

# COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Department of Natural Resources

Bill Owens, Governor

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## STATE DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS

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### Background

State emergency response to a forecasted drought is detailed in the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan (last updated April 2002). The purpose of Colorado's plan is to provide a systematic means for the state to reduce the impacts of water shortages.

The plan consists of four components: monitoring, assessment, mitigation, and response. These four actions are designed to work within the existing framework of government, pulling together key personnel from federal and state levels.

### Response Plan Phases

The Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan has three phases depending on the severity of the drought – indicated by the standardized precipitation index, surface water supply index, and the Palmer drought index.

**Phase One:** Water Availability Task Force monitor drought conditions

**Phase Two:** Impact Task Forces assess the drought impacts by category (agricultural, wildlife, tourism, etc.) and geographic area and reports to the Review and Reporting Task Force

**Phase Three:** Interagency Coordination Group reviews and makes recommendations - mitigation measures and emergency response to the Governor

### Roles

Government at various levels has roles in the planning and management of drought. The roles that each entity fulfills during a period prior to and during a drought are identified in the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan. Details appear on the reverse side.

#### Federal

- Provide technical assistance, as needed
- Collect and distribute data, as needed
- Provide financial assistance, when possible

#### State

- Designate Drought Coordinator
- Provide resources to Drought Task Forces
- Monitor precipitation, temperature, reservoir storage, snowpack and streamflow
- Provide technical assistance to local entities
- Coordinate activation and implementation of the Plan
- Distribute information to the public and the media
- Determine impacts and develop response strategies
- Implement response strategies with local and federal entities
- Broker regional and federal resources, when appropriate

#### Local (e.g., City, County, Water Supplier, etc.)

- Designate Drought Coordinator
- Identify areas of concern and report findings through emergency management channels and appropriate state agencies

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**For more information about this or other water resources topics you can contact the CWCB at:**

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## Agency Responsibilities

The following agencies either have responsibilities related to drought monitoring, assessment, mitigation and/or response.

**Executive Branch** – Directs and coordinates interdepartmental activities and actions; Activates the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan; Coordinates and, where appropriate, supports federal response and support efforts.

Responsibility  Agency	Specialization	Track Water Shortage Impacts	Improve Water Availability Monitoring	Increase Public Awareness and Education	Augment Water Supply	Facilitate Watershed and Local Planning	Reduce Water Demand/ Encourage Conservation	Support Programs to Reduce Impact	Provide Technical Support
Department of Agriculture	Support to Agriculture and Agribusiness	💧		💧		💧	💧	💧	💧
Department of Local Affairs	Support to Municipal Water Systems	💧		💧	💧	💧	💧		💧
Department of Military Affairs	Resources Support								💧
Department of Natural Resources	Wildlife, Water Administration, Drought and Water Planning	💧	💧	💧	💧	💧	💧	💧	💧
Department of Public Health and Environment	Public Health and Water Quality	💧		💧					💧
Office of Economic Development and International Trade	Tourism	💧		💧					💧
Office of Emergency Management	Life Threatening Situations and Federal Disasters	💧	💧	💧		💧			💧
Office of Energy Management and Conservation	Energy	💧		💧					💧
Office of State Planning/ Budget	Economic Impacts	💧		💧					
State Forest Service	Wildfires	💧		💧					💧