

## Response to Reclamation Permit Partial Acreage Release Request Consideration

- DATE: August 22, 2019
- TO: Peter S. Hays, Environmental Protection Specialist

FROM: Sarah Brucker, P.E.

RE: Greeley West Pit, Permit No. M-1977-081 - AR04 Applicant/Operator: Cottonwood Land and Farms, LLC Phone Number: (303) 449-1441 Section 36, Twp 6 North, Rng 66 West, 6th P.M., Weld County

**COMMENTS:** The applicant has requested a partial acreage release for 38.16 acres located in the southeast portion of the Greeley West Pit, known as Tract D. This land area was previously released from the Greeley 25<sup>th</sup> Ave Pit, M-2002-020, under Revision No. AR-02. A total of 38.159 acres located north of the Cache la Poudre River, known as Tract A, will remain within the revised permit boundary of M-1977-081.

The 38.16 acres requested to be removed from M-1977-081 includes portions of the SE Ponds (aka Flatiron Pit 5). In a letter dated August 11, 2011, this office acknowledged that approximately 30 acres of groundwater surface exposed in the Southeast (SE) Pond is considered pre-81 area and does not require augmentation. Therefore, this office has no concerns regarding the request for release of the 38.16-acre area.

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety and/or the applicant may contact the State Engineer's Office with any questions.

