



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Jamie Prochno
Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: January 26, 2016

AGENDA ITEM: Agenda Item 22 - Floodplain Rules and Regulations Update

Background: The State of Colorado, through CWCB action in November 2010, adopted increased standards for floodplain management, which are contained in the Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado (Rules), effective January 14, 2011. Communities were provided with a three-year transition period to adopt local regulations consistent with the Rules. Through sound floodplain management practices, these standards support enhanced public health, safety and welfare and will help communities reduce future flood risk to people and property.

CWCB staff has been providing assistance and conducting public outreach as part of our Community Assistance Program. A letter was sent to every Floodplain Administrator in September 2012 and another to all Chief Elected Officials (local governments) in January 2013 explaining benefits, requirements, and consequences for non-compliance related to this topic. Staff is also aware of a previous letter sent by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VIII to communities in support of the Rules. Staff has been working very collaboratively with communities to assist them with technical questions, model ordinance templates, and transition support. In the last year, CWCB staff has contacted each community that has not yet provided documentation of adoption of the Rules via phone or email to offer assistance. Staff has also met with several communities to answer questions and review the process for updating floodplain regulations. Many communities that had not completed the update had new staff members who were not aware of the need for their community to take action on the Rules. Most communities have made adopting the Rules into local floodplain regulations a priority. However, several communities have not completed the adoption or provided documentation to CWCB. In accordance with the procedure outlined in Rule 16, staff will send notices of non-compliance to those communities and copy FEMA Region VIII staff. Staff will continue to provide outreach and technical assistance to communities.

Staff will provide the board with an update regarding implementation status, progress towards statewide adoption, and the next steps.

Staff recommendation: This is an informational item and staff is not requesting board action.

