

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
and
MESA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOINT WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2004, 11:30 A.M.
CITY HALL LUNCHROOM, 250 N. 5TH STREET**

- 11:30 am **UPDATE ON TEMPORARY MODIFICATION TO PERSIGO
DISCHARGE PERMIT:** An update on City progress to address the
temporary modification and potential future implications. [*Attach 1*](#)
- 1:00 pm **ADJOURN**

**Attach 1
Persigo Modification Study Update
CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION**

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA						
Subject		Persigo Wash Temporary Modification work study - update				
Meeting Date		February 2, 2004				
Date Prepared		January 29, 2004			File #	
Author		Eileen List		Environmental Compliance Coordinator		
Presenter Name		Eileen List		Environmental Compliance Coordinator		
Report results back to Council		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	When
Citizen Presentation		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Name
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joint Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	Formal Agenda		<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent
						Individual Consideration

Summary: The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission provided a temporary modification of stream standards on Persigo Wash until 2008 for eleven water quality parameters. A powerpoint presentation will update City Council and the Mesa County Commissioners on City progress to address the temporary modification and potential future implications.

Budget: The total fiscal impact, from 2003 through 2008, of the temporary modification studies to the 902 and 904 funds is \$249,400. The yearly fiscal impacts of operating and capital expenditures related to the temporary modification studies are:

\$29,400	2003 Revised
\$125,000	2004 Proposed
\$20,000	2005 Proposed
\$20,000	2006 Projected
\$50,000	2007 Projected
\$5,000	2008 Projected

Action Requested/Recommendation: Informational only, no action needed

Background Information: Staff has implemented the Persigo Wash Temporary Modification workplan to address questions regarding the stream standards and discharge from the Persigo Wastewater Treatment Plant into critical habitat for endangered fish species in the Colorado River.

Persigo Wash is the receiving stream for the discharge from the Persigo Wastewater Treatment Facility. Persigo Wash discharges into the Colorado River about 900 feet downstream of the treatment facility, which is designated as critical aquatic habitat for threatened and endangered fish species.

In 2000 the Colorado Water Quality Control Division proposed setting stringent water quality stream standards on Persigo Wash to protect aquatic species. Prior to the proposal Persigo Wash had only basic stream standards in place. The City objected to this proposal as there was no evidence that the wastewater treatment plant discharge was affecting aquatic life in Persigo Wash, which serves to drain groundwater from surrounding agricultural irrigated fields and is highly contaminated with selenium. Due to these objections, the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission granted a temporary modification of stream standards on Persigo Wash in July, 2001 at a Rulemaking Hearing on the Lower Colorado River Basin.

The purpose of the temporary modification is to allow time for the City and others to perform studies on Persigo Wash and the Colorado River. The outcome of the studies will determine the final discharge limits placed on the treatment facility, which in turn will dictate the necessary levels of treatment for the wastewater plant and resulting costs to ratepayers. The temporary modification of stream standards expires in 2008. After that time a new discharge permit will be issued, taking into consideration the final results of the temporary modification studies.

Scientific analyses and engineering studies are needed to:

- Make sure the proper stream standards are applied on Persigo Wash;
- Evaluate the feasibility of discharge points in the Wash from the treatment plant or moving the discharge point elsewhere, including into the Colorado River;
- Evaluate the need for additional treatment processes, if any, for the wastewater treatment plant; and
- Evaluate the affect of any action on the endangered fish species which reside in critical habitat in the Colorado River.

Workplan studies and reports: Studies to support the workplan effort include two years of water quality analyses, toxicity, biological testing (invertebrates and fish) and habitat characterization on Persigo Wash. These analyses are needed for the basic characterization of Persigo Wash and to determine if the aquatic life use in Persigo Wash is met with current water quality conditions in the Wash and from the wastewater treatment plant. The analyses are also needed to determine potential site-specific standards in the Wash. Two years of water quality analyses on the Colorado River are also needed to determine potential effects to threatened and endangered fish which reside in critical habitat of the Colorado River.

Final products of the studies will be a Persigo Wash Habitat Characterization Report and a Use Attainability Analyses Report which will support a final report and proposal of

site-specific water quality standards to the Water Quality Control Commission. A Treatment Plant Discharge Options report will also be produced that recommends final options for the Persigo plant that are based on the proper stream standards in Persigo Wash.

Persigo Wash Temporary Modification workgroup: Many state and federal agencies are working with the City of Grand Junction to address the temporary modification. The Persigo Wash Temporary Modification workgroup was formed as a subgroup to the Grand Valley Selenium Task Force, a task force which addresses selenium and other water quality issues in the Grand Valley.

Workgroup progress to date includes:

- Assembling the team of process stakeholders (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 Water Quality Unit, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Water Quality Control Division, Mesa County, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey, Colorado River Water Conservation District, City of Fruita, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mesa County Soil Conservation District and Grand Junction Drainage District);
- Designing workplan study objectives and elements to ensure issues of concern to all participants are addressed;
- Implementing workplan water quality and biological sampling: Monthly water quality sampling was performed on Persigo Wash in 2003 by the City to characterize current conditions. This was the first phase of study elements in the workplan. The United States Fish & Wildlife Service and Colorado Division of Wildlife, along with the City's biological consultant, are also performing fish surveys and limited water quality sampling on all the Grand Valley tributaries;
- Performing Persigo Wastewater Treatment Facility studies: Engineering, permitting and construction costs for discharge options for the Persigo WWTF, including an outfall / diffuser system to the Colorado River, have been completed. Engineering studies are under way to evaluate existing process systems and possible conversion to a nitrification / denitrification treatment facility.