

Southwest Farms, Inc.

214 39th Lane Highway 96 East

P.O. BOX 11829

Pueblo, CO 81001

Phone: 719-240-2575

October 9, 2013

Dominga Jimenez-Garcia

Planner II

Pueblo County Department of Planning & Development

229 West 12th Street

Pueblo, CO 81003

Phone: (719) 583-6100

Re: Pueblo County SPECIAL USE PERMIT No. 1999-007, Evans #2 Pit

**Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety M-2000-041 Evans Pit #2
Fremont Paving & Redi-Mix, Inc. AM-01 "Amendment"**

Dear Ms. Jimenez-Garcia,

Southwest Farms, Inc. has been notified that the Evans Pit #2, M-2000-041 is proposing to amend their Construction Materials 112c permit. We have reviewed the available material at this time and have a basic understanding of the scope of the changes incorporated in the amendment application to the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety.

We are concerned that the amendment to the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) 112c reclamation permit may have adverse affects on our water wells used for irrigation of our planted crops. We understand that the Special Use Permit process will not directly address our concerns dealing with the ground water, however the original SUP has adequate conditions and standards set by all other permits required such as federal, state and local regulations. We have had problems during the past because of the continuing dewatering of the Evans Pit #2. We are concerned that any changes in the mining might have an adverse effect on the balance of the ground water. We would respectfully request that all engineering and geology be analyzed and reviewed by all parties before the Mined Land Reclamation Board approves the amendment.

Southwest Farms, Inc. respectfully request that all the conditions placed on this mining operation in the original Special Use Permit be retained and enforced as a way to monitor the

historical ground water balance. We would encourage the applicant/operator to share all the data acquired with all the affected parties as a way to mitigate any problems that may occur. This would allow Southwest Farms to manage their water wells for proper irrigation of the planted crops. Since the mining operation is phased and the final reclamation will be done over a period of years, it is important that the monitoring be done for the life of the mine and after the reservoir is established in perpetuity.

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has the authority to set the conditions that must be met and to set the standards. The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety can analyze all the data to mitigate any ground water balance disruptions. Southwest Farms believes that the problems can be mitigated to a point that all parties can be assured that they are not harmed by the approval of this amendment. Finding the solution is possible if good sound scientific, principles and standards are followed to solve this issue.

We understand that monitoring piezometers will be located on the north, east and west boundaries to supply the required data for the ground water flow and it will be supplied monthly to the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety for analysis this will help us to understand the ground flows. We hope that this data will be available to all concerned parties if request in writing.

In summary Southwest Farms, Inc. is concerned about the ground water balance and its affected on the water wells that are used to irrigate cropland. Southwest Farms, Inc. would like to be kept informed on the progress of this amendment as it pertains to the affect on the ground water balance issue. Enclosed please find our letter of concern to the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. We can be contacted at the above address or by telephone at 719-240-2575.

Sincerely,



John Sliman

President

Southwest Farms, Inc.

Cc: L J Development, Inc.

Enclosure: Concern letter to DRMS

Southwest Farms, Inc.

214 39th Lane Highway 96 East

P.O. BOX 11829

Pueblo, CO 81001

Phone: 719-240-2575

September 16, 2013

Tim Cazier

Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215

Denver, Colorado 80203

**RE: M-2000-041 Evans Pit #2
Fremont Paving & Redi-Mix, Inc.
AM-01 "Amendment"**

Dear Mr. Cazier,

Southwest Farms, Inc. has been notified that the Evans Pit #2, M-2000-041 is proposing to amend their Construction Materials 112c permit. We have reviewed the available material at this time and have a basic understanding of the scope of the changes incorporated in the amendment application to the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety.

We have been working with Fremont Paving and Redi-Mix, Inc. to alleviate the continuing aquifer depletions occurring on Southwest Farms, Inc. property, because of the continuing dewatering of the Evans Pit #2. The drought in the region has been one of the obvious contributors to the situation, however we feel that is not the main reason for the aquifer depletion. We are concerned that any changes in the mining might have an adverse effect on the balance of the ground water. We would respectfully request that all engineering and geology be analyzed and reviewed by all parties before the Mined Land Reclamation Board approves the amendment. Southwest Farms, Inc. believes that the problem can be mitigated to a point that all parties can be assured that they are not harmed by the approval of this amendment. Finding the solution is possible if good sound scientific principles and standards are followed to solve this issue.

Southwest Farms, Inc. would like to be kept informed on the progress of this amendment as it pertains to the affect on the ground water balance issue. We are amenable to a meeting of the parties to resolve any issues that we can be of help on. We can be contacted by United States Mail at the above address or by telephone at 719-240-2575.

Sincerely,



John Sliman

President

Southwest Farms, Inc.

Cc: L J Development, Inc.

