



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Thuy Patton, Floodplain Mapping Coordinator
Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: March 10, 2017

AGENDA ITEM #8: Colorado Hazard Mapping Coordination

Background:

Colorado has taken significant steps toward supporting local communities to become more resilient with the creation of a new State Hazard Mapping Program, which aims to provide more accurate representations of natural hazard risks. Shortly after the September 2013 flood disaster, the newly created Colorado Recovery Office helped the State of Colorado pass Senate Bill 15-245. This Bill created the Colorado Hazard Mapping Program (CHAMP) and set up a funding source to map natural hazards in areas most likely to be affected by future flooding, erosion, and debris flow events. This a 3-year program, with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) as the lead agency coordinating these updates.

With competing data needs and various requirements to meet, CHAMP partnerships become vital to the success of this program. In order to foster relationships between federal, state, and local governments and coalitions, ongoing collaboration and communication is necessary throughout the life of the program. This helps to ensure efficiencies are achieved across agencies whenever possible while providing updated flood risk data to local communities that meet FEMA guides and standards. Local communities can utilize this information to increase their flood risk awareness and rebuild smartly .

There are many instances of how the CWCB has collaborated across different levels of government and various programs that are assisting local communities continue to recover and rebuild in order to be more resilient from future flood risk. Specific examples of this collaboration for CHAMP are provided and can be used as case studies for best practice measures.

Staff recommendation:

This is an informational item and no board action is requested.

