



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Kevin Houck, P.E., Chief
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Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: October 30, 2017

AGENDA ITEM: Agenda Item 22, South Platte River Run Project Update

Background: The CWCB is a landowner of four miles of river along the South Platte just downstream of Chatfield from Mineral Avenue to Hampden Avenue. In addition to maintaining this as a state/federal flood control project, the CWCB has been a member of the South Platte Working Group (SPWG) since 2007. The SPWG includes elected officials representing Arapahoe County Open Space & Trails Advisory Board, South Metro Land Conservancy, Littleton, Englewood, Sheridan, Columbine Valley, and South Suburban Parks and Recreation. Urban Drainage and Flood Control serves a key role in the design and construction of river projects through this reach.

In many ways, the South Platte Working Group's challenges and successes reflect what can be seen in Colorado's Water Plan. Win-win multi-objective water projects work best, and this reach is no exception. The goals of SPWG are to enhance the corridor as a recreational resource, to restore and revitalize the river and its habitat while maintaining flood conveyance, to improve opportunities for education and river health, and to connect communities to the river through more consistent land use, economic development, and coordinated policies. For example, the SPWG recently agreed to purchase 50 AF of the environmental pool at Chatfield Reservoir. Adding water supply, enhancing recreation, maintaining flood conveyance, and restoring miles of river reaches have all been completed.

Recently completed was Denver's first "tuneable" free standing, four foot river surfing wave that includes a river park with an amphitheater. Designers of this feature were also involved with Confluence Park, where Cherry Creek meets the South Platte River. Now Confluence Park is home to REI and the Denver Aquarium with new urban housing and shopping. In contrast, the northernmost part of Confluence Park was once a train storage yard. At the board meeting, staff from the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District will present the completed project at River Run, in-construction updates, and future plans to the Board.

Summary

This is an informational item with no board action requested.

