



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Anna Mauss, P.E., Chief Operating Officer
Lauren Ris, Deputy Director

DATE: July 21-22, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 15. Budget Update

Background (This item is for information only and no action is necessary):

This agenda item is to provide the Board information on the budget impacts of bills passed in the 2021 legislative session.

Projects Bill ([SB21-189](#)): The bill included all of the CWCB's recommendations: \$100,000 for satellite monitoring, \$500,000 for the floodplain map modernization program, \$350,000 for the weather modification permitting program, \$300,000 for the technical assistance for federal cost-share grant program, up to \$2 million for the litigation fund, and \$3 million for the Rio Grande Restoration Foundation to help the San Luis valley confined aquifer project. The legislature amended the bill to include reinstating \$150,000 annually for Water Education Colorado. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 24, 2021.

General Fund Transfer Implement State Water Plan ([HB21-1260](#)): This bill provides \$20 million in state stimulus funding (including \$15 million for the Water Plan Implementation Grant Program and \$5 million for the Water Supply Reserve Fund). The Board is required to award all of the funding by July 1, 2023. The bill also included the change in statute that allows the Board flexibility to change the match criteria in the Water Plan Grant Program. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 28, 2021.

Transfers For Wildfire Mitigation and Response ([SB21-054](#)): This bill provides \$4 million in state stimulus funding for the Watershed Restoration Grant Program to support post-2020 fire recovery and mitigation efforts. Funding became available in fiscal year 2020-21 and must be spent by June 30, 2022. The bill was signed by the Governor on March 21, 2021.

Watershed Restoration Grant Program Stimulus ([HB21-240](#)): This bill provides \$30 million in state stimulus funding for the Watershed Restoration Grant Program to be used for wildfire recovery purposes. The Board is required to award at least \$10 million dollars by July 1, 2022 and the remainder of the funding by December 31, 2022. \$500,000 will go towards a statewide analysis to evaluate the susceptibility of watersheds to the impact of wildfires. The remainder will go towards grants through the Watershed Restoration Grant Program. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 15, 2021.



Severance Tax Trust Fund Allocation ([SB21-281](#)): This bill moved funding for the Water Supply Reserve Fund, Interbasin Compact Committee, and Water Efficiency Grant Program from severance tax supported grant programs (formerly Tier 2) to the Perpetual Base Fund. Staff will discuss Perpetual Base Fund appropriations with the Board at the September finance committee meeting. The bill also moved the Species Conservation Trust Fund (SCTF) into the core programs of the Operational Fund. All SCTF statutes still apply and spending from the fund will require an appropriation, therefore no additional funding for SCTF was made available for this fiscal year.

