI report was approved by the Board in 2004. The SWSI evolution continued with SWSI 2, which included the work of four technical "roundtables" to explore needs identified in SWSI, as well as select potential solutions in more depth. During this same timeframe, the "Water for the 21st Century Act" created nine basin roundtables within the state, providing a grass-roots forum for discussion on water issues. The Act also created the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC).

During the mid to late 2000s, the basin roundtables were charged with developing a closer understanding of needs at the basin level, developing needs assessments, and proposing projects and methods by which to meet the enumerated needs. These needs assessments and the ongoing progress at the IBCC level were the basis of SWSI 2010, with input from the basin level. The SWSI 2010 work included updated local assessments as well as an analysis of environmental and recreational needs. It also included water availability analyses, refinement of projects and methods, and baseline costs for implementation measures.

More recently, Executive Order D 2013-005, issued by Governor Hickenlooper, directed the CWCB to commence work on Colorado's Water Plan. The Plan was delivered to the Governor ahead of schedule on November 19, 2015. The next update of SWSI will continue to serve as the technical platform for statewide planning, which will work in harmony with future updates of the Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado's Water Plan. Information about the Scope of Work for SWSI can be found on the CWCB's website at www.cwcb.state.co.us. Key updates will also be posted by staff as the process moves forward.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board request the General Assembly to authorize up to \$1,000,000 from the Severance Tax Perpetual Base Fund to be appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources for allocation to the CWCB for the Statewide Water Supply Initiative.

