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La Plata County
Colorado

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Durango Field Office
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

June 10, 2011

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Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Ms. Kate Pickford ✓
Mined Land Reclamation Board
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman St, Room 215
Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: Weeminuche Construction Authority, Animas Glacier Gravel (AGG), File M-2011-028 ✓

Dear Mr. Pickford,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on the proposed Animas Glacier Gravel operation.

This project was reviewed by the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on March 1, 2011. Approval of the project was conditioned upon the applicant obtaining a Colorado Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) Colorado Discharge Permit (CDPS) for "Discharges Associated with Sand and Gravel Mining".

This condition was applied because the project's discharge issues are related specifically to mining operations, and the State has a specific permit and process in place to address the relevant discharge issues. The County requests the State exercise its authority and expertise to ensure that discharges from the site will not negatively impact the downstream Basin Creek.

The project is proposed to be located in the area from which Animas-La Plata (A-LP) project gravel was extracted. The area has been reclaimed and runoff from the reclaimed area discharges down a grouted riprap channel to Basin Creek. Basin Creek transmits releases from Lake Nighthorse (A-LP project) to the Animas River. The United States Bureau of Reclamation is responsible for water quality standards on Basin Creek and reports they have an ongoing monitoring program in place.

The project proposes to mix stormwater and process water in ponds located on the reclaimed area that drains to Basin Creek. If this water is discharged to Basin Creek, the County requests that DRMS ensure adequate controls and monitoring are in place so Basin Creek is not impacted. If the mixed stormwater and process water is, instead, managed to zero-discharge (i.e.: "no

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ANIMAS GLACIER GRAVEL, FILE M-2011-028

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exposure”), the County requests that DRMS ensure adequate controls and, if applicable, monitoring, are in place to provide certainty no water will discharge from the site.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erick Aune", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erick Aune, AICP
Planning Director