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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 18-0784 Date: February 7, 2018
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Arndt; Catlin Bill Status: House Agriculture
Sen. Crowder Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram | 303-866-3561
Josh.Abram@state.co.us

Bill Topic: CWCB APPROVE DEFICIT IRRIGATION PILOT PROJECTS

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure (minimal), State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

The bill expands the types of water leasing or fallowing pilot projects that may be approved by the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The bill minimally increases workload in FY 2018-19.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may approve up to 15 pilot projects for agricultural water leasing or fallowing projects. This bill expands the types of projects that may be approved to include deficit irrigation projects. The bill also excludes from historical consumptive use determinations any decrease in use as a result of deficit irrigation projects used to conserve water, lease water, or provide water for compact compliance.

State Expenditures

Under current law, the DNR is appropriated \$1.0 million from the CWCB Construction Fund to finance grant projects that advance various agricultural water transfer projects. This bill adds deficit irrigation as a type of project eligible to receive these funds.

While the specific types of projects authorized for funding are expanded by the bill, the total amount of funding available for all projects remains unchanged. For this reason, no increase in expenditures is expected. A small amount of staff time from the Division of Water Resources is required to develop guidelines and methodology for these expanded types of projects; however, this effort does not require additional appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 8, 2018, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 9, 2018, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed. The bill applies to deficit irrigation pilot projects proposed or conducted on or after that date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture
Local Affairs

Judicial
Natural Resources

Law