



## INFORMATION PACKET MEMORANDUM

To: Water Resources Advisory Board

From: Jeff Arthur, Director of Public Works for Utilities  
Annie Noble, Acting Principal Engineer for Flood and Greenways  
Katie Knapp, Engineering Project Manager

Date: May 18, 2015

**Subject: Information Item: Boulder Creek Watershed Master Plan**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the Boulder Creek Watershed Master Plan.

The City of Boulder has joined regional partners, including the Urban Drainage & Flood Control District (UDFCD), Boulder County, and the City of Longmont to initiate the Boulder Creek Watershed Master Plan. This study is also partially funded through the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) grant program. The purpose of the master plan is to develop guidance in planning ongoing and long-term watershed recovery efforts.

### **BOARD AND COMMISSION FEEDBACK**

The Boulder Creek Watershed Master Plan has not been brought to any Boards or Commissions.

### **PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

Two Public Information Meetings were held in March, 2015 to provide information about the study and gather input from the community. Neither meeting was well attended. Most attendees were property owners from Boulder County east of the city limits with specific questions about their properties.

A website (<http://www.iconeng.com/project/boulder-creek/>) has been developed to provide information about the project. The website also includes an interactive map where people can post comments and a form to sign-up to receive project related emails.

## **BACKGROUND**

For Boulder Creek, flood damages were not as severe in September 2013, as with other locations in Colorado; however, roads and bridges overtopped, avulsions occurred, and questions arose regarding the best approach to restore Boulder Creek. For these reasons, a master planning study was initiated by a group of regional partners, including the Urban Drainage & Flood Control District (UDFCD), Boulder County, and the Cities of Boulder and Longmont. The study is also partially funded through the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) grant program.

This study includes nearly 24-miles along Boulder Creek, extending from the confluence with Fourmile Creek, located within Boulder Canyon upstream of the City of Boulder, downstream to the confluence with the St. Vrain River, in the City of Longmont. The focus of this study is to develop and evaluate alternatives for Boulder Creek, such that feasible drainage, flood management, and restoration opportunities are identified. Projects will be quantified and prioritized to assist the local communities in identifying needs associated with ongoing and long-term watershed recovery and flood mitigation efforts.

A *Draft* Alternatives Analysis report will available on the [project website](#) in May 2015.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

The master plan is scheduled to be completed in September of 2015. The final master plan will be presented to the WRAB for consideration and a recommendation to City Council on acceptance of the plan. Once WRAB has made a recommendation to City Council to accept the master plan, then the plan will be presented to City Council for their consideration of acceptance.