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July 7, 2022

Mr. Brock Bowles  
Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety  
1001 E 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Room 215  
Denver, CO 80216

RE: Knox Pit M2017-036  
Technical Revision 1– TR-1

Dear Brock,

Thank you for your review of TR-1 and your related comments dated July 1, 2022.

TR-1 modifies Exhibits C and F to clarify the general backfill detail and how it will be constructed; specifically, the location of the drain and the liner keyed into the bedrock in relation to the compacted backfill for the pit liner.

As documented in the Knox Pit Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order approved by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board and dated May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, there are several mechanisms in place to ensure water quality is not impacted by keying the trench down into competent bedrock.

*16. Applicant has installed monitoring wells and is currently monitoring the water quality. There will be a total of fourteen monitoring wells, thirteen onsite and one off-site. Four of the wells will monitor water quality.*

Loveland Ready-Mix Concrete (Applicant) has hired Telesto Solutions to monitor water quality in five of the fourteen monitoring wells. Quarterly water quality monitoring has taken place regularly for over three years, and we have established a solid baseline of groundwater quality data. Quarterly monitoring will continue as mining progresses.

*17. Objectors raised concerns regarding possible leaching of selenium or other potentially harmful materials from the shale underlying the alluvium to be mined. The pits created through mining will have drain trenches dug into the underlying shale bedrock to channel water collecting in the pits to sump pumps.*

Loveland Ready-Mix Concrete has always and is still planning to dig drain trenches into the underlying, weathered, shale bedrock in order to channel groundwater in the pits to sump pumps.

*18. Tests conducted by the Applicant indicate that there is little to no selenium in the shale in the area of the site. Similar reclaimed pits in the area have been used to store municipal water for Fort Collins, and Applicant testified that there have been no positive results for selenium from those pits.*

Over three years of quarterly baseline data in the three downstream monitoring wells verifies that current selenium levels are well below the associated water quality standard. Section 2.2.6 of The Knox Pit Ground Water Study, Second Submittal, January 2018, prepared by Telesto Solutions Inc. addresses the mechanisms in which Selenium can be potentially introduced into groundwater. This section also addresses the lab results obtained from random samples of shale bedrock that were collected from the monitoring wells.

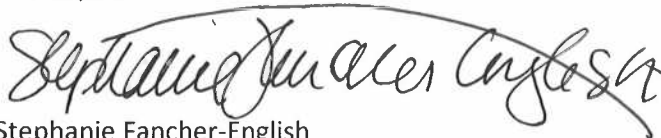
Section 7.1 of The Knox Pit Ground Water Study, Second Submittal, provides how the Monitoring Plan will address concerns that Selenium levels may potentially exceed the associated water quality standards through the trenches keyed into the weathered shale bedrock. The analysis and the Monitoring Plan provided in Section 7.1 continue to be the relevant evaluation and solution for addressing concerns.

*19. To minimize potential impacts to groundwater quality, including through any leaching of selenium, Applicant is required to establish baseline groundwater quality prior to mining and continue monitoring throughout the life of the mine. Once the mining operation begins, groundwater quality samples will be taken quarterly, with results submitted to the Division in the Applicant's annual report. At all times, Applicant must comply with Colorado Department of Health and Environment Water Quality Control Commission standards. During the hearing, Applicant committed to continue monitoring for selenium and represented that they will run full spectrum tests as part of their water quality monitoring plan.*

Loveland Ready-Mix Concrete has collected over three years of baseline groundwater quality data and is committed to continue with quarterly monitoring throughout the life of the mine. At a minimum, results will be submitted to the Division with the annual report; however, any obvious discrepancies or changes to established baseline values will be immediately provided to the Division.

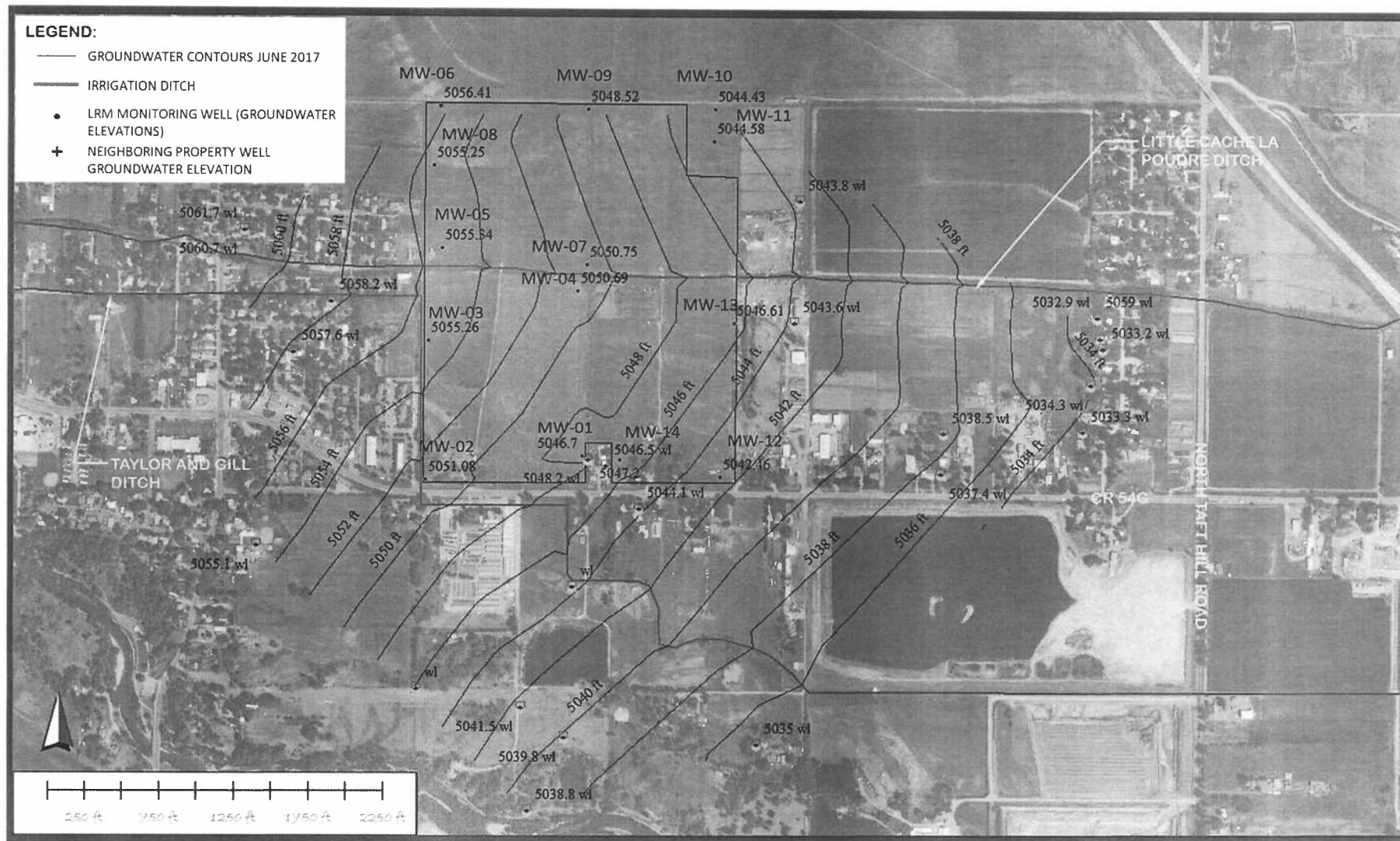
If you have any questions or require additional information, please advise.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephanie Fancher-English". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

Stephanie Fancher-English  
Loveland Ready-Mix Concrete, Inc.

cc: file  
attachments



PROJECT: 360100 TASK: 08  
 PREPARED BY: TELESTO

PREPARED FOR: LOVELAND READY-MIX CONCRETE

**FIGURE 3  
 SUMMER 2017 GROUNDWATER  
 ELEVATIONS**

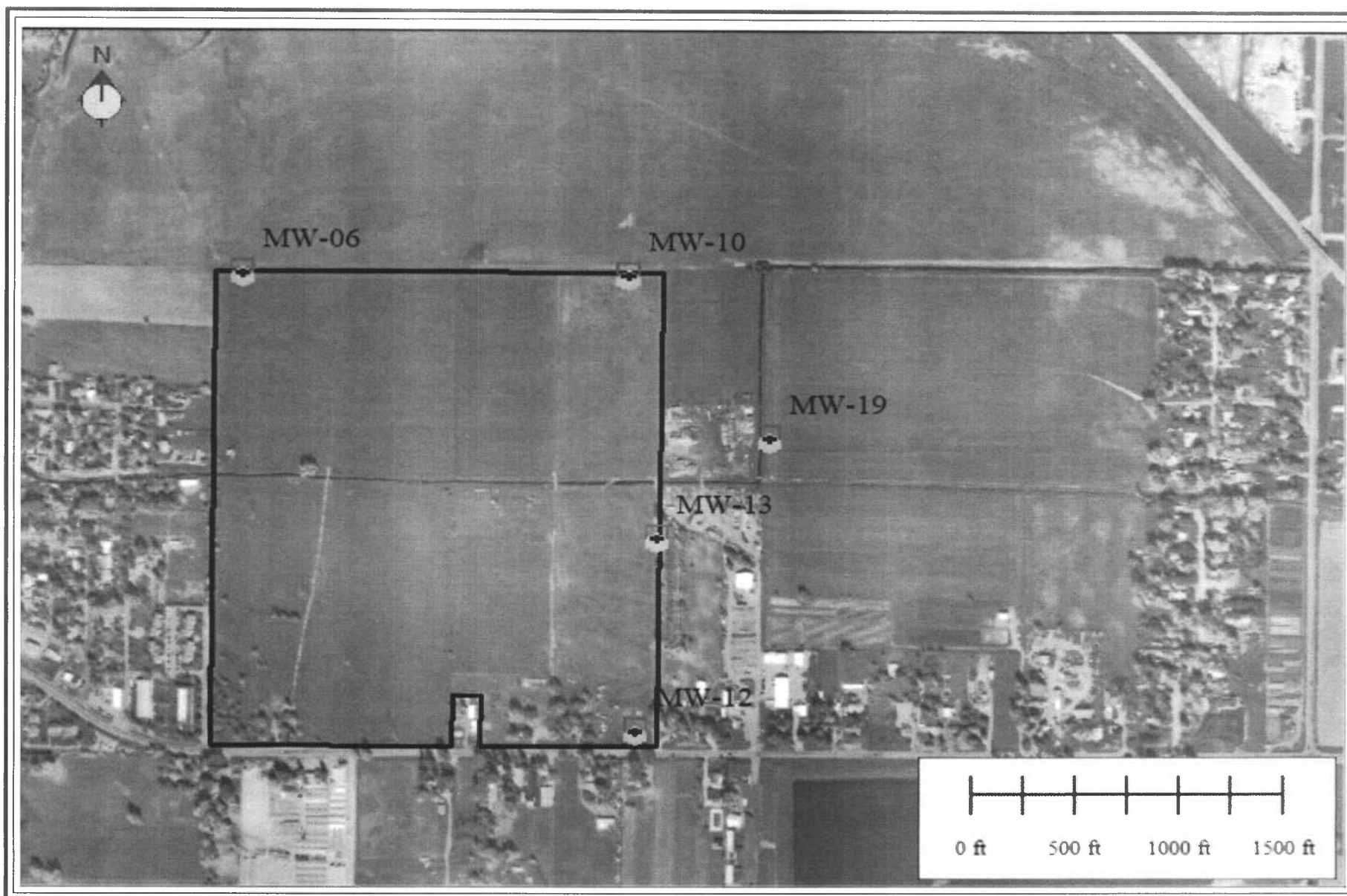


Figure 1  
LRM - Knox Pit (M2017-036) – Compliance Well Locations