



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

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

DATE: January 29-30, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 10b. Floodplain Risk Management - NRI Funding Increase

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approval of a ***one-time increase*** in allocation from a refresh of \$500,000 to a refresh of \$1,000,000 for the FY24 Non-Reimbursible Project Investment (NRI) as part of the 2024 Projects Bill, to allow continued assistance with the preparation of revised and improved floodplain studies and maps for communities throughout Colorado and to participate in federally sponsored floodplain Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) activities.

Background

CWCB routinely partners with FEMA on projects to perform the map update work that includes engineering and GIS to create updated countywide floodplain maps and flood risk information. Each year, allocated NRI funds are leveraged to supplement the extensive FEMA Cooperating Technical Partner grant funding for these large-scale efforts. FEMA Grant applications and subsequent funding are based on CWCB staff's best estimate of the project costs. There are often unanticipated issues that arise and need to be addressed to enable the projects to move forward.

Discussion

Within the next year, staff anticipate completing several of the legacy Colorado Hazard Mapping Program (CHAMP) flood hazard mapping updates as well as some Risk MAP studies. While most costs will be covered with federal funding, some of these projects will need additional funding to ensure the resulting products meet the applicable Guidelines and Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Activities Under the Risk MAP Program. CWCB also wants to provide quality community support for corresponding outreach and risk communication.

If the additional one-time funding increase is not fully expended, the floodplain mapping staff will either not apply for or reduce NRI funding requested for state fiscal year 2026.

