



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 Protection & Flood Mitigation Section

DATE: November 15-16, 2017 Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 13. Colorado Lidar Plan & Flood Mapping Program Updates

Introduction

Colorado has received almost \$18 million in federal grant dollars for floodplain mapping related activities since 2003 as part of the FEMA Map Modernization/Risk Map programs. The FEMA funds are being matched by CWCB and local cost-share dollars to implement the map update work that includes engineering and GIS to create updated countywide floodplain maps. In addition, the Colorado Hazard Mapping Program (CHAMP) is in its third and final year. CHAMP was created under Senate Bill 15-245, which set up a funding source to map natural hazards in areas most likely to be affected by future flooding, erosion hazards, and debris flow events. The combined mapping programs impact nearly every county in the State.

Growing interest in acquiring “Light detection and ranging,” or Lidar data in Colorado and across the country in recent years led to the Statewide Colorado Lidar Plan, which was finalized in September 2015. This is a five to seven-year plan to obtain high quality Lidar for the entire State of Colorado. Detailed data measuring the elevation of the ground is critical for multiple uses, including modeling flood-prone areas, estimating potential runoff in urbanized/rural or burn scar areas, and identifying potential geological hazards such as landslide areas. The CWCB was awarded \$3.4 million from FEMA in 2016 to acquire Lidar data in priority areas in the State. With assistance from the Colorado Geological Survey (CGS) and the Colorado Office of Information Technology, a significant amount of progress has been made to achieve the goals presented in the CO Lidar Plan.

Staff Recommendation

This is an informational item only and staff is not seeking Board action. A presentation by staff will provide a summary on the Lidar and floodplain mapping updates.

