

Public Works Department 949 E. 2nd Avenue Durango CO 81301-5109 970-375-4801 970-375-4848 (FAX)

February 4, 2011

Colorado Water Conservation Board Attn: Deborah Burrell 1313 Sherman St. Room 721 Denvér CO, 80203

Re:

Water Efficiency Grant 75% Progress Report Purchase Order Number: OE PDA 10000000070

Dear Ms. Burrell,

Please find herein, the 75% progress report prepared by the City of Durango in conjunction with the requirements of the water efficiency grant award for the preparation of our Water Conservation Plan. This report details the tasks completed since the 50% progress report (sent November 3, 2010), identifies issues that have arisen regarding grant implementation, and discusses the remaining work required for the successful completion of the Water Conservation Plan that will be forwarded to Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) for review and approval.

## Steps Completed Since 50% Progress Report

Since the 50% progress report, the City and its contractors have conducted the following key tasks:

- Evaluation of the City's monthly water use since 2003 by customer type, including
  information on non-revenue water, both potable and non-potable uses, number of
  connections, and high water users.
- Completion of the City's future water use demands (including peak-day demands) excluding the impact of any future, new water conservation measures and programs.
- Estimates of passive water savings through natural replacement of fixtures through the year 2020.
- Summary of existing water conservation measures, identification of water conservation goals
  for the City, evaluation of water conservation measures and programs, and preliminary
  selection of measures and programs.
- Preparation of the Draft Water Conservation Plan for internal review.

## **Key Findings and Observations**

The key findings to date regarding the City's water conservation plan relate to the following:

- The City will be developing water conservation measures and programs to address its foundational water conservation needs (e.g., loss control and improved metering), water use at City facilities, and water use by its largest customers (including Fort Lewis College); and
- Water conservation goals will be developed to address reductions in non-revenue water and both potable and non-potable future water demand.

Noteworthy is that the City has an adequate water supply portfolio to meet future demands throughout the 10-year water conservation planning horizon under average. However, under conditions that may occur about 2 out of every 10 years, the City has the potential for some water supply shortages. The Water Conservation Plan is being developed to help address both average conditions and possible non-average year shortages.

## Issues and Obstacles

There have not been any major issues that have impacted project completion, beyond some minor project delays that have occurred related to the timing of the grant award, data collection and Draft Plan preparation. In addition, changes to CWCB guidance policy during the period of project execution (i.e., the SWSI Levels Analysis, the BP Manual Development) have impacted the project schedule by requiring a broader evaluation of infrastructure projects, for example; however, the project budget has remained intact. Some additional time will also be needed to allow for Draft Plan review by the City's Water Commission.

## Steps Remaining

The City is in the process of reviewing the Draft Water Conservation Plan. This review should be completed in early March. The requisite public review will begin in late March. The Plan will be presented for City Council approval in late May if the current schedule is maintained, and forwarded to the CWCB shortly thereafter.

Thank you for the generous support to the City in the development of our Water Conservation Plan. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 970-375-4809. Respectfully,

Yours truly,

Otha J. Rogers, PE, Director Public Works Department