



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 and Flood Mitigation Section

DATE: September 19, 2018

ITEM: Agenda Item 9, LiDAR Plan Update

Introduction & Discussion:

Since 2016, Colorado has received approximately \$5.6 million in federal grant dollars for elevation data acquisition activities to support the Floodplain Map Modernization/Risk Map Program just in Colorado. High quality topographic data is necessary to develop accurate FEMA flood hazard mapping. This data is also is valuable for many other uses and disciplines as well, such as for agricultural uses, forestry management, estimating potential runoff in urbanized/rural or burn scar areas, and identifying potential geological hazards such as landslide areas and fluvial hazard zones.

There has been a growing interest in acquiring “Light detection and ranging,” or Lidar, data in Colorado and across the country in recent years. After the September 2013 flood, many local, state, and federal agencies came together to discuss Lidar priority needs. This 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. The CWCB has been leading efforts in acquiring Lidar data and coordinating with local communities across the state. FEMA and the USGS have been dedicated partners with Colorado along the way. A significant amount of progress has been achieved in the past few years in this endeavor and staff will be presenting an overview of the status of Lidar Plan and acquisitions.

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 plan and updates.

