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February 21, 2010
Via Electronic Mail

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Attn: Ben Wade
1313 Sherman Street, Rm. 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Grand Valley Regional Water Conservation Plan
50% Completion Report

Dear Mr. Wade:

We have nearly completed Steps 1-3 of the Grand Valley Regional Water Conservation Plan for the City of Grand Junction (City), the Clifton Water District (Clifton), and the Ute Water Conservancy District (Ute or District). Below is a detailed description of the work to date:

Step 1: Profile the Existing Water System (s): Each water system has been described including water rights and general operation of the water treatment plants and the water distribution systems. I have met twice with representatives from the City of Montrose and the Clifton Water District, and three times with the Ute Water Conservancy District representatives to discuss the data on their respective water systems. Data for all sectors have been acquired for the years of 2004 –2009 including taps, meters sizes, monthly and annual billed water and percentage of taps and water use for each sector. The water rates for the water systems have been established and noted. I am still waiting for data for the most recent water year (2009) as we have recently decided to include that data in the plan. I am also still acquiring data from the City of Grand Junction on their C-I sector. I consider this step 98% complete.

Step 2: Characterize Water Use and Forecasting Demand: Characterizing water use was include in Step 1. Forecasting the water demand is 95% complete as Ute has recently given me a recent population study that they had prepared.

Step 3: Profile Proposed Facilities: No new facilities are planned for any of the entities in the Grand Valley group so this step has been briefly explained.

The Steering Committee that constitutes representatives from the City of Grand Junction, the Clifton Water District, and the Ute Water Conservancy District have recently met and have identified Water Conservation Goals, Step 4 of the Water Conservation Plan. Also discussed are the water conservation measures and programs that are currently in place, the success of the programs, and the continuation of the current measures and programs in the regional water conservation plan. Once metrics have been fully established for the current measures and programs, we will proceed to the selection process of new measures and programs. Step 4 is 45% complete. Data is still being obtained on water savings from the various programs.

Obstacles encountered: Since this Water Conservation Plan entails the profiling and data acquisition for three separate water systems, scheduling and data acquisition has been a challenge for me. Also, as the Water Conservation Plan is developed (I think of it as being constructed), additional data is incorporated into the plan and chapters undergo several revisions.

Preliminary findings and accomplishments: The three entities that have come together to develop the regional water conservation plan have been working together over the years and have established a regional drought plan. The plan is entitled the Drought Response Information Program with a webpage and several outreach activities. It is encouraging to see how unified the entities are on their concept of water conservation and how proactive they are on informing the public of potential water shortages and water conservation methods.

A draft of the Grand Valley Regional Water Conservation Plan will be submitted at the 75% completion point of the plan. I am hopeful that this will be accomplished within the next two to three months and I feel that we are moving along well with the development of the plan.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Nichols

Rebecca Nichols
RHN Water Resources Consultants LLC

Cc: Rick Brinkman, City of Grand Junction
Dave Reinertson, Kelly McLaughlin, Clifton Water District
Joe Burtard, Steve Ryken, Ute Water Conservancy District