



## GRAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

308 Byers Ave / PO Box 238 Hot Sulphur Springs, CO 80451  
Phone: 970-725-3255 Fax: 970-725-3284

TO: Peter Hays  
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
FROM: Robert C. Davis, AICP, SMP, Director  
Jacob Cote, Planner I  
RE: Kirkland Construction-Blue Valley Gravel Pit Special Use Permit  
DATE: September 18, 2020

The Kirkland Construction-Blue Valley Gravel Pit Special Use Permit was issued in 2015 to allow for the temporary excavation of sand and gravel to be used for the State Highway 9 Wildlife and Safety Improvements Project. The SUP beginning date was **March 17, 2015**; its ending date was **August 31, 2017**. The Highway 9 improvements have been completed and operations at the gravel pit have ceased.

### **REVIEW OF EXHIBIT "A", TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**Exhibit "A"** is an attachment to Resolution No. 2015-3-31, Reception No. 2015-002083. Section 4 of **Exhibit "A"** shows the ending date of the Special Use Permit to be *August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017*, over three years ago. Section 5, "Conditions of Permit", Subsection "N", "Reclamation Plan", specifies the required reclamation actions the Permittee was required to complete following extraction of gravel from the site. The Reclamation Plan conditions are as follows:

#### **N. RECLAMATION PLAN**

1. The Applicant will restore and contour the site to be compatible with surrounding topography, have a natural appearance and be suitable for a rangeland land use setting where livestock and wildlife feeding will occur. Finished slopes shall not be steeper than 3:1 and final grading shall minimize or prevent off-site storm water discharge over the embankment above the Blue River. A native grass mix, at least 5 species, shall be used for seeding, along with a winter wheat to act as a nurse crop to help control erosion to steeper slopes, and Ladak variety dry land alfalfa. [...] the reclamation plan between BVR and KC as provided in the application is incorporated in the special use permit and is attached as **Figure 6**.
2. Site reclamation shall start at the time the highway improvements are substantially complete or earlier if practical. [...] Perimeter erosion and sediment control shall be maintained or new temporary measures installed to control erosion and sediment until such time that an adequate coverage of new vegetation has been established.
3. Reclamation is required to meet the requirements of the Special 111 Construction Materials Reclamation Permit (File No. m-2015-008).
4. Grand County and Blue Valley Ranch are both required to sign off on final reclamation prior to release of bond for reclamation by the State of Colorado.

5. Provisions of this sections shall continue and survive the August 31, 2017, end date of this special use permit, binding Permittee to complete all reclamation required by this permit and the State 111 Construction Material Reclamation Permit.

These conditions listed in **Exhibit "A"** have been met, confirmed by a staff site visit on 9/17/20. Aerial images below were taken in August of 2019 and provide further evidence that grasses have been replanted as required, the finished slope is not at a steep grade, and efforts have been made to otherwise remedy the land disturbed by the gravel pit.

#### 9.17.20 STAFF SITE VISIT

While traveling on CO Hwy 9, staff was unable to see any indications of the gravel pit's former operations. The original access road to the pit has been removed and remediation efforts in the form of re-grading and re-seeding have taken place. The fence surrounding the property is unbroken at any point where the former access may have existed.

Staff's photographs were taken from the side of CO Hwy 9 and from GCR 1003, above the Blue River. Closer access was not possible considering the large fence surrounding the parcel and the absence of other clear means onto the property. However, using EagleView aerial photography and the photos taken by staff, a reasonable determination of the operation's remediation efforts can be made.

#### STAFF PHOTOS







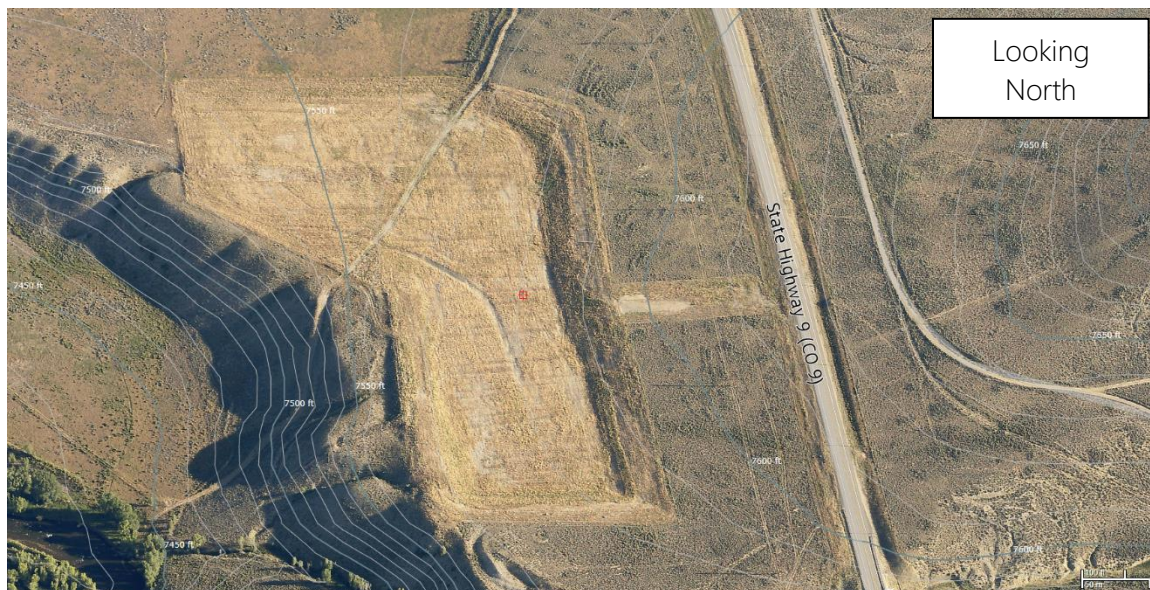












## CONCLUSION

Staff concludes, based on evidence gathered during the site visit and the conditions described in **Exhibit "A"** that Kirkland Construction (the "Permittee") has sufficiently met the terms of the Special Use Permit's Reclamation Plan.