water treatment facility match of \$16,000 (20 percent). The 12 \$1 million design and construction grants do not require a match from the facility. All planning, engineering, or construction financed by either of these grants must be completed and approved by the state Water Quality Control Division by Sept. 1, 2016. The Legislature approved an annual appropriation of \$100,000 for each of the three program years to pay for administration by state employees.

HB 13-1191 is available at: www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2013a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/1E95DAB0015B3FFB8725 7AEE005853C0?open&file=1191 enr.pdf

Details for implementation of HB 13-1191 are available by clicking on the "Nutrient Management Grant Program" link on the Water Quality Control Commission "What's New" page at: www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-WQ/CBON/1251596763746

The link for the Water Quality Control Commission's Nutrients Management Control Regulation 85 is available at: www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-Main/CBON/

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(RPCNA)

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Even though the HB 13-1191 program was designed to provide grants directly to wastewater treatment plants, the Tri-Lakes plant is not a separate special district and has no taxing authority, which renders it ineligible to receive a grant directly. If awarded, these grants must be awarded to Monument, Palmer Lake, and/or Woodmoor, which are each special districts with taxing authority.

The method to be used to accept the grants has not been determined yet. Each of these three districts has an individual annual TABOR limit on how much state grant money each can accept due to their enterprise status. The annual TABOR limit for both Monument and Palmer Lake is about \$50,000, while the annual TABOR limit for Woodmoor is about \$600,000.

## Revised Tetra Tech study proposal approved

The Tri-Lakes facility's current five-year discharge permit limit for both total inorganic nitrogen and nitrate is 23 mg/l. These two Tri-Lakes permit limits were put into effect on Jan. 1, 2012, and will remain in effect until Jan. 1, 2017. The current Reg. 85 total inorganic nitrogen and nitrate limits became effective Sept. 30, 2012, but will not apply to Tri-Lakes until the next five-year discharge permit is approved. There is no permit limit for ammonia because Tri-Lakes has already demonstrated in previous reporting to the state that its ammonia removal is more than sufficient to show that there is no reasonable potential for a permit violation.

There is no phosphorus or phosphate limit in the current Jan. 1, 2012, Tri-Lakes discharge permit. Monthly phosphate monitoring, which is now required by Reg. 85, has shown that effluent sampling results are about 3 to 6 mg/l and significantly lower in Monument Creek at Baptist Road, well below the plant discharge mixing zone.

Maxwell noted that applying for either the planning or the construction grant would not cause an immediate review of the existing Tri-Lakes discharge permit or imposition of costly tighter nitrogen or phosphorus limits by the state. Maxwell also stated that he had been assured by Michael Beck, unit manager of the Control Division's grants and loans unit, that the current Tri-Lakes discharge permit would not be re-opened as a condition of being awarded either grant.

The current interim value listed in Regulation 31.17 for total phosphorus in a warm plains stream like Monument Creek is 0.17 mg/l. This interim value will become effective on May 31, 2022, for the Tri-Lakes facility. The total nitrogen interim value in Regulation 31.17 that will become effective on May 31, 2022, for Tri-Lakes is 2.01 mg/l.

Maxwell recommended that the Tri-Lakes facility

push hard to have its next two permit renewals take effect on time—Jan. 1, 2017, and Jan. 1, 2022—to minimize the near-term effect of rules imposed on those dates by Reg. 85 and state water quality regulation 31.17 respectively to minimize the costs that will become mandatory on May 31, 2022.

*Note:* In recent years the state's Water Quality Control Division permit section has fallen well behind schedule, only renewing five-year permits every seven or eight years. The current Tri-Lakes permit was issued after only a two-year extension of the previous permit due to the urgent requests of Monument Sanitation District Manager Mike Wicklund to the Water Quality Control Division for a new permit. The resulting renewal of the facility's permit in 2012 has prevented any further difficulties in meeting previously issued copper limits that were impossible for the plant to meet. For further information, see the 38 citations that are available by searching the exact words "copper limit" at the top of the www.ocn.me home page.

There was a lengthy technical discussion regarding the cost-benefit tradeoffs and risks of using \$1 million of grant money to pay half of the cost of building capital improvements that may meet 2022 restrictions by 2016. Building all of the improvements required for 31.17 permit restrictions would significantly reduce the cost of chemicals used to treat total phosphorus from 2016 through 2022. These tradeoffs will be analyzed in the new Tetra Tech study.

Also discussed was the effect of phosphorus treatment chemicals on the chemical composition of the biosolid sludge that is currently being treated for 27 months in the existing facility sludge lagoon and whether the treated sludge could still be directly applied to agricultural fields or have to be disposed of as a hazardous material at much greater expense. Some of the other issues discussed were potential changes in metals concentrations in the treated sludge and the bio-availability of the additional phosphorus in the treated sludge that will still be used as agricultural fertilizer.

Ferric chloride or aluminum sulfate will be used to remove total phosphorus. The current Tri-Lakes discharge permit requires Tri-Lakes Facility Manager Bill Burks' staff to test for and report 30-day average readings each month for sulfate and chloride concentrations. Chloride and sulfate readings in Tri-Lakes effluent are being reported to the Control Division in the monthly discharge monitoring report to establish a baseline for the current concentrations before the planned pilot plant is built and becomes operational. The planned chemical treatment of total phosphorus will likely increase sulfate and chloride concentration in treated Tri-Lakes effluent.

