



February 19, 2013

Dear Colorado Water Provider,

The last 24 months have brought warm temperatures and below average precipitation for much of the state, resulting in a multitude of drought related impacts and a decline in reservoir storage. Unfortunately, throughout much of Colorado dry conditions are forecast to persist into the spring and possibly the summer months. While we hope that the forecast is wrong and the coming months prove to be filled with moisture, the time to prepare for drought is upon us.

Since 2011, when the State's Drought Mitigation and Response Plan was first activated by Governor Hickenlooper, the CWCB has been working closely with the agricultural and tourism sectors to provide assistance however possible. Yet with reservoir storage at 69% of average statewide and below 50% for many providers, it is likely that many municipal providers will begin to see increased impacts and may need to implement their own response actions this spring and summer.

To support this effort the state has built a website www.coloradodrought.com (it is not yet live) that will include a search feature where individuals can find out how their specific providers are responding to the drought. The site will not attempt to reproduce your drought messaging but rather act as a landing page where individuals or businesses can search, by zip code, and then be redirected to the specific drought response page for their water provider.

Our hope is that having a central landing page that media can relay to the public will help to provide more accurate information and reduce the confusion experienced in 2002 when only the restriction and messaging of the largest providers were reported. Many water providers have already agreed to participate, but we want to offer this unique and beneficial service to all water providers throughout the state, regardless of size.

Our intent is to launch the site by mid-March to correspond with the timeframe when some utilities have decided to announce restrictions (both voluntary and mandatory). At that time we will also reach out to the media to announce the www.coloradodrought.com site. While the more providers that participate, the more useful this service will be, we recognize that some providers may not make decisions on drought response until a later date. We will be happy to add new participants at any time.

To opt in to this service all we need is a little bit of information from you. Once we get this we can incorporate your community into the system, and help with any media outreach that you may need. I have summarized below the information that we need for you to be included in the system. Data may be emailed to me in a simple excel spreadsheet. Should you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

- **Provider name**
- **Zip codes serviced**
- **Cities serviced**
- **Counties serviced**
- **The specific URL where 2013 drought information can be found for your specific utility**

Respectfully,

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