

Tri-Lakes Facility Joint Use Committee, July 10

Consultant gets OK to move ahead

By Jim Kendrick

On July 10, the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee (JUC) unanimously approved allowing engineering consultant Tetra Tech to start work on the phosphate removal expansion project before the design and construction contract is approved.

Facility Manager Bill Burks distributed Tetra Tech's draft engineering report that describes short- and long-term planning to meet new state nutrient treatment restrictions in state Control Regulation 85 and Regulation 31.17.

Burks reported receipt of two reimbursements in June from the state's \$80,000 nutrient planning grant for a total of \$62,821, which helped the facility to achieve a net surplus in June of \$17,952. The facility had previously received a state nutrient planning grant reimbursement of \$3,185 in May. Tetra Tech has charged \$66,019 for nutrient planning so far this year.

The Tetra Tech report projected \$23 million in costs for short-term technically feasible nutrient removal equipment installation. No longer-term costs were listed because the equipment needed to meet the nutrient limits that the EPA is demanding of Colorado does not yet exist.

Tetra Tech consultant engineer Steve Tamburini will brief the JUC on the report at the next JUC meeting on Aug. 12 to finalize the design and construction contract for the phosphate removal expansion. Environmental attorney Paul Anderson, a colleague of Tad Foster, the facility's environmental attorney, will also be invited to the meeting to monitor Tamburini's presentation.

The Tri-Lakes facility operates as a separate public utility and is jointly owned, in equal one-third shares, by Monument Sanitation District, Palmer Lake Sanitation District, and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District. The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards: President Don Smith of Monument, Vice President Rich Strom of Woodmoor, and Secretary/Treasurer Ken Smith of Palmer Lake. Several other members of the three district boards, as well as district managers and district staff also attended the meeting. Strom and Smith are new members of the JUC.

Financial report

Burks noted that no payments were made in June to Tetra Tech for planning and design of the phosphorus removal equipment to be installed at the facility. In June, Monument received a credit for \$10,807, Palmer Lake received a credit for \$11,913, and Woodmoor received a bill

for \$4,768.

The June financial report was unanimously approved as presented.

Plant manager's report

Burks noted that the plant had been running efficiently. Average removal of biosolids and total suspended solids were each at 99 percent. The permit limit is 85 percent for each. The EPA awarded the Tri-Lakes facility for setting a national standard for efficiency and effectiveness when the activated sludge process equipment was designed and installed in 1998.

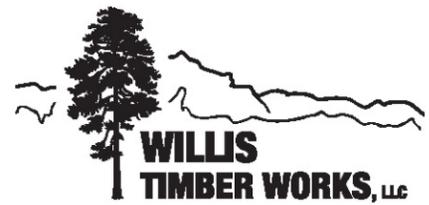
In June 2012, the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission created new regulatory requirements for phosphate and nitrate/nitrite/ammonia removal by wastewater treatment fa-

cilities. The statewide costs were high—several billion dollars—for the unattainable nutrient limits imposed by the EPA that Gov. John Hickenlooper imposed the mandate on only the largest facilities that processed over 2 million gallons per day.

The Legislature, at Hickenlooper's request, created a state grant program for nutrient treatment expansions at these largest plants (out of 391 wastewater treatment plants in Colorado) to help pay for trying to meet this EPA requirement. The requirement for the smaller plants was deferred.

(See <http://www.ocn.me/v12n7.htm#juc> and <http://www.ocn.me/v13n8.htm#grant> for more details.)

In the facility's May Discharge Monitoring Report, the



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<p>1. Purple Mountain Jewelry 47 Third Street, Unit C 719.487.0444</p> <p>2. Frog on a Limb Primitives 341 Front Street 719.481.8888</p> <p>3. Posh Pineapple 251 Front Street, "9" 719.487.2866</p> <p>4. The Love Shop 251 Front Street "13" 719.598.3348</p>	<p>5. La Casa Fiesta 230 Front Street 719.481.1234</p> <p>6. Wisdom Tea House 65 Second Street 719.481.8822</p> <p>7. Bella Art & Frame 183 Washington St. 719.487.7691</p> <p>8. 1492 Chocolates 174 Washington Street 855.700.1492</p>	<p>9. Catriona Cellars 243 Washington Street 719.481.3477</p> <p>10. Bliss Studio and Gallery 243 1/2 Washington Street (alley access) 719.244.8992</p> <p>11. Margo's on the Alley 253 Washington Street 719.487.1406</p> <p>12. Covered Treasures Bookstore Corner of Second and Washington 719.481.2665</p>	<p>13. Shades of Amber 125 Second Street 719.265.9921</p> <p>14. Bella Casa 155 Second Street 719.559.4133</p> <p>15. Santa Fe Trail Jewelry 215 Chapala Plaza 719.481.0250</p> <p>16. Hangers 245 North Jefferson Street 719.488.2300</p>	<p>17. The Village Merchants 155 North Jefferson Street 719.375.5438</p> <p>18. DeVine Grill 366 Second Street 719.481.4900</p> <p>19. The Roost 135 Second Street 719.481.5688</p>
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