

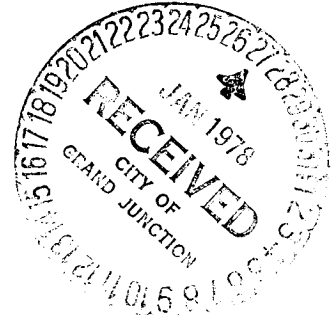


COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

4210 EAST 11TH AVENUE · DENVER, COLORADO 80220 · PHONE 388-6111

Anthony Robbins, M.D., M.P.A. Executive Director

January 25, 1978



Mayor Lawrence Kozisek and
Members of the City Council
City of Grand Junction
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At its regular meeting on January 4, 1978, the Water Quality Control Commission approved the amended 201 facilities plan for Grand Junction, thereby granting Step II design funds for the new regional wastewater treatment facility. With the approval action, however, the Commission still expressed a general dissatisfaction with the adequacy of the consideration of land treatment. It appeared that the water supply/water rights opportunities which may be available to the City with a land treatment alternative were not fully considered. Since these may be highly advantageous to the City, the Commission wishes to let you know that if your water rights attorney concludes that such opportunities do exist and should be pursued, that the Commission is still willing to accommodate the City by approving a land treatment alternative instead.

The City may wish to look into the following water supply/water rights possibility:

1. Purchase of a land treatment site by the City made up of farm lands already under irrigation.
2. The farm would be irrigated with treated sewage effluent, releasing the water formerly irrigating the land.
3. This water could be transferred to other ranchers under the project, used by the City for park/open space/golf course irrigation, or sold for industrial purposes.
4. The reason that this is potentially valuable water is that Cameo is the last major "call" on the river in Colorado, with minimal demand below Grand Junction. There may be a good market for such water upstream from Cameo.
5. Having the flexibility to sell the water up and down the Colo-

Mayor Lawrence Kozisek and
Members of the City Council
Grand Junction, Colorado
January 25, 1978
Page 2


Colorado River may be far more financially advantageous than merely exchanging effluent for ditch water. The City may also be able to take credit for ditch losses, etc., avoided and therefore have a greater volume to sell.

The Commission's interest in this project, of course, is to maintain and improve the water quality of the Colorado River. It sees the land treatment alternative suggested herein as accomplishing this in two ways:

1. Reduced salinity in the Colorado River. The farm management by the City or its contractor could improve the efficiency of the water (effluent) use by different application methods, reducing seepage and runoff. In addition, since the effluent would be piped down from Grand Junction to the treatment facility and then applied directly to the land, the present seepage from the lengthy ditch delivery system from the river to the farm would be avoided.
2. Cleaner water in the Colorado River due to plant uptake and soil filtration.

If the City is interested in checking into these water supply/water rights opportunities and concludes that it wants to change the chosen alternative, the Commission would be willing to cooperate.

Sincerely yours,


Evan D. Dildine, P.E.
Technical Secretary
Water Quality Control Commission

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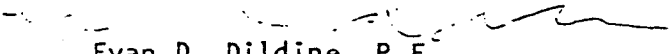
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