



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

P (303) 866-3441
F (303) 866-4474

John Hickenlooper, Governor

Robert Randall, DNR Interim Executive Director

James Eklund, CWCB Director

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Ted Kowalski; Chief Interstate, Federal & Water Information Section
Steve Miller; Interstate, Federal & Water Information Section

DATE: March 16 -17, 2016 Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 19. SB-195 South Platte Phreatophyte Study, Interim Report to General Assembly

Background: SB 14-195, signed by Governor Hickenlooper on June 6, 2014, directs the Board to: *“conduct at least the preliminary stages of a comprehensive study to evaluate the growth and identification of phreatophytes along the South Platte River in the aftermath of the September 2013 flood”*. Additionally, the bill requires that: *“the Board shall prepare a progress report and present it to a joint meeting of the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy, or their successor committees, during the second regular session of the Seventieth General Assembly in 2016”*. Staff has prepared a draft of the requisite progress report and presents it for Board review and comment prior to delivery to the relevant committees of the General Assembly. A copy of the full text of SB195 is included in the progress report.

Discussion: The progress report describes the following aspects of the study:

- Outline of SB 14-195 objectives
- Development of the study scope of work and budget
- Summary of meetings and timeline
- Consultant agreements
- Summary of accomplishments by consultant task
- Schedule for completion by December 31, 2016
- Additional considerations

To date the field inventory work has been completed and preliminary GIS products for the pre-flood condition have been developed. New mapping from 2015 of the post flood condition is being processed. From these products a model will be developed and calibrated to estimate current and pre-flood density of all phreatophytes in the S. Platte Basin from the Ft. Lupton area to the Nebraska Stateline. The draft report is currently undergoing internal staff review and will be provided to the Board during the week of March 7.

Staff recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board review the draft report, provide comments and suggestions for finalizing the progress report, and approve the process for presentation to the General Assembly.

