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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII
1860 LINCOLN STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80203

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Paula Herzmark
Executive Director
Department of Local Affairs

SUBJECT: Status of Planning and Construction Grants
in the Grand Junction, Colorado area.

The facility plan required under Section 201 of P.L. 92-500 was completed in late 1975. EPA elected to prepare an environmental assessment and negative declaration to meet its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act. The negative declaration was published on February 20, 1976.

The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission certified the Step 2 grant application to EPA on October 5, 1976, with the condition that the City investigate further the possibility of land application of sewage effluent. Prior to this action the Commission has approved Step 2 and 3 for Phase I of the Paradise Hill Interceptor and Step 2 for alterations to the existing plant.

The City of Grand Junction retained the engineering firm of Hemmingson, Durham, and Richardson to complete the study on land application and to design the treatment facility.

The grant offer on November 8, 1976, for Step 2 consisted of two phases. Phase I was for re-evaluation of the facility plan and pre-design including further evaluation of land application and/or sewage effluent reuse. Phase II consisted of final design, plans and specifications.

After preparation of the basic pre-design document and two supplements, the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission on January 4, 1978, approved the revised facility plan and approved proceeding with Phase II, final plans and specifications for the design of a 12.5 mgd west side plant.

The revised facility plan recommended abandonment of the existing 5.7 mgd sewage treatment plant and construction of this initial phase of the West Side Plant, located west of I-25 on the north side of the river, for secondary treatment with discharge to Persigo Wash and hence to the Colorado River. Dechlorination would be required.

EPA is proceeding with revision of the negative declaration and is expected to approve the grant increase shortly.

EPA is also contracting for a study of the Colorado River to determine what concentration of ammonia can be discharged to the River. EPA is obligated under regulation 40 CFR 6.51 (c) to protect endangered aquatic species identified primarily as the Colorado Squaw fish and the Humpback Chub in the Grand Junction area.

In the meantime the City is proceeding with preliminary design, including site surveying and subsurface soils exploration. Obtaining interim results from this study by midsummer will preclude delay in proceeding to completion of final design and completed plans and specifications.



Vencil Shively, Director
Office of Public Awareness
Region VIII