

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0287	Date: February 5, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Saine; Arndt Sen. Marble	Bill Status: House Agriculture
	Fiscal Analyst: Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

BILL TOPIC: SOUTH PLATTE ALLUVIAL AQUIFER MONITORING NETWORK

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue			
State Expenditures	<u>\$60,000</u>	<u>\$35,000</u>	<u>\$47,000</u>
Cash Funds	60,000	35,000	47,000
FTE Position Change			
Appropriation Required: \$60,000 - Department of Natural Resources (FY 2015-16)			

* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

Summary of Legislation

House Bill 12-1278 required the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in consultation with the State Engineer and the Colorado Water Institute (CWI) at Colorado State University, to conduct a comprehensive study to compile and evaluate available historic hydrologic data for the South Platte River Basin. A final report was presented to the General Assembly on December 31, 2013. This bill implements a recommendation from that report to create a basin-wide tributary groundwater monitoring network in the South Platte alluvial aquifer.

The State Engineer in the DNR is tasked with the design and operation of the monitoring network, which will consist of:

- wells in the existing Division of Water Resources (DWR) monitoring network with the addition of up to 20 data loggers to collect data, and up to 10 new wells to fill data gaps;
- wells that are part of an independent monitoring network owned by qualified parties other than DWR; and
- wells owned by a state agency, water conservancy district, special district, county, municipality, or other unit of state or local government including institutions of higher education designated by the State Engineer.

The State Engineer in consultation with the CWCB, and with public input, will develop and publish one or more protocols for groundwater level data measurement, data collection, and data entry, and will attempt to automate data collection. Data will be posted to the DWR website within 30 days of receipt.

Finally, the bill authorizes use of the CWCB Construction Fund and the Water Resources Cash Fund for implementation of the monitoring network.

State Expenditures

This bill will increase expenditures in the **DNR by \$60,000 in FY 2016-16, \$35,000 in FY 2016-17, and \$47,000 in FY 2017-18 and thereafter from the CWCB Construction Fund.** The cost components are shown in Table 1 and explained below.

Table 1. Expenditures Under HB15-1166			
Cost Components	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
Well monitoring	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
Computer programming	25,000		
USGS wells data collection			12,000
TOTAL	\$60,000	\$35,000	\$47,000

Assumptions. This analysis is based on the following assumptions:

- A pending FY 2015-16 DNR budget request for 1.0 FTE Physical Science Researcher/Scientist III will be approved.
- Funding will be from the CWCB Construction Fund, as sufficient cash flow is not available in the Water Resources Cash Fund.
- Funding from the 2014 CWCB projects bill (House Bill 14-1333) appropriation will be used to pay for \$26,000 in data loggers.

The DNR will utilize existing staff to develop data collection and entry standards, project management, and outreach to third party well owners. Contract costs of \$35,000 will be used to monitor additional wells, conduct field maintenance, and oversee data entry by third parties. Contract costs of \$25,000 for computer programming will be used to automate the transfer of monitoring data to the DWR internal database and website. The DWR has a contract with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for data collection from National Water Quality Assessment Program wells until May 2017. To continue this data collection requires \$12,000 per year beginning in FY 2017-18.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

For FY 2015-16, the Department of Natural Resources requires an appropriation of \$60,000 from the CWCB Construction Fund.

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources
Municipalities

Counties

Special Districts