

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

MEMORANDUM

Reply Requested

Yes No

Date

Dec. 18, 1978

To: (From:) Jim Wysocki From: (To:) Jim Patterson 

RE: INTERIM TREATMENT CAPACITY

In considering the approach to take for providing interim treatment capacity, various plans and methods were looked at as well as the benefits and consequences that each would produce. It is my recommendation that we proceed immediately to construct an interim treatment facility at the new plant site. There are several reasons for this recommendation:

1. The short time remaining before additional capacity is needed.
2. The cost savings of building the River Road Interceptor now.
3. Increasing non-compliance of existing plant.
4. Increasing demand for treatment facilities West of City.

It would be desirable for the interim treatment facility to be a permanent structure that would become a part of the new sewage treatment plant. As such, it would be eligible for 75% EPA funding, it would speed up construction of the new plant, and it would prevent a "loss" of investment in a temporary structure.

An agreement is needed with the design engineers to start the process of providing the interim treatment facility. The agreement should have two phases. Phase A would involve determining the amount of capacity needed on an interim basis; determining if a structure can be built that would become a part of the new plant; and, working with EPA and the state to get approval of the plans, the sequence of events, and a step 3 grant for construction. Phase B would be preparing the plans and specifications, bid documents, and engineering inspection during construction. I will be prepared to submit an engineering agreement for Council consideration at the first Council meeting in January. The following will provide more information on the reasons listed above for making this recommendation:

1. The construction of the River Road interceptor will be the most time consuming and limiting factor in providing interim treatment capacity at the new plant site. If we begin the process immediately, it will take sixty days or until mid-February to complete the sizing analysis and type of structure as well as co-ordinating with the state and EPA on the project. Three months should be allowed for obtaining a construction grant, completing the plans and specifications, and bidding the project. Construction could start around the first of June on both the treatment facility and the interceptor. It is estimated that about nine months will be needed for construction of the interceptor so construction should be complete in February, 1980, if construction can continue during the winter months. If there is a two to three month delay because of weather, then construction would not be complete until April or May. If a moratorium is to be established because of not being able to meet the demands generated in 1980, then that decision should be made early in 1980 before construction commitments are made in the area. In my opinion, if we delay starting the process any longer we cannot avoid a sewer moratorium in 1980.

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INTERIM TREATMENT CAPACITY (page 2)

2. The cost of the River Road interceptor is estimated to be \$4,000,000. in 1979. A delay of one year for construction in conjunction with the new plant would mean a cost of \$4,410,000 based on a 10% inflation rate, or an increase of \$410,000.
3. The number and length of incidences in which our existing plant exceeds the discharge permit limitations are increasing. August is a crucial month. This year we operated at 95% of capacity during August. By law, we should be under construction of a new facility at the 95% capacity point. In November of this year our average effluent BOD was 37 ppm. and suspended solids was 25 ppm. The limit of each is 30 ppm. With the increasing violations I expect that the City will be cited during 1979 and asked for a schedule for returning into compliance. Being under construction of the interim facility should prevent the City from receiving a penalty.
4. There is increasing activity in both planning and construction west of the city limits. By constructing the interim facilities now at the new plant site, these activities can continue without a proliferation of package plants. It is expected that oil shale activities will increase and that the Horizon Drive area will continue to develop and increase demands for sewer service. It is important to provide interim capacity at the new plant site to continue to meet those demands.