



Response to Reclamation Permit Application Consideration

Date: June 9, 2025

To: Dustin M. Czapla, Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety (DRMS)
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Cc: Evan Jones, Assistant Division Engineer (evan.w.jones@state.co.us)
Tom Brigham, Water Commissioner (tom.brigham@state.co.us)

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

Re: Hampton Placer, File No. M-2025-026

Applicant: Paul A. Hampton and Michael T. Hampton
504 Travis Court, Grand Junction, CO 81504
(970) 433-8248

Location: Parts of the S ½ of Section 11 and N ½ of Section 14, Township 48 North,
Range 18 West, N.M. P.M., Montrose County

Water Division 4, District 63

CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL

The proposed operation does not anticipate exposing groundwater. Therefore, exposure of groundwater must not occur during or after the mining operations. If groundwater will be exposed or if use of groundwater is proposed, the applicant must obtain a well permit pursuant to section 37-90-137(2), C.R.S. No permit shall be issued unless the location of the proposed well will be at a distance of more than 600 feet from an existing well unless the State Engineer has found after a hearing that the circumstances in a particular instance so



warrant, or if a court decree is entered for the subject well's location after notice has been given as provided in section 37-90-137(2)(b)(II)(B).

Water is proposed to be used in processing gold and gravel and dust control, with an estimated demand of less than 0.5 acre-foot of water per day. According to communications with DWR, the proposed water uses are non-consumptive. Water will be supplied by pumping water from the Dolores River, which at this time is not yet over-appropriated. Water will be discharged from a settling pond to the Dolores River. The Applicant proposes to meter and report water diversions to the Water Commissioner. **Note that there is a decreed in-stream flow water right on this section of the Dolores River held by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). Pumping would need to cease should the CWCB place a call.**

If stormwater is not diverted or captured in priority, Colorado Water Law requires it to be released, or replacement for evaporation will be required of the impounder/operator/owner of the mine. The State Engineer's current policy requires that all impounded stormwater be released to the stream system within a maximum of 72 hours after impoundment. The application indicates that stormwater will be routed around the site, and stormwater which does occur on site will be directed to a stormwater settling pond or allowed to infiltrate within 72 hours.

COMMENTS:

This office has no objections to the Consideration of the Reclamation Permit Application as proposed. The Applicant may contact the SEO at (303) 866-3581 or the Division 4 Office at (970) 249-6622 with any questions.