



**COLORADO**  
Colorado Water  
Conservation Board  
Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Erik Skeie, Program Associate  
Interstate, Federal & Water Information Section

**DATE:** January 22-23, 2018 Board Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM:** 7a. 2018 Projects Bill  
Non-Reimbursable Project Investments  
Damaging High Groundwater Response Grants in the South Platte Basin -  
Continuation

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**Staff recommendation:** Staff recommends the Board request the General Assembly appropriate \$150,000 from the Construction Fund to the Department of Natural Resources for use by the CWCB to implement the Damaging High Groundwater Response Grants in the South Platte Basin.

**Background:** Due to a combination of natural geology and hydrology, average to above-average precipitation, increased recharge for augmentation purposes, and decreased groundwater pumping, high groundwater is causing damage to private and public property and agricultural land in the South Platte River Basin. HB 15-1178 provided the CWCB with \$580,000 for emergency dewatering in the Gilcrest/La Salle and Sterling Areas.

These funds were used for a dewatering study in the town of Gilcrest, installation of two dewatering systems, and implementation of two years of a pilot program to lower the water table.

Section 10 of HB17-1248 provides funds for grants for projects in response to damaging high groundwater levels in areas of the South Platte River Basin for the construction, maintenance, and monitoring of dewatering infrastructure. So far, these funds have been used for installation of a dewatering well (one of the aforementioned study's recommendations) in Gilcrest, and the installation of a passive dewatering system in Fort Morgan.

This request would allocate up to \$150,000 for further implementation of this grant program. These funds will be awarded based on the Criteria and Guidelines approved at the July 2017 CWCB Board Meeting.

