



Response to Reclamation Permit Application Consideration

DATE: February 15, 2023

TO: Peter Hays, Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety (DRMS), peter.hays@state.co.us

CC: Division 1 Office, District 3 Water Commissioner

FROM: Wenli Dickinson, P.E., State Engineer's Office (SEO), wenli.dickinson@state.co.us

RE: **Sunset Industrial Pit, M-2023-001**

Operator: J-2 Contracting Company

Contact: J. C. York, J&T Consulting, Inc.

305 Denver Ave, Ste. D, Fort Lupton, CO 80621 and (303) 857-6222

Location: Part of W ½ Section 3, Twp. 5 North, Rng. 65 West, 6th P.M., Weld County

CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL

The proposed operation will consume groundwater by: ☒ evaporation, ☒ dust control, ☒ dewatering, ☒ water removed in the mined product, ☒ washing, ☒ concrete production and ☒ reclamation.

- ☒ Prior to initiation of these uses of groundwater, the applicant will need to obtain either a gravel pit or other type of well permit, as applicable.
 - ☒ Prior to obtaining a well permit, an approved substitute water supply plan or decreed plan for augmentation is required.
 - ☒ Prior to approving a well permit, the applicant must conduct a field inspection of the site and document the locations of all wells within 600 feet of the permit area. The applicant must then obtain a waiver of objection from all well owners with wells within 600 feet of the permit area or request a hearing before the State Engineer.
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COMMENTS: The subject application is for a surface mining operation on approximately 85.17 acres located at 1507 E 8th Street in part of the W ½ of Section 3, Twp. 5 North, Rng. 65 West, 6th P.M., Weld County. The area to be mined is currently used for agricultural purposes. The mining plan calls for excavation of approximately 300,000 to 1,000,000 tons of material per year on a 72.10-acre portion of the property. The primary materials to be mined at the site are sand and gravel. Mining will occur in two phases at a distance of 700 feet or more from the bank of the Cache la Poudre River which runs by the south side of the property.



According to Exhibit G of the application, the depth to groundwater at the site is from 18 to 40 feet and the site will be mined to a depth of 40 to 112 feet. Groundwater will be consumed by evaporation, dust control, dewatering, water removed in the mined product, washing, concrete production, and reclamation. Mining will be accomplished by dry-mining method. All mined areas will be reclaimed as lined groundwater storage reservoirs.

Prior to the use or exposure of any groundwater, the applicant must first obtain a well permit and a substitute water supply plan ("SWSP") or decreed plan for augmentation to replace depletions caused by groundwater consumption. According to the mining plan, the applicant intends to replace depletions under an approved SWSP until reclamation. The site must continue to be operated under a SWSP until such time as the proposed reservoirs are lined (lining approved by this office, backfilling is completed, and replacement of lagged depletions shall continue until there is no longer an effect on stream).

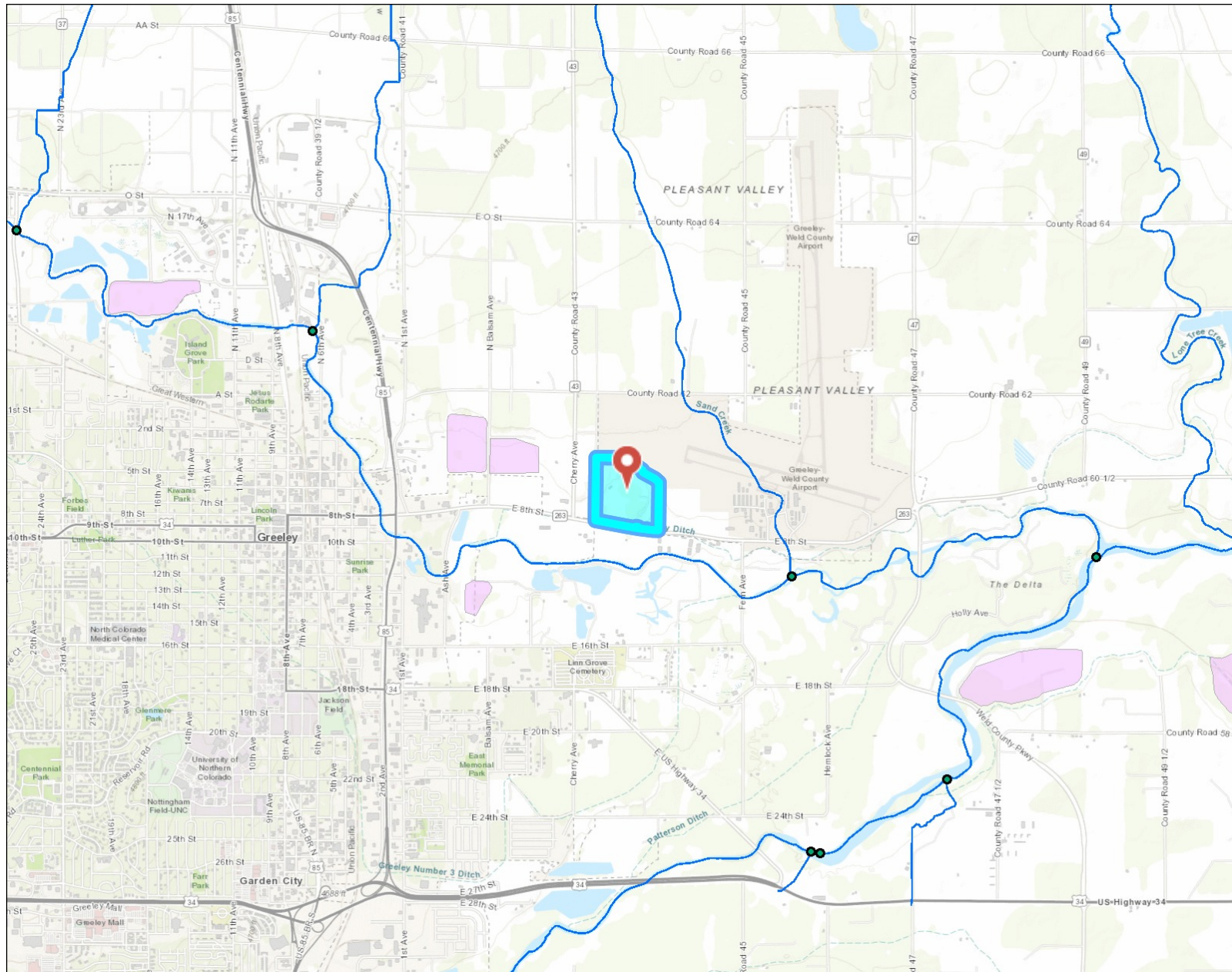
Additionally in certain areas of the South Platte River Basin, SEO staff have observed groundwater problems that appear to be related to the lining of gravel pits located near streams, and in particular, these problems occur when multiple liners are located adjacent to each other. This office requests that DRMS consider the siting and design of lined gravel pits to ensure that they will not individually, or cumulatively, result in impacts to the timing and quantity of groundwater flow from upgradient locations back to the stream system. In addition to impacts to property, such as flooding upgradient and reduced water levels downgradient of the liner, there are decrees of the court that specify the timing, quantity, and amount of water depleted from the streams by wells and accreted to the stream through recharge operations. The installation of a gravel pit liner should not result in changes to the timing, location, and amount of such groundwater flow. In the design and construction of the liner, the applicant and DRMS should consider whether drainage structures are needed to allow water to flow back to the stream and to prevent water mounding behind the liner. The attached map shows the location of lined pits according to our records in the vicinity of this proposed pit.

Any storm water runoff intercepted by this operation that is not diverted or captured in priority must infiltrate into the ground or be released to the stream system within 72 hours. Otherwise, the operator will be required to make replacements for evaporation.

The applicant may contact the SEO at (303) 866-3581 with any questions.



Nearby Lined Pits



Legend

- Confluence Point
- Source Water Route Framework
- Pits - Lined

Location



Notes

Sunset Industrial Pit, M-2023-001

1.77 0 0.89 1.77 Miles

1: 56,128



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

Date Prepared: 1/30/2023 5:50:26 PM