

# Sewer plant gets initial okay

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The \$14 million total project cost figures out to a 47-cent unit cost per 1,000 gallons, according to engineers data.

The estimated local share of the costs (including 25 per cent of eligible costs and all of the land cost involved) is estimated at \$3.6 million, according to the company.

The cost of the treatment plant project does not include interceptor systems to connect areas such as the Redlands to the new plant. Interceptor system costs are estimated at \$5 million.

The land costs, which are entirely local, created a major stumbling block in several engineers' alternatives, which provided for land application of the treated sewage.

Company officials also discouraged land application alternatives because of potential problems with customers needed to buy the treated sewage to use as irrigation water. Also engineers said EPA officials were concerned about land application of sewage in the Grand Valley because of salinity levels.

However, engineer Carpenter, representing the firm of Plateau

Engineering and Western Engineering of Grand Junction, presented a private alternative which relies heavily on land application of treated sewage.

BLM land involved. Carpenter proposed using two reservoir sites north of the Highline Canal, (and west of Walker Field) to hold treated sewage for irrigation use on land in the same area.

The land now is under the Bureau of Land Management. However, Carpenter said, under the BLM Organic Act, the land may become available for sale or lease at desert land prices. And Carpenter continued, the treated sewage could be used for irrigation to put the land into agricultural use.

4,800-acre tract. Carpenter said the area includes about 4,800 acres. Carpenter designed plans for land application north of the Highline Canal and west to about Road 19, which included one consolidated treatment plant or one new small plant to work with the existing facility.

Carpenter also included estimates of pumping costs and canals and pipes needed to get the sewage to the reservoirs. His

figures, which he described as "rough," produced an estimated total cost of \$2.5 million for a single plant configuration and \$2.4 million for a two-plant configuration.

His unit costs were reported as 21 cents per 1,000 gallons for the single facility; 26 cents per 1,000 gallons for two facilities.

Increase in land. "We feel there is viability in land application," Carpenter said.

His presentation and his lower cost estimates attracted attention among committee members. One panel member estimated Carpenter's proposal could add nearly 5 per cent more irrigated land to the Grand Valley.

Henningson, Durham and Richardson officials disputed Carpenter's proposal from a salinity standpoint. They also were critical of his cost estimates. Bradar also emphasized the need for irrigation customers contracted in advance for EPA approval of such a land application plan.

However, the committee elected to proceed with the plan. The panel voted to support the first alternative by the committee. The committee's proposal is a single plant configuration with work on EPA approval of a single plant proposal.

The committee also encouraged Carpenter to continue with his research and submit his cost estimates for another presentation at the June 16 meeting.

# Sewer plant gets committee approval

Grand Junction, Colo. (UPI) - A committee of city and county officials has approved a \$14 million sewer treatment plant to serve Grand Junction and the surrounding areas.

The plant would be located on a tract of land in the area bounded by U.S. 625. However, the committee declined to give final approval to the \$14 million proposal outlined by the engineering firm of Henningson, Durham and Richardson. Rather, the panel voted not to send the proposal on to the Grand Junction City Council and the Mesa County commissioners for official action.

Instead the committee has scheduled a public hearing for June 16 to review the sewer plant proposal and to hear additional reports on an alternative sewage treatment system proposed by Grand Junction engineer Edward J. Carpenter.

The plan is to build a treatment plant with a capacity of 10 million gallons a day. The plant will be operated by the city. The committee was selected from 15 alternatives proposed to the city. The alternatives included a number of combined sewer treatment plants, a number of separate sewer treatment plants, and a separate sewer plant with combined treatment plants. The cost of the plant is estimated at \$14 million.

The committee's report was prepared by engineers William L. Bradar, and the chief engineer, Carl Henningson, who endorsed the single-plant concept based on lower operation and maintenance costs for one facility as opposed to two smaller plants.

Some federal funds. Henningson said lower operational costs are important to area residents because these costs are paid 100 per cent locally. He said indications are construction of the plant itself would be 75 per cent federally financed with 25 per cent local funding.

The plan also includes treatment beyond the secondary level with phosphorus and nitrogen removal. The plant would be located on a tract of land in the area bounded by U.S. 625.