

Honorable Senator James Isgar, Chair
Senate Agricultural & Natural Resources Committee
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax
Denver, CO 80203



April 21, 2009

Re: HB 09-1017 Water Efficiency Grant Program Fund Amendments

Dear Senator Isgar:

We are writing to express our support for HB 09-1017 regarding the Water Efficiency Grant Program Fund (WEGF) overseen by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The grant program exists to aid water purveyors in developing comprehensive water conservation plans and implementing water saving measures that will help ensure that Coloradan's water needs are met long into the future. Water conservation is often the most cost effect mechanism to increase water supply within a provider's system. However, the recent interpretation of Colorado statute has resulted in a freezing of the WEGF; inhibiting purveyors from accessing much needed funds to incorporate water conservation planning, as required by law.

Water Conservation is one matter that we must be proactive. If we wait until the action is reactive, we have a crisis that affects human health and habits. Water is a necessity that is an exhaustible resource. Without CWCB's program and funding many small and mid-size purveyors will not address the issue until too late.

Tri-County Water Conservancy District relies heavily upon the WEGF for funding to create a water conservation effort to provide unified water education and community outreach programs that will aid the public in developing meaningful water conservation practices that expand into successful planning strategies and implementation. While conservation planning is critical to ensuring sustainable water supplies, the implementation of conservation measures is critical to realizing water savings indentified during the planning process. It provides both the water suppliers and the local communities a means of using their water resources in a wise and prudent manner thus managing this precious exhaustible resource to its maximal responsible use. Without the WEGF the cost of planning and implementation can be costly, especially for small and mid-size providers like Tri-County Water Conservancy District. Furthermore the lack of an approved water conservation plan makes many water providers ineligible to receive water project financing.

We urge the Senate Agricultural Committee to approve HB 09-1017 so funding can be released to assist covered entities in complying with State law regarding water conservation planning.

Respectfully,



Mike Berry
General Manager